

LIORA SARFATI

Associate Professor

Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University

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Gilman 259, Tel Aviv University, 6997801, Israel

EDUCATION

Indiana University, Bloomington

Ph.D. in Folklore and Ethnomusicology 2010

Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Cultures 2010

Dissertation: *Objects of Worship: Material Culture in the Production of Shamanic Rituals in South Korea*. Advisers: Roger Janelli and Richard Bauman (co-chairs), Henry Glassie, Michael Robinson, Jason Baird Jackson, Thomas Keirstead

Tel Aviv University

M.A. in Sociology and Anthropology (with distinction) 2001

Thesis: *Zadiqim Veneration in Israel by the End of the Millenium: Religion, Mysticism, Modernity*.

Advisers: Haim Hazan, Yoram Bilu

Tel Aviv University

1999

Undergraduate Studies in The Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students

RESEARCH INTERESTS**Fields**

Sociocultural Anthropology: religion, society, culture, and media in Korea and Japan

Folklore: cultural performance, vernacular religion, internet folklore, museums, folklore in the media, protest folklore in Korea, Japanese colonial ethnology

Methodology

Qualitative methods: ethnography, content analysis

Digital Humanities: topic modeling, frequencies, image analysis

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University 2025- present

Senior Lecturer (tenured), Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University 2020- 2025

Lecturer, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University 2014-2020

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University 2009-2014

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ben-Gurion University 2010-2014

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of East Asian Studies, The Hebrew University 2010-2012

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

Israeli Science Foundation Grant 2024-9

Israeli Science Foundation Book Publication Grant 2021-3

Israeli Science Foundation Grant 2017-20

Young Scholars' Forum Member, Israeli Academy of Sciences 2016-7

SSRC First Book Korean Studies Workshop for Junior Faculty 2016

Field Research Fellowship, Korea Foundation 2014

The Louis Frieberg Post-Doc Fellowship, The Hebrew University 2010-2011

Fellowship for Summer Institute, Kyujanggak Center, Seoul National University 2007

Field Research Fellowship, Korea Foundation	2007
The Richard Dorson Grant for Dissertation, Indiana University, Bloomington	2006
Graduate Studies Fellowship, SOFOKS, Indianapolis	2004, 2006
The Adi Lautman Scholarship for Outstanding Students, Tel Aviv University	1994-1999
Various conference travel grants	1998-2026

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Contemporary Korean Shamanism: From Ritual to Digital. Indiana University Press, August 2021.

Events related to book: book talk at Copenhagen University (12/22), podcast with New Books Network (3/22), book talk at The University of Venice (12/21), book talk at Bar Ilan University (12/21).

Edited Volume

The Routledge Handbook of Korean Religions, co-edited with Sean Kim, under contract.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- “K-Shamans: K-Dramas and Changing Perceptions of Mudang Credibility.” *Acta Koreana*, 29 (1): 1-18, June 2026.
- “A Hundred Years of Protest Landscapes in Korea: Performance and Affect Producing Symbols as the Basis for Success in Mass Demonstration in Seoul.” *Zmanin*, 151: 72-87, 2025 (in Hebrew).
- “From Rural Outcasts to Urban Cosmopolitans: Spiritual Healers in Seoul.” *Urbanities-Journal of Urban Ethnography*, 14 (1): 84-100, May 2024.
- “The Writing on the Wall: Affective Politicization of the Sewöl Disaster on Facebook,” co-authored with Guy Shababo. *Korean Studies*, 47: 214-242, August 2023.
- “The Cosmopolitan Vernacular: Korean Shamans (*Mudang*) in the Global Spirituality Market.” *Religions* 14: 189: 1-21, January 2023, also guest editor of the volume.
- “Legitimizing Spiritual Healing: The Right to Folk Medicine in Contemporary South Korea and Israel.” *Urbanities-Journal of Urban Ethnography*, 12 (Suppl. 6): 39-45, April 2022.
- “Signalling ‘Crisis’ in an Affective Manner: Government, Media and Public Cooperation during COVID-19 in South Korea.” *Urbanities-Journal of Urban Ethnography*, 10 (Suppl. 4): 76-79, Sept 2020.
- “Healing through Gender Inversion in Korean Possession Trance Rituals.” *The Drama Review*, 64 (3): 16–32, Spring 2020.
- “Circles of Poetic Grief, Anger, and Hope: Landscapes of Mass Cooperation in Seoul after the Sewöl Disaster,” co-authored with Bora Chung. *Journal of Folklore Research*, 57 (1): 1-32, Winter 2020.
- “Affective Protest Symbols: Public Dissent in the Mass Commemoration of the Sewöl Ferry’s Victims in Seoul,” co-authored with Bora Chung. *Asian Studies Review*, 42 (4): 565-585, Autumn 2018.
- “Morality and Legitimacy in the Sewöl Protest in South Korea.” *Urbanities-Journal of Urban Ethnography*, 8 (Suppl. 1): 70-73, Spring 2018.
- “Vernacular Dialectics: Spiritual Practices of *Tsaddik* Veneration by Secular Israelis Vernacular.” *Journal of American Folklore*, 131 (520): 181-208, Spring 2018.
- “Shifting Agencies through New Media: New Social Statuses for Female Korean Shamans.” *Journal of Korean Studies*, 21 (1): 179-212, Spring 2016.

