

Curriculum Vitae – Dr Yossef Charvit

For the past 20 years, I have been a lecturer in Jewish history at various institutions of higher academic learning – Bar-Ilan Universities, Efrata and Ashkelon Academic College. I am privileged to be the scion of a family of rabbis and educators in Algeria and France. My areas of expertise are: French and North African Jewry, with emphasis on Algerian and Moroccan Jewry in the Modern Era; the pre-State Jewish community in *Eretz Israel* in the Modern Era and the history of *Hokhmat Israel* in France during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

My research work began with my master's thesis on Jewish Education in an Era of Change, that opened a window to Hebrew sources of the Jewish community of Algeria in the Modern Era. When I completed my pre-doctoral obligations (DEA) with honors (in France, between the M. A. and the doctorate, one writes an essay of overt methodological character, serving as the research infrastructure for the doctorate), I completed writing my doctoral dissertation, that treated the topic in greater depth. The pre-doctoral essay concerned the Algerian rabbinic elite in the Modern Era: Jewish education, the Jewish family and the Hebrew Haskalah, concentrating on three foci: *Eretz Israel*, Algeria and France.

My research examined a wide variety of archives and I did not limit myself to conventional French and Judeo-French sources alone, but relied on archives that had not been examined previously, such as French rabbinic literature, consular archives, the Hebrew and Enlightenment press and Arabic sources, as discussed in the research of Profs. Pesah Shinar and Benjamin Stora. An examination of these sources led me to consolidation of the Hebrew narrative and intra-community historiography.

My doctoral dissertation, that I completed with high honors, was published by the prestigious French publishing house Editions Honoré Champion, Sorbonne Paris IV. The book concerns the Algerian Rabbinic elite, their attachment to *Eretz Israel* and how they coped with modernity: The Jewish family and gender issues. It addresses sensitive historiographic issues, such as the status of the *Rishon Lezion* in *Eretz Israel*, the

dialectics of the Old vs. New *Yishuv*, alms collection in the Modern Era; the new place of *Eretz Israel* among elites cast aside and divested of authority; reciprocal relations between the Muslim and Jewish populations resulting from the special relationship between Algerian rebel leader `Abd al-Qādir al-Jazā'irī and R. Shmuel Abbo, French Consul in Galilee, on the background of settlement and land redemption activities.

French historiography, that so far has been dominant in the study of Algerian Jewry, as well as Jewish historiography, that traces the innermost wishes and lifestyles of the community, while examining and extracting an inner perspective on community research, are not separate, parallel schools but rather enrich and expand the complex historic picture. Jewish historiography, that constitutes my most prominent research innovation, completes and nourishes classic historiography.

I was privileged to be among the founders of the *Gai Yinasse* Institute for the Study of Algerian Jewry (1985), named in memory of R. Yosef Renassia. Through this institute, I initiated several seminars and research conferences at Ben-Gurion University and the Ben-Zvi Institute. I also participated in conferences and seminars at the University of Paris, Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Ben-Zvi Institute (see Curriculum Vitæ). In 5767 (2006/2007), at the time my book was published, I was invited to be a guest lecturer at the Sorbonne in Paris.

In my books and articles, I describe a varied series of historical, social, gender and intellectual studies, presenting the ingenious ways in which leaders and other prominent figures in the Jewish community dealt with the Modern Era – in North Africa, France and *Eretz Israel*. I published a special study on the history of the Charles Netter youth movement in Morocco, that sheds light on informal education there, on its special contribution to rehabilitation of a weak society in the *mellah* of Casablanca and its members' involvement in clandestine Jewish activity in North Africa (“illegal” immigration to *Eretz Israel* and self-defense, conducted by the *Aliyah Bet* Organization and the Mossad branch called *Hamisgeret*).

