

HAVIVA PEDAYA

Professor Haviva Pedaya teaches Judaism and Culture in the Department of Jewish History at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. She received her doctorate from the Hebrew University and is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts in Jerusalem. Her multi-faceted fields of research include the origins of the Kabbalah in Provence and Spain; the origins of Hassidut in the eighteenth century; ancient Jewish mysticism; apocalypolitics; myth and ritual. She is also involved in issues related to the history of the Jewish religion and culture. In her research into mysticism, in particular in the fields of sight and hearing and introversive and extroversive mysticism, she has created new paradigms. Among the central topics in her research are time and place; center and periphery; Messianism; and questions of language and linguistic form. She is also involved in critiquing literature and poetry and has published essays on principles in cultural criticism. Into all her research studies she incorporates a comprehensive perspective on issues of East and West while giving full consideration to varying trends, processes and spiritual as well as social forces. In this capacity she also deals with issues of urbanism and migration.

Prof. Pedaya is the producer and art director of both musical and theatrical projects: she established the Yonah Ensemble which has succeeded in revitalizing liturgical and mystical music of the Near East, and founded the "Reshimo Association: Spiritual and Material Environment", an association for the promotion of the arts, culture and education in the periphery. Prof. Pedaya is a member of the steering committees of the Metulla Poetry Festival; *Kehilot Sharot* and the *Piyut* website. Aside from her involvement in the arts and music she is also working on creating paradigms for the processes of constructing identity with an affinity to music and art.

Prof. Pedaya has been awarded numerous scholarships and prizes, among which are grants from The Jewish Cultural Memorial Fund, the Yaniv Foundation and the Lacritz Foundation, the Harry Hershon award, the Presidential Award (for her poetry book *Motzah Hanefesh*), the Publishers Association's award (for her poetry book *Miteiva Stuma*), and a grant from the National Foundation of Academic Sciences for her research on ecstasy.

Books authored

- *The Name and the Sanctuary in the Teachings of R. Yitzhak Sagui-Nahor and His Disciples*, Jerusalem: Magnes Press 2000
- *Vision and Speech: Models of Prophecy in Jewish Mysticism*, Los Angeles: Cherub Publishers 2002 (Hebrew)
- *Nahmanides: Elevation: Cyclical Time and Sacred Ritual*, Tel Aviv: Am Oved Publishers 2003

Books edited

- *Myth in Jewish Thought*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Press 1996
- *Judaism: Issues, Excerpts, Inner Identities* (a book honoring the fiftieth anniversary of Prof. Rivka Horowitz), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Press (forthcoming)

Essays in cultural criticism

- With B. Z. Kedar and R. J. Zwi Werblowsky, "The Divinity as Place and Time and the Holy Place in Jewish Mysticism," in *Sacred Space — Shrine, City, Land*, Macmillan & Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities (1998), pp. 84-111
- "Metamorphoses in the Holy of Holies: From the margin to the center," in *Jewish Studies* 37 (1997) pp. 53-110
- "The Banished Voice," in <http://www.piyut.org.il/articles/192.html>
- "Beer Sheva — city without a city," in <http://kedma.co.il/index.php?id=638&t=pages>

Prof. Haviva Pedaya's website: <http://havivapedaya.com/drupal/>