

Dr. Cedric Cohen Skalli  
Director, Bucerius Institute for Research of  
Contemporary German History and Society  
Department of Jewish History  
University of Haifa  
[ccohensk@univ.haifa.ac.il](mailto:ccohensk@univ.haifa.ac.il)

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Born and raised in Paris in a post-68 Jewish family, I have studied and worked in academic institutions in several countries, including France, Germany, Israel, Spain, Portugal, Italy and the United States. My first specialization was modern German philosophy (from Kant to Heidegger), especially its interpretation at the hands of French philosophers such as Levinas and Derrida (my esteemed professor). This initial focus continues to constitute the intellectual background of my research and I continue to actively study and translate texts in the field of German speaking thought – focusing primarily on the German-Jewish tradition and its broader political and theological significance as well as the history and philosophy of translation. I am the director of the Bucerius Institute for the Research of Contemporary German History and Society at the University of Haifa. During my Ph.D. studies (1998-2004), I studied the relationship of Jewish thinkers to Renaissance Humanism – focusing specifically on the work of Don Isaac Abravanel (1437-1508). After completing my dissertation, I wrote three books and several articles on various aspects of Jewish thought and literature during the Renaissance. My intellectual biography of Isaac Abravanel was published in the prestigious “the great men of the Jewish people” series of the Zalman Shazar Center and recently translated and augmented for *The Tauber Institute Series For Study of European Jewry* (Brandeis University Press). Since 2010, I have lectured on early modern and modern Jewish Philosophy at the University of Haifa. I am also directing a new Research Project: “The Revival of Philosophy in the 19th-Century and Early 20th-Century Middle East: An Untold Story.”

## **EDUCATION**

**Languages.** French, Hebrew, Arabic (reading), German, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Latin, and Greek.

**1987-1990 Lycée Henry IV**, Paris (leading high-school in France with a focus on the humanities).

**1990-1994 Sorbonne University Paris I.** B.A. and M.A. in Philosophy,  
Thesis: “The Concept of Science in Aristotle’s and Hegel’s Work,”.

**1990-1994 Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences sociales.** Paris. Student in the seminar of Jacques Derrida.

**1994-1996** Prepared and passed the prestigious exam of the French Office of Education:  
*Agrégation de philosophie.*

**1996-1998 University of Lille III.** D.E.A. de Philosophie. Research supervisor: Prof. Jean Michel Salanskis. Thesis topic: A translation and commentary of Gerschom Scholem’s article “Der Begriff der Kawwana in der alten Kabala.”

**1998-2004 Tel Aviv University.** School of Philosophy, Tel Aviv University. **Ph.D. in Philosophy.** Dissertation topic: “The Humanistic Rhetoric of Don Isaac Abravanel: Rhetoric,

History and Tradition in Isaac Abravanel's Introductions and Letters" (dissertation in Hebrew).  
Dissertation supervisor: Prof. Menachem Lorberbaum. Degree conferred May 4, 2005.

**1998-2003:** Student of the **Beit Midrash of Shalom Hartman Institute** in Jerusalem. Studies in Talmud, Jewish Medieval Philosophy, and Kabbalah. Director of Studies: Prof. Moshe Halbertal.

#### **FULL TIME POSITIONS**

**2010** I received a full position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Jewish History at the University of Haifa where I teach early-modern, modern, and contemporary Jewish Philosophy.

**2015** Director of Italian Studies in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Haifa.

**2016** Senior tenured lecturer.

**2018** Director of the Bucerius Institute for the Research of Contemporary German History and Society.

#### **TEMPORARY POSITIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**1996-1997** Translation editor for the French publisher Cerf, especially for: 1. N. Sombart, *Les mâles vertus des allemands: autour du syndrome de Carl Schmitt*, Paris, 1999; 2. P. Koslowski, *Principes d'économie éthique*, Paris, 1998.

**1999-2001** Assistant lecturer at the **University of Tel Aviv**, Department of French Language and Literature.

**2000-2003** Young Research Fellow at the Institute for advanced Judaic Studies of **The Shalom Hartman Institute** in Jerusalem.

**2003** Visiting Scholar at the **National Library** of Portugal.

**2004** Visiting Scholar at the **Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa**, Italy.

Research Adviser: Prof. Michele Luzzati.

**2004-2005** Research Fellow at the **Consejo Superior de Investigación Científica**, Madrid.  
Research Adviser: Dr. J. Castaño.

**2005-2006** Post-doctoral Fellow at the **Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania** (Directed by Prof. D. Ruderman).

**2006-2007** Post-doctoral Fellow at the Institute for Philosophy, Politics and Religion of **The Shalem Center**, Jerusalem.

**2008-2010** Lecturer at **Tel Aviv University** in the Department of Hebrew Culture.

**2006-2010** Translator and reader for two major publishing houses in France **CERF and Payot**, for two leading Journals *Temps Modernes* and *Critique*, and also for two major Israeli publishing houses, *Yediot Sefarim* and *Keter Sefarim*.

