

# TANYA SERMER

## Curriculum Vitae

### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

- 2016-present **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem – Rothberg International School**  
Instructor in the Division of Graduate Studies and the Division of Undergraduate Studies  
I designed and teach courses geared towards students in the Israel Studies and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies programs on music and cultural politics in Israel and Palestine.
- 2019-present **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem – English Instruction and Academic Writing**  
I teach Academic Writing for doctoral students, as well as English as a Foreign Language for undergraduate students in the Division of English as a Foreign Language and in the Preparatory program (Mechina) for Palestinian students.
- 2017-present **Jerusalem Oratorio Choir**  
Artistic Producer of a choral organization consisting of 150 singers and 5 conductors, which produces 20-30 projects per year.
- 2010-present **Jewish Music Research Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem**  
Researcher: I am working on a collaborative book project on the songs of Jewish women from Cochin in the Malayalam language. I edited the production of a CD of Ladino songs. I have also collected materials to add to the center's online database and write relevant biographies, literature reviews, and glossary entries to post on the site.

### EDUCATION

- 2015 **Ph.D. in Musicology, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY**  
Full tuition scholarship and research fellowship with Teaching Assistant responsibilities, as well as the additional Ann C. Fehn Memorial Award.  
**Dissertation:** "The Battle for the Soul of Jerusalem: Musical Language, Public Performance, and Competing Discourses of the Israeli Nation-State"  
**Committee:** Profs. Ellen Koskoff (chair), Ralph Locke, Edwin Seroussi  
**Graduation date:** May 16, 2015
- 2018 **Teaching Certificate, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel**  
Specialization in teaching English as a Foreign Language
- 2009 – 2015 **Visiting Research Fellow, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel**  
Independent study with Prof. Edwin Seroussi (musicology) towards dissertation research. Intensive courses in modern Hebrew, modern standard Arabic, and Palestinian colloquial Arabic. Fieldwork period beginning September 2010.
- 2008 – 2009 **Residency in Ethnomusicology, University of California, Santa Barbara**  
Attendance at classes and workshops in Middle Eastern music, ethnography, history, and performance studies, given by Profs. Tim Cooley, Mary Hancock, Scott Marcus, and Dwight Reynolds, and participation in the UCSB Middle Eastern Ensemble.

- 2008           **Master of Arts in Ethnomusicology, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY**  
Thesis: “The Rosegarden: Song and Recitation in the Creation of an American Muslim Identity at the Islamic Center of Rochester, New York”
- 2004           **Bachelor of Music, McGill University, Montreal, Canada**  
Senior project: “Grammar Made Melody: An Ethnographic Study of Hebrew Biblical Cantillation.”  
Major instrument: piano

## ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS

- 2015-16       **Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellowship**  
Conducted in the musicology department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2015-16       **Israel Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship**  
Conducted in the musicology department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2013-14       **Elsa T. Johnson Fellowship in Musicology, Eastman School of Music**  
Final-year dissertation-writing fellowship for the 2013-14 academic year.
- 2010-11       **Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship**  
Awarded for fieldwork in Jerusalem during 2010-11 academic year.

## OTHER ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2014           **Best Paper by a Young Researcher, Israel Musicological Society**  
Best paper at the Annual Conference by a researcher up to three years after receiving a doctorate. Awarded for “Samba, Neo-Hasidic Popular Music, and Shirei Eretz Yisrael: Musical Language, Political Discourse, and Competing Visions of the Israeli Nation-State.”
- 2010           **Charles Warren Fox Award, Eastman School of Music, Musicology Department**  
Best student paper for the 2009-10 year. Awarded for “Women’s Voices, Gendered Performance, and Public Protest in the Struggle for Jewish Religious Pluralism in Israel and Control of Jerusalem.”
- 2009           **Asper National Fund Scholarship, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University**  
Funding towards tuition at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for the 2009-10 year.
- 2006           **Professional Development Fund, Eastman School of Music**  
I received funding from the Eastman School of Music Professional Development Committee for music lessons in Israel during the summer of 2006.
- 2005           **Ann C. Fehn Memorial Award, Eastman School of Music**  
An entrance award in addition to the standard tuition scholarship and fellowship.
- 2002           **Margaret Houlding Prize, McGill University**
- 1999           **Canadian Federation of University Women Scholarship**

## PUBLICATIONS

### **“Women Of, For, and At the Wall: A Performative Analysis of Gender Politics at the Western Wall in Jerusalem”**

*Women and Music: A Journal of Gender and Culture* 23 (2019).

### **“Jewish Spiritual Healing, *Mi Shebeirach*, and the Legacy of Debbie Friedman”**

*Soundscapes of Wellbeing in Popular Music*, edited by Gavin J. Andrews, Paul Kingsbury, and Robin Kearns, 77-88. ‘Geographies of Health’ Series. Farnham, Surrey, UK: Ashgate, 2014.