Refereed Articles in Books

- “Burial Practices and Related Beliefs in Korea’s Traditional Spirituality.” *De Profundis: Transmutations of the Underworld*, Ax:son Johnson Foundation, forthcoming.
- “Is National Heritage Portable? European Practitioners of Korean Spiritual Healing,” in *The Politics of Authenticity in Esoteric Practices*, edited by Raquel Romberg and Stephanie Burkhardt, Brill, Boston, forthcoming.
- “Delegitimizing Authority through Folklore: The Impeachment of the South Korean President Pak Kūn-hye,” in *The Folklore of Democracy: Tradition and Democratic Culture*, edited by Anthony Bak Buccitelli. University Press of Mississippi, 2026.
- “COVID-19 and the Understanding of Illnesses in Korean Shamanism” in *Religion, Spirituality and Public Health: Competing and Complementary Epistemes*, edited by Karen O’Brien-Kop and Suzanne Newcombe. Liverpool University Press, The British Academy, 2025.
- “The Biopolitics of Complementary Spiritual Healing in South Korea and Israel,” pp. 185-205 in *The Legitimacy of Healthcare and Public Health: Anthropological Perspectives*, edited by Pardo Italo, and Giuliana B. Prato. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.
- “Morality and Legitimacy in the Sewōl Protest in South Korea,” pp. 281-304 in *Ethnographies and Legitimacy: Methodological and Theoretical Insights*, edited by Pardo Italo, and Giuliana B. Prato. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
- “Urban Development and Vernacular Religious Landscapes in Seoul,” pp. 499-518 in *The Palgrave Handbook of Urban Anthropology*, edited by Pardo Italo, and Giuliana B. Prato. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
- "New Technologies in Korean Shamanism: Cultural Innovation and Preservation of Tradition," pp. 233-245 in *Performance Studies in Motion*, edited by Citron Atay, David Zerbib, and Sharon Aronson-Lehavi. London: Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, 2014.

Reviews

- Book Review. *Shamans and Robots: On Ritual, the Placebo Effect, and Artificial Consciousness*. By Roger Bartra. *Anthropological Forum*, 1–3, December 2025.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2025.2597945>
- Book Review. *God Pictures in Korean Contexts: The Ownership and Meaning of Shaman Paintings*. By Laurel Kendall, Jongsung Yang, and Yul Soo Yoon. *Museum Anthropology Review*, 11 (1): 40-1, 2017.
- Book Review. *An Affair with Korea: Memories of South Korea in the 1960*. By Vincent Brandt. *Journal of Korean Studies*, 20 (2): 467-470, Fall 2016
- Book Review. *The Ethnopoetics of Space and Transformation: Young People's Engagement, Activism and Aesthetics*. By Stuart C. Aitken. *Journal of Folklore Research*, Jan 2015
- Book Review. *Kingdom of Beauty: Mingei and the Politics of Folk Art in Imperial Japan*. By Kim Brandt. *Museum Anthropology Review*, 4 (2), 2010
- Book Review. *Healing Rhythms: The World of South Korea's East Coast Hereditary Shamans*. By Simon Mills. *Journal of Folklore Research*, Feb 2008
- Book Review. *Handbook of Material Culture*. Edited by Chris Tilley, Webb Keane, Susanne Kuchler, Mike Rowlands, Patricia Spyer. *Journal of Folklore Research*, Nov. 2007
- Museum review. “Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum.” *Journal of American Folklore*, 120 (475): 97-99, 2007
- Book review. *Singing Story, Healing Drum: Shamans and Storytellers of Turkic Siberia*. By Kira Van Dausen. *Journal of Folklore Research*, Feb 2006

