THE POLONSKY PRIZES
FOR CREATIVITY & ORIGINALITY
IN THE HUMANISTIC DISCIPLINES

AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky CBE has had a successful business career in the financial services sector and is a philanthropist with particular interests in higher education, cultural heritage and the arts.

Dr. Polonsky grew up in New York City. He was a pupil at the prestigious Townsend Harris High School, and received his BA degree from New York University at age 18. Following military service in 1945–46, he pursued graduate studies in literature at Lincoln College, Oxford, and at the Sorbonne, Paris, where he received his doctorate in 1952. He taught in Heidelberg for several years before embarking on his business career.

Dr. Polonsky began working in financial services in New York in 1955, gaining further experience in Rome, Frankfurt, and Zurich, before establishing Liberty Life Assurance Company Limited in London in 1970. Hansard Global plc, its successor, of which he is President, has been listed on the London Stock Exchange since 2006.

Dr. Polonsky has involved himself in a broad range of philanthropic activities over many years. In 2013 he was named a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for charitable services by HM Queen Elizabeth II. He is a Companion of the Guild of Benefactors of Cambridge University, a Fleming Fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford, and an Honorary Member of the Royal College of Music, London.

Dr. Polonsky holds an Honorary Doctorate from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, of which he is a Governor and where he serves on the Board of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. At The Hebrew University he established the Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanities, which have been awarded annually since 2004. Other support for The Hebrew University includes awards for study in China and scholarships for undergraduates of Ethiopian background.

He is founding chairman of the board of trustees of The Polonsky Foundation, a UK-registered charity that supports cultural heritage, education and the arts in the UK, the USA, Israel, and Europe. Principal activities of The Polonsky Foundation include: the digitisation of significant collections at leading libraries (the Bodleian Library, Oxford; Cambridge University Library; the British Library; the New York Public Library; the Library of Congress; the Vatican Apostolic Library); support for Theatre for a New Audience at the Polonsky Shakespeare Center in Brooklyn, New York; and post-doctoral fellowships at the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

In Israel, The Polonsky Foundation also supports the University of Haifa, Tel Aviv University and the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, of which Dr. Polonsky is a Governor and Honorary Fellow.
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Scholarly activity in the Humanities is expressed in different forms: monographs, the editing of original sources, journal articles and more, all of which are based on extensive research, intellectual analysis and writing. Every year, members of the Faculty of Humanities at The Hebrew University publish their scholarship in prestigious journals and academic publishing houses in Israel and abroad. It is such scholarly endeavors that have made the Faculty of Humanities in Jerusalem one of the leading centers of humanistic study in the world, and have contributed to the overall reputation of The Hebrew University as a foremost academic institution.

The Polonsky Prizes were established over a decade ago through the generosity and vision of DR. Leonard Polonsky and the Polonsky Foundation. These prizes give clear recognition to both senior and junior members of the Faculty of Humanities and elsewhere at the University who have demonstrated the highest standards of scholarship in the humanistic disciplines. All the recipients of this year’s prize were chosen by a committee consisting of members of the Faculty of Humanities, along with the Vice President for Research and Development, Prof. Isaiah (Shy) Arkin and myself. This year’s prize winners were chosen from a particularly strong list of contenders in the different categories, making the selection especially challenging. All in all, the high quality of all the submissions left me with a feeling of pride in the distinctive and excellent work being produced in the fields of Humanities at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It gives me great pleasure to thank the members of the prize committee for their hard work, as well as Prof. Arkin for his support, Ms. Rachel Nathan from the Faculty of Humanities who coordinated the work of the prize committee, and Ms. Ayelet Sagiv of the Authority for Research and Development at The Hebrew University, for crucial administrative matters, not the least coordinating this ceremony today.

We are grateful to the Polonsky Foundation for their support and encouragement. We look forward to next year’s competition, and the interesting and original studies that it will bring to our attention.

