

MILAN ŽONCA

EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

- Charles University, Faculty of Arts • Assistant Professor (Lecturer) in Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Department of Middle Eastern Studies • since 2015
 - Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Philosophy • Postdoctoral Researcher, Department for the Study of Ancient and Medieval Thought • 2016–2020
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ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Charles University, Faculty of Arts • Vice Dean for International Relations • Responsible for the Faculty's international strategy, partnerships, and mobility, and for coordinating the development of its international study programmes • since 2022
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EDUCATION

- Queen Mary, University of London • PhD in History • 2015

Thesis title: *Difference and Intellectual Diversity in Late-Medieval Ashkenaz, 1350–1500*

Supervisor: Professor Miri Rubin

Examiners: Professor Israel Yuval and Professor Ada Rapoport-Albert

- Charles University in Prague • Magister Degree (*summa cum laude*) in Hebrew Studies and Religious Studies • 2009
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BOOKS

- *Nachmanidovy polemiky* [The Polemics of Nachmanides]
Academia, Prague • 2012
 - Šem Tov ibn Falaquera, *Dialog o shodě mezi Tórou a světskou vědou. Dopis ve věci Průvodce tápajících* [Epistle of the Debate, The Letter Concerning the Guide of the Perplexed]
Czech translation and introduction • Filosofia, Prague • 2021
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EDITED VOLUMES

- with M. S. Champion, K. Ihnat, E. Poleg, *Medieval Matters: Europe's Premodern Religious Cultures. Studies in Honour of Miri Rubin*, Studies in Medieval and Reformation Traditions 252, Brill • 2026.

ARTICLES

12. Hannah's Dragons: Gender and Conversion in a Fourteenth-Century Jewish Woman's Manuscript in M. S. Champion, K