Other Publications

- “Mass Protests, the Juridical System, and the Impeachment of the South Korean President Pak Kun-hye: Lessons from South Korea.” *Behevrat-Haadam: Anthropology in Israel and the World*. April 15, 2023. <https://behevrat-haadam.org/sarfati-2/> (in Hebrew).
- “Anthropologic Insights about the Korean Drama: The Squid Games.” *Behevrat-Haadam: Anthropology in Israel and the World*. October 3, 2021. <https://behevrat-haadam.org/sarfati-1/> (in Hebrew)
- “The South Korean Response to the COVID 19 epidemic.” *Corona and East Asian Countries*. Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, March 2020. (in Hebrew)
- “Obedience or Negligence: Who is to blame in the Ferry Disaster in Korea.” *Haaretz*, May 2 2014. Available at <https://www.haaretz.co.il/news/world/asia/.premium-1.2310979> (in Hebrew)
- “Korean Kut Ritual: Manshin, People, Gods, and Spirits along the Altar,” *Iasia Portal*. available at <http://www.iasia.co.il/2012/05/24> (in Hebrew)
- “Feeding the Dead in Order to Protect the Living: Vernacular Religion in Korea,” *Iasia Portal*. available at <http://www.iasia.co.il/2012/03/16> (in Hebrew)
- “Death of a Living God,” *Israel Asia Center's Website*. available at <http://www.israelasiacenter.org/#/death-of-a-living-god/4559070805> January, 2011
- “Meet the Gods: Material Representations of Gods and Spirits in Korean Shamanism,” *Journal of Korean Association for the Study of Spirits, Ghosts, and Gods*, 1.1: 121-143, 2007
- “Performance, Spirituality, Audiences, and Shamans, *Korea Foundation Newsletter*, 2007, 16.6: pp 8-9.
- “Imported Rituals: Zaddiq Veneration in Israel” (June 10. 2004). *UC Transnational and Transcolonial Studies Multicampus Research Group*, Graduate Student Conference. available online at <http://repositories.cdlib.org/cmcs/mrg/gsc/Sarfati> 4

CONFERENCES

- “Mediatized Global Interest and Local Shamanic Traditions in Korea,” and organizer of the panel “The Global Appeal of Korean Shamanism.” International Society for Academic Research on Shamanism. Sogang University Seoul, June 2026.
- “Religion, Culture, and Media in Korea.” Panel discussant, Association of Asian Studies, yearly meeting, Vancouver, online participation, March 2026
- “Trust and Doubt in the Representation of Shamanic Rituals in Korean Television Drama Series.” The 10th Korean Studies Workshop, Bar Ilan University, December 2025
- “Research and Academic Engagement with Korean Shamanism in the 21st Century.” Annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2025
- “Christianity and Modernity Meet Traditional Spirituality in the Study of Musok (Korean Shamanism).” Korea as a Place for Religious Exchange—Intersections of Global Religious Exchange and Local Transformation Conference, Academy of Korean Studies, October 2025, online
- “The Evolving Representation of Mudang in Korean Television.” SNU 2025 International Conference of Contemporary Korean Studies, Seoul National University, August 2025.
- “Surprises in Musok Healing Rituals.” The 16th ISKS International Conference of Korean Studies, Ulan Bator, August 2025.
- “Protest Soundscape: From Angry Shouts to K-pop Performances in Seoul’s Mass Demonstrations.” Tempting Tunes, Copenhagen University (online participation due to airport closure), June 2025.
- ““Cute Mudang as Media Celebrities.” Association of Korean Studies in Europe biannual conference, Edinburgh (online participation due to airport closure), June 2025.
- “Burial Practices and Related Beliefs in Korea’s Traditional Spirituality.” De Profundis: Transmutations of the Underworld, by Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation. Engelsberg, Sweden, April 2025.