My specialization in the history of French Jewry and of *Hokhmat Israel* in France in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries includes research on the Paris School of *Hokhmat Israel* (1946-1967), emphasizing the historical images of Prof. André Neher and particularly of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou) – a North African Kabbalist and a student of French universities in Algiers and Paris, who embodied North African Jewish leadership during the fateful period facing the Jewish People, after the Holocaust

and the rebirth of Israel, throughout the Mediterranean space of the North Africa – France – Israel axis. I plan to publish a comprehensive historical study on this topic.

Papers Presented at Scientific Conferences

- (1) International Jewish Studies Congress, 5754: Jewish Education in Constantine in an Era of Change– 1937-1939
- (2) Ben-Zvi Institute Research Conference, 5757: The New Status of *Eretz Israel* among Rabbinic Elites in Algeria in the Modern Era
- (3) International Research Conference, Misgav Yerushalayim, 5757: French Historiography and Hebrew Historiography in the Study of the Jews of Algeria.
- (4) International Jewish Studies Congress, 5757: The Rabbinic Elite in Algeria Facing Modernity in the Nineteenth Century
- (5) Seminar, J. R. Elyachar Center for Studies in Sephardi Heritage, Ben-Gurion University (in cooperation with the *Gei Yinase* Institute), 5758: Clandestine Israeli Activity on Algerian Soil
- (6) Ben-Zvi Institute Research Conference (in cooperation with the *Gei Yinase* Institute), 5760: The Cultural Heritage of R. Yéhoua Léon Askénazi (Manitou)
- (7) International Research Conference, Paris, organized by Prof. Samuel Trigano, 5760: La tradition rabbinique d'Algérie face au processus d'émancipation
- (8) International Research Conference, Bar-Ilan University: Creativity and Leadership among North African and Spanish Jewry – Tolerance, Open-Mindedness and Introversion, 5760: Rabbi Yosef Genassia – Portrait of a Spiritual Leader in French Algeria
- (9) International Jewish Studies Congress, 5761: France in Nineteenth- Century Galilee According to the Abou Family Consular Archives
- (10) Research Conference on Algerian Jewry – Identity and Heritage, Bar-Ilan University, Hanukkah 5762: The Rabbinic Court of Rabbi Haïm David Shlomo Zourafa's Attitude towards the Sephardic Community in *Eretz Israel* at the end of the Ottoman Era in Algeria (1824): The Last Days of Jewish Autonomy in Algeria
- (11) Research Conference – Women in the East, Women from the East, Past and Present, Bar-Ilan University, March 7, 2002: The Unconventional Path of Colette Aboulker-Muscat: From the Jewish Underground in Algeria to her Naturopathy Practice in Israel – Between Tradition and Modernity, Between Zionism and Frenchism
- (12) Research Conference on Orientalism and Education – Oriental and Sephardic Jews in Israel and the Diaspora, May, 5, 2002: Chaired session in Spanish and Oriental Jews in the Holocaust
- (13) Identity and Tradition – 40 Years since the Exodus from Algeria, Conference held at Bar-Ilan University, December 2002: From the Land of the Islands to *Eretz Israel*: Algerian Jews and the State of Israel at its first Jubilee

