

Yaakov A. Mascetti
15 Nahum Lifshitz Str. (Apt. 30)
93622 Jerusalem, Israel
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EDUCATION

2003-2004 Andrew Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow at the Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania

1999-2003 Ph.D. in English literature, Bar Ilan University, Israel (Direct PhD program).

1991-1995 B.A. in English Literature and Foreign Languages, English Literature Department, State University of Perugia, Italy. B.A. Thesis: "Translation and Commentary of 'Two Sermons Preached to the King at Court in April 1629, on Gen.1:26'". Supervisor: Prof. Sergio Rufini.

DISSERTATION

Title: " 'Purifie / All, by a true religious Alchimy:' The Performative Semantics of Alchemic Discourses in Seventeenth Century English Poetry."

ACADEMIC HONORS

2013-2016 Israel Science Fund Research Grant

2008-2011 Israel Science Fund Research Grant

2008-2009 Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities – National Forum for Young Scholars in the Humanities

2008 Research Grant from the Accademia dei Lincei, Rome, Italy.

2003-2004 Andrew Mellon Post-doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania

2001 Bar-Ilan University Rector Prize for Outstanding Graduate Students

1999-2003 Bar-Ilan University Presidential Fellowship for Outstanding Doctoral Students

PUBLICATIONS:

Articles:

"'This Pretious Passeover Feed Upon': Poetic Eucharist and Feminine Vision in Aemilia Lanyer's *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*" in Arthur Marotti and Chanita Goodblatt, *Religious Diversity and Early-Modern English Texts: Catholic, Judaic, Feminist, and Secular Dimensions* (Detroit: Wayne State UP, 2013), 251-281

"עבודה לתפארת: " מוות, אלכימיה, שנינות והחייאה מילולית ב"אנטומיה של העולם" לגיון דון (ייצא ב2015 באוסף על קבלה וספרות, מגנס)

"Tokens of Love: Signs, Poetry and Signification in the Songs and Sonnets of John Donne" (under consideration for the *John Donne Journal*), 55pp.

"'Their inward state of mind': Conceptions of Fall, Cognitive Distemper and Passions in Milton's *Paradise Lost*" (under consideration for the *Milton Quarterly*), 35pp.

"'This is the famous stone:' George Herbert's Ambiguous Poetic Alchemy" in Stanton J. Linden, ed., *Mystical Metal of Gold: Essays on Alchemy and Renaissance Culture*

(New York: AMS Press, 2007), 301-324

“Satan and the ‘incompos’d’ visage of Chaos: Critical Certainties and Hermeneutic Indeterminacy” *Milton Studies* 50 (2010)

A “World of Nothing, but Pure Wit”: Margaret Cavendish and the Gendering of the Imaginary”, *Partial Answers* vol. 6 no. 1 (January 2008), 1-31

"This great office': Death, Alchemy and Verbal Revivification in John Donne's Anatomy of the World", *Connotations* (Winter 2009)

"Satanic Individualism, Divine Omnipotence and Chaos in John Milton's Paradise Lost: Post-Restoration Ontology and Politics of Uncertainty", in M. Caricchio, G. Tarantino, eds., *Cromohs Virtual Seminars. Recent historiographical trends of the British Studies (17th-18th Centuries)*, 2006-2007: 1-7

Articles in progress:

“a quintessence even from nothingness”: Negative Alchemy, Absence and Presence in John Donne's ‘Nocturnal Upon S. Lucy's Day’

“Christe, Hagie, lapis benedictae”: the Performative Language and Alchemical Mass in the work of Nicholas Melchior.

“Betwixt this world and that of grace”: Theological Surprise Resolved in George Herbert's “The Elixir.”

Translations:

“How to make Justice out of Law:’ An Interview with Gianni Vattimo.” *Common Knowledge* 8:3 (Summer 2002)

“Path to Jerusalem” by Cardinal Maria Martini,” *Common Knowledge*, 13:2-3 (July 2007)

Reviews

“Women, Space, and Utopia, 1600-1800” by Nicole Pohl – *The Scriblerian* Spring 2009

“Giovanni Tarantino, Martin Clifford 1624-1677. Deismo e Tolleranza nell’Inghilterra della Restaurazione.” *Common Knowledge* (in preparation)

“Rocco Coronato, Shakespeare's Neighbors” *Partial Answers* 1:2, 173-176

DELIVERED PAPERS:

From “perplexed doubt” to the “true Religious Alchemy”: Alchemical Poetry, Purification and Cognitive Ascent in John Donne's First and Second Anniversary. - Renaissance Society of America, 2015

“Chaos, Uncreation and Satanic Lapsed Cognition in Paradise Lost.” Renaissance Society of America 2013

“Their inward state of mind”: Conceptions of Fall, Cognitive Distemper and Passions in Milton's Paradise Lost – Renaissance Society of America 2012

“Acta Apothegmata”: Performative Semantics in John Donne's Sermons." John Donne Society Convention 2011

"Eucharistic Poetry and Gendered Textual Consumption in Aemilia Lanyer's Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum." – Renaissance Society of America, Washington DC 2011

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Curriculum Vitae

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“‘Here I have prepar’d my Paschal Lambe’: Eucharistic Writing and Gender in Aemilia Lanyer’s *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*.” – Renaissance Society of America, Montreal, Canada, 2010

“‘purifie / All, by a true religious Alchimy’: Performative Semantics and Alchemic Discourses in John Donne’s *Anatomy of the World*.” Renaissance Society of America, Los Angeles, March 2009.