- “The Cosmopolitan Vernacular: Korean Shamans (Mudang) in the Global Spirituality Market.” 1st International Conference for Contemporary Korean Studies. Seoul National University, August 2024.
- “K-shamans: The Issue of Trust in the Representation of Mudang in K-Dramas.” Representation of Minoritized Groups in Korean Popular Culture, Copenhagen University, June 2024.
- “How Can Urban Koreans Place Trust in Spiritual Mediums?” Healing Ecologies and Medical Diversity: Ethnographic Approaches to Wellbeing, Sapienza University, Rome, June 2024.
- “Harmonizing Equality: Spiritual Conflict Resolution in Korean Shamanism.” International Society for Academic Research on Shamanism, Sapienza University, Rome, June 2024
- “Evolving Entanglements of Asian Therapeutics in a Globalised Environment.” Discussant, Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies at the University of Houston, online panel, November 2023.
- “Getting to Know a Korean Shaman Through Television Representations.” Folklore Forum Workshop, Seoul National University, November 2023.
- “European Korean Shamans and the Portability of National Heritage.” The Politics of Authenticity in Esoteric Practices, Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen Germany, November 2023.
- “The Development and Prospects of the Shamanism Museum in Seoul.” Shamanism Festival Forum, Seoul, October 2023.
- “When the Trance Goes Wild: Ritual Surprises in Korean Shamanism.” Sapienza in Trance: Healing, Cooperation, and Imagination, Sapienza University of Rome, September 2023.
- “Inequality as Extreme Suffering: The Hell Chosŏn Discourse in South Korea.” The International Urban Symposium Conference, Montecatini Terme, Italy, July 2023.
- “Indian Religion in Contemporary Everyday.” Panel chair and conference organizer, The 15th Biennial Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, Tel Aviv, June 2023.
- “Covid19 and the Understanding of Illnesses in Korean Shamanism.” The British Academy Wellcome Trust Conference on Public Health after COVID: Beliefs, Religion and Competing Epistemologies. King’s College, London, May 2023.
- “NLP and Social Good.” TAD - The Center for AI and Data Science 2nd Annual Conference, Tel Aviv University, Panel’s chair, March 2023.
- “The Writing on the Wall: Affective Politicization of the Sewŏl Disaster on Facebook.” Digital Humanities Publication Workshop. University of Copenhagen, June 2022.
- “Possession and Healing in Korea.” Moving and Being Moved: Healing, Conversion, Trance and Transnationalism Workshop in hybrid format. School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, June 2022.
- “Ancestor Veneration and Feeding of Hungry Spirits in Contemporary Korea.” Food in Asian Conference, Tel Hai College, May 2022.
- “Negotiating between Scientific and Spiritual Healing in Korean Shamanism.” Association of Asian Annual Meeting, Honolulu, online participation, March 2022.
- “Sacrifices for the Ancestors in Contemporary Korean Shamanism,” Keynote lecture. Ancestors: Time and Memory in Past Societies. The Institute of Archeology, Tel Aviv University, February 2022.
- “Legitimizing Spiritual Healing in Korean Shamanism.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, virtual conference, October 2021.
- “Analyzing News Images to Assess the Affect of Visuals in Korea’s Covid19 Media Discourse.” AD meet and collaborate Event. The AI and Data Science Center, Tel Aviv University, October 2021.
- “Legitimizing Spiritual Healing: The Right to Folk Medicine in Contemporary South Korea and Israel.” IUS Workshop on Legitimacy: The Right to Public Health. Tuscany, September 2021.
- “Animal Sacrifice within Religious Rituals in Contemporary Seoul,” The Fourth Annual Conference of The Israeli Association for the Study of Religions, Online format, February 2021.

- “Contemporary Korean Shamanism: From Ritual to Digital, Book Launch.” The 5th Korean Studies Workshop in Israel, online format, December 2020.
- “Screen Mediated Politics: The Online Delegitimization of Pak Kūn-Hye Following the Sewōl Ferry Disaster,” Korean Screen Culture Conference, University of Tübingen, online format, August 2020.
- “The Material Manipulation of Ritual Sites in Korean Shamanism,” and organizer of the panel Material Culture and Korean Religions, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2019.
- “Affective Protest in Contemporary Seoul.” Affective Modernities in Korea Workshop, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, May 2019.
- “Affective Symbols: Interplays between Online and Offline Sewōl Protest Visuals.” Association of Korean Studies in Europe, Rome, April 2019.
- “Animal Sacrifice and Ritual Space in Korean Shamanism,” and organizer of the panel Animal Agency in Korean Art and Rituals. Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Denver, March, 2019.
- “Channeling Grief and Dissent through Religious Rituals in the Sewōl Protests.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, November 2018.
- “Healing through Performance in Korean Shamanism.” Performance as a Producer of Knowledge Workshop, Haifa University, June 2018.
- “Getting to Know a Korean Shaman through Television Representations.” Korea’s Screen Culture Conference, University of Helsinki, May 2018.
- “Animals as Supernatural Messengers and Sacrificial Animals in Korean Shamanism.” Animals and Religion in Asia Conference, Tel Aviv University, May 2018.
- “Mental Illness and Spiritual Healing.” Science and Gender Workshop in the Bi-annual Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, May 2018.
- “Mourning through Protest in Seoul: Debates over Governance, Morality and Legitimacy after the Sewōl Ferry Disaster.” Workshop on Erosions of Legitimacy and Urban Futures: Ethnographic Research Matters, Sicily, September 2017.
- “Panel 6, Diasporic Artists.” Chair and discussant at Korean Diaspora and the Arts Conference, The Hebrew University, May 2017.
- “Animal Sacrifice and the Manipulation of Ritual Sites in Korean Shamanism.” Asian Spaces Conference, Tel Aviv University, May 2017.
- “Intense Spirits: Personal and Institutional Struggles over Museum Displays of Korean Shamanism (*musok*).” Association of Korean Studies in Europe Bi-annual Conference, Prague, April 2017.
- “Folk-religion Semiotics in the Sewōl Protests.” The 9th Kyujanggak International Symposium on Korean Studies, Seoul National University, August 2016, also panel’s organizer and chair.
- “The Middle Classes in Seoul: Spatial Dimensions.” Panel Chair and discussant, Middle Classes in East Asia Conference, Truman Institute, Jerusalem, June 2016.
- “Documenting Grief through Protest: KwanghwamunTV Project of the Sewōl Victims Birthday Video Clips,” Korea’s Screen Culture Conference, King’s College, London, June 2016.
- “Animal Sacrifice in Korean Shamanism.” The bi-annual conference of Asian Studies in Israel, Tel Hai College, May 2016.
- “Grief, Protest, and Material Creativity in the Commemoration of Sewōl’s Victims.” Visual Culture in Korea Conference, Truman Institute, Jerusalem, May 2016.
- “Agendas, Power, and Ideology in Museum Displays of Korean Shamanism.” Association of American Anthropology, Denver, November 2015.
- “Landscapes of Mass Cooperation: Refashioning the Urban Landscape of Seoul after the Sewōl Disaster,” The World Congress for Korean Politics and Society, Kyeongju, August 2015.
- “Motivated Documentation: Ethnographic Photographs of Japanese Colonizers in Korea.” Third Generation: Representations of WWII in Photography and Video Art, Tel Aviv University, June 2015.

