



Curriculum Vitae

Professor Ronit Ricci  
Sternberg-Tamir Chair in Comparative Cultures  
Departments of Asian Studies and Religion  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
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**EDUCATION**

**University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Ph.D., Program in Comparative Literature, 2006.

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, New York  
FALCON (one year non-degree language program for the study of Indonesian), 1997-1998.

**Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, Jerusalem, Israel.  
M.A., Indian Languages and Literatures, 1994-1997.  
M.A., Clinical Child Psychology, 1994-1997.  
B.A. with majors in Indian Languages and Literatures and Psychology,  
Magna Cum Laude, 1991-1994.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Professor, Departments of Asian Studies and Religion, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2020-
- Associate Professor, Departments of Asian Studies and Religion, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2013-2020
- Associate Professor, School of Culture, History and Language. College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University 2013-
- Senior Lecturer, School of Culture, History and Language. College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University 2012-2013
- Lecturer, School of Culture, History and Language. College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University 2010-2011
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Religion and Globalization in Asian Contexts Research Cluster. Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 2008-2009
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University, New York City, Fall 2007

**SERVICE**

**Hebrew University**

- Chair, Department of Asian Studies, 2020-
- Head, India and Indonesia Studies, Dept. of Asian Studies, 2017-
- Member, President's PhD Fellowships Committee, 2017-2020
- Head, The Nehemia Levtzion Center for Islamic Studies, 2019-
- Member, Academic Board, The Nehemia Levtzion Center for Islamic Studies 2017-
- Undergraduate Advisor, Dept. of Comparative Religion, 2015-2016



- Member, Academic Advisory Board, Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Diversity, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University, 2015-

#### Academic service-external

- Program Committee member, Association for Asian Studies 2019-2021 (the committee determines the program for an annual conference with approximately 3500 participants).
- Chief Editor, *Journal of World Literature*, Brill 2018-
- Advisory Board, *Islam in Southeast Asia* book series (Palgrave-Macmillan) 2018-
- Advisory Editorial Board, *Journal of South Asian Intellectual History*, Brill 2019-
- Advisory Editorial Board, “Muslim Southeast Asia: Spaces, Texts & Practices” Series, Georgias Press 2018-
- Elected Chair, Southeast Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies, 2015-2016
- Elected member, Association for Asian Studies Southeast Asia Council, 2014-2016
- Advisory Board, The Institute for World Literature (based at Harvard) 2013-2016.
- Editorial Board, *Philological Encounters* (Based at Freie Universiteit, Berlin) 2015-
- Editorial Board, *Atavisme* (Indonesian Journal of Literary Studies) 2014-
- Member, three judge panel selecting best undergraduate essay in Comparative Literature for 2009, sponsored by the American Comparative Literature Association.
- Postdoctoral Fellow representative, Asia Research Institute Steering Committee, 2009

**Ongoing:** monograph, article and grant proposal reviewer for Hawaii University Press, *IESHR*, Cambridge University Press, NIAS Press; *Bijdragen tot de Taal, Land en Volkenkunde*, *Theory and Criticism* (in Hebrew), *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, *South Asian History and Culture*, *The Translator*, *Indonesia and the Malay World*, *Intersections*; American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, Australian Research Council, Israel Science Foundation, Azrieli Fellowships.

#### AWARDS AND HONORS

- Guggenheim Fellowship, 2021.
- Polonsky Prize for Creativity and Originality in the Humanities (2<sup>nd</sup> place), 2020.
- Michael Bruno Award, 2014.
- Polonsky Prize for Creativity and Originality in the Humanities, 2014.
- Harry J. Benda Prize in Southeast Asian Studies, 2013.
- American Academy of Religion’s Best First Book in the History of Religions Award, 2012.
- Honorable mention, Emerging Scholars in the Humanities Prize, University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, 2010.
- Finalist for the 2008 Sir George Staunton Prize for the best essay by a young scholar on Asian history, art, literature or religion, for the article “A Jew on Java, A Tamil Torah Scholar and a Model Malay Rabbi: Representations of Abdullah Ibnu Salam in the ‘Book of One Thousand Questions.’” Prize sponsored by the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland.
- Percy Buchanan Prize for best graduate student research paper on Southeast Asia, Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, 2005.
- Rector’s Award for academic excellence, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1994-1997.



## RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021-2026 European Research Council Consolidator Grant for “Textual Microcosms: A New Approach in Translation Studies.” (Euro 1,990,650)
- 2019-2023 Israel Science Foundation individual research grant 2009/19 for “Reading Between the Lines: Traditions of Interlinear Translation in Indonesia.” ILS 560,000.
- 2015-2020 Israeli Center of Research Excellence (I-CORE): Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters, member ILS 184,500.
- 2014-2018 Israel Science Foundation individual research grant 848/14 for “The Sri Lankan Malays: Islam, literature, and diaspora across the Indian Ocean.” ILS 378,000.
- 2013-2015 British Library Endangered Archives Programme Research Grant (major project) for “Digitizing Malay Writing in Sri Lanka.” £ 17,680.
- Innovation and Excellence Grant of the Israeli Council for Higher Education and Yad Hanadiv. To fund first three years of full employment at the University of Haifa with a guarantee from the University for tenured employment thereafter (offered 2012, declined).
- 2012-2014 Discovery Early Career Research Award, Australia Research Council for “The Sri Lankan Malays: Islam, literature, and diaspora across the Indian Ocean.” Total: AU\$ 375,000.
- 2011-2012 British Library Endangered Archives Programme Research Grant (pilot project) for “Manuscripts of the Sri Lankan Malays.” Total: £15,000
- 2010-2011 American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies Research Fellowship, for conducting two months of research in Sri Lanka. Total: US\$ 7500
- 2010 Small Grants Scheme, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University, for field work in Java, Indonesia. Total: AU\$ 2850
- 2009 Book Fellowship 2009, awarded by the SSRC to several past recipients of the International Dissertation Research Fellowship working on their first book (funded workshop in New York and six months of developmental editing).
- Summer 2007 Florence Tan Moensen Fellowship for conducting research at the Asia Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Total: US\$2000
- 2005-2006 Rackham Pre-Doctoral Award, University of Michigan. Total: US\$24,000
- 2004-2005 Mary Fair Croushore Graduate Student Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan. Total: US\$25,000
- 2002-2003 US/ED Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. Total: US\$26,000
- 2002-2003 Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship. Total US\$ 10,000. (Both of the above for conducting dissertation research in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and Madras, India).
- 1997-1998 Rothchild Foundation Fellowship for pursuing Ph.D studies abroad, Yad Hanadiv, Jerusalem. Total: US\$10,000

## TEACHING INTERESTS

Indonesian Studies, history of Indonesian Islam, Islamic literature in South and Southeast Asia, colonial South and Southeast Asia through the novel, Indonesian literature, Javanese manuscript literature, Malay manuscript literature, conversion literature, Translation Studies, Asian translation theories and practices, travel literature, comparative literary studies, exile and diaspora in colonial Asia.



## COURSES TAUGHT

Thousands of Islands, One Language: advanced Indonesian  
Introduction to Islam in Southeast Asia  
Religion and society in Indonesia  
Indonesia: history and culture  
Translation and Religious Traditions in South and Southeast Asia  
Methods in the Study of Religion  
Kavya and Kakawin: Classical Poetry in India and Indonesia  
Beginning Indonesian  
Individual and Society in Asia and the Pacific  
Translation in Asia: theories, practices, histories  
Core Studies in Asia and the Pacific  
Translation and Culture  
Introduction to the Study of Asian Religions (teaching assistant)  
Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism (teaching assistant)