With best wishes,

Prof. Dror Wahrman
Dean, The Faculty of Humanities

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**A Message from the Dean**

**Category A**

**Reseacher - First Prize**

**PROF. MOSHE TAUDE**
Department of Linguistics
Faculty of Humanities
Logika of the Judaeans: A Fifteenth Century Lutheran Translation from Hebrew

**Category B**

**Reseacher - Second Prize**

**PROF. ROBERT BRODY**
Department of Talmud and Halacha
Faculty of Humanities
Mishnah and Tosefta Ketubbot: Text, Exegesis and Redaction

**Category C**

**PhD or M.A. Student**

**MS. BAT-AMI ARTZI**
Department of Romance and Latin American Studies
Faculty of Humanities
"...y son indios por conquistar": las allegorías femeninas de los cuatro suyus en el testimonio etnohistórico y arqueológico

**Post-Doctoral Researcher**

**DR. MICHAEL MARMSORSTEIN**
Department of Linguistics
Faculty of Humanities

**Reseacher - First Prize**

**MR. SHRAGA BICK**
Department of Comparative Religion
Faculty of Humanities
"Bull Iam Prayer": Voice, Body and the Anthropology of the Praying Self in Rabbinc and Syriac-Christian Literature
The monograph offers a critical edition from manuscripts of two medieval philosophical texts composed originally in Arabic:

1. The Logical Terminology, ascribed to Moses Maimonides, and
2. The Intentions of the Philosophers by Muhammad Al-Ghazali.

Translated into Hebrew in the 13th-14th centuries, two scholars translated these works in the second half of the 15th century into Ruthenian, the Slavic language of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Combined in Slavic into a single text, the work was entitled The Logika.

The comparative analysis of the Arabic, the Hebrew and the Slavic versions made it possible to establish that the translation was a collaborative effort of a Jewish translator and a Christian Slav, with the Jewish translator dictating orally his spoken Slavic rendering of the Hebrew to the Slav, who put it down in writing in Cyrillic script. The comparison allows us to determine the contribution of the two collaborators to the structure of the Slavic version, and makes it possible to determine the level of erudition of the Jewish translator, his knowledge of Hebrew, his familiarity with the philosophical literature and the poor level of his mastery of the Slavic language of the Grand Duchy. The study also established the name of the Jewish translator and resident of Kiev as Zecharia ben Aharon, copyist and annotator of Hebrew philosophical texts. The book contributes to both Jewish and Ukrainian cultural history in discussing the circumstances of cultural interaction between Jews and Christians in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and highlights the unexpected role of pre-Ashkenazic Jews from the ancient community of Kiev as cultural agents of transmission.

The book contributes to both Jewish and Ukrainian cultural history in discussing the circumstances of cultural interaction between Jews and Christians in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and highlights the unexpected role of pre-Ashkenazic Jews from the ancient community of Kiev as cultural agents of transmission.
Mishnah and Tosefta Ketubbot: Text, Exegesis and Redaction

This book deals with the Mishnah, the central text of classical rabbinic literature, and its companion volume the Tosefta. It offers a new model for the synoptic presentation of the two texts and interwoven commentaries on them, as the relationship between the two compositions is so close and so complex that they must be interpreted in tandem.

The commentaries include many novel interpretations, particularly in the case of the Tosefta, which includes many obscure passages and has been the subject of few commentaries. The book also contributes to recent scholarly debates by illustrating the wide variety of relationships that prevail between corresponding passages of the Mishnah and Tosefta.

The editions of the Mishnah and Tosefta break new ground with regard both to their textual traditions and to the editing of classical rabbinic literature. Regarding the textual traditions of the Mishnah, the book suggests important corrections to the reigning view in recent scholarship. Among these is the complex and varied textual situation of the Mishnah in the Amoraic period. The book demonstrates that in a significant number of cases a more pristine version of the Mishnah circulated in Babylonia while a reworked version enjoyed currency in Palestine. Its conclusions with regard to the textual history of the Tosefta are even more revolutionary: Contrary to the accepted wisdom in the field, the readings of MS Erfurt are to be preferred more often than the readings of MS Vienna.