- "Images of Korean Culture as Shaped by Japanese Colonial Folklorists and Anthropologists."
Transnational Cultural Interactions between Korea and Japan, From the Pre-modern to the Colonial Period, The Hebrew University, May 2015.
- "Dualism and Animism- Can the two be combined in Shamanic Veneration of Natural Objects?"
Annual Conference of Contemporary Spiritualism, Tel Aviv, May 2015.
- "Male and Female in Korean Shamanic Spirit Mediation (*Musok*)."
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2014.
- "New Technologies and the Creation of Innovative Ritual Representations in Korean Shamanism."
Performance Studies International Conference, Shanghai, July 2014.
- "The New Village Movement in Korea as a Modernist Concept that Contradicts Vernacular Beliefs."
The 12th annual Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, Haifa University, May, 2014.
- "Locational and Cyber Pilgrimage in Israel: Between Sensual, Imagined, and Mediated Experiences."
The IUAES 2014 Inter-congress: The Future with/of Anthropologies, Tokyo, May 2014.
- "Shamans Online: Shifting Agencies through the Internet in Korea's Vernacular Religion." The
Biennial World Communication Association Conference, Seoul, August, 2013.
- "Vernacular Dialectics between Locational, Imagined and Online Veneration of Tsaddik Graves."
Israeli Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Van-Leer Institute, Jerusalem, May, 2013.
- "The Benefits and Dangers of Using Popular Media to Teach Academic Classes on Culture and History of Korea." The 'Miracle' Narrative of the Korean Cultural Industries: Perspectives from the Middle East, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, May, 2013.
- "Neo-mudang: Internet Practices of Korean Shamans." Religions in Korea Workshop, Bar Ilan University, February, 2013.
- "Representing Korean Shamanism in Ethnographic and Feature Films." The 4th North American Workshop on Korean Literature, Binghamton University, New York, October, 2012.
- "Religions Online in Korea." The 11th annual Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, Tel Aviv University, May, 2012 (also the panel's chair).
- "War and Dislocation of Religion: Journeys of Shamanic Practices from North Korea." American Folklore Society Annual Meeting: Peace, War, Folklore, Indiana University, Bloomington, October, 2011.
- "Spirits of Nationalism in Korean Shamanism" and "Fieldwork with Korean Shamans." The 10th Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May, 2011.
- "Home Shrine and the Home as a Shrine in Korean Shamanism." The 39th annual Conference of the Israeli Anthropological Association, Haifa University, May, 2011.
- "Choice and Agency in Korean Shamans' Telling of their Life History." History as Social Process Master Class, Centre for Korean Studies, Leiden University, October, 2010.
- "Technology Incorporation and the Question of Authenticity in Contemporary Korean Shamanistic Rituals." Richard Schechner and Performance Theory Conference, Haifa University, May, 2010.
- "Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy in Technologies of the 21st Century: Shamanism in Korea." The Israeli Society for History & Philosophy of Science Yearly Conference, Jerusalem, March, 2009.
- "Shamanism in Korea and its Relationship with other Religious Trends." Monotheism in Asia: Inter-Religious Trends, Bar Ilan University, March, 2009 .
- "Shopping for Spirits and Gods: The Role of Religious-Goods Stores in Contemporary Korean Shamanism." Central States Anthropological Society Conference, Indianapolis, May, 2008.
- "Meet the Gods: Material Representations of Gods and Spirits in Korean Shamanism." 1st Meeting of the Association for Korean Spirits, Ghosts, and God Studies, Seoul, October, 2007 .
- "Internet as a Medium for Promoting Musok (Korean Shamanism) in Contemporary South Korea." The 2007 World Congress of Korean Studies, Pusan, September, 2007.
- "Sacred Graves in Israel: Real and Imaginary Space Transferred to Cyberspace." Pushing Boundaries: Extreme Folklore Graduate Student Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, March, 2006.