**2009-2014** Co-director of the seminar for continental philosophy at the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**.

**2012-2014** Co-director (with Prof. Gur Alroey) of the Interdisciplinary Research Seminar "Immigrants and their shadows in modern history," School of History, **University of Haifa**.

**2016-2017** Senior Research Fellow at the **Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Hamburg**.

**2017** RSA Visiting Research Fellow at the **Center for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto**.

**2018** Visiting Professor at the **University of Salzburg**.

**2019** Visiting Professor at the **University of Potsdam**.

**2020** Visiting Professor at the **University Sciences Politiques Bordeaux**.

**2021** Visiting Professor at the **Teschnische Universität Berlin** and at the **Marc Bloch Institut, Humboldt Universität**.

**2022** Visiting Professor at the **University of Potsdam**.

**2023** Visiting Professor at the **Paideia Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden**.

**2023** Visiting Professor at the **Teschnische Universität Berlin**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

1. Cedric Cohen Skalli, *Isaac Abravanel: Letters*, Walter de Gruyter, Berlin-New York: 2007.
2. Cedric Cohen Skalli & Michele Luzzati, *Lucca 1493: un sequestro di lettere ebraiche. Edizione e commento storico*, Naples, Archivio di Studi Ebraici, 2014.
3. Cedric Cohen Skalli, *Don Isaac Abravanel*, Jerusalem: Zalman Shazar Center, 2017 (Hebrew).
4. Cedric Cohen Skalli, *Don Isaac Abravanel: An Intellectual Biography*, Waltham MA: Brandeis University Press, 2020.
5. Cedric Cohen Skalli and Libera Pisano (eds.), *Skepsis and Antipolitics. The Alternative of Gustav Landauer*, Leiden: Brill 2022.
6. Cedric Cohen Skalli, Gilaad Sharvit and Gilaad Shenhav (eds.), *Modern Jewish Thought on Crisis Interpretation, Heresy and History*, De Gruyter, 2024.

### **Submitted:**

7. Cedric Cohen Skalli, *Jews, Early Modern Empires and Historiography*, submitted to Oxford University Press

### **Published Translations**

1. Antonia Grunenber, *Martin et Hannah, histoire d'un amour*, translated by Cedric Cohen Skalli, Paris: Payot, 2009.
2. Sigmund Freud, *Dora, Fragment d'une analyse d'hystérie*, translated by Cedric Cohen Skalli, Paris: Payot, 2010.
3. Sigmund Freud, *L'homme aux rats*, translated by Cedric Cohen Skalli, Paris: Payot, 2010.
4. Sigmund Freud, *Du masochisme*, translated by Cedric Cohen Skalli, Paris: Payot, 2011.
5. Sigmund Freud, *Le petit Hans*, translated by Cedric Cohen Skalli, Paris: Payot, 2011.
6. Walter Benjamin, *Expérience et pauvreté*, translated by Cedric Cohen Skalli, Paris: Payot, 2011.
7. Gershom Scholem, *Zeramim rashiim ba-mistika ha-yehudit*, translated by Cedric Cohen Skalli, Tel Aviv: Yediot Sefarim, 2016 (Hebrew translation of *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*).

### **Translations Accepted for Publication**

8. Moshe Idel, *Hassidisme entre extase et magie*, translated by Cedric Cohen Skalli, Cerf, Paris, (French, forthcoming).

## Published Articles

1. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "The Dual Humanism of Don Isaac Abravanel," *Leituras, Revista da Biblioteca Nacional* 13-14 (2005): 151-171.
2. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Une Réminiscence biblique de La Boétie dans *Le Discours de la servitude volontaire*," *Perspectives : Revue de l'Université Hébraïque de Jérusalem* 13 (2006): 61-72.
3. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Discovering Isaac Abravanel's Humanistic Rhetoric," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 97 (2007): 67-99.
4. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "On a Rhetorical Trend in Isaac Abravanel's First Edition in Constantinople 1505," *Hispania Judaica Bulletin* 5 (2007): 153-175.
5. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Authorship in the Age of Early Jewish Print: Isaac Abravanel's *Ma'ayanei Ha-Yeshu'a* and the First Printed Edition in Ferrara 1551," in Chanita Goodblatt and Howard Kreisel (eds.), *Tradition, Heterodoxy and Religious Culture: Judaism and Christianity in the Early Modern Period*, (Ben Gurion University Press, Beer Sheva: 2007), pp. 185-201.
6. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Abravanel's Commentary on the Former Prophets: Portraits, Self-Portraits, and Models of Leadership," *Jewish History* 23 (2009): 255-280.
7. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Retour et départ, deux paradigmes de l'intégration culturelle israélienne," *Esprit* 360 (2009): 28-36.
8. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Don Isaac Abravanel et la question du corps du leader," *Pardes* 47-48 (2010): 111-122.
9. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Entre assimilation et dissimulation, Don Isaac Abravanel (1437-1508)," *Les Cahiers du Judaïsme* 28 (2010): 10-20.
10. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Fortune and Providence" in Ilana Zinger, Abraham Melamed, and Zur Shalev (eds.), *Hebraic Aspects of the Renaissance: Sources and Encounters*, Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2011, pp. 54-61.
11. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Yizhaq Abravanel a Napoli: espulsione e memoria moderna," in Giancarlo Lacerenza (ed.), *1510-2010: Cinquecentario dell'Espulsione degli Ebrei dall'Italia Meridionale*, Naples, Archivio di Studi Ebraici, 2013, pp. 91-102.
12. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Le modèle de l'exhumation et traduction chez Freud au regard de l'intuitionisme de Bergson" in Brigitte Sitbon-Peillon (ed.), *Bergson et Freud*, Paris: PUF, 2014, pp. 73-97.
13. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Don Isaac Abravanel and Leonardo Bruni: A Literary and Philosophical Confrontation," *The European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms* 5 (2015): 492-512.
14. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Anticipation inclusive ou exclusive: Benjamin et Heidegger, 1923-1927," *La règle du Jeu* 58-59 (2015): 499-527.
15. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Don Isaac Abravanel and the Conversos: Wealth, Politics and Messianism," *Journal of Levantine Studies* 6 (2016): 43-69.

16. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Don Isaac Abravanel (1437-1508): A Multilingual Approach," Eva del Soldato and Andrea Rizzi (eds.), *Language Interactions in Early Modern Europe*, London and New York: Ashgate, 2017, pp. 159-172.
17. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Don Isaac Abravanel and the Capture of Arzila in August 1471: Expansion, Communal Leadership and Cultural Networks," in Dov Stuczynski and Bruno Feitler (eds.), *Portuguese Jews, New Christians, and 'New Jews'*, Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2018, pp. 56-72.
18. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "The Motif of Anticipation and the First World War: Cohen, Benjamin and Rosenzweig," in Guy Stroumsa (ed.), *Comparative Studies in the Twenty-First Century*, Israel Academy of Science and Humanities, Jerusalem, 2018, pp. 55-88.
19. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Don Isaac Abravanel in Portugal (1437-1483): A Socio-Cultural Profile" *Alei Sefer* 28 2018 (Hebrew): 49-118.
20. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Israël 2011-2018 – pages arrachées à l'espoir et au désespoir," *La règle du Jeu* 68 (2019): 313-334.
21. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Between Yitzhak Baer and Leo Strauss: The Rediscovery of Isaac Abravanel's Political Thought in the late 1930s," *DAAT* 88 (2019): 161-289.
22. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "A la croisée des chemins: Martin Buber et le sionisme," *Commentaire* 169 (2020): 97-106.
23. Cedric Cohen-Skalli and Oded Horezki, "A Fifteenth-Century Reader of Gersonides: Don Isaac Abravanel and the Question of Providence, Astral Influences and of Active Intellect," in Ofer Elijor, Gad Freudenthal, and David Wirmer (eds.), *Gersonides' Afterlife*, Leiden and Boston: Brill, Series Studies in Jewish History and Culture, 2020, 159-226.
24. Cedric Cohen-Skalli and Libera Pisano, "Farewell to Revolution! Gustav Landauer's Death and the Funerary Shaping of his Legacy," *The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 28 (2020): 184–227.
25. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Cohen's Jewish and Imperial Politics during World War I," in Hartwig Wiedebach and Heinrich Assel (eds.), *Cohen im Netz* in the prestigious German series *Religion in Philosophy and Theology*, Tübingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 2021, 177-197.
26. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "The Resort to *Geistpolitik*: Two of Buber's Early Theological-Political Debates," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 57 (2022), 4-15.
27. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "An Elucidation of Landauer's Concept of Antipolitics". In *Skepsis and Antipolitics*. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2022, 116-150.
28. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "L'intrigue religieuse du concept allemand de traduction," *Il Pensiero – Rivista di Filosofia* 61 (2022) : 101-116.
29. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Lyotard, the end of metanarratives and the memory of the Algerian war", *Metodo* 10 (2023):119–148.

30. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "The Crisis of 1930s and Rediscovery of religious political Thought in Jewish, Christian and Muslim context," in *Modern Jewish Thought on Crisis Interpretation*, De Gruyter, 2024, 213-240.

**Accepted Articles:**

31. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "The Idealization of King Solomon in Don Isaac Abravanel's 1493 Commentary on Kings," Steven K. McKenzie and Matthieu Richelle (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of First and Second Books* (New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

**Submitted:**

32. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Levinas' Figures of Alterity and Their Meaning", *Levinas Studies*.
33. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "Gustav Landauer, Völkisch Nationalism and World War I An essay on the origins of Jewish populism", *Simon Dubnow Yearbook*.
34. Cedric Cohen-Skalli, "The Return of Chrysoloras: Humanism in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Middle Eastern Contextes", *Journal Religions*.