The editorial method accepted in the field of rabbinics for the last eighty years has been to choose a single “best” textual witness and follow it in almost every instance. Unfortunately, even the best manuscript contains numerous errors and secondary readings, and an editor who slavishly follows a particular witness presents readers with a text that is often recognizably corrupt. This book presents editions of one tractate of Mishnah and Tosefta based on painstaking stemmatic analysis, which represents a middle ground between the “best witness” approach and the artifanatness of an eclectic approach.
The volume Tense and Text in Classical Arabic addresses a long-standing question in Arabic grammar: what is the meaning of the verbal tenses?

According to the dominant paradigm in Western scholarship, the system of classical Arabic is based on a semantic opposition between two verb forms: fa'ala ('he did') and ya'falu ('he [BE] doing').

An unsolved controversy revolves around the essence of this opposition, specifically, on whether it indicates temporal or aspectual distinctions. While formal definitions abound, they are often acknowledged to be limited and partial in face of authentic linguistic evidence.

Inspired by insights of medieval Arab grammarians, and drawing upon modern methods of text-linguistics and discourse analysis, the volume proposes a new model of contextual analysis from which to approach the intriguing question of the tense usage in classical Arabic.

Rather than viewing the verbs as autonomous units, the proposed analysis takes the extended context in which the verb occurs as the relevant unit of analysis. The definition of the contextual unit is based on a fine-grained analysis of thousands of examples extracted from classical Arabic literature. A number of features emerge as the most pertinent in defining the meaning of the verb: deixis/reference, text type, syntactic interdependency, clause type, and lexical classes. The study presents a detailed examination of the tense usage in a large variety of syntactic and textual environments. Its results clearly show that the meaning of the tenses in classical Arabic and, arguably, in other languages, is not reducible to simple semantic distinctions, but is rather combinatorial and multi-faceted.

The study demonstrates the fundamental role of context in meaning interpretation, a role which is universal in nature, inherent to the relationship between language (as structure) and discourse (as practice). Moreover, the study shows that investigating the reflexive relationships between form and context is not only crucial to the clarification of intra-linguistic meanings, but also to a deeper understanding of basic discourse types such as the dialogue, the narrative, and the generic statement. Thus, the contribution of this volume goes beyond the interest of linguists, and may well benefit all scholars and students interested in the linguistic aspect of these socio-cultural discourse phenomena.
Bat-ami Artzi is currently in the last phases of her Ph.D. in the Department of Romance and Latin American Studies. Her field of study focuses on artifacts and written sources produced by Andean precolonial and colonial cultures. In her research, she uses an interdisciplinary approach that combines archaeological and art history methods with archaeological, ethnohistorical, anthropological and linguistic sources. Recently, she submitted her doctoral dissertation that focuses on the feminine image and on other gender-related issues in South-Central Andean iconography. Her groundbreaking work explores the ways in which Andean gender mechanisms functioned. In addition to her academic research, she is an experienced curator and archaeologist.

“...y son yndios por conquistar”: las alegorías femeninas de los cuatro suyus en el testimonio etnohistórico y arqueológico

In the “The First New Chronicle and Good Government”, written in 1615 by Guaman Poma, an Andean native nobleman, there is a description of the four ladies of the four parts of the Inca Empire (the four suyus), which appears in the text as well as in an illustration. The first part of this research analyzes these texts and images and suggests that, in fact, these women are allegories, representing their lands, the four suyus. In these texts, each of the four women is described and Guaman Poma includes details about the lady, the land and/or the inhabitants of the land of each lady.

The study demonstrates that the four allegories, as found in many other components in Guaman Poma’s work, have a very strong European influence. However, in the case of these allegories, the study explores a specific European influence: the feminine allegories of the four continents that began appearing in European art in 1570. The characteristics of each continent’s allegory is parallel to one of the allegories of the suyus and the opposites between the continents’ allegories are repeated, in the case of Guaman Poma’s allegories.