- "Spirit Possession or Sexual Oppression: Aoi no ue's Illness in Medieval and Contemporary Artistic Representations." Genji Goes Pop: Graduate Students Conference on Traditional and Modern Japanese Literature, Indiana University, Bloomington, April, 2006.
- "Private and National Shamanic Kut Rituals in South Korea." The Fourth Annual Korean Studies Graduate Symposium, University of California, Berkeley, October, 2005.
- "Internet Mediated Saint Veneration: Myths of the Jewish Zaddiq Yonatan Ben Uziel." Religion Studies Graduate Student Symposium, Indiana University, Bloomington, May, 2005.
- "A Hundred Years of Changes in the English Scholarship of Korean Shamanism." Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego, March, 2004.
- "Imported Rituals: Zaddiq Veneration in Israel." UC Transnational and Transcolonial Studies Multicampus Research Group Graduate Student Conference, UCLA, April, 2003.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- "Offerings in Korean Shamanism: Feeding the Gods of Nature and Ancestors in Contemporary Rituals." The Israeli Association for Religion Research, July 2026.
- "Folklore and Tradition in K-Pop Demon Hunters." Lecture Series, The Korean Embassy in Israel, December 2025.
- "Spiritual Healing in Seoul: Shamanism, and other Vernacular Practices." Yale University, March 2025.
- "Representations of Folk Religion in South Korean Popular Culture." Oslo University, February 2025.
- "Harmonizing Equality: Spiritual Conflict Resolution in Korean Shamanism." Università Ca' Foscari, Venice, October 2024.
- "10 Years after Sewol." Nordic Baltic Korean Studies Days, University of Copenhagen, March 2024.
- "The One that Dreams about Time: Introduction to Korean Shamanism." Ethnographic Film Festival, Jerusalem Sinematech, February 2024.
- "Feasting with Ancestors and Dancing with Mountain Gods in Korean Shamanism." The Israeli Institute of Archeology, The Tel Aviv Museum, May 2023.
- "North Korean Markets: Response to Benjamin Katzeff Paper." Safra Center, Tel Aviv University. May, 2023.
- "Gender Issues in Korea." The Free Masons' Forum, Kfar Hamacabia, Ramat Gan, January 2023.
- "Contemporary Korean Shamanism: Book Talk." University of Copenhagen, December 2022.
- "Adoption and Abandoned Babies in Korea." Premiere Series, The Broker, Modiin Culture Hall, November 2022.
- "Channeling Grief and Political Dissent through Religious Rituals in South Korea." IUS Field & Training School and Research Seminar on Urban Ethnography and Theory, Italy (online), July 2022.
- "Culture and Doing Business in Korea." Samsung Management Development Program, Tel Aviv University, May 2022.
- "Popular Culture and National Culture: From Traditional Performance Arts to The Korean Wave." Lecture Series, The Korean Embassy in Israel, May 2022.
- "Ethnographic Research in Outright Otherness: Participant Observation in Korean Shamanic Rituals." Anthropological Encounters Series, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, April 2022.
- "Anthropologic Perspective on Korea's Culture and Business." Global Management Seminar. Tel Aviv University, October 2021.
- "Life and Death in Korean and Japanese Films." Explore Korea Lecture Series, online format, December 2020.
- "Protest Culture in Korea." The Free Masons' Wives Forum, Tel Aviv, online format, November 2020.
- "Landscapes of Mass Cooperation in Seoul: From the Sewöl Disaster to the Corona Crisis." University of Copenhagen, online format, May 2020.
- "The Corona Response in South Korea- Socio-cultural Aspects." Lecture Series, The Korean Embassy in Israel, May 2020.

