

## **AYELET H. LIBSON**

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### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Assistant Professor of Law, 2018  
Harvard Law School, Gruss Visiting Lecturer in Talmudic Civil Law, 2017-2018  
Hebrew University Law Faculty, Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellow, 2015-2017  
Tel Aviv University Law Faculty, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2014-2015

### **EDUCATION**

New York University, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Ph.D, 2014  
New York University, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, MA, 2010  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Jewish Thought, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2004

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS**

Fulbright Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2017-2018 (\$37,000, declined)  
The Institute for Jewish Studies, Hebrew University, Grant in Support of Book Publication, 2016  
(10,000 NIS)  
The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2016-2017 (\$7,500)  
The Minerva Center for Human Rights, Tel Aviv University, Research Grant, 2014-2015 (1000 Euro)  
The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Special Doctoral Scholarship Grant, 2013-2014  
(\$10,000)  
The Israel Democracy Institute, Judaism and Human Rights Fellowship, 2011-2014 (\$54,000)  
Henry MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2007-2012 (\$25,000 per year)  
Cardozo Law School, Jewish Law and Legal Theory Fellowship, 2008-2009 (\$7,500)  
Provost's Award for Exceptionally Distinguished Students, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2006  
(granted to the top 1% of the Hebrew University's M.A. students)  
Hebrew University Fellowship for Excellence, 2004-2006 (\$6,000)  
B.A. *magna cum laude*, 2004

Dean's List, 2002-2003

Fellowship for Excellence, Institute of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2001-2002  
(\$3,000)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

1. *Law and Self-Knowledge in the Talmud*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming October 2017.
2. Co-author with Elhanan Naeh and David Atzmon, *Tractate Sanhedrin Chapter 4: Studies on Man and Law* (Jerusalem: Yesodot, 2007).
3. Editor, *Literary Form and Composition in Classical Rabbinic Literature*, by Abraham Goldberg, (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2012).

### **Articles**

4. "Grounds for Divorce as Values: Revisiting Rabbinic Law," *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*, forthcoming 2016.
5. "The Heart Knows Its Own Bitterness: Authority, Self and the Origins of Patient Autonomy in Early Jewish Law," *American Journal of Legal History* 57 (2016), 1-23.
6. "Authority, Autonomy and the Value of Life: A Talmudic Study," *Judaism, Sovereignty and Human Rights* 1 (2016), Hebrew.

### **In preparation**

7. "Subversive Structures: The Talmudic Challenge to the Concept of Law" in: Suzanne Last Stone and Yonatan Brafman (eds.), *New Perspectives in Jewish Law* (forthcoming, De Gruyter, 2017).
8. "Law and Narrative in the Book of the Sheiltot" (under review).
9. "Mitzvah: The Concept of Duty in Early Jewish Law" (in preparation).
10. "The Problem of Law's Generality: Three Models from Antiquity" (in preparation).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

The Israel Democracy Institute, Spring 2017

Lecturer: "Judaism and Human Rights"

Bar Ilan University, Fall 2012

Lecturer: "Law and Narrative in the Book of Lamentations."

New York University, 2008-2009

Instructor and Teaching Assistant: "Conversations of the West;" "The Emergence of Classical Judaism."

#### **CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

"Obligation: Between Law and Religion," Scholion Center for the Humanities, Mandel Fellowship Marathon, January 12th, 2017.

"'The Heart Knows its Own Bitterness': Authority, Self and the Origins of Patient Autonomy in Early Jewish Law," invited presentation at IDC School of Law, December 13th, 2016.

"'The Heart Knows its Own Bitterness': Authority, Self and the Origins of Patient Autonomy in Early Jewish Law," invited presentation at Haifa University Law Faculty, December 6th, 2016.

"Beyond the Fault Line: Revisiting Rabbinic Divorce Law," invited presentation at the Jewish Law Researchers' Workshop, Bar Ilan University, January 13th, 2016.

"'The Heart Knows its Own Bitterness': Authority, Self and the Origins of Patient Autonomy in Early Jewish Law," invited presentation at Tel Aviv University Law Faculty, December 14th, 2015 (candidacy renewed for 2017).

"Beyond the Fault Line: Revisiting Rabbinic Divorce Law," invited presentation at the Jewish Law Workshop, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 14th, 2015.

"Beyond the Fault Line: Rabbinic Divorce Law in Transition," Annual Forum of the Association of Young Legal Historians, March 1st, 2015.

"Interpreting Contracts through Rabbinic Hermeneutics," invited presentation at the Conference on Jewish Law and Contract Law, Tzuba, September 9th, 2014.

"Authority and Autonomy in Early Rabbinic Law," invited presentation at the Yigal Arnon Legal History Workshop, Tel Aviv University, May 28th, 2014.

"Law and its Limits in Rabbinic Thought," World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 28th, 2013.

"Knowledge, Autonomy and the Limits of Law," Berg Summer School in History of Law, Tel Aviv University, June 24th, 2013.

"Women as Legal Decisors," invited presentation at the Gender Studies Program Conference, Bar Ilan University, June 5th, 2013

"Is the Value of Human Life Paramount? Examining Self-Sacrifice in Rabbinic Law," Israel Democracy Institute, April 3rd, 2012.

"Law Constructing Reality: The Rabbinic Identity Blessings," Bar Ilan University Workshop on Law and Reality, November 30th, 2010.

## **ACADEMIC ACTIVITY**

Referee, *Law and History Review*

Advisory Committee, *New Perspectives on Jewish Law*, eds. Suzanne Last Stone and Yonatan Brafman, forthcoming, De Gruyter.

Research Group of “Law as Religion, Religion as Law,” Hebrew University, 2015-2017

Researcher, Israel Democracy Institute, 2011—2014

Coordinator, Research Group on “Sovereignty, Global Justice and the Ethics of War,” Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem 2011

Jewish Law Researchers’ Forum, Bar Ilan University, 2010

Invited participant, Workshop on Human Dignity and Shame Punishment, Harvard Law School, May 2009

Jerusalem Summer School in Jewish Studies and Comparative Religion, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2006

## **LANGUAGES**

Modern: Hebrew, English, Italian, German (reading knowledge)

Ancient: Greek, Aramaic, Syriac.