In order to determine whether the use of the four allegories is of European or Andean origin, the article analyzes Inca art. Focusing on the dressed Inca feminine figurines, the article analyzes and identifies four types of the figurines’ attire. Using ethnographic and archaeological information, the research demonstrates that each type of attire is related to one of the four parts of the Inca Empire. In light of that, a new interpretation is given to the figurines as materialized allegories of the four suyus. Therefore, it is clear that the feminine allegories of the four suyus were not Guaman Poma’s invention, but rather an Inca pattern that integrated European influence.

These findings visibly display the Inca conceptualization of their conquered territories as feminine entities. This notion was demonstrated in previous ethnohistorical studies, however, the present study clearly presents that this notion also had an artistic representation.
PhD or M.A. Student

MR. SHRAGA BICK
Department of Comparative Religion
Faculty of Humanities

Shraga Bick holds a B.A. in law and comparative religion and a M.A. in comparative religion. Both degrees are from The Hebrew University. In his graduate studies, Bick focused on Jewish and Christian studies, and in particular on the relationship between Jewish and Christian prayer literature in the late antiquity period. He was recently awarded the Presidential Scholarship given to outstanding doctoral students.

"But I am Prayer": Voice, Body and the Anthropology of the Praying Self in Rabbinic and Syriac-Christian Literature

Under the supervision of Prof. Brouria Bleton-Ashkelon, Shraga Bick explored the complex relationship between voice and silence in the construction and design of prayer in Rabbinic and Syriac-Christian literature in Late Antiquity. In this context, he examined prayer not only as a ritual of text recitation, but as a state and posture that requires both physical and mental preparation and training. Furthermore, he postulated that prayer must be examined not only as a part of a wider socio-cultural context, but in order to understand how each particular society designed prayer, and another of a still and silent prayer. However, at this point, it is no longer about silencing the voice alone, but about the complete transformation of the self and the praying person from the physical world of body and voice, into the silence of God.

Bick argued that one could find both in Ephrem and in rabbinic literature an ambivalent theory of prayer, which results from the complex relationship between voice and silence, and between the rejection and acceptance of the body. However, he argued, with respect to rabbinic literature, one can notice (especially in later Amoraim sources) that there is an additional approach, which emphasizes “the eruption of the body” into prayer. In addition, he presented how Syriac prayer literature breached the unsolvable tension between voice and silence. Thus, instead of that “paradoxical ambivalence” he pointed to the formulation of a dual system of prayer in the Book of Steps which reached its most comprehensive model.

First Prize: PROF. RINA TAGGAR
Department of Art History, Faculty of Humanities
Mosaics of Faith: Florios of Pagani, Jews, Samaritans, Christians, and Muslims in the Holy Land

Second Prize: PROF. MANUELA CONSONNI
Department of Romance and Latin-American Studies
Department of the History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Jewry
For her book: L'immagine dell'ebraismo: Residenza, questione ebraica e cultura politica in Italia, 1941-1989

Young Researcher: DR. YAIR PAZ
Department of Talmud and Halacha, Faculty of Humanities
For his dissertation: From Scribes to Scholars: Rabbinic Biblical Exegesis in Light of the Homeric Commentaries

Young Researcher: DR. MERON PIOTROWSKI
Department of the History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Jewry
Department of Humanities
For his dissertation: Priests in Exile: The History of the Temple of Onias and its Community in the Hellenistic Period

MA/Doctoral Student: MR. RAY SCHIRB
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
For his thesis: Learning Latin in 16th and 17th Century England: Lily’s Grammar as a Case Study in Cognitive History

First Prize: PROF. YOSSI MAUREY
Department of Musicology, Faculty of Humanities
Medieval Music, Legend, and the Cult of St. Martin
For his book: The Local Foundations of a Universal Saint

