

Ronit Meroz is a Professor at the Department of Jewish Philosophy and Talmud of Tel-Aviv University, and also teaches at the TAU Liberal Arts International Programme. She has been the department chair between 2002 and 2004 and has authored two books.

She received her education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with a background in Mathematics and Jewish Thought. She wrote her doctoral dissertation at the same university under the guidance of Prof. Moshe Idel. Soon after finishing her dissertation, she started teaching at the same university, before she got an appointment as University Professor at Tel-Aviv University.

Ronit has been a research fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies in 1995 in Philadelphia. In 1999 she was a fellow in the Zoharic Literature research group at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, and in 2004/2005 in the Literary Dimensions of Jewish Religious Discourse research group of the same Institute.

Her research encompasses the study of Jewish mystical texts, from *Sefer ha-Zohar* (and even earlier texts) to Safed, using a combination of different methodologies (historical, philological, codicological, literary, and intellectual). She was behind the launching of the Zohar Project, an ambitious research she is leading, funded by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. The goal of this project is the cataloguing of all the manuscripts preserved, previous to the preparation of a critical edition of the text (the late Ada Rapoport-Albert, a previous participant in this seminar, was also a member of the research team).

Besides her numerous scholarly articles, she is the author of two Hebrew books: *The Spiritual Biography of R. Simeon bar Yochai. An Analysis of the Zohar's Textual Components* [*Biografia Ruhanit šel Rašbi. Diyyun vysodotav ha-teqstualim šel ha-Zohar*] (Jerusalem: Mossad Bialik, 2018), that won with the 2019 Matanel Prize to the Best Book in Jewish Studies, awarded by the World Union of Jewish Studies. More recently she has authored *Headwaters of the Zohar. Analysis and Annotated Critical Edition of Parashat Exodus of the Zohar* [*Yubele Zohar. Meḥqar u-mahadura biqortit šel Zohar. Parašat Šemot*] (Tel-Aviv: Tel-Aviv University, 2019), that was awarded the 2019-2020 *Yad*

*Yitzhak ben Zvi Prize for the Research of the Jewish Communities in the East, and the Sephardic Communities and their Diaspora.*