- "Heritage and Cultural Preservation in Korea." Lecture Series, The Korean Embassy in Israel, December 2019.
- "The Buddhist Monk who Opened an Instagram Account: Media in Japanese Tradition." The Tel Aviv Sinematech Lecture Series about Japan, December 2019.
- "Love and Death in Japan: The Film *Dolls* by Takeshi Kitano." Spiritual Cinema Lecture Series, Sinematech Tel Aviv, November 2019.
- "South Korea's Approach to the North-South Reconciliation." North Korea: Reducing Tensions or Denuclearization? The Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv University, November 2019.
- "South Korea's Stance." Global Perspective after the Trump-Kim New Summit Talks, The Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv University, March 2019.
- "South Korea: Tradition and Modernity." Kfar Shmaryahu Library, March 2019.
- "Korea and Japan: Love/Hate Story." The Tel Aviv Sinematech Lecture Series about Japan, May 2018.
- "Mourning through Protest in Seoul: Debates over Governance, Morality and Legitimacy after the Sewöl Ferry Disaster." University of Copenhagen, December 2017.
- "Death, Rituals, and Hope in Seoul." Lecture Series, Bar Ilan University, January 2017.
- "Tradition and Innovation in South Korean Media." Lecture Series, The Korean Embassy in Israel, December 2016.
- "Korean Shamanism: Dancing with Ancestors, Speaking with Mountain Spirits." Wilfrid Museum of East Asian Arts, Kibbutz Hazorea, May 2016.
- "Representations of Korean Shamanism in the Media." Royal Asiatic Society, Seoul, July 2014.
- "Korea Shamanism: Comparing the Findings of Japanese Colonial Anthropologists and Contemporary Ethnography." Departmental Seminar, East Asian Studies, Haifa University, May 2014.
- "Innovation and Preservation in the Rituals of Korean Shamans." Book Launch of *Performance Studies in Motion* (Methuen 2014), Haifa University, May 2014.
- "Korea: Investigation of a Fast Modernization Process." 14 weekly radio programs about Korea's culture and history for *Academy in Aleph* produced by the National Broadcasting Authorities, 2013- 2014.
- "Colonial Anthropologists at the Service of the Japanese Empire." Guest speaker, Departmental Seminar, East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, November 2013.
- "The Gap between the Internet Revolutions of North and South Korea." Netvision Center for Internet Research, Tel Aviv University, June, 2012.
- "Cinematic Representations of Korean Folk Beliefs on Death and Mourning." Korea Day at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, May, 2012.
- "Material Representations of Korea's Shamanic Culture." Guest speaker, Departmental Seminar, East Asian Studies, The Hebrew University, February, 2011.
- "Shamans Online: Roles of the Internet in the Service of Vernacular Religions in Korea." Guest speaker, Departmental Seminar, East Asian Studies, Haifa University, December, 2009.
- "In the Marketplace with Gods and Spirits: Material aspects in the Commodification of Korean Shamanism." Guest speaker, Departmental Seminar, East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, February, 2009.
- "Behind Every Successful Korean Shaman There are Several Men: Gender Roles in Contemporary Musok." The 70th Yonsei Korea Foundation Forum, Seoul, May, 2007.
- "People in Search for Hope." Interdisciplinary Discourse, Tel Aviv University, February, 1999.

PODCATS

- "The Kim Dynasty in North Korea." N12, One a Day, <https://omny.fm/shows/ehadbeyom/0afc4a46-4fa8-4d23-8bbd-af9d0019cc2f?fbclid=IwAR2v20I2uGwwH-w4cLxM5iAfKQ0GQdALaJs2AEglqWZhvfEOUlwYAklsQ4>, February 2023, in Hebrew.

- “Gender Issues in Korea.” Haaretz Hutz Laarets (International),
<https://www.haaretz.co.il/digital/podcast/2022-12-15/ty-article-podcast/00000185-1528-d05b-a3ef-1d38cb720000>, December 2022, in Hebrew.
- “Contemporary Korean Shamanism: From Ritual to Digital.” New Books in Folklore Podcast
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/contemporary-korean-shamanism>, April 2022.
- “Public Dissent, Mass Mobilization and Street Protests in South Korea” The Korea Now Podcast #57,
<https://korea-now-podcast.libsyn.com/the-korea-now-podcast-57-liora-sarfati-public-dissent-mass-mobilization-and-street-protests-in-south-korea>, October 2019.
- “Shamanism in Contemporary Korea” Historia Gdola Baktana (History at Large)
<https://soundcloud.com/historia-il/liorasarfati>, August 2018, in Hebrew.

FIELD RESEARCH

Fieldwork on the protest movements in Seoul	2014-2025
Fieldwork on locational, online, and media representation of religious practices in Korea	2009-2026
Dissertation fieldwork on vernacular religion, Seoul, South Korea	2005, 2007
Fieldwork on online spiritual practices in Israel	2004-2021
Fieldwork on ethnic minorities, Bloomington, Indiana	2003-4
Interviewer, Japanese Arts in Israel Research Project	2001
Master thesis fieldwork on folk religion in Israel	1997-2000
Final Project Matriculation Program fieldwork on Bedouin tribeswomen, Israel	1988

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Board of Directors member, The Museum of Shamanism, Seoul	2016-
Board member, Urbanities-Journal of Urban Ethnography	2021-
Co-chair, Korean Religions Unit of the American Academy of Religion	2021-2026
Application Reviewer for the Israeli Science Foundation, Dan David	2025-2026
Post-Doctorate Fellowship	
Article reviewer for the Journal of Korean Studies, Journal of Korean Religions, Anthropological Quarterly, Social Problems, New Media and Society, Open Cultural Studies, Religions, Journal of Folklore Research, Urbanities, Ethnomusicology Forum, Ethnos, Acta Koreana, Geographical Research, and Annali dell'Università di Napoli L'Orientale	2006-2025
Academic committee member of the Israeli Association of Japanese Studies	2015-2021, 2024-
Dissertation and dissertation proposal evaluator, National University of Singapore, The Hebrew University, Haifa University, Bar Ilan University	2014- 2025
Steering Committee Member of the Korean Religions Unit of the American Academy of Religion	2017-2020
Folklore indexer, MLA Bibliography Project, Indiana University Library	2002-2003