Second Prize: PROF. YAAKOV WEISS
Department of the History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Jewry
Journey and Imaginary Journey: Isaiah Goldreich in Germany, 1900-1933
For her book: Journey and Imaginary Journey: Isaiah Goldberg in Germany, 1900-1933
Young Researcher: DR. JOSEPH WITZTUM
Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: The Syriac Rifles of the Quran: The Recasting of Biblical Narratives

Young Researcher: MR. ELI OSTEROFF
Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For his dissertation: Where Did You Come From? The History of the Jewish People in Early Palestinian Historiography (1920-1948)

First Prize: PROF. DROR WAHRMAN
Department of History Faculty of Humanities
For his book: MR. Collier’s Letter Racks: A Tale of Art and Illusion at the Threshold of the Modern Information Age

Young Researcher: DR. UDI LEIBNERN
Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: The Origins of Jewish Settlement in the Galilee in the Second Temple Period: Historical Sources and Archaeological Data

Young Researcher: DR. TAWFIQ QADILI
The Martin Buber Society of Fellows, Faculty of Humanities
The Pictorial Language of the Herat School of Painting: Two Nizâmi Manuscripts as a Case Study

Young Researcher: MS. NOA NAHMIA
Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities
Displaying Patriotism: Narratives of the May 4th Movement in Chinese Museums

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Polonsky Prizes 2013

First Prize: DR. OFRA TIROSH-BECKER
Department of Hebrew and Jewish Languages, Faculty of Humanities
For her book: Rabbinic Excerpts in Medieval Karaite Literature

Second Prize: DR. SHIMON GESUNDHEIT (BAR-ON)
Department of Bible, Faculty of Humanities
For her book: Three Times a Year - Studies on Feasts Legislation in the Pentateuch

Young Researcher: DR. YITZHAK FREEDMAN
Department of Comparative Religion, Faculty of Humanities
For her thesis: Death, Performance and Text in the Early Upanisads

Young Researcher: MS. LIAT NAHAI
Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities
For her dissertation: Miniature Vessels and Seven-Cupped Bowls in the Middle Bronze Age Temple of Naharia: Their Role and Meaning in Light of Cultic Miniature and Complex Vessels of the Middle Bronze Age

Polonsky Prizes 2012

First Prize: PROF. RUTH HACOHEN
Department of Musicology
For her book: The Music Libel against the Jews

Second Prize: DR. YUVAL NOAH HARARI
Department of History
For her book: A Brief History of Mankind

Young Researcher: DR. ALEKSEI KRAKHMALNIKOV
Department of German, Russian and Eastern European Studies
For her thesis: The Literature of the Belorussische Old Believers (1846-1862)

Young Researcher: DR. JENNIFER OSER
Friedemann School of Public Policy and Government
For her dissertation: Expanded Citizen Participation and Participatory Inequality - A Vicious or Virtuous Circle?

MA/Doctoral Student: MR. YARON GIRSH
School of Education and Department of Sociology and Anthropology
For her MA thesis: "The Cultural Boundaries of Thinking." Cultural Narratives in the Philosophy of Education of Friedrich Nietzsche and John Dewey

Polonsky Prizes 2011

First Prize: PROF. MAREN R. NIEHOFF
Department of Jewish Thought
For her book: Jewish Exegesis and Homeric Scholarship in Alexandria (Cambridge, 2011)

Second Prize: PROF. ESTHER COHEN
Department of History
For her book: The Modulated Scream: Pain in Late Medieval Culture. 1755-1816 (Chicago, 2010)

Young Researcher: DR. MAOZ KAHANA
Department of the History of the Jewish People
For her dissertation: From Prague to Pesth (hung): Writing in a Changing World, from the "Noda B’Yehudah" to the "Tashfort", 1770-1839

MA/Doctoral Student: MS. MICHAL ALTRAUER RUHNIK
Department of History
For her article: The Wounds of Love Are Cured Only by Those Who Made Them: Prescribing Marriage for Lovesickness in Early Modern European Medical Writing

