

Yair Lior

Curriculum Vitae

Boston University Department of Religion
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Center for Mind and Culture
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Education

Ph.D. Department of Religion, Boston University, Jan. 2015

Dissertation: *Kabbalah and Neo-Confucianism: A Comparative Morphology of Medieval Movements*

Committee: John Berthrong (Advisor), Moshe Idel (second reader), Kimberley Patton (third reader), Robert C. Neville, Diana Lobel (Chair)

Doctoral Fields: Comparative Religion (Kimberley Patton), Neo-Confucianism (John Berthrong), Kabbalah (Moshe Idel), Comparative Religion and Neo-Confucianism (Robert Neville), Medieval Jewish and Islamic Philosophy (Diana Lobel)

M.A. Chinese Aesthetics, Song Dynasty Landscape Painting, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 2008

Thesis: *The Parallel Evolution of Chinese Painting and the Chinese writing System* 中国绘画主体与书写系统的共同演变 (Written in Chinese)

B.A. East Asian Studies and Western Philosophy (Philosophy of Religion & Philosophy of Science), Tel-Aviv University, 2001

Publications

The Evolution of Religion: A Comparative Systems Approach. (Monograph in Review [Oxford])

The Routledge Handbook for Evolutionary Approaches to Religion, Yair Lior and Justin Lane eds. vol. London; New York: Routledge. (Forthcoming 2021).

“Towards a Standard Model of Cultural Evolution: Energy and Information Dynamics as Organizing Principles for Major Transitions” in Yair Lior and Justin Lane eds. *The Routledge Handbook for Evolutionary Approaches to Religion*.

Wildman, Wesley J. and Yair Lior. 2021. “Minds and Cultures.” In *Teaching Handbook in the Global Critical Philosophy of Religion Series*

"A Comparative-Informational Approach to the Study of Religion: The Chinese and Jewish Cases," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2020, Vol. 88, No. 1, pp. 92–141.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfz027>

“Neo-Confucianism as a Guide to Contemporary Confucian Education” In Xiufeng Liu ed., *Confucianism Reconsidered: Insights for American and Chinese Education in the 21st Century*. SUNY Press, 2016.

“A Matter of Context: Comparing Kabbalah and Neo-Confucianism,” in Michael Zank and Ingrid Anderson eds., *The Value of the Particular: Lessons from Judaism and the Modern Jewish Experience*. Leiden: Brill, 2015.

“The Parallel Evolution of Calligraphy and Landscape Painting” (中国书法和山水画的同发展 — Published in Chinese). *Journal of Traditional Chinese Aesthetics (中国传统美学)*, Vol. 3, 2008: 31-48.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Dybbuk,” and “Ibbur,” *Encyclopedia of Possession and Exorcism (ABC-CLIO)*.

Conference Presentations and Guest Lectures

2018 “Complexity and Self-Organization in Religious Systems,” Conference of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought. Theme: Evolution and Transcendence (Berlin)

2017/18 Organized and presented in “Confucianism in the Age of Globalization” - workshop series. Four workshops hosted by UMass Boston and Boston University.

2017 “The Tang-Song Transition in light of Communication Technologies” in *Chinese Religions and Print Culture*, 2017, AAR Annual Conference, Boston MA.

2017 “Theoretical Approaches to Religion through Computer Modeling” roundtable AAR Annual Conference, Boston MA

2015 “Methodological Topics in Comparative Religion” & “Western Approaches to Confucianism” Guest Lecture Series, Pusan National University, South Korea

- 2015 “The Buddhist Revolution in China – The ascendancy of the Chan School”
Guest lecture, Hunter University NY
- 2015 “Confucianism and Judaism: A Systems Approach,” *Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies - Faculty Forum*, Boston University
- 2014 “Confucianism and Judaism: A Showcase in Comparative Morphology,”
Harvard Comparative Religion Doctoral Colloquium, Harvard University
- 2014 “The Religious Dimensions of Confucianism,” Guest Lecture, *Confucius Institute at University of Massachusetts*, UMass Boston
- 2014 “The Wisdom of Chinese Art – Literati Painting and Calligraphy” *Boston University Confucian Association (BUCA)*, Boston University
- 2014 “What can Neo-Confucianism Teach us about the Future of Chinese Education,” *International Conference on Confucianism and Education* University at Buffalo, SUNY
- 2013 “A Few Thoughts about Morphology and Emergence,” *Emergent Approaches to Human Sociality and Religion* Conference on Science and Religion, Arizona State University
- 2012 “Confucianism and Rabbinism as Homeostatic Cultural Systems,” Guest lecture, *Center for Judaic and Inter-Religious Studies*, Shandong University, China
- 2012 “The Early Kabbalah in a Comparative Perspective,” *Kabbalah Research: Continuity, Development and Change, Workshop* - Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem
- 2011 “Li: Social Structures, Cosmology, and the Confucian Art of Behaving,” *American Association of Religion (AAR) Mid-Atlantic Region*. Panel: East Asian Religions

Academic positions

- 2015-2019 Full-Time Lecturer – Boston University, Department of Religion
- 2016-2018 Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute for the Bio-Cultural Study of Religion (IBCSR) Needham, MA
- 2018-2021 Researcher at the Center of Mind and Culture (CMAC), Kenmore Square, Boston MA

- 2014 Affiliated Researcher - Center for Judaic and Inter-Religious Studies at Shandong University, China.
- 2011-2012 Member of the Academic Policy Committee (APC) at Boston University, responsible for reviewing College and Graduate School policies and degree programs.

Teaching Experience

- RN100 Introduction to Religion
- RN239 Religion and Science
- RN103 Religions of Asia
- RN216 Introduction to Judaism
- RN325 Jewish Mysticism
- RN326/626 The Kabbalah: Mysticism, Ecstasy, and Theosophy
- RN221 Chinese Religions
- RN2215 Chinese Religions and Philosophy (Emmanuel College)
- CC101 Core Humanities: “Ancient Worlds”
- CC102 Core Humanities II “The Way: Antiquity and the Medieval World”
- LH111 Modern Hebrew

Languages

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| Modern and biblical Hebrew | Fluent |
| English | Fluent |
| Modern Chinese | Fluent, Reading, Writing, Speaking Proficiency |
| Traditional Chinese | Reading Proficiency |
| French | Reading Proficiency |