### **“The Politicization of Neo-Hasidic Popular Music: The Musical Discourse of Religious Zionism and its Role in the Struggle to Claim the Public Sphere of Jerusalem”**

*Moods and Modes of Jewish Music*, edited by Yuval Shaked, pp. I-XI. Haifa, Israel: University of Haifa, 2014.

## PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

### **“Samba, Neo-Hasidic Popular Music, and Songs of the Land of Israel: Musical Language, Political Discourse, and Competing Visions of the Israeli Nation-State”**

Journal article to be submitted to *Ethnomusicology*.

### ***Jewish Women’s Songs in Malayalam from Kerala, South India***

Book of transcriptions, translations, and musical and cultural analysis of songs sung by Jewish women of the Kerala region of India, to be published in the Yuval Series by the Jewish Music Research Center in collaboration with Profs. Barbara Johnson and Edwin Seroussi.

## CONFERENCES AND INVITED LECTURES

### **“Women Of, For, and At the Wall: A Performative Analysis of Gender Politics at the Western Wall in Jerusalem”**

Invited Lecture, Series “Gender, Body, and Art,” Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover, Germany, November 13, 2018.

### **“Prayer, Politics, and Performance in Jerusalem”**

17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, 6-10 August 2017.

### **“Performance and Its Audiences: Gender Politics, Panopticism, and Synopticism at the Western Wall in Jerusalem”**

The Place of Music: International Graduate and Post-Doctoral Summer Workshop and Public Panel, Presented by the Forum for Contemporary Ethnomusicology and Da’at Hamakom – Center for the Study of Cultures of Place in the Modern Jewish World, Jerusalem, Israel, 10 July 2016.

### **“Women Of, For, and At the Wall: Performance, Politics, and Religious Women’s Agency”**

Annual Meeting of the Israel Musicological Society, Givat Washington Academic College for Education, Israel, 29 June 2016.

### **Panel: “Soundscapes of Jerusalem”**

I moderated a panel at the biennial conference, “Jerusalem Days,” run by the Ben Zvi Institute, Jerusalem, 31 March 2016.

### **“Fighting the Exclusion of Women in the Jerusalem Soundscape: Gender, Performance, and Public Protest”**

Invited Lecture, Swiss Musicological Society, University of Bern, Switzerland, 24 November 2015.

**“Samba, Neo-Hasidic Popular Music, and Shirei Eretz Yisrael: Musical Language, Political Discourse, and Competing Visions of the Israeli Nation-State”**

Annual Meeting of the Israel Musicological Society, Tel Aviv University, Israel, 23 June 2014.

**“The Politicization of Neo-Hasidic Popular Music: The Musical Discourse of Religious Zionism and its Role in the Struggle to Claim the Public Sphere of Jerusalem”**

Jewish Music Conference, University of Haifa, Israel, 13 February 2013.

**“Samba, the Hasidic Niggun, and Songs of the Land of Israel: Musical Language, Political Discourse, and Competing Visions of the Israeli Nation-State”**

International Musicological Society 19<sup>th</sup> Congress, organized by Accademia Nazionale de Santa Cecilia and Musica per Roma Foundation, Rome, 1-7 July 2012.

**“Women’s Voices, Gendered Performance, and Public Protest in the Struggle for Jewish Religious Pluralism in Israel and Control of Jerusalem”**

Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, University of Rochester, 25-26 February 2010. \*\*Winner of the Charles Warren Fox Award.

**“The Youth Group Qur’an-A-Thon: Qur’anic Recitation, Children’s Education, and Diasporic Negotiation at the Islamic Center of Rochester, New York”**

Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) Southern California and Hawai’i Chapter Meeting, University of California, Los Angeles, 21-22 February 2009.

**“Two Transcriptions, One Community, and a Multitude of Heritages: An Analysis of the *Adhān* at the Islamic Center of Rochester, New York”**

Society for Ethnomusicology, Niagara Chapter Meeting, York University, Toronto, 28-30 March 2008.

## INVITED DOCTORAL WORKSHOPS

**Religion and International Affairs Dissertation Workshop, Social Science Research Council**

I was selected as one of twelve doctoral students from across the social sciences to present my research and participate in this workshop in Monterey, California. 5-9 June 2011.

**Current Trends in Ethnomusicological Research, 2nd International Workshop**

I was selected as one of sixteen doctoral students from around the world to present my research and participate in this workshop at the University for Music and Drama, Hanover, Germany, led by Profs. Philip V. Bohlman and Raimund Vogels. 23-27 June 2010.

## EMPLOYMENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

**Lecturer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rothberg International School**

2016-21: “Music and Cultural Politics in Israel and Palestine,” Division of Graduate Studies, geared towards Master’s students in the Israel Studies and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies programs.

2018-20: “Music and Cultural Politics in Israel,” Division of Undergraduate Studies, geared towards undergraduate exchange and gap-year students.