## SELECTED PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Prophets, Paintings and Pegon: A Javanese Ambiya Manuscript.” Java in Jerusalem: New Directions in the Study of Javanese Literature and Culture. IIAS, Jerusalem, June 17-19, 2019.
- “Sri Lankan History: A View from Sarandib.” International workshop on “Sri Lankan History: A View from the Margins.” Colombo, February 1-2, 2018.
- “Storied Encounters: Reading the Ramayana in Muslim Southeast Asia.” Global Muslim Encounters: Homogenization Across Time and Place, University of Cambridge, December 2016.
- “Islamic Texts and Interlinear Translation.” The Life of Religious Texts workshop, Hebrew University, June 2016.
- “Reading between the Lines: Interlinear Translation in Indonesia.” Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, March 2016.
- “The Arabic Script in Southeast Asia.” World Scripts: Concepts and Practices of Writing from a Comparative Perspective. Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town, September 2015.
- “Connected histories: Indonesia and Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean World.” Roundtable on inter-Asian research, Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, March 2015.
- “Muslim and Javanese in the diaspora: preliminary thoughts on Javanese religion in colonial Ceylon.” Transformation of Religions as Reflected in Javanese Texts International Symposium, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, February 2015.
- “On the Frontiers of Religion, Language and War: Baba Ounus Saldin’s Syair Faid al-Abad.” Workshop on Vernacular Literatures along the Islamic Frontiers of South and Southeast Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2014.
- “Peripheral Histories? Royal Javanese Exiles in Colonial Ceylon.” Association of Asian Studies, Philadelphia, March 2014.
- “Islam, literature and diaspora across the Indian Ocean.” The Philologies Across the Asias Winter School, Delhi, December 11-22, 2012.
- “Serat Samud di dalam dan di luar Istana Jawa” (in Indonesian). Manassa (Indonesian Manuscript Studies Association) Yogyakarta, September 2012.



- “South and Southeast Asian Crossings in the Newspaper Age: the case of the Alamat Langkapuri.” Inter-Asia Connections III, University of Hong Kong, June 2012.
- “From Java to Jaffna: Indonesian exiles, soldiers and scribes in Sri Lanka.” Indonesia Study Group seminar, Australian National University, May 2012.
- “A Literary History of the Sri Lankan Malays.” Association of Asian Studies, Toronto, March 2012.
- “Paratexts in Late Nineteenth Century Javanese Manuscripts.” Seventh Annual Conference of the Islamic Manuscript Association, Cambridge UK, July 2011.
- “Thresholds of Interpretation on the Threshold of Change: Paratexts in Nineteenth Century Javanese Manuscripts.” Association of Asian Studies annual meeting, Honolulu, March 2011.
- “Comparative Literature and Asia: The Case of the Sri Lankan Malays.” American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, Vancouver, April 2011.
- “Remembering Java’s Islamization.” International Congress of Historical Sciences, Amsterdam, August 2010.
- “Sri Lankan Memories of Java’s Islamization.” Asian Studies Association of Australia biennial meeting, Adelaide University, July 2010.
- “Ali in Javanese Literature.” Shi’ism and Beyond: Alid Piety in Muslim Southeast Asia. Conference at the Asia Research Institute, Singapore, January 2010.
- “The Changing Landscape of Manuscript Production in Java, 1890-1930.” Roundtable on manuscript cultures of Southeast Asia, Asia Research Institute, Singapore, November 2009.
- “The Ambiguous Figure of the Jew in Javanese Literature.” Workshop on Jews in Indonesia: perceptions and histories. Asia Research Institute, June 2009.
- “Reading a History of Writing: the poetics and politics of the alphabet in Java.” American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, Harvard University, March 2009.
- “Islam and Literature in South and Southeast Asia”. Religion and Globalization seminar, Asia Research Institute, Singapore, June 2008.
- “Citing as a Site: Translation and Circulation in the Arabicized Cosmopolis of South and Southeast Asia”. SSRC International Workshop on Inter-Asian Connections, Dubai, February 2008.
- “Islamic Literary Networks in South and Southeast Asia.” Institute for Comparative Literature and Society”, Columbia University, November 2007.
- “Suluk: Islamic Mystical Poetry in Javanese.” Library of Congress Asia Division, Washington, D.C., August 2007.
- “Textures of Translation.” Translation and the Production of Knowledge in Southeast Asia graduate student conference, Cornell University, April 2005.
- “Questions on the Path to Knowledge: The Javanese ‘Suluk Samud.’” Traditions of Knowledge in Southeast Asia conference, Yangon, Myanmar, December 2003.
- “Islamic Literature in Java.” Islamic Studies Cultural Center, Madras, India, November 2003.
- “Translation Languages in Asia.” CLIFF (Comparative Literature Intra Faculty and student Forum), Program in Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, February 2002.
- “Empty Words: A Reading of Putu Wijaya's Nyali.” CLIFF, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, February 2000.
- Participant in Presidential Roundtable discussion on “The study of Asian

languages in the United States." Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, San Diego, California, March 2000.

