

Elie Holzer

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Professional Overview

Elie Holzer serves as Associate Professor, holds the R. Dr. Ochs Chair for Teaching Jewish Religious Studies and is the director of the Stern Institute for the Study and Advancement of Religious Education, at the School of Education, Bar Ilan University. He is a practice-oriented philosopher of Jewish education whose research integrates text-based Jewish studies, philosophical hermeneutics, pedagogy, and ethical-spiritual traditions. He specializes in contemporary Jewish philosophy and its implications for Jewish education and in teacher professional development in the United States and in Israel. His current areas of research and interest are: havruta text study; teaching and learning of Hasidic homilies; philosophical hermeneutics & spiritual pedagogy; post-metaphysical religion, Neo-Hasidism and Jewish education.

Academic Education

1999 Ph.d. in Jewish philosophy; Hebrew University, Israel

1992 Masters Degree in Jewish philosophy; Hebrew University, Israel

1988 Bachelor Degree in Psychology and Jewish philosophy; Bar Ilan University, Israel

1985 Bachelor Education Degree in Jewish Studies; Herzog Institute, Har-Etsion Yeshiva, Israel

Additional Education

1999 Certified philosophical counselor; American Philosophical Practitioners Association, New York, USA

1995-1997 Jerusalem Fellows at The Institute for Jewish Educational Leadership, Mandel Foundation, Israel

1997 Rabbinical Ordination, Israel

1989-1995; 2008 Jewish Studies. Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem. Israel

1982-1985 *Har-Etsion Hesder* Yeshiva, Alon Shvut. Israel and *Ets-Haim* Yeshiva, Montreux, Switzerland

Selected list of Academic Positions

2001- to date Associate Professor, School of Education, Bar Ilan University, Israel

2015- to date Lecturer at the Ono Academic College, Israel

2012- 2014 Lecturer at Lander College, Jerusalem, Israel

2009- 2012 Lecturer at "Melamdim" teacher educator program at the Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem, Israel

2008-2010 Lecturer at Rabbinical School, Neve Schechter Institute, Jerusalem, Israel

2000 Lecturer at Stern College for Jewish Studies, New York, USA

Visiting Professor

Summers 2003-2007 & Fall semester 2006 The Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University, MA, USA.

Summers 2001& 2013 The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, USA.

Summers 2007, 2009 & 2010 The Center for Jewish Education, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.

Research Positions

2003 to 2010 Senior Research Associate at the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education, Brandeis University, MA, USA.

2009 Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, Israel.

Selected list of Professional Functions

October 2015- to date Director of the Stern Institute for the Study and Advancement of Religious Education, Bar Ilan University

October 2015- to date Head of the R. Dr. Ochs Chair for Teaching Jewish Religious Studies, Bar Ilan University

2009- to date Associate Editor of *International Journal of Jewish Education Research*

2004- to date Editorial Board of the *Journal of Jewish education*

Research Grants and Academic Awards

2014 USA National Jewish Book Award Winner for the book *A Philosophy of Havruta: Understanding and Teaching the Art of Text Study in Pairs*. Academic Studies Press, Boston, 2013

2014 & 2016 The Israel Science Foundation

2011 Lookstein Center, Bar Ilan University

2004 Gender studies, Bar-Ilan University

1997 Award of excellence granted by the Center of Research on Political Radicalism and Judaism

List of Academic publications

Books (Author)

1. Holzer, E., (2009). *A Double Edged Sword: Military Activism in Religious Zionism*. "Judaism and Israel" Series, Faculty of Law, Bar Ilan University & The Shalom Hartman Institute, administrated by Keter Publishing House Ltd. (Hebrew)
2. Holzer, E. with Kent, O. (2013). *A Philosophy of Havruta: Understanding and Teaching the Art of Text Study in Pairs*. Academic Studies Press, Boston.
3. Holzer, E.. (2016). *Attuned Learning: Rabbinic Texts on Habits of the Heart in Learning Interactions*, Academic Studies Press, Boston.

Books (Editor)

1. Cohen, J., Holzer, E. and Isaacs, A. (2005-2006). *Languages and Literatures in Jewish Education; Studies in Jewish Education Vol. 11*, Studies in Honor of Michael Rosenak, Magnes Press, Jerusalem. (2 volumes, 830 pages, Hebrew & English).
2. Cohen, J. & Holzer E. (2008-2009), *Modes of Educational Translation; Studies in Jewish Education*, Magnes Press, Jerusalem.

