

# Orr Scharf

Born: 1977

Marital status: married +3

## ***Academic Positions***

2017-2019 **The University of Haifa**

Adjunct lecturer, Cultural Studies M.A. Program, The Department of Multi-Disciplinary Studies.

2017 - **The University of Pennsylvania**

Ruth Meltzer fellow, Hebert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

2015-2017 - **The Open University of Israel**

Post-doctoral fellow, Department of History, Philosophy and Jewish Studies.

## ***Teaching Experience***

2018-2019 - **The University of Haifa, Cultural Studies M.A. Program**

Courses: Cosmopolitanism: The Story of a Dream

Research Methods in Cultural Studies

Translation and Culture: An Odyssey (with Mr. Nir Ratzkovski)

**The University of Haifa, English Literature Department**

Courses: Varieties of Cosmopolitanism in Modern British Literature

Orientalism Revisited

**The University of Haifa, Eshkol B.A. Program**

Course: Introduction to Organizational Behavior

2017-2018 - **The University of Haifa, Cultural Studies M.A. Program**

Courses: Translation and Culture: An Odyssey (with Mr. Nir Ratzkovski)

The Frankfurt School: Between Individuals and Being as a Whole

The Other in the Thought of Michel Foucault

2016 - **Paidiea - The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden**, Stockholm.

Course: Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature (intensive course).

2011-2012 ***Yordim me-haMigdal*** ("Coming out of the ivory tower")

Founder and coordinator of a voluntary project in which research students teach high-school students. Project launched at the Bosmat-Moffet High School in Haifa.

2011 – **Shalom Hartman Institute, Seder Nashim program**

"The mind-body problem in philosophy and Jewish thought." Introductory lectures to graduate and post-graduate students.

10/2006 – 2/2007 – **The University of Haifa: Teaching Assistant**

Course: Empiricism and Rationalism.

## ***Education***

2010 – 2015 **The University of Haifa**

*PhD, Philosophy.* Approved August 2015.

Dissertation: *Thinking in Translation: Scripture and Redemption in the Thought of Franz Rosenzweig.* Supervisors: Prof. Paul Mendes-Flohr, The University of Chicago and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Prof. Daniel Statman, The University of Haifa.

2008 – **The University of Haifa**

*M.A., Philosophy.* Average – 95.

Thesis: *'This Essence was not in Me, it was Myself': A Critique of Martin Heidegger's Being and Time in light of Marcel Proust's In Search of Lost Time.* Final grade – 94.

2004 – **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

*Preparatory year for M.A., Philosophy*

2003 – **The University of Melbourne, Australia**

*BMus, The Faculty of Music.* Major: Musicology

Graduation thesis: *'Making Heav'nly Musick on Earth': The Influence of Paradise Lost on Johann Mattheson's Der Vollkommene Capellmeister.* Final grade – H1 (high distinction)

## ***Awards and Scholarships***

2019 – Hans Ehrenberg Young Scholars Prize for Scientific Research on Jewish-Christian Dialogue, **The Hans Ehrenberg Society, Bochum, Germany**

2017 – Ruth Meltzer Fellow, **The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Philadelphia**

2016 – Doctoral Dissertation Award, **Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem**

2015 – Post-Doctoral Scholarship, **JNF Israel-Switzerland Philosophy Fund**

2014 – Doctoral Studies Stipend, **Faculty of the Humanities and the Department of Philosophy, The University of Haifa**

2014 – Tuition Fees Stipend, **Faculty of the Humanities, The University of Haifa**

2013 - International Doctoral Scholarship for Studies Specializing in Jewish Fields, **Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture**

2012 - Doctoral Dissertation Award, **Lakritz Foundation, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem**

2012 - Jacob Katz Fellowship, **Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem**

### **The University of Haifa**

2011-2012 – Junior Scholars Seminar Stipend, **Jewish Culture in the Ancient World**

2010-2013 – Advanced Studies Scholarship for PhD Candidates, **Graduate Studies Authority**

2007 – Dean's List, **Faculty of the Humanities**

2007 – Jacob Kagan Award for Excellence, **Department of Philosophy**

### **The University of Melbourne, Australia**

2000 - Lady Turner Exhibition

2000 - Music Faculty Scholarship

1999 - Florence Bradford Scholarship

## ***Grant Applications***

6/2018 - Reception Histories of Biblical Politics: Cross-Cultural Perspectives. Gerda Henkel Foundation. Principal Investigators: Vivian Liska, Ilana Pardes and Leora Batnitzky.

