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B.A: The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, *summa cum laude* (Comparative Literature and the Amirim Honors Program) 2007. M.A: UC Berkeley 2008 (Comparative Literature). Since 2008 a PhD student and a graduate student instructor at the German Department at UC Berkeley. 2010, 2012-3 A visiting scholar at the PhD Net "Das Wissen der Literatur" at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

Dissertation Project

"Biblical Secrets, Hebrew Reminiscences: the Secular Readership of Modern Hermeneutics"

This project is an inquiry into the conditions under which Hebrew has become in modernity a trope of understanding that transcends the written letter. It traces the origins of this phenomenon in late 18th century Germany, where figures seminal to the emergence of modern interpretation were extensively occupied with the Old Testament. For the originators of literary hermeneutics, among which were Herder, Hamann, Goethe and Mendelssohn, Hebrew emerged as a trope that mobilized various premises behind the new conception of textual apprehension, with the language's idealization as an "Ursprache," as the language of creation, and as the mother tongue of humankind. These authors' various presentations of Hebrew granted that every reader could engage in biblical interpretation, —as the "holy language" was taken to facilitate a similar (if yet "sublime") starting-point for all readers. Hebrew has thus become emblematic of the Enlightenment attempt to establish hermeneutics as a public, secular technique (as knowledge that pertains to all texts and all readers), while still embracing interpretation as a religious practice, with romantic stakes and ideals. In its second part, the dissertation considers various nineteenth and twentieth-century texts, including Droste-Hülshoff, Heine, Celan, Heidegger, Gadamer, and Lasker-Schüler, contending that Hebrew has nonetheless become a volatile trope, due to the continual reminiscences of the language's media, linguistic, and ethnic contexts, and their unearthing of tensions that are in the core of modern hermeneutics. With respect to current secularism debates, the first part of the project highlights the wide reliance of literary hermeneutics on Lutheran principles that purported to address (and, thereby, constitute) globalized readership. Its second part scrutinizes the continual dialectics of literature and philosophy with this address.

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