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## INVITED TALKS/KEYNOTES

- “Adam, Sita, and Colonial Exile: Reflections from Sri Lanka.” Between Comparison and Context: Global and Local Movements in South Asia, University of Chicago, March 2021.
- “From Sarandib, via Lanka, to Ceylon: Exile and Memory in the Colonial Age.” Southeast Asia Lecture Series, Harvard University, February 2021.
- “Sarandib, Lanka, Ceylon: Banishment and Belonging.” Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan, September 2017.
- “The Dynamics of Conversion and the Emergence of an Arabic Cosmopolis in Southeast Asia.” Islam in Asia: Traditions and Transformations Summer School, East-West Center, Honolulu, June 2017.
- “The Literary Worlds of Southeast Asian Islam.” Islam in Asia: Traditions and Transformations Summer School, East-West Center, Honolulu, June 2017.
- “Teaching Southeast Asian Islam in Israel.” Busan University of Foreign Studies, Korea, May 2017.
- “Along the Frontiers of Religion, Language, and War: Baba Ounus Saldin’s Syair Faid al-Abad.” Keynote address at Ocean of Law: Islamic Legal Crossings in the Indian Ocean World, Leiden University, November 2016.
- “Sound Across Languages.” Keynote address at Asian Translation Traditions VII, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, September 2016.
- “Reading between the Lines: Considering the Multilingual through Interlinear Translation.” Multilingual Locals and Significant Geographies before Colonialism workshop, SOAS, June 2016.
- “Lanka and the Exilic Imagination.” Sawyer Lecture Series, University of Toronto, April 2016.
- “Jawa, Melayu, Malay or Otherwise? The shifting nomenclature of the Sri Lankan Malays.” Workshop on Muslims in Sri Lanka in the Social Sciences. International Center for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, December 2015.
- “Reading a History of Writing: heritage, religion and script change on Java.” Keynote address at Cosmopolis: The Making of Religious Traditions in the Indonesian Archipelago. History and Heritage in Global Perspective (1600-1940), Yogyakarta, June 2014.
- “Connected Histories: Indonesia in the Indian Ocean World.” Gifted Researchers Program for Indonesian undergraduate students, Bogor, February 2014.
- “Citing as a Site: Translation and Circulation in Muslim South and Southeast Asia.” Colloquium on the study of Islam and Muslim Societies in Southeast Asia, Harvard University, December 2013.
- “From Java to Jaffna: exile in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch Asia.” Tufts University, December 2013.
- “Baba Ounus Saldin: Writing from the Pearl of the Indian Ocean.” Conference on Oman and the Indian Ocean, University of Chicago, October 2013.
- “Telling Stories of Seas, Islands and Ships: A Sri Lankan Malay Perspective.” Politics of storytelling in Imperial Island Formations workshop, University of Washington, Seattle, June 2013.
- “On Malay History and Writing in Sri Lanka.” Panel on “The Lessons of Ronit Ricci’s Islam Translated for the Study of South Asia.” Convened by Charlie Hallisey (Harvard), Annual South Asia Conference, Madison, October 2012.





- “Malay in Sri Lanka: thoughts toward writing a literary history.” Global Conjunctions in the Indian Ocean: Malay World Trajectories workshop, Zukunftsphilologie Program, Berlin, November 2011.
- “Images of Jews in Indonesia: Past and Present.” The Demise of a Jewish Asian Community: Indonesian Jews during the Japanese Occupation conference, Haifa University, December 2010.
- “Gender and Celestial Marriage: ‘Ali and Fatima in a Sri Lankan Malay text.” Gender and Masculinities in South Asia: interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Perspectives workshop, ANU November 2010.
- “Literary Networks in Muslim South and Southeast Asia: A View from Sri Lanka.” American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies Workshop on Historical Methods, Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 2010.
- “The Book of One Thousand Questions and its Asian Translations.” Year of Translation seminar series, University of Michigan, April 2010.
- “The Tale of Aji Saka.” Sensitive Readings, Far Reaching Implications: penetrations into South Asian traditions. Conference at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, December 2008.