- (14) Women and Migration: Conference held at Bar-Ilan University, March 2003: The Jewish Woman in Algeria in the Modern Era According to Research Literature and Rabbinic Literature – Contradictory and Complementary Trends
- (15) International Conference on Moroccan Jewry, Bar-Ilan University, 27-28 Iyar, 5764 (May 18-19, 2004): The Charles Netter Association in Morocco as a Center for Dissemination of Torah and Hebrew Culture (1930-1956)
- (16) Conference on Algerian Jewry, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University, Shevat, 5765 (2005): A panel analyzed the spiritual leadership of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi after hearing a brief biographical review
- (17) Academic Director, World Conference of the Jewish Community of Constantine, March 2005: The Contribution of the Jews of Constantine to the State of Israel
- (18) World Jewish Studies Congress, Summer 5765/2005: The Hebrew *Maskil* R. Yitzhak Morali (1867-1952) at the Cusp of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries in Algeria, According to a Previously Unresearched Archive (Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People, p. 55)
- (19) Fifteenth Conference of the College of Judea and Samaria, 5765: The First Floor of Beit Hadassah in Hebron – 5643: Algerian Jewry's Attachment to Hebron
- (20) International Conference on French Jewry, Bar-Ilan University, May 2006: The Special Contribution of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou) to the Parisian School of Jewish Thought
- (21) The European Congress on Jewish Studies, Moscow, Summer 5766/2006: Rabbinic Literature as a Historical Source for Modern Era Research – Algerian Jewry as a Case Study
- (22) Initiation, preparation and organization of an International Conference on the philosophy of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou), Hanukkah 5767/2006: Cultures Vying for Primacy in the Philosophy of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou)
- (23) International Conference on Ideology and Halacha, Van Leer Institute and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2006: of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou)'s Overall Outlook and His Views on Conversion in Particular – Halacha and Identity
- (24) International Conference on Christianity and Judaism, Bar-Ilan University, January 2007: Jewish-Christian Dialogue According to the Philosophy of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou)
- (25) Invited by Profs. Daniel Tollet and Paul Fenton to lecture about my book at the Sorbonne (Paris IV) on March 13, 2007: *La France, l'élite rabbinique d'Algérie et la Terre Sainte au XXXéme siècle – Tradition et Modernité* Honoré Champion, Sorbonne Paris IV, Paris, 2005
- (26) International Conference on the Jewish Name, Bar-Ilan University, June 2007: R. Maurice Eisenbeth, Chief Rabbi of Algeria
- (27) Conference on my book and in memory of Prof. André Chouraqui, Ben-Zvi Institute, Kislev 5767 / November 2007: *La France, l'élite rabbinique d'Algérie et la Terre Sainte*

au XIX^{ème} siècle – Tradition et Modernité Honoré Champion, Sorbonne Paris IV, Paris, 2005

- (28) International conference at the Ben-Zvi Institute on the publication of Prof. Samuel Trigano's book, Tevet 5768 / December 2007: They Will Stand Together – Assessing the Multifaceted Leadership in the Spanish Diaspora
- (29) Research Conference on Jewish Studies, Nationalism, Leadership and the Rabbinate: In the Footsteps of the Rishon Lezion Yaakov Meir, June 2008: Postponing the Demise of Alms Collection in Algeria During the Time of R. Yaakov Meir
- (30) Fifteenth World Jewish Studies Congress, Summer 5769/2009: The Holocaust and Rebirth in the Philosophy of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou)
- (31) Research Conference on Youth Movements in North Africa, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University, Elul 5769 (2009): The Charles Netter Movement – Between the Community Establishment and the Zionist-Pioneering Establishment
- (32) Participation in a Research Group – *Halacha as an Ongoing Process* –headed by Dr. Avinoam Rosenak, at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem throughout 5769 – 2009/2010
- (33) Conference Marking 40 Years of Aliyah from France, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University, December 28, 2009: Chaired session on the world of literature and spirituality.
- (34) Colloque international: Judaïsmes du Maghreb et la France, traditions et transformations 27-30 juin 2010, Université Sorbonne, Paris en collaboration avec L'Université Bar-Ilan (Centre Dahan) : L'attitude plurivoque des Juifs d'Algérie à l'égard de la Puissance française, 1830-1962.
- (35) Fourth International Conference on the Philosophy of Halakhah: Halakhah as an Event, December 28-29, 2010, The Van leer Jerusalem Institute and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Halakhah as an Ongoing Process – Humor as a Leitmotif in the career of R. Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou) as a Rabbi and Spiritual Leader.
- (36) International Conference. The Jews in Italy: Their Contribution to the Development and Spread of Jewish Heritage, University of Bologna (Ravenna) and the University of Florence, Italy, September 5-9, 2011: The influence of Rabbi Eliyahu Benamozegh of Livorno on Rabbi Yéhouda Léon Askénazi (Manitou)'s Aspiration towards the Construction of an optimal Jewish Wisdom.
- (37) International Academic Conference: That Terrible Summer – 70 Years since the Destruction of Jewish Communities in Outlying Towns of Lithuania, November 24, 2011, Efrata Academic College – Holocaust and Commemoration Center and From Jerusalem to Lithuania Research and Education Center, Jerusalem. Chaired session: The Jews of Lithuania in the Shadow of the Edicts.
- (38) Seminar marking publication of the *Algeria* volume of the series *Jewish Communities in the East in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: A Look at Algeria and its Jews 50 Years after Independence Was Declared*, February 23, 2012, Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem. Session: What Did the Jews of Algeria Really Think about French Power and Culture?

