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EDUCATION:

1984 - 91: Ph.D Harvard University.

Dissertation Topic: "The Shi`i cUlama' of Najaf and Karbala', 1793-1904: A Socio-political Analysis"

Supervisors: Professors Roy Mottahedeh and Abbas Amanat.

1983 - 84: Tel Aviv University. Studies for M.A.

1979 - 83: B.A. Tel Aviv University

History of the Middle East. Graduated Summa Cum Laude

EXPERIENCE:

2010 - Director, Alliance Center for Iranian Studies, Tel Aviv University.

2008 - Associate Professor, the Department of Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University.

2006 - 2010 Senior Research Fellow, Center for Iranian Studies, Tel Aviv University.

2005 Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

1998 - Senior Research Fellow, the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University.

1998 - 2008 Senior lecturer at the Department of Middle Eastern and African history, Tel Aviv University.

2003 Visiting assistant professor at the Department of History, Emory University

1997 Visiting assistant professor at the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University.

1994 - 95 Visiting assistant professor at the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University.

1993 - 98 Research Fellow at the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African

Studies, Tel Aviv University.

Lecturer at the Department of Middle Eastern and African History,

Tel Aviv University.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2010 Gold Prize, The Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy Book Award.

2008 - 2010 Israel Science Foundation, research grant.

1999 Second Place: The Kuwaiti-British Friendship Society Annual Award for books published in Britain on the Middle East

1997 The Tammi Steinmetz Institute for Peace Research, Tel Aviv University, Research Grant: "Facilitators and Obstacles for the Peace Process."

1992 Tel Aviv University: Seminar for Comparative European History Fellowship.

1989: Dayan Fellowship: the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

1987: Dayan Fellowship: the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

1986: Avi Fellowship, Avi Foundation for Research, Zurich Switzerland.

1984: Fulbright Fellowship: Ameircan-Israeli Education Foundation.

1984: Landau Prize for Research: Israeli Ministry of Education.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

"The PLO and Local Leadership in the Territories: an Historical and Comparative Analysis," in "The PLO and Israel, 1964-1994: From Armed Struggle to Accommodation" The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May 1994.

"Hamas: The Logic of Terrorism," in Between Jihad and Peace: Islamic Movements and the Peace Process, Tel Aviv University, March 1996.

"The Islamization of Palestinian Identity: the Case of Hamas," State and Radical Movements in the Middle East, University of Haifa, May 1996.

“A Failed Manipulation? The British, the Oudh Bequest and the Shi` `Ulama’ of Najaf and Karbala’,” Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America Annual Conference, December 1998.

“Israeli Constructions of Palestinian Identity,” The Study of the Middle East in Israel, The Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem June ‏1999.

“Madrasa and Learning in Nineteenth Century Najaf and Karbala,” in Twelver Shi`ism in Modern Times, Albert-Ludwig University, Freiburg, October 1999.

“Democracy or Velayat-e Faqih: The Clerical Debate in Contemporary Iran” in the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh June 2001.

“The Representation of the Holocaust in the Arab World” After Eichmann: Collective Memory and the Holocaust since 1961, University of Southampton, UK, April 2002.

"Ghettoes and Judenratts in Arab Eyes" in The Warsaw Ghetto Rebellion: The Past Touches the Present, Haifa University, April 2003.

"Holocaust Denial in the Arab World: Motifs and Developments," The Meeting of Generation: The Formation of the Holocaust Memory in the 21st Century, Haifa University, April 2004

“Islamic Democracy and Western Democracy: The Islamist Debate,” in Middle Eastern Societies and the West: Accommodation or Clash of Civilizations, Tel Aviv University, Israel, December 2002.

“Modern Islamist Concepts of Freedom,” in The Israeli Democracy Institute Conference on Political Theology, Jerusalem, Israel, March 2003.

“Iran and the Holocaust: Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism,” in Convergence and Divergence: Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism in Historical Perspective, Tauber Institute at Brandeis University, March 2004.

"The Canaanite Past in Palestinian collective memory" at the the Hebrew University Institute of Advanced Studies seminar on religion and nationalism, December 2005.