Articles in refereed journals

1. Holzer, E. (2000). Philosophy of Religion and Jewish Teacher Education, *Jewish Educational Thought* 2, Jerusalem, 53-88. (Hebrew)
2. Holzer, E. (2001). The evolving meaning of the "three oaths" within religious Zionism, *DAAT, a Journal of Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah*, 47, Bar Ilan University, Israel, 129-145. (Hebrew)
3. Holzer, E. (2002). The Use of Military Force in the Religious-Zionist Ideology of Rabbi Jacob Reines and his Successors, *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, 18, Oxford University Press, New York, 74-94.

4. Holzer, E. (2002). Conceptions of The Study of Jewish Texts in Teachers' Professional Development, *Religious Education*, 97,4, Fall, 377- 403.
5. Holzer, E. (2004). Asynchronous Electronic learning and the Professional Development of Teacher Educators: Preliminary Thoughts towards a University Based Research, *Educational Media International*, 40, 2,253-261.
6. Holzer, E. (2004). Teachers' Learning and the Investigation of Practice, *Mekhkarei Morashtenu* 2-3, 291-302. (Hebrew)
7. Holzer, E. (2006). What Connects "Good" Teaching, Text Study and Hevruta Learning? A Conceptual Argument, *Journal of Jewish Education*, 72, 1-22.
8. Holzer, E. (2006). The concept of Second Naivete by Ernst Simon and Paul Ricoeur, in J. Cohen, E. Holzer & A. Isaacs (eds.), *Languages and Literatures in Jewish Education, Studies in Honor of Michael Rosenak*, Hebrew University and Magnes Press, Jerusalem, 325-344.
9. Holzer, E. (2007). Attitudes Towards the Use of Military Force in Ideological Currents of Religious Zionism, in L. Schiffman and J.B. Wolowelsky (eds), *War and Peace in the Jewish Tradition*, Yeshiva University Press, New York, 341- 414.
10. Holzer, E. (2007). Ethical dispositions in Text Study, *Journal of Moral Education*, 36, 1, 37-49.
11. Holzer, E. (2007). Allowing the Text to do its Pedagogical Work: Connecting Moral Education and Interpretive Activity, *Journal of Moral Education*, 6,4, 497-514.
12. Holzer, E. (2008-2009). Educational aspects of hermeneutical activity in text study, in J. Cohen and E. Holzer (eds), *Modes of Educational Translation, Studies in Jewish Education*, Magnes Press, Jerusalem, 205-240.
13. Holzer, E. (2008-2009). Existential vs. Hermeneutical Engagement with the Shoah: A Reply to Ari Burzstein, in J. Cohen and E. Holzer (eds), *Modes of Educational Translation*, Magnes Press, Jerusalem, 89-96.
14. Holzer, E. (2009). "Either a Hevruta Partner of Death" A Critical view on the Interpersonal Dimensions of Hevruta Learning, *The Journal of Jewish Education* 75:2, 130-149.
15. Raider-Roth, M. and Holzer, E. (2009). Learning to be Present: How Hevruta Learning Can Activate Teachers' Relationships to Self, Other and Text, *The Journal of Jewish Education* 75:3, 216-239.
16. Holzer, E. (2010). Rabbi Soloveitchik's hermeneutic theory: a critical discussion, in A. Rosenak and N. Rothenberg (eds.), *Rabbi in the New World. The Influence of Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik on Culture, Education and Jewish Thought*, Magnes Press, Hebrew University and Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, 23-41. (Hebrew)
17. Holzer, E. and Kent, O. Havruta Learning (2011).What do we know and what can we hope to learn?, in H. Miller, L. Grant and A. Pomson (eds.), *International Handbook on Jewish Education*, Springer, New York, 407-418.

18. Holzer, E. (2011). Listening to Significant Others in the Process of Text Interpretation: An Instance of Applied Hermeneutics, Gadamer's Hermeneutics and the Art of Conversation, *International Studies in Hermeneutics and Phenomenology*, 2, Berlin: Lit Verlag, 115-126.
19. Holzer, E. (2015). Welcoming Opposition: Havruta Learning and Montaigne's 'The Art of Discussion', *The Journal of Moral Education* 44:1, 64-80.
20. Holzer, E. (2015). Choosing to Put Ourselves "at Risk" in the Face of Ancient Texts: Ethical Education through the Hermeneutical Encounter, *International Studies in Hermeneutics and Phenomenology* 8, Zurich: Lit Verlag, 415-438.
21. Holzer, E. (2016). 'Sfat Emet' Homilies in the light of Paul Ricoeur's 'work of the text', *DAAT, a Journal of Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah* 81, 321-350. (Hebrew).
22. Holzer, Elie, (forthcoming). Prolegomenon to an Exegetical-Spiritual Pedagogy for the Study of Sfat Emet's Homilies: The Case of 'Self-Trust', *Studies in Jewish Education Series*, Magnes Press & the Jewish Theological Seminary Press.