2015-16: “Music and Cultural Politics in Israel,” Division of Graduate Studies, geared towards Master’s students in the Israel Studies program.

**Lecturer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem – English as a Foreign Language**

2021: “Academic Writing in English,” for doctoral students in Anthropology, Sociology, and Education.

2019-21: “Upper Advanced English for the Humanities and Social Sciences,” mandatory courses for undergraduate students.

2019-21: “English Language,” mandatory courses in the Preparatory Program for Palestinian students of the Rothberg International School.

**Lecturer, The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Institute for External Studies**

2020: “High Holy Days through the Lens of Music,” course co-taught with Avi Bar Eitan and Anat Rubinstein.

**Leyada—The Hebrew University High School**

2017-19: English teacher, gifted classes in middle and high school

Classes: Grade 7, Grade 8 English speakers, Grade 9, Grade 10 Bagrut Literature Program

**Lecturer, Tel Aviv University**

2016: I taught the core undergraduate course, “Academic Writing in English,” for international music students at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music.

2012-13: I created and twice taught a semester-long undergraduate course entitled, “Music and Society in Israel” at the School for Overseas Students.

**Lecturer, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Institute for External Studies**

2016: I taught a new course geared towards students of all ages from the general community, entitled “Israeli Music and Cultural Politics”.

**Coordinator, “The Place of Music”**

July 2016: Three-day International Graduate and Post-Doctoral Summer Workshop and Public Panel Presented by the Forum for Contemporary Ethnomusicology and Da’at Hamakom – Center for the Study of Cultures of Place in the Modern Jewish World, Jerusalem, Israel. We invited Prof. Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco (New University of Lisbon and the President of the ICTM) and Dr. Dafni Tragaki (University of Thessaly, Greece) to work with about twenty doctoral and post-doctoral researchers on the concept of place in the study of global musical practices today.

**Teaching Assistantships, Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

2011-2012: (Hebrew) Introduction to Ethnomusicology, full-year undergraduate course

2010-2011: (Hebrew) Jewish Music from Around the World, full-year undergraduate musicology course

**Teaching Assistantships, Eastman School of Music**

2007-2008: two semesters, undergraduate music history surveys, Medieval to Baroque and Classical to Romantic, included my own teaching sections

2006-2007: two semesters, master’s level music history surveys, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

## **PUBLIC MUSICOLOGY**

**“The High Holy Days through the Lens of Israeli Popular Music: A Concert-Lecture”**

Lecture and concert, Temple Har Zion, Thornhill, Ontario, Canada, 20 September 2014.

**“The Musical Culture of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut [Memorial and Independence Days] in Israel”**

Interactive presentation, Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, 18 April 2010.

**“From Yerushalayim Shel Zahav to Shirat Ha-Sticker: Exploring the ‘Israeli’ in Israeli Music”**

Invited lecture, Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, 30 April 2008

**“Modes, Chants, and Culture: A Musical Tour of the Middle East”**

Invited lecture, Temple Emanu-el, Irondequoit, NY, 14 October 2007

## RELATED SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

### Languages

French (advanced)

Hebrew – modern (advanced)

Arabic – Modern Standard and Palestinian dialect (intermediate)

German (reading competence)

### Middle Eastern Music: 'oud, tabla, and tombak

2009-11: private instruction in 'oud with Nizar Rohana, Jerusalem

July 2010: Performances with UCSB Middle Eastern Ensemble, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt

2008-09: UCSB Middle Eastern Ensemble and Chorus, classes at UCSB in 'oud and percussion techniques and Arab music theory with Prof. Scott Marcus

2008-09: private instruction in tombak and classes in Persian music theory with Bahram Osqueezadeh

2007: private instruction in 'oud and tabla with Omar Faruk Tekbilek, Rochester

2007: Middle Eastern Music and Dance Camp, Mendocino Woodlands, CA

2006: private instruction in 'oud with Nizar Rohana, Jerusalem

### Jewish Music Experience and Leadership

2017: Cantorial soloist – High Holy Days; Temple Israel, Ottawa, Canada

2008-2015: Cantorial soloist – High Holy Days; Or Hadash Congregation, Newmarket, ON, Canada

Song leader, music teacher, proficiency in Hebrew biblical chant

1999-2005: head of music program and Director of Education, URJ Camp George, Parry Sound, ON, Canada

1997, 2000, 2002: Hava Nashira, Jewish music leader's workshop, URJ Olin-Sang-Ruby- Institute, WI

### Classical Piano

2005-2008: Eastman School of Music, studied with Vincent Lenti

2000-2004: McGill University, studied with Dr. Julia Gavrilova

1986-1999: Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, studied with Alla Zaccarelli

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

### Society for Ethnomusicology

Society for Arab Music Research special interest group

Music and Violence special interest group

### American Musicological Society

### Israel Musicological Society