

Jonatan Meir - Brief Biography

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Jonatan Meir is a full Professor in the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He was born in Leuven (Belgium) in 1975 and moved to Jerusalem in 1983. He completed his graduate studies with highest honors at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 2010. His doctoral thesis treated the satirical writings of Joseph Perl. He was awarded an Alon Fellowship for 2011-2015, and was appointed full professor in 2015.

His field of research is Modern Jewish History, with a focus on the Jewish Enlightenment (*Haskalah*), Hasidism, and 20th century Kabbalah. In his work, Meir has brought several previously unknown manuscripts to light, has prepared critical editions of classic texts (including *Megale Temirin*, *Shivhei ha-Besht*, and *Meora'ot Zevi*), and has traced connections between different bodies of literature. His extensive studies of modern Kabbalah have laid the foundations for novel understandings of the field. At the moment, Meir is working on a comprehensive study of the connections between the Jewish Enlightenment and various esoteric phenomena, on a full history of Bratslav Hasidism from its beginnings until the present day, and on a project to edit the writings of Gershom Scholem.

In addition to his other roles, he serves as a member of the Academic Committee of the Schocken Institute for Jewish

Research and as a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Kabbalah: Journal for the Study of Jewish Mystical Texts*.

Meir has composed five monographs, edited various anthologies, produced several critical editions, and published many articles. His research has earned him awards and research grants (including three grants from the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities).

Among the books he has written or edited are included – Shmuel Verses, *Joseph Perl and His Literary Legacy* (Zalman Shazar Press, 2012); *Imagined Hasidism: The Anti-Hasidic Writings of Joseph Perl* (Mossad Bialik, 2014); Joseph Perl, *Sefer Megale Temirin*, annotated edition in 2 volumes (Mossad Bialik, 2014); *Kabbalistic Circles in Jerusalem, 1896-1948* (Brill, Aries Book Series, 2016); *Literary Hasidism: The Life and Works of Michael Levi Rodkinson* (Syracuse University Press, 2016); *Habad Hasidism: History, Theology and Image* (Zalman Shazar Press, 2016); Gershom Scholem, *History of the Sabbatian Movement* (Schocken, 2018)