Papers presented at academic conferences

1. *Conceptions of the Study of Jewish Texts in the Professional Development of Teachers*. The Second Scientific International Conference of the Association for Research in Jewish Education and Jewish Identity in Diverse Settings, Bar Ilan University, December 2000.
2. *Philosophical Hermeneutics and the Professional Development of Bible Teachers*. Understanding the Bible in our Time; International Conference at the Melton Center for Jewish Education, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, April 2001.
3. *Jewish Thought and Teachers' Professional Development*. 13th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, August 2001.
4. *Hermeneutical Knowledge in the Teaching of Texts*. 4th International Conference on Teacher Education, Israel, June, 2001.
5. *A Critical discussion of Rabbi Soloveitchik's Hermeneutic Theory*. Studies Exploring the Influence of Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik on Culture, Education and Jewish Thought. An International Conference Commemorating the Centenary of his Birth, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem 2003.
6. *Prayer, Community and Education through the perspective of Philosophical Hermeneutics*. An International Conference on Education, Community and Norms, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, December 2004.
7. *Good Teaching, Good Text Study and Good Hevruta Learning: A Conceptual Educational view*. The Network for Research on Jewish Education Conference, Brandeis University, USA, June 2004.

8. *The Attitude Toward the Book in the Works of Levinas and Ricoeur: Implications for Jewish Education*. An International Conference on French Jewry: Past, Present, and Future. Bar Ilan University, May 2006.
9. *Ethical Dispositions in Prayer and in Social Activism according to AJ Heschel: Educational Implications*. Social Responsibility and Educational Audacity, An International Conference in Honor of AJ Heschel's Centennial Year, Melton Center for Jewish Education, Hebrew University, December 23-24, 2007.
10. *The Design of a Beit Midrash: Ways of Thinking, Ways of Doing*. Teaching Rabbinic Literature: Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy, January 27- 28, 2008, Brandeis University, USA.
11. *Beyond Literacy: The Humanizing Art of Conversation with Traditional Texts*. An International Conference On Jewish Literacy, University of Maryland. September 2008.
12. *The Event and the Practice of Prayer in the Thought of AJ Heschel* (Hebrew). Thinking God Anew; A Conference for the Study of AJ Heschel's Writings and Philosophy. The Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem, October 6-7, 2008.
13. With Miriam Raider-Roth, *Juggling Multiple Identities: How Hevruta and Text Study Can Challenge Teachers' Personal, Professional and Cultural Worlds*. Multiple Identities in Jewish Education, The 5th conference of the Israel Association of Research in Jewish Education, Oranim and Jerusalem, January, 7-8, 2009.
14. *Conceptual Foundations of Havruta Text Study as a Form of Professional Development*. Challenges in Jewish Education: Cultural Vitality, 6th International Conference of the Israel Association for Research in Jewish Education, Bar Ilan University, 27 – 28, December 2010.
15. *Conceptual and Pedagogical Foundations of Havruta Text Study as a Form of Professional Development*. The Network for Research in Jewish Education, York University, Canada, June 12-14, 2011.
16. *How to Read for Renewal? Hermeneutics and the Literary Genre of Sfat Emet's Homilies*. The International Conference on Erudition in Contemporary Judaism, The Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, December 28-29, 2011.
17. *The Human Face in Jewish Learning Relationships*. The Network for Research in Jewish Education, Hebrew College, Boston, USA. , June 10-12, 2012.
18. *Cultivating Jewish Values by Redesigning Ritual: The Case of Welcoming the Mourners into a Community of Prayer*. The Transmission of Jewish Culture Outside the Classroom, The Melton Center, Ohio State University, Feb. 10-11, 2013.
19. *Prolegomena on the scholarship of the "Hasidic Homily": the case of the Sfat Emet*. World Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 28, 2013.

20. *Between the Oral and the Textual in the "Sfat Emet" Homilies*. International Melton Coalition Conference: The Oral and the Textual in Jewish tradition and Jewish education, Hebrew University, December 28-30, 2014.