## ***Publications***

### **Published articles in peer-reviewed journals**

“A Tale of Light and Darkness: Martin Buber’s Gnostic Canon and the Birth of Theopolitics.” *Religions* Special Issue: "Religion and Modern Jewish Thought. 10.4, 2019. Q1.

“Exile in the Land of the Bible: Martin Buber and the Completion of the Verdeutschung in Jerusalem.” (Hebrew) *Chidushim: Studies in the History of German and Central European Jewry* 17.1 (2015): 83-109.

### **Articles accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals**

“From Sinai to ‘This Day’: Hermann Cohen's and Franz Rosenzweig’s Recasting of the Giving of the Torah.” (Shortlisted for the Joel and Jeane Novak Essay Contest in Jewish Thought). *Jewish Quarterly Review*. EDP - 2019. Q2. Letter of acceptance available upon request.

### **Published books**

*Thinking in Translation: Scripture and Redemption in the Thought of Franz Rosenzweig*. De Gruyter, Berlin, 2019.

### **Edited books**

Editor (introduction, annotation and commentary): *Martin Bubers Vorlesungen über Judentum und Christentum*. Volume 5 in the *Martin-Buber-Werkausgabe*. Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities and Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, 2017.

### **Published chapters in refereed books**

“Taking Josephus Personally: The Curious Case of Emanuel bin Gorion.” In ed. Andrea Schatz. Preface by Martin Goodman, Tessa Rajak and Andrea Schatz. *The Reception of Josephus in Modern Jewish Culture*. Brill, 2019.

“Bleakness in the Age of Google: Walter Benjamin and the Possibility of Redemptive Translation.” In eds. Madeleine Kasten and Gerard Visser. *Benjamin Figures: Conference Proceedings*. Bautz Traugott Verlag, 2018.

“Overcoming Untranslatability: Walter Benjamin's *Das Paris des Second Empire bei Baudelaire* as a Translation Project.” In eds. Sonja Klein, Karl Solibakke, Bernd Witte: *Benjamin's Translation. Benjamins Übersetzung. Benjamin - Blätter* Bd. 7. Würzburg. Königshausen und Neumann, 2018.

"Whose Bible is it Anyway? The Buber-Rosenzweig Translation as a Bible for Christian Readers." In eds. Magdalena Waligorska and Tara Kohn, *Jewish Translation – Translating Jewishness*. De Gruyter, 2018.

“Clandestine Scholarship: The Septuagint as a Key into Martin Buber’s and Franz Rosenzweig’s Bible Translation.” In eds. Andreas Losch, Thomas Reichert und Johannes Waßmer, "Alles in der Schrift ist echte Gesprochenheit." *Martin Buber und die Verdeutschung der Schrift*. AV Verlag, 2016. 120-129.

"If one translates a verse literally, he is a liar': On dual loyalties in the Buber-Rosenzweig translation of the Bible." *"Theocracy" and "Nation" in Jewish Thought: Past and Present: Proceedings of the Second International Symposium of the Project of Young Scholars.* Doshisha University, 2014.

["Micah Josef Berdyczewski"; "Emanuel bin Gorion"; "Robert Eisler";](#) in the [Josephus Reception Archive](#).

### **Forthcoming edited volumes**

Co-editor with Caroline Sauter. *Nebulous Affinities: Walter Benjamin's Jewishness Revisited.* Planned for publication in the Perspectives on Jewish Texts and Contexts series, De Gruyter.

### **Book reviews**

*The Ba'al Shem and the Doctor: Medicine and Magic Among German Jews in the early modern period*, by Nimrod Zinger. *Chidushim: Studies in the History of German and Central European Jewry* (Hebrew) 20 (2018): 113-121.

*Franz Rosenzweig's Conversions: World-Denial and World-Redemption*, by Benjamin Pollock. *Tabur: Yearbook for European History, Society, Culture and Thought* (Hebrew) 7 (2016): 92-95.

### **Non-Academic Essays**

"Martin Buber and *Kristallnacht*: A Watershed or an Anecdote?" (Hebrew) *Be-Shvil Ha-Zikaron: Heritage and Culture during the Holocaust and in its Aftermath.* 2018.

