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OFER PERES

EDUCATION

- 2012-2018** Ph.D. in Comparative Religion, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Supervisor: Professor David Shulman. Dissertation title: *In the Trail of the Wailing King: A Cultural Biography of a Traditional Indian Narrative*.
- 2009-2012** MA (*Summa Cum Laude*) in Comparative Religion, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Supervisor: Professor David Shulman.
- 2005-2008** BA (*Magna Cum Laude*) in Cognitive Science and “Amirim” Interdisciplinary Honors Program in the Humanities, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2022-** Postdoctoral Fellow at Heidelberg University, DFG projekt “SITes.”
- 2021-2022** Postdoctoral Fellow of the Minerva Stiftung, Heidelberg University.
- 2020-2021** ERC Postdoctoral Fellow, The Śivadharmā Project, University of Naples “L’Orientale.”
- 2018-2020** ERC Postdoctoral Fellow, NEEM Project, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Asian Studies.
- 2016-2021** Sanskrit Lecturer, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Asian Studies.
- 2010-2015** Teaching Assistant, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Asian Studies and “Amirim” Interdisciplinary Honors Program in the Humanities.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022** Polonsky Prize for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines.

2021	Commendation for an Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in the Study of Religions by the Israeli Association for the Study of Religions (Zvi Werblowsky Award).
2013-2017	Nathan Rotenstreich Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Students in the Humanities, Israeli Council for Higher Education.
2012-2013	President's Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Students, Faculty of Humanities, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
2012	The Sternberg Foundation Scholarship, Department of Comparative Religion, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
2011	The Hebrew University Rector's prize.
2009-2011	Excellence stipends from the Faculty of Humanities, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- "The Tamil Life of Purūravas: A Vernacular Adaptation of a Sanskrit Myth." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138.2 (2018): 291-312.
- "Choice and Faith: A Reading in Nathan Alterman's 'Shirei Makot Mitzraim'" (Hebrew). *Reshit Journal* 1 (2019): 80-105.
- "Who by Fire: Pre-modern Tamil Models of Ideal Femininity." *Religions of South Asia* 13.3 (2019): 348-67.
- "Barefaced Lies on the Path to the Truth: The "Tale of the Little Boy" in the *Nāṇa-vāciṭṭam*." *Journal of South Asian Intellectual History* 4.1 (2021): 72-94.
- "The King, the Maid, and the Hedonist Mendicant: Narrative Negotiations of Dogmatic Conflicts in Early-Modern Tamil *Vīraśaivism*." Under review in *South Asian History and Culture*.
- "Purūravas in Tamil Temple Mythology: A Case Study from the Kaveri Delta." Accepted for publication in *Zeitschrift für Indologie und Südasiastudien*.

Reviews

- Nadav Harel. *Avatara*. Forthcoming in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

- 2022** “Land, Town, Temple: The Aesthetics of the Lyrical Preludes in Tamil *Talapurāṇams*,” The 50th Annual Conference on South-Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2021** “Unfaithful Adaptations: On the Making of Early Modern Tamil *Talapurāṇams*,” The 49th Annual Conference on South-Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2021** “The Devotional Eroticism of the Sneaky God,” The 49th Annual Conference on South-Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2019** “Translating a Metaphysical Lullaby: The Tale of the Three Princes in the *Ñāṇavācīṭṭam*,” Sense Tone and Topic in Early-Modern South Indian Prabandhas and Padams, ERC-NEEM Workshop, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2019** “Worldly Affairs: Femininity and Divinity in a Premodern Tamil Literary Work,” The 44th Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions, Lancaster University, UK.
- 2018** “Benevolent Saturn: The Curious Case of Poṅku-canīśvarar,” The 14th Biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel.
- 2016** “The Multilingual Climate of a 16th Century Tamil *Kāvya* Work: Adaptation and Innovation in the *Purūravaccaritai*,” The 45th Annual Conference on South-Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2016** “‘South, With the Camels!’: King Purūravas in Tamil Temple Mythology,” The 45th Annual Conference on South-Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2016** “‘There’s a Trojan Horse in my Myth!’ The Case of Purūravas in Pre-modern Tamil Literature,” The 33rd Annual *Sanskrit Traditions in the Modern World* Seminar, University of Manchester.
- 2014** “The Brightest Gem? Reading Appayya Dīkṣita’s *Ratnatrayaparīkṣā*,” The 12th Biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel.
- 2012** “Castrated Death, Sterilized Language: Gender-Tensions in the Mythology of *Vāc* in the *Brāhmaṇa* Literature,” New Directions: Conference of Asian Studies, Tel-Aviv University, Israel.
- 2011** “Killing Music: Performative Arts in the Service of Death in Vedic Tradition,” The 11th Biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel.

Panels Organized

- 2016** “Patterns of Literary Composition in a Multilingual World” (pre-conference), The 45th Annual Conference on South-Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

2016 “In the Trail of the Wailing King: Regeneration and Innovation in the History of a Traditional Narrative,” The 45th Annual Conference on South-Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

RELATED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2016-2018 Participation in Prof. Yigal Bronner’s PANDiT project, a digital humanities project designed to create a prosopographical database of Indic texts.

2012-2014 Participation in Prof. Yigal Bronner’s research group on the 16th Century South-Indian scholar Appayya Dīkṣita.

2014 Participation in the EFEO’s 12th Classical Tamil Summer Seminar in Pondicherry.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Hebrew: native language

English: fluent (reading, writing, speaking)

Sanskrit: excellent (reading)

Tamil: excellent (reading); basic (speaking)

French: good (reading); basic (speaking)