STUDENTS SUPERVISED

Post-Doctorate

- David Shuster 2019-2020 Humor Performativity in North Korea
- Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein 2022-3 Markets under Totalitarianism: Trust, Cooperation and Organization among North Korean Market

Ph.D. Dissertations

- Helena Granovsky 2023- Marginalized Cults in Varanasi

Orit Matsa 2023- Between Anna Frank and Sugihara Chiuna: Construction of Memory of the Holocaust in Japan

Maya Sfar 2026- Shugendo Online: The Exposure of the Esoteric: From Representation to Reconfiguration of Religious Practice in a Hyper-Digital World

MA theses

Tali Shahaf 2014-6, Gothic Lolita Fashion and Japanese Sub-Cultures

Maya Mordechai 2016- 2018, Postcards and Tourism as Extensions of Imperial Japan

Alisa Noskin 2018- 2020, The Fluidity of the Kawaii Aesthetic: Concealment and Accessibility

Xenia Skylar 2018- 2024, The Korean Wave as an Agent for Intercultural Tourism

Helena Granovsky 2019-2021, Social Networks in Nishinari Neighborhood in Osaka

Orit Matsa 2020-2022, A Veiled Act of Remembrance: Holocaust as a Layer in Second World War Memory in Japan

Dikla Levy 2023- 2024, Korean Youth's Dreams of the Future

Sara Ben-Dahan 2023- Morality and Evil in Korean Television Dramas

Nitzan Schwartz 2024- 2026, The Unplanned "Queerification" of K-pop

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Departments of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, 2014-2026

Courses taught:

Introduction to Korea's Culture and History

Introduction to Japan's Culture and History

Media and Tradition in Japan and Korea

Protest Movements in Korea

Popular Culture in Korea (pro-seminar)

Religion and Ritual in Korea (pro-seminar)

Pilgrimage in Japan and Korea (seminar)

Gender and Popular Culture in Japan and Korea (graduate seminar)

Korea's Ancient Traditions in Contemporary Culture (graduate seminar)

Departments of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, The Hebrew University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ben Gurion University, Departments of Communication and Culture, Folklore and Ethnomusicology, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Indiana University, Bloomington 2005-2014

Courses taught:

Modern Korea: Ethnographic Observation of Fast Modernization

Society and Culture in Israel

Media and Tradition in Japan and Korea

Korean Religion and Ritual

Korea's Internet Culture

Pre-modern Korea's Culture and History

Contemporary Korea's Culture and History

Japan - Korea Relationship

The Japanese Empire 1870-1945

Public Speaking

Jewish Folklore

Culture and Language of Korea
 East Asian Religions
 Religion and Ritual: Anthropological Perspectives (seminar)

**Departments of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Jewish Studies, The Upward Bound Project,
 Indiana University, Bloomington 2002-2004**

Associate instructor:

Introduction to Folklore
 Beginning Hebrew
 Intermediate Hebrew

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv
 University, Hamichlala Le Minhal College, Rishon Lezion 1997-2002**

Associate instructor:

Qualitative Research Methods
 Social Thought
 Introduction to Anthropology
 Academic Reading
 Introduction to Japan
 Contemporary Religion in Japan
 Folk Religion in Japan
 Japanese Religion in the Arts

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor in The Program for Gifted Students, Eilat	2010-12
Social sciences teacher at Begin High School, Eilat	2008-14
Instructor in The Unit for Science Oriented Youth, Tel Aviv University	1997-2002
Underprivileged high-school students' project teacher, Tel-Aviv Municipality	1998

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Intercultural advising for companies in business with East Asian Countries	2007-2020
Yoga instructor	2000-2001
Tour Guide in Israel and Egypt	1994-1999
Educational Coordinator, Environmental Unit, Eilat municipality	1993-1994
Nature guide, National Authority of Wildlife Reserves [as military service]	1989-1991

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (AAR), co-chair of the Korean Religions Unit
 International Society for Academic Research on Shamanism (ISARS)
 Association of Asian Studies (AAS)
 American Folklore Society (AFS)
 International Urban Symposium (IUS)
 Israeli Association for the Study of Religions (IASR)
 Israeli Association of Japanese Studies (IAJS)
 Performance Studies International (PSI)
 International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)

LANGUAGES

Hebrew, Spanish- mother tongues

English- excellent proficiency

Japanese, Korean- very good proficiency

Arabic- good proficiency