"And Graciously Renews Each Day the Work of Creation": The Jewish Calendar in Franz Rosenzweig's Perception of Time. (Hebrew) Haaretz special issue for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Open University of Israel.

[The Double-Edged Sword of Criticism: Berl Katznelson and the Partition of Palestine.](#) *Havruta*, issue 8, 2012

[Building Blocks of the Intellect": On the Necessity of Ikkarim in Times of Uncertainty.](#) *Havruta*, issue 6, 2010

[Two Sides of the Coin: Rabbi Nahman and the Problem of Wealth](#) (with Melila Hellner-Eshed). *Havruta*, issue 3, 2009

[Truth, Confusion and Bread: A Polemic from the Dawn of Zionism.](#) *Havruta*, issue 2, 2008

### **Translations:**

#### **Books**

*Hayim Nahman Bialik: Poet of Hebrew* / Avner Holtzman. Jewish Lives Series, Yale University Press, 2017. (English)

*The Mishnaic Sotah Ritual: Temple, Gender and Midrash* / Ishay Rosen-Zvi. Brill Press, 2012. (English)

*Messiahs and Resurrection in 'The Gabriel Revelation'* / Israel Knohl (English, co-translator) Continuum Press, 2009. (English)

*The Personhood of God: Biblical Theology, Human Faith and the Divine Image* / Yochanan Muffs, Shalom Hartman Institute, 2008. (Hebrew)

### **Forthcoming books**

*The Slaughterman's Daughter. The Avenging Mende Speismann at the Hands of Her Sister Fanny. A Novel* / Yaniv Iczkovits. MacLehose Press.

*Babylon and Jerusalem. From the Nachlass of Simon Rawidowicz* / Editors: David Myers, Benjamin Ravid and Eugene Sheppard, De Gruyter.

Tractate Sotah for *The Oxford Mishnah Project*  
(with Prof. Ishay Rosen-Zvi)

*Iron. A novel* / Eran Bar Gil

*Good Fences: The Borders of Judaism* / Donniel Hartman (Hebrew)  
Shalom Hartman Institute.

### **Articles and Essays**

The Baker's Brand / Albert Suisa

In *Motta Brim – The Baker's Brand*, The Jerusalem Artists' House, 2014

On the Essence of Faith in Hassidism: An historical-theoretical perspective / Ron Margolin.  
In *Faith: Jewish Perspectives*, Academic Studies Press, 2013

Holiness—Hidden Face / Albert Suisa

In *Lena Zaidel – Street Wolves*, The Jerusalem Artists' House, 2013

The Roads that Lie Ahead / Berl Katznelson

*Havruta*, issue 8 (2012)

A Zionist Way of Life; Farewell Address / Haim Nahman Bialik

*Havruta*, issue 7 (2011)

Excerpts from commentaries on Tractate Avot and on Psalm 119 / Rabbi Matityah Ha-Yitzhri

*Havruta*, issue 6 (2011)

Confusion of Opinions / Ahad Ha'am

*Havruta*, issue 2 (2008)

By the Rivers of Babylon / Albert Suisa

In *Jerusalem: Surface Fractures*, The Jerusalem Artists' House, 2008

*Writing in the Dark* / David Grossman

New York Times Magazine, 13 May, 2007

*A Hollow Leadership* / David Grossman

*Haaretz* English Edition, 6 November, 2006

## ***Lectures and Talks***

### **Invited talks**

7/2019 - **Divine Logos and Transmission: Translating and Interpreting Foreign Revelations, Center for Advanced Studies, Bad Homburg**

Whose Bible is it Anyway? The Buber-Rosenzweig Translation as Bible for Christian Readers

4/2019 – **Leo Baeck Institute Lectures Series**

Martin Buber between East and West

5/2018 - **Literature Department Colloquium, The University of Haifa.**

Between Israeli Experience and Universal Experience in Nitzza Ben-Dov's *War Lives*.

11/2017 - **The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.**

"Jesus in the Shadow of the Third Reich. Martin Buber's Lectures on Judaism and Christianity and the Rise of Nazism."

3/2017 - **The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, The University of Pennsylvania.**

"A Tale of Light and Darkness: Martin Buber's Gnostic Canon and the Birth of Theopolitics."

