



## MEET OUR AMBASSADORS



### **Ayelet Ben-Yishai, PhD**

Associate Professor

Chair, Department of English Language and Literature,  
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**Field of Research:** Literatures in English; Victorian and Postcolonial Literature; World Literature; Politics, Law, and Literature,

### **SHORT BIO**

I am Associate Professor and currently Chair of the Department of English Language and Literature, where I specialize in British and Postcolonial literatures and cultures. A comparatist by training, I have degrees in both Law (LLB, Hebrew University) and Literature (PhD, University of California, Berkeley). I have been an Honorary Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at UW-Madison, a Fellow at the Cornell Society of Fellows, a Visiting Scholar at Jadavpur University in Kolkata, and a recipient of several major grants for my research.

My research is animated by the conviction that literature carries important knowledge about our world and the way we comprehend it. It is a living lab of our societies and cultures and of the way we create meaning. My first book, *Common Precedents: The Presentness of the Past in Victorian Fiction and Law*, (Oxford 2013) argues that precedent constitutes a sophisticated mechanism for managing change in both literature and the law. Moving from Victorian Britain to twentieth-century India, my second book, *Genres of Emergency: Forms of Crisis and Continuity in Indian Writing in English*, (Oxford UP 2023) studies literary genre to understand the varied states of emergency and crisis that have become a fixture of our contemporary world.

### **FUNDRAISING NEEDS**

Legacies of colonialism continue to shape our world today. The initial promise of a more just *postcolonial* world-order seems to slip ever farther away, and the academic field of *postcolonial studies* must urgently reconceptualize the uneven global relations that continue to dominate our world. Scaling up ongoing research initiatives, **we would like to invite you to partner with us in founding the first Center for Postcolonial Studies in Israel**. Bringing together scholars from around the world to the complex social and cultural ecosystem of Haifa, we will address the most pressing needs of our world today: poverty, ongoing violence, the refugee crisis, and the environment. We will regard them as various manifestations of a single complex legacy; we propose a deep think and new vocabularies to produce innovative research with far-reaching impact.