

Dr. Roy Vilozny

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Current position

2016 – Lecturer, University of Haifa, the Department of Arabic Language and Literature.

Postdoctoral studies

2014 – 2016 Research fellow at the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

2013 – 2014 Research associate at the *Biblia Arabica* project, the Free University of Berlin and Tel Aviv University.

Higher education

2012 PhD, awarded by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Field of research: Shīʿī literature, religious thought and theology in the 9th-11th centuries CE. Dissertation title: “A Study of *Kitāb al-Maḥāsin* by Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Barqī (d. 888 or 894 CE)”.

2006 – 2007 Visiting PhD student, Albert Ludwig University, Freiburg.

2005 – 2006 Visiting PhD student, the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes.

2004 – 2005 Student exchange program, Albert Ludwig University, Freiburg.

2002 – 2004 Individual MA, the Faculty of Humanities of the Hebrew University.

1997 – 2000 BA, the departments of Arabic Language and Literature and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, The Hebrew University.

Prizes and scholarships

2012 The Roy Berlin Scholarship for outstanding advanced students in the Department of Arabic Language and Literature.

2007 – 2011 The President’s Scholarship for outstanding PhD students in the humanities, the Hebrew University.

2010 The Minerva Short Term Research Grant, Berlin, July – September 2010.

2008 The Wolf Foundation Prize for outstanding PhD students in Israel.

2007 The Gilad Bartov Annual Prize for outstanding graduate students in the Institute for Asian and African Studies, the Hebrew University.

Teaching in recent years

- “Core Issues in Shīʿī Theology”
- “Medieval Muslim Heresiography”
- “Readings in Early Shīʿī Sources”
- “The Shīʿī Perception of the Quran”
- “Biblical Scenes and Characters in Quranic Context”
- “Issues in the Imāmī Theology of al-Shaykh al-Mufīd (d.1022)”
- “Between Master and Disciple – Transforming Shīʿī Theological Concepts”
- “Traveling as a Stage in Building the Self in Arab Fiction”
- “Readings in Classical Prose”

Publications

1. “A Shīʿī Life Cycle according to al-Barqī's *Kitāb al-Maḥāsin*” in *Arabica* LIV, 3, Leiden 2007, pp. 362-96.
2. “Réflexions sur le *Kitāb al-ʿIlal* d’Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Barqī (m. 274/888 ou 280/894)” in Amir-Moezzi M. A. and Bar-Asher M. M. (eds.), *Le Shīʿisme Imāmīte Quarante Ans Après - Hommage à Etan Kohlberg*, Turnhout 2009, pp. 417-35.
3. “Pre-Buyid Ḥadīth Literature: The Case of al-Barqī from Qum (d. 274/888 or 280/894) in Twelve Sections” in Daftary F. and Miskinzoda G. (eds.) *The Study of Shiʿi Islam*, The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London 2014, pp. 203-230.
4. “What Makes a Religion Perfect: Al-Ṣadūq's *Kamāl al-dīn* Revisited” in Amir-Moezzi M. A., De Cillis M., De Smet D. and Mir-Kasimov O. (eds.), *Esoteric Shiʿa: Roots and Developments*, Bibliothèque de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes (Sorbonne) and Shiʿi Heritage Series (The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London), Turnhout, 2016, pp. 473-491.
5. “A Concise Numerical Guide for the Perplexed Shiite: Al-Barqī's (d. 274/888 or 280/894) *Kitāb al-Aṣkāl wa-l-Qarāʿin*” in *Arabica* 63/1-2 (2016), pp. 64-88.
6. “The Imāmī Ambivalent Attitude towards Martyrdom” in Hatina M. and Litvak M. (eds.), *Sacrifice and Death in Modern Islam*, London (I. B. Tauris), 2017, pp. 39-51.
7. “The Shīʿa: An Emergence of Religious Sect” in Bar-Asher M. M. and Hatina M. (eds.), *Introduction to Islam: Belief and Ritual*, Jerusalem (forthcoming, in Hebrew).

Selected academic conferences:

- June 2010 - "Searching for Truth: A Journey from Qum to Freiburg" in "The Shī'a: Theology, Law and Culture", organized by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Tel Aviv University, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.
- June 2012 - "Martyrdom in a Quietist Community: The Imāmī Attitude towards Jihād" in "Sacrifice and Death in Modern Islam", organized by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Tel Aviv University, Jerusalem.
- January 2013 - "Death in Medieval Shī'i Thought" in "Death, The Cultural Meaning of the End of Life", The LUCAS Graduate Conference 2013, Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society.
- April 2013 - "The Occultation of the 12th Imam: between Myth and Theology" and "The Life Cycle according to Early Shī'i Sources" in "Festival of Arab Culture in Pilsen", organized by the University of West Bohemia.
- May 2013 - "Who needs an Imam?" in "Spiritual Leadership in Islamic and Jewish Mysticism", organized by The Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- December 2013 - "Some aspects of the Ismā'īlī approach to the Bible" in "Relations between Shi'ism and Judaism", The Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany.
- July 2014 - "An Ismā'īlī Reading of Prophetic Stories: Ja'far b. Manṣūr al-Yaman's Attempt", The SBL (Society of Biblical Studies) Annual Meeting at The University of Vienna.
- October 2014 - "Can we talk about a Shī'i Mythology?" in "Myth-Making across Boundaries", Ege University, Izmir.
- November 2014 - "Death in Medieval Shī'i Thought: Approaching the Undesired", MESA (Middle Eastern Studies Association) annual meeting in Washington D.C.
- December 2015 - "Some Remarks on a Pre-Adamic Human-like Demon" in "Demons and Demonology in the Religions of Late Antiquity", The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.
- December 2015 - "The Shī'i Art of Myth-Making: Cosmology, History, Eschatology" in "The Mythic Dimension of Islam: Examining the Sources through the Lens of Myth", The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.
- April 2016 - "The Amālī and Majālis: an Attempt at a Reexamination" in "The Acquisition and Transmission of Knowledge: The Role of Shi'i Institutions of Learning in the Spread and Defense of a Tradition", The University of Chicago Shi'i Studies Group Symposium.
- May 2016 - "Some Cracks in the Ideal Picture of a Chosen People: The Shī'i Case" in "The Self and Other: Inclusion and Exclusion in Late Antiquity", Haifa University.

- June 2016 – "What is Iranian in Early Shī'ism: a Literary Example" in "Ethnic Groups in the Iranian Realm", The Hebrew University.
- July 2016 – "Shī'ism as a Revived version of the Sasanian Religion" in "From Jāhiliyya to Islam", The Israeli Academy of Sciences.
- October 2016 – "An examination of three Imāmī traditions concerning the creation of good and evil" in "The Problem of Evil: a Challenge to Shī'ī Theology and Philosophy in Islam", Officina di Studi Medievali, Palermo.
- October 2016 – "On the limited representation of the Ismailis in al-Ṣadūq's (d. 381/991 CE) *Kamāl al-dīn*" in "Intellectual Interactions in the Islamic World: The Ismā'īlī Thread", The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London.