"Anti-Shi`i Polemics in Modern Salafi Literature," in ''Exclusivity and Universality in Shi'i Islam'' Hebrew University of Jerusalem, February 2006.

"Concepts of freedom in modern Shi`i thought," in Modern Iran: Religious Thought and Society, Tel Aviv University, June 2006.

"Shi`i and Sunni `Ulama in Ottoman Iraq," at the joint international workshop of the Dayan Center and the Center for Iranian Studies on the Sunni-Shi`i Divide in History, Tel Aviv University, June 2007.

"Anti-Semitism in the Islamic Republic of Iran," in Understanding the Challenge of Iran Conference, Yale University, May 2008.

"From 'Gharbzedegi' to the 'Fall of the West' in Iranian Religious Thought." In The Iranian Revolution: Thirty Years After, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv University, June 2009.

"Violence in Radical Islam: Text or Context?," in World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, August 2009.

"History, Nationalism and Religion in the Palestinian National Movement," in Judaism, Islam and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Ben Gurion University, May 2010.

"Freedom in Shi`i Thought: From Khomeini to Khatemi," in Shi`ism: Theology, Law and Culture," Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University, June 2010.

"Iranian anti-Semitism: Continuities and Changes," in "Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity," Yale University: the Yale Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism, 23-25 August 2010.

"Antisemitism in Iran and Holocaust Denial," in Antisemitism and the phenomenon of Holocaust denial, Dublin: Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin, 17-19 November 2010.

"Martyrdom is Bliss: Martyrdom in Shi’i Discourse under the Islamic Republic of Iran," in Sacrifice and Death in Modern Islam: History, Ethos and Politics, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 11-13 June 2012.

“The Middle East Unfolding: Dreams and Drama in the Early Twenty-First Century”, Otago University, Foreign Policy School

"Martyrdom in Shi`i Islami" in With God in Our Side: Holy War and Sacred Struggle in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Tel Aviv University, 2-4 June 2013.

"Nationalism and Islam in a Provincial Setting: Late Qajar Isfahan," in Constructing Nationalism in Iran: From the Qajars to the Islamic Republic, Tel Aviv University, 10-12 June 2013.

"The Sunni-Shi`i Rift and the Arab Upheaval" in “U.S.-China-Israel Trilateral Roundtable: Shared Interests in Promoting Stability and Coexistence in the Middle East,” Brookings Institution and Israel Institute, Washington DC, February 2014.

"Rouhani's Iran: How Real is the Change?" Keynote Address in the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa, Seventh Annual Conference, Washington DC, October 30 - November 1, 2014.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books and Monographs**

Co-author with Moshe Aharonov, *Iran: From a Persian Empire to an Islamic Revolution* (Tel Aviv: Open University of Israel, 2014).

Meir Litvak and Esther Webman, *From Empathy to Denial: Arabic Responses to the Holocaust* (London: Hurst Publishers Co and New York: Columbia University Press, 2009)

Meir Litvak and Esther Webman, *Arab Representations of the Holocaust: An*

*Obstacle to Peace?* (Tel Aviv: Tami Steinmetz Institute of Peace Studies, 2006, in Hebrew).

*Shici Scholars of Nineteenth Century Iraq: The cUlama’ of Najaf and Karbala’* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), xiii + 255 pages.

**Edited Volumes**

Co-Editor with Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, *Nationalism, Identity and Politics: Israel and the Middle East - Studies in Honor of Prof. Asher Susser* (Tel Aviv: Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2014, English and Hebrew).

Co-Editor with Ofra Bengio, *Division and Ecumenism in Islam: The Sunna and Shi‘a in History* (New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2011).

*Palestinian Collective Memory and National Identity* (New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2009).

*Middle Eastern Societies and the West: Accommodation or Clash of Civilizations?* (Tel Aviv: Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2007)

Meir Litvak and Ora Limor (eds.), *Religious Fanaticism* (Jerusalem: Zalman Shazar Center, 2007, in Hebrew).

*Islam and Democracy in the Arab World* (Tel Aviv: Ha-Kibutz ha-Meuchad, 1997 in Hebrew).