“‘Real Hunger’: Eating Angels, Monist Ontology and Narrative Epistemology in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.” Pleasures and Horrors of Eating: the Cultural History of Eating in Literature and the Arts, Bonn 27-29, November 2008

“The Orthodoxy and Unorthodoxy of Milton’s Chaos in *Paradise Lost*.” Ninth International Milton Symposium, July 2008, London (UK).

“Skepticism, Wit and the Decadence of the Noble Art of Painting: Roland Fréart, Leonardo da Vinci and the Rebirth of Artistic Perfection.” International Conference on “Leonardo da Vinci in Context: Knowledge and Transgression in Early Modernity”, May 2008, Bar Ilan University, Israel

“‘Biddizza’ and ‘Sapiri’: Knowledge, Beauty and Gender in the Poetry of Girolama Loreface Grimaldi.” Modern Language Association, December 2007, Chicago (USA)

“Teaching Literature in the Middle East: the Ethics of Hermeneutics in Conflict.” Modern Language Association, December 2007, Chicago (USA).

“This great office”: Death, Alchemy, Wit and Verbal Revivification in John Donne’s *Anatomy of the World*. Connotations International Symposium, July 2007, Tuebingen (Germany).

“the loud misrule of Chaos”: Social Entropy, Miltonic Ontology and Liberalism in the Narrative of *Paradise Lost*, International Milton Symposium, Grenoble (France), June 2005

“The loud misrule of Chaos farr remov’d”: Chaos and the Miltonic narrative. International Conference on Chaos and Order in Western Thought, Reims, France, March 2005

“This is the famous stone”: George Herbert’s Poetic Alchemy in “The Elixir,” Hebrew University, English Department Staff Seminar, 2004

“Metaphysical Wit, Belief and John Donne’s Catabolic Sensibility” Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, 2004

“‘Loth to Go up the Hill’: Empiricism and Enlightened Occultism in Donne’s ‘*Anatomy of the World*.’” Modern Language Association (session organizer), December 2003, San Diego (USA)

“‘A true religious / Alchimy’: Alchemy, Hermeticism and Scientific Enlightenment in the poetry of John Donne.” Early Modern Forum, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2003

“Donnean Wit and the Catabolic Sensibility,” Early Modern Forum, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2002

“Donnean Performative Semantics in a Disenchanted Cosmos: A Re-reading of the First Anniversary,” John Donne Society Panel, Modern Language Association Convention, December 2001, New Orleans (USA)

“‘This is the famous stone:’ George Herbert’s Ambiguous Poetic Alchemy.” Alchemical Tradition and Scientific Revolution in Seventeenth-Century England (session organizer), Modern Language Association, December 2001, New Orleans (USA)

“‘Transubstantiate / All to gold:’ John Donne’s Alchemic Eucharist,” “This cannot be said”: Eucharistic Ineffability in Seventeenth Century English Poetry, (session organizer), Modern Language Association, December 2002, Washington D.C.

“Alchemic Poetry in a Disenchanted Cosmos: A Re-reading of the First Anniversary,” Early Modern Forum, Bar Ilan University, 2001

CONFERENCES

ORGANIZED:

Humanists at Work: Research Riddles & the Pleasures of Pursuing Them – Bar Ilan University, October 2013

“Leonardo da Vinci in Context: Knowledge and Transgression in Early Modernity” – Bar Ilan University, Israel, 12-14 May 2008 (www.ldvbiu08.com)

“Perspectives of Early-Modern English Literature” – Bar Ilan University, 18 March 2009

TEACHING FIELDS

Seventeenth-century English and European prose and poetry; late medieval drama and poetry; varieties of metaphysical poetry in England, France and Italy; Renaissance epistemological issues; early-modern women writers; enlightenment and literature.

RESEARCH

Alchemic and occult discourses in seventeenth-century English poetry; conceptions of matter and spirit in the early seventeenth-century poets; women writers; relationship between conceptions of matter and gender definition; religious and proto-scientific discourses in before and after the English revolution; intersection, merging and blurring of modern ontological dualism; gender and enlightenment.

POSITIONS:

Fall 2006 – Assistant Professor – Department of Comparative Literature – Bar Ilan University – tenure-tracked position

Spring 2006 – Visiting Lecturer – Hebrew University – Teaching one undergraduate seminar, taking part in the English department staff course, cooperating in the organization of the Shakespeare courses in the department

Spring 2006 – Visiting Lecturer – Bar Ilan University – Teaching two undergraduate courses in the English department.

Fall 2005 – Visiting Lecturer – Bar Ilan University – Teaching one undergraduate course.

Spring 2005 – Visiting Lecturer – Hebrew University of Jerusalem – Teaching one undergraduate course

Fall 2004 – Visiting Lecturer - Hebrew University of Jerusalem – Teaching one undergraduate course.

Spring 2004 – Post-doctoral Fellow, visiting lecturer – University of Pennsylvania –

teaching one undergraduate seminar

Fall 2003 - Post-doctoral Fellow, visiting lecturer – University of Pennsylvania – teaching one undergraduate seminar

Spring 2003 – Visiting Lecturer – Bar Ilan University – teaching one undergraduate course.

Fall 2002 – Visiting Lecturer – Hebrew University of Jerusalem – teaching one undergraduate course.

LANGUAGES:

English, Italian, French, Hebrew.

ACADEMIC

John Donne Society

SOCIETIES:

Modern Language Association

Renaissance Society of America

Society for the Study of Early Modern Women