12/2016 - **Jubilee of S.Y. Agnon's Nobel Prize Awarding, Bar Ilan University.**

"S.Y. Agnon's and Martin Buber's Conception of Hasidism Confronted with Gershom Scholem's Critique."

9/2016 – **From Ionia to Jena: Franz Rosenzweig and the History of Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.**

"Biography as a Mode of Philosophy: *Hegel und der Staat* and the Task of the Intellectual Historian."

3/2016 – **International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.**

"Jesus in the Shadow of the Third Reich: Martin Buber's Lectures on Judaism and Christianity in 1930s Germany. *Keynote*

1/2016 – **Scholars' Seminar. Department of History, Philosophy and Jewish Studies, Open University of Israel.**

"The perception of time in the thought of Franz Rosenzweig and Martin Heidegger."

12/2015 - **Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters, Ben Gurion University, Be'er Sheva.**

"Judaism Despite Christianity: Franz Rosenzweig's Return to Judaism Revisited." *Keynote*

11/2014 – **Dean's Seminar. Faculty of the Humanities, The University of Haifa.**

"The Gap in between 'Jewish' and 'Philosopher': Scholarly Critiques of the Sources of Franz Rosenzweig's Thought"

6/2014 – **Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford**

"Josephus in Person: The Curious Case of Emanuel Bin Gorion"

6/2013 – **Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem, Jacob Katz Fellowships Ceremony**

"Thinking in Translation: Scripture in the Thought of Franz Rosenzweig."

**Invited papers**

**7/2019 – MLA International Conference, Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon**  
Franz Delitzsch's New Testament Translation and the Protestant Revival of Hebrew

**5/2019 – Eros in Walter Benjamin's Philosophy – Scholars Workshop**

**Trinity College, Dublin**

Session chair: "Eros and Demon: Walter Benjamin's Reading of the Symposium."

**8/2018 - Third International Symposium of the Project of Young Scholars; Doshisha University, Kyoto and The Hebrew University, Jerusalem**

"Hermann Cohen's Reading of the Sinai Revelation: Between Observance and Remembrance."

**4/2018 – Intensity in Walter Benjamin's Philosophy – Scholars Workshop**

**Forschungsinstitut für Philosophie Hannover.**

Session Chair: "Language, Intention, Intentionality."

**2/2016 - Seminar for Postdoctoral Students of German and Central-European Jewish History, Leo Baeck Institute, Jerusalem.**

"The Dark Side of Theo-Politics: Martin Buber's Conception of Gnosis as Radical Evil."

**7/2015 – Seminar for Postdoctoral Students of German and Central-European Jewish History, Berlin.**

"Jesus in the Shadow of the Third Reich: Martin Buber's 1935 Lectures on Judaism and Christianity."

**12/2013 – Second International Symposium of the Project of Young Scholars; Doshisha University, Kyoto and The Hebrew University, Jerusalem**

"If one translates a verse literally, he is a liar': On dual loyalties in the Buber-Rosenzweig translation of the Bible"

**Conference papers**

**2/2019 – Franz Rosenzweig International Congress. Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem.**

"Meeting the Divine Face: The *Star of Redemption's* Gate and the Threshold of Mystical Speculation."

**4/2017 - 23rd Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies. The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, The University of Pennsylvania.**

"Hermann Cohen's *Deutschtum und Judentum*: Between Pure Reason and the Sources of Judaism."

**1/2016 – Levinas, Law and Literature. Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Antwerp.**

"Totality and Infinity as Philosophical Prose: The Literary Aesthetics of Emanuel Levinas' Argumentation."

**12/2015 – Spaces, Places, Cities and Spatiality: International Walter Benjamin Society Conference, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.**

"Time and Space and Space as Time: Walter Benjamin's Urban Reflections as a Form of Secular Mysticism."

**5/2015 – Multiple Dialogues: Martin Buber in Palestine and Israel, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Workshop for Junior and Senior Scholars.**

"*Two Paths of Faith* and Jewish-Christian Theological Dialogue Today."