**Accepted for Publication**

Co-Editor with Meir Hatina, *Concepts of Martyrdom in Modern Islam: Social and Political Settings* (London: I.B. Tauris)

**Articles**

"`Martyrdom is Life': Jihad and Martyrdom in the Ideology of Hamas"*Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*Vol. 33 No. 8(2010), pp. 716-734.[A Hebrew version appeared as "Jihad and Sacrifice in the Doctrine of Hamas," in Yosef Kostiner (ed.) *Jihad: Ideological Roots* (Tel Aviv: Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2012), pp. 159-184].

"The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Holocaust: Anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism," *Journal of Israeli History* Vol. 25 (2006), pp. 245-266.

Meir Litvak and Joshua Teitelbaum, “Edward Said’s Orientalism: Some Methodological Comments,” *Ha-Mizrah He-Hadash* Vol. 45 (2005), pp. 5-22. An English version, published as "Students, Teachers, and Edward Said: Taking Stock of Orientalism," *The Middle East Review of International Affairs* Vol. 10 (March 2006).

“Slavery [to God] is Freedom: Modern Islamic Concepts of Liberty” *Historia* No. 16 (2005), pp. 55-80 (in Hebrew). [Published also in *Religious Fanaticism*, 2007].

"The anti-Semitism of Hamas," *Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics and Culture*, Vol. 12 Nos. 2+3 (2005), pp. 41-47.

“Iran and Israel: The Ideological Enmity and its Roots,” *Iyunim be-Tkumat Yisrael* Vol. 14(2004), pp. 367-392 (in Hebrew).

Meir Litvak and Esther Webman, “The Representation of the Holocaust in the Arab World,” *Journal of Israeli History: Special Issue, After Eichmann: Collective Memory and the Holocaust since 1961* Vol. 23 No. 1 (Spring, 2004), pp. 100-115.

Meir Litvak and Esther Webman, “Perceptions of the Holocaust in the Palestinian Public Discourse,” *Israel Studies* Vol. 8 No. 3 (Fall, 2003), pp. 123-140.

“Money, Religion and Politics: The Oudh Bequest in Najaf and Karbala’, 1850-1903” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* Vol. 33 No. 1(February, 2001), pp. 1-21.

“The Rule of the Jurist (*Velayat-e Faqih*) in Iran: Ideal and Implementation,” *Ha-Mizrah He-Hadash*, Vol. 42 (2001, in Hebrew), pp. 167-184.

“Failed Manipulation: The British, the Oudh Bequest and the Shi`i Ulama’ of Najaf and Karbala,” *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* Vol. 27 No. 1(2000), pp. 68-89.

"The Finances of the `Ulama’ Communities of Najaf and Karbala' in the Nineteenth Century," *Die Welt des Islams* Vol. 40 No. 1(2000), pp. 41-66.

"The Islamization of the Israeli-Arab Conflict: the Case of Hamas," *Middle Eastern Studies* Vol. 23 No. 1(1998), pp. 148-163.

"Palestinian Nationalism and Islam: the case of Hamas," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* Vol. 2 No. 4(Winter 1996), pp. 500-522.

"The Shi`ite cUlama' of Najaf and Karbala' and the Ottoman Tanzimat," *The Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review* 4(Spring, 1995), pp. 72-88.

"A Palestinian Past: National Construction and Reconstruction," *History and Memory* Vol. 6 No. 2 (Fall/Winter 1994), pp. 24-56. Also published in German in *Sozialwissenschaflische Informationen* Vol. 23 No. 2 (April-June, 1994).

"Palestinian Leadership in the West Bank during the Intifada, 1987-1992," *Orient* Vol. 34, No. 2 (July, 1993), pp. 199-220.

"Continuity and Change in the `Ulama Population of Najaf and Karbala, 1791-1904: A Socio-Demographic Study," *Iranian Studies* Vol. 23 (1990). pp. 31-60.

**Chapters in Books**

**Forthcoming**

"Martyrdom is Bliss: The Iranian Concept of Martyrdom during the War with Iraq, 1981–1988," in Meir Hatina and Meir Litvak (eds.), *Concepts of Martyrdom in Modern Islam: Social and Political Settings* (London: I.B. Tauris)

**Published**

"The 1979 Iranian Revolution in Historical Perspective," in Bandon Friedman and Bruce Maddy-Weitzman (eds.), *Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring* (Tel Aviv: Moshe Dayan Center, 2014), pp. 353-370.