- (39) Seminar: Figures and Leaders in the Algerian Jewish Community, June 4, 2012, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University. Session: R. Yéhoua Léon Askénazi and the Achievements of *Hokhmat Israel* – Paris, Berlin and Jerusalem.
- (40) International Academic Conference: L'Algérie – Cinquante ans d'indépendance, December 17, 2012, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University. Chaired session: L'Algérie depuis l'indépendance.
- (41) International Academic Conference: Relations between Jews, Christians, Muslims December 26-27, 2012, The Open University: Session: The necessary Intercultural Discourse among Members of the Abraham Family according to the Philosophy and Conduct of R. Yéhoua Léon Askénazi (Manitou)
- (42) The Second Annual International Conference of The Yisrael and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History June 5-6, 2013, Bar Ilan University. Economic History of the Jews throughout the Ages: Sources, Methodologies, Narratives: Economy and nationalism in colonial frameworks – the Jews of Constantine (Algeria), 1934.
- (43) Research Conference on Education and *Midrash*, June 9, 2013, Efrata Academic College: The *Midrash* and the prophetic tradition.
- (44) World Congress of Jewish Studies ,July 28-August 1, 2013, Hebrew University Jerusalem: *Hokhmat Israel* in France in the Twentieth Century: Between Berlin and Jerusalem.
- (45) Research Conference on Chief Rabbi *Rishon Le-Zion* Mayer Hai Uziel, October 20-22, 2013, Bar Ilan University, Faculty of Law: Observing Fasts Commemorating Destruction of the Temple in an Independent State of Israel – R. Uziel and the Sages of Turkey and Algeria.
- (46) The Third Annual International Conference of the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry. Chief Rabbis: Between Religious and Political Leadership: Rabbi Avraham Moshe Fingerhut's Rabbinic Activity In French Alger – 1936-1962
- (47) International Conference "All of Israel are responsible for one Another"? Ideals and Reality During the Shoah, Yad Vashem, 15-18 December 2014: Identity and Solidarity: Nuances and Orientations of Solidarity Among Algerian Jews.
- (48) *The World in Turmoil: World War I and its implications for the Jewish world*** Efrata College, 7 Adar 5775 (26 February 2015)
Algerian Jewry at the Dardanelles front in the First World War – the epitome of French emancipation and patriotism.
- (49) *Pioneering Zionism in the Diaspora: Overseas youth movements after the establishment of the State of Israel***

Chaim Weizmann Institute for the Study of Zionism and Israel, Tel Aviv University, 15
Shevat 5776 (25 January 2016)

The Charles Netter Youth Movement in Morocco – social and cultural activity; from a community
orientation to pioneering Zionism.

**(50) *Pardes Conference: An annual academic conference at Jerusalem College, featuring the
finest Jewish creations of all times: Philosophy and art, Halakha and life – a tour of the
pardes (orchard) and its cultural discourse***

Jerusalem College, 2 Adar I 5776 (11 February 2016)

Yeshivot and Jewish scholarship in an era of change – French Algeria, 1830-1962.