**10/2014 - Franz Rosenzweig Congress: Franz Rosenzweig in Frankfurt. Bildung – Speech Thinking – Translation, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main**

"Clandestine Scholarship: The Septuagint as a Key into Martin Buber's and Franz Rosenzweig's Translation of the Bible"

**8/2013 - Benjamin's Figures: Dialogues on the Vocation of the Humanities, Leiden University**

"Bleakness in the Age of Google: Walter Benjamin and the Possibility of Redemptive Translation"

**7/2013 – World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem**

"If one translates a verse literally, he is a liar': On dual loyalties in the Buber-Rosenzweig translation of the Bible"

**6/2013 – University of Haifa, Philosophy Department Annual Conference**

"Thoughts on Translation and Redemption in the Work of Walter Benjamin"

**9/2012 Franz Rosenzweig Congress: Gebot, Gesetz, Gebet: Love, Law, Life. Centre for Jewish Studies, The University of Toronto**

"Why the Bible? Franz Rosenzweig's Biblical Ethos of Judaism"

**6/2012 – Annual Conference of the Department of Philosophy, The University of Haifa**

"Revelation and Scripture in the *Star of Redemption*"

**6/2012 *Denken mit Hermann Cohen*, Bucerius Institute, The University of Haifa**

"From Sinai to this Day: The Giving of the Torah in the Thought of Hermann Cohen and Franz Rosenzweig"

## ***Events Organized***

### ***Academic conferences***

**6/2019 – Literature as a Cultural Hero – A Conference in Honor of Prof. Nitza Ben-Dov**

A two-day international conference on the cultural significance of literature and literary studies. Speakers include Prof. Robert Alter, authors Prof. A.B. Yehoshua, Prof. Haim Be'er.

**2/2019 – International Graduate Workshop on Multi-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Research – Cultural Studies Program, The University of Haifa.**

Keynote speakers: Dr. Magdalena Waligorska, University of Bremen; Dr. Rico Sneller, University of Leiden. The workshop included presentations of the thesis projects of five students.

### ***Public events***

**12/ 2018 – "One Thousand and One Nights" – The Cultural Studies Program at Haifa's *Holiday of Holidays* (with Nir Raztakovsky)**

A series of three events open to the public about Arab and Hebrew literature, interfaith dialogue and classic Arab music.

**10/2018 – Right. Now. Conversations on Creativity and Research. Gate 3 Gallery, Haifa.**



7/2018 – **Gates and Passages. Multicultural Creativity. Beit Hagefen, Haifa.** (with Nir Ratzakovsky)

12/2017 – **How does One Writes a City? A literary urban tour and book launch. Rappaport Auditorium, Haifa.** (with Nir Ratzakovsky)

9/2017 – **Sharp Edges. Culture Talk. Nemala Studio, Haifa.**

6/2016 - **Open University of Israel, Ra'anana**

Judaism and Christianity - Between Polemic and Peace. Four guest lectures and a roundtable (Co-organizer and host).

5/2016 – **Tel Aviv Night of Philosophy, Institut Français, Tel Aviv.**

"Where Have the Sages of Sepharad Gone To? On Canonisation and Disinterest in Judeo-Arabic Literature in Jewish Thought."

## ***Academic Activities***

**Peer-review for academic journals**

2018 – *Naharayim. Journal for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History*

2018 – *Political Theology*

2017 - *Tabur: Yearbook for European History, Society, Culture and Thought*

2016 – *The Jewish Quarterly Review*

**Research groups**

2015-2016 – **Dept. of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, The Open University of Israel.** Study Group: "Time, Theory, Culture."

2013-Present – **International Rosenzweig Society, Israel Branch**  
Research group.

2010-2012 – **The University of Haifa, Philosophy Department**

Chairman – Graduate Students Forum – a bi-weekly workshop for presentations and discussion by graduate students and guest lecturers.

2011-2012 – **Jewish Culture in the Ancient World, Junior Scholars Seminar**

Fellow – a study group on early Christianity conducted as part of a broader collaborative project of the universities of Haifa, Bar-Ilan and Tel Aviv.

2009-2010 – **The Leo Baeck Institute, Jerusalem**

Hermann Cohen's *Religion of Reason out of the Sources of Judaism* – reading group.  
Instructor: Prof. Gideon Freudental.

## ***Employment Experience***

1/2004-present – **Freelance Translator and Editor**

4/2007-1/2012 – **Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem: Associate Editor** – Havruta: a Journal of Jewish Conversation

10/2004 – 4/2007 – **Haaretz.com: senior staff member.**

### ***Languages***

Hebrew – mother tongue

English – mother tongue level

German – fluent reading, intermediate speaking skills.

Ancient Greek – basic.