"Charisma and Politics in the Evolution of Modern Shi‘i Leadership," in D. Ephrat and M. Hatina (eds.), *Commanding Knowledge:* *Religious Authority and Spiritual Power in Islam with Jewish Perspectives* (Salt Lake City: Utah University Press, 2014), pp. 206-224.

"Iranian Antisemitism: Continuity and Change in Charles Asher Small (ed.), *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity: Volume IV: Islamism and the Arab World* (New York: ISGAP, 2013), pp. 55-66.

"The Palestinian National Authority and Islam, 1994–2006," in A. Shapira et al (eds.), *The Nation State and Religion: The Resurgence of Faith* (Sussex Academic Press and the Israeli Democracy Institute, 2013), Vol. II, pp. 57-73.

"Introduction," in Yosef Kostiner (ed.) *Jihad: Ideological Roots* (Tel Aviv: Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2012), pp. 11-28.

"The Hamas Movement: Muslim Brothers with a Palestinian Uniqueness," in M. Hatina and U. Kupferschmidt (eds.), *The Muslim Brothers: A Religious Vision in a Changing Reality* (Tel Aviv: Ha-Kibutz ha-Meuchad, 2012), pp. 203-239

Together with Ofra Bengio, "Introduction," and "Epilogue," in Ofra Bengio and Meir Litvak (eds.), *Division and Ecumenism in Islam: The Sunna and Shi‘a in History* (New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2011), pp. 1-16, 243-252.

"Encounters between Shi‘i and Sunni ‘Ulama' in Ottoman Iraq," in Ofra Bengio and Meir Litvak (eds.), *Division and Ecumenism in Islam: The Sunna and Shi‘a in History*. (New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2011), pp. 69-86.

Meir Litvak and Esther Webman, "Israel and the World," in Albert Lindemann and Richard Levy (eds.), *Anti-Semitism: A History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 237-249.

"Introduction,"in Litvak *(ed.), Palestinian Collective Memory and National Identity* (New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2009), pp. 1-39.

"Constructing a National Past: The Palestinian Case*,"* in Litvak *(ed.), Palestinian Collective Memory and National Identity* (New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2009), pp. 97-133*.* An updated Hebrew version appeared under the title: 'Our Canaanite Forefathers,' On the Construction of the pre-Islamic Past in the Palestinian National Discourse," in Litvak and Maddy-Weitzman (eds.), Nationalism, Identity and Politics: Israel and the Middle East (Tel Aviv: Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2014), pp. 79-114.

"Democracy and Islam: The Clerical Debate in Contemporary Iran," in Joshua Teitelbaum (ed.), *Political Liberalization in the Gulf* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009), pp. 271-301.

"`More harmful than the Jews': anti-Shi`i polemics in modern radical Sunni discourse, in *Le shi`isme imamite quarante ans après: Hommage à Etan Kohlberg*, eds. Muhammad Ali Amir-Moezzi, Meir M. Bar-Asher and Simon Hopkins, (Paris 2008), pp. 285-306

Meir Litvak and Ora Limor, "Introduction," in *Religious Fanaticism* (Jerusalem: Zalman Shazar Center, 2007, in Hebrew), pp. 11-26.

"Introduction," in Meir Litvak (ed.), *Middle Eastern Societies and the West: Accommodation or Clash of Civilizations?* (Tel Aviv: Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2007), pp. 11-32.

"Islamic Democracy vs. Western Democracy: The Debate Among Islamists," in *Middle Eastern Societies and the West Accommodation or Clash of Civilizations?* (Tel Aviv: Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2007), pp. 199-220.

“Religious and National Fanaticism: the case of Hamas,” in Matthew Hughes and Gaynor Johnson (eds.), *Fanaticism and Conflict in the Modern Age* (London: Frank Cass, 2005), pp. 155-174.