Polonsky Prizes 2010

First Prize: PROF. YURI PINES
Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For her book: Envisioning Eternal Empire

Second Prize: DR. PAWEK MACIEJKO
Department of Jewish Thought, Faculty of Humanities
For her book: Jewish Exegesis and Homeric Scholarship in Alexandria (Cambridge, 2011)

Young Researcher: DR. SIMCHA KOJMAN-ROZEN
Department of the History of the Jewish People
For her thesis: History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science Program, Faculty of Humanities
For her dissertation: Time and Emergence in Scientific Theories in England in the 19th Century

MA/Doctoral Student: MS. NOGA AYALI-GARESH
Department of Jewish History, Faculty of Humanities
For her article: The Bride of the Sea: The Tradition about Astarte and Yamm in the Ancient Near East

Polonsky Prizes 2009

First Prize: DR. YUVAL NOAH HARARI
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities

Second Prize: PROF. SIMCHA EMANUEL
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For her book: The Fullness of Emptiness: Nāgārjuna’s Thought in Light of the Yukti-sāstika-karika and the Śūnyatā-saptati

Young Researcher: DR. NIRA ALPERSON-AIL
Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities
For her dissertation: Ancient Flames: Controlled Use of Fire at the Acheulian Site of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov, Israel

Student Prize: MS. NOA SHASHAR
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For her MA thesis: The Role of Judicial Laws in Daily Lives of Men and Women in the Ashkenazi World of the 17th-19th Centuries

Student Prize: MR. KIBI BEN-MEIR
Forum Europa, Faculty of Social Sciences
For her MA thesis: Images of Pain, Disease and Death in 1970’s Israeli Art
Polonsky Prizes 2008

First Prize: DR. MICHAEL SEGAL
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Second Prize: PROF. RONNIE ELLENBLUM
Department of Geogpahy, Faculty of Social Sciences and School of History Faculty of Humanities

Second Prize: DR. MICHAEL ROUBACH
Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: Being and Number in Heidegger's Thought (2008)

Student Prize: MR. MAOZ KAHANA
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For his MA thesis: Stability and Change in the Response of Rabbi Moshe Sofer

Student Prize: MR. ODED PORAT
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For his MA thesis: Studying the Treatise "Brit Hamnuna" ("Covenant of Serenity"). Its Idea, Literature Relationships and an Introduction to the Critical Edition

Polonsky Prizes 2007

First Prize: DR. DIEGO OLSTEIN
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: La Era Mosárabe. Los Mozárabes de Toledo (Siglos XII y XIII) en la Historiografía. Las Fuentes y la Historia

Second Prize: PROF. GANNIT ANKORI
Department of Art History, Faculty of Humanities
For her book: Palestinian Art

Second Prize: DR. JONATHAN DEKEL-CHEN
Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Faculty of Humanities

Young Researcher Prize: DR. TSIPPI KAUFFMAN
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For her dissertation: Between Immanence and Religious Behavior: Avodah be-Gashmiyut in the Early Stages of Hasidism

Student Prize: MR. ILYA BEFRICK
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
For his paper: Sally: A Comparative Survey into the Nature of Medieval Warfare

Polonsky Prizes 2006

First Prize: PROF. YOSEF GARFINKEL
Institute of Archeology, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: Dancing at the Dawn of Agriculture

First Prize: PROF. BENNY SHANON
Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences
For his book: The Antipodes of the Mind

Young Researcher Prize: DR. HILA KEREN
Faculty of Law
For her article: Textual Harassment. A New Historiost Reappraisal of the Past Evidence Rule with Gender in Mind

Student Prize: DR. ELISHA RICBI-SHAFIR
Department of Musicology, Faculty of Humanities

Student Prize: MS. GABRIELA STERNFELD
Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For her dissertation: La Organización Laboral del Imperio Inca: Las Autoridades Locales Básicas