#### CONFERENCES and WORKSHOPS

- Organizer, “Java in Jerusalem: New Directions in the Study of Javanese Literature and Culture.” Jerusalem, June 17-19, 2019.
- Co-organizer (with Greg Fealy, ANU), 2018 Indonesia Update, “Contentious Belonging: The Place of Minorities in Indonesia.” Canberra, September 14-15, 2018.
- Co-organizer (with Nadeera Rupesinghe, Director, National Archives of Sri Lanka), international workshop on “Sri Lankan History: A View from the Margins.” Colombo, February 1-2, 2018.
- Co-organizer (with Uri Gabbay, Hebrew University), workshop on “Interlinear Translation: A Comparative Perspective.” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 7, 2017.
- Organizer, “Introducing Indonesia: History, Politics, Culture.” International conference at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, November 29-30, 2017.
- Member, Steering Committee, Zukunftsphilologie Winter Academy Program. World Scripts: Concepts and Practices of Writing from a Comparative Perspective. Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town, September 4-14, 2015.
- Co-organizer (with Ayesha Irani, University of Toronto), pre-conference on Vernacular Literature along the Islamic Frontiers of South and Southeast Asia. Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 16, 2014.
- Co-Director (with Jing Tzu, Yale), workshop on The Sounds and Scripts of Languages in Motion, Inter-Asian Connections IV, Istanbul, October 1-5, 2013 (organized by the SSRC, NUS, Yale and others).
- Organizer, international workshop on Exile in Colonial Asia. Australian National University, July 29-30, 2013.
- Co-organizer of panel on Comparative Literature and Asia. American Comparative Literature Association, Vancouver, April 2011.

- Member, organizing committee, 4th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia. National University of Singapore, July 13-17, 2009.

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- Organizer, international workshop on Jews in Indonesia: perceptions and histories. Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, June 10-11, 2009.
- Organizer of round-table on Manuscript Traditions of Southeast Asia, National University of Singapore, April 2009.
- Co-organizer, international conference on Translation in Asia: theories, practices, histories. Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, March 5-6, 2009.

## OTHER ACTIVITY

**Documentation and digitization project:** from 2012-2016 I surveyed, documented, and digitized rare Malay materials (manuscripts, letters, mosque deeds, and more) across Sri Lanka, allowing these endangered documents to be preserved into the future. The project was funded by the British Library and its results are available at:

<https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP609>

### **Research group: “New Directions in the Study of Javanese Literature”**

Group convenor, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, September 2018-June 2019.

The “New Directions” project had three interrelated aims: first, to access, read and analyse Javanese texts from a range of genres not studied to date; second, to re-read texts studied by earlier generations of scholars but employ in their analysis theoretical paradigms previously untapped in the field and knowledge from adjoining areas including religious studies, performance, and cultural studies; third, and based on the first two goals, to broadly rethink and remap major dimensions of the field of Javanese Studies including periodization, contextualization, literary categorizations, and interpretive methods.

### **Research-related interviews:**

“Banishment and Belonging: Exile and Diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka and Ceylon”

New Books in Indian Ocean Studies, New Books Network, 2020.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/ronit-ricci-banishment-and-belonging-exile-and-diaspora-in-sarandib-lanka-and-ceylon-cambridge-up-2020>

“A Journey to Indonesia.” A four-part podcast interview on “The Lab” 2019.

(המעבדה עם גיל מרקוביץ'. כאן-תאגיד השידור הישראלי)

<https://www.kan.org.il/Podcast/program.aspx?progId=2025&subcatid=236>

“Islam Translated: Literature, Conversion, and the Arabic Cosmopolis of South and Southeast Asia”  
New Books in Islamic Studies, New Books Network, 2011.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/ronit-ricci-islam-translated-literature-conversion-and-the-arabic-cosmopolis-of-south-and-southeast-asia-university-of-chicago-press-2011>

## LANGUAGES

English, native fluency; Hebrew, native fluency; Javanese, advanced proficiency, written and spoken; Indonesian, advanced proficiency, written and spoken; Malay, advanced reading proficiency; Dutch, reading proficiency; Arabic, reading proficiency.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP



American Comparative Literature Association, Association for Asian Studies, The Islamic Manuscript Association, Asian Studies Association of Australia

MANASSA – Indonesian Association for Manuscript Studies

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