"Iran's Rebellious Youth," in Tamar Yegnes ed., *The Middle East:The Impact of Generational Change* (Tel Aviv: Dayan Center, 2005 in Hebrew), pp. 95-108.

“Students and Teachers in Nineteenth Century Najaf and Karbala'” in Ami Ayalon and David Wasserstein (eds.) *Madrasa: Education, Religion and the State in the Middle East* (Tel Aviv: Moshe Dayan Center, 2004 in Hebrew), pp. 129-146.

"Fundamentalist Islam and the Women Question: Puritanism and Politics," in *Women in the Middle East: Between Tradition and Change* Ofra Bengio (ed.), Dayan Center Papers, # 134 (Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University, 2004, in Hebrew), pp. 41-51.

Bruce Maddy-Weitzman and Meir Litvak, “Islamism and the State in North Africa,” in Barry Rubin (ed.), *evolutionaries and Reformers: Contemporary Islamist Movements in the Middle East* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2003), pp. 69-90.

“Madrasa and Learning in Nineteenth Century Najaf and Karbala,” in W. Ende and R. Brunner (eds.), *The Twelver Shi`a in Modern Times: Religious Culture and Political History* (Leiden: Brill, 2000), pp. 58-78.

"A Minority which is also a Majority: The Shi`i `Ulama’ in Iraq during the 19th and 20th Centuries," in Shulamit Volkov et al. (eds.), *Minorities, Foreigners and Outsiders* (Jerusalem: The Zalman Shazar Center, 2000, in Hebrew), pp. 221-242.

"Introduction," in Meir Litvak (ed.), *Islam and Democracy in the Arab World* (Tel Aviv: Ha-Kibutz ha-Meuchad, 1998 in Hebrew), pp. 9-23.

"Hamas: Islam, Palestinian Identity and Jihad," in Meir Litvak (ed.), *Islam and Democracy in the Arab World* (Tel Aviv: Ha-Kibutz ha-Meuchad, 1998 in Hebrew), pp. 147-179.

"Islamist Movements and Democracy: the Historiographical Debate," in Meir Litvak (ed.), *Islam and Democracy in the Arab World* (Tel Aviv: Ha-Kisbutz ha-Meuchad, 1998 in Hebrew), pp. 236-251.

"Inside Versus Outside: The Challenge of the Local Leadership, 1967-1994," in Avraham Sela ed. *The PLO and Israel, 1964-1994: From Armed Struggle to Accommodation* (New York: St. Martin Press, 1997), pp. 171-196.

**Book Reviews**

Rex Brynen, Pete W. Moore, Bassel F. Salloukh, Marie-Joelle Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring: Authoritarianism & Democratization in the Middle East* (Boulder & London: Lynn Rienner, 2012), *The Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs* 7:2(2013), pp. 147-150.

Ilan Pappe, *The Rise and Fall of a Palestinian Dynasty:The Husaynis, 1700-1948* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2010), *Bustan: the Middle East Book Review*, 3(2012) pp. 68-74.

"Robert Satloff, Among the Righteous: Lost Stories from the Holocaust Long Reach into Arab Lands." *Shofar (*expected publication, May 2009)

"Kamran Scot Aghaie, The Martyrs of Karbala: Shi‘i Symbols and Rituals in Modern Iran." *American Historical Review*, Vol. 114, No. 2, April 2009), p. 521

"Haggai Ram, Reading Iran in Israel," *Catharsis*, No. 11 (Summer 2009), pp. 58-103 (Hebrew).

"Daniel Tzadik, Between Foreigners and Shi‘is: Nineteenth Century Iran and its Jewish Minority." *Middle Eastern Studies* vol. 45 no. 5(September 2009), pp. 847-855.

"Fouad Ajami: The Dream Palaces of the Arabs," *Jama`a* Vol. 8 (2001, in Hebrew), pp. 171-178.

"Moshe Zak, King Husayn Makes Peace: Thirty Years of Secret Talks," *Hamizrah He-Hadash* Vol. 41 (2000, in Hebrew), pp. 198-200.

"Elie Podeh, The Struggle for Hegemony in the Arab World," *Hamizrah He-Hadash* Vol. 39 (1998-99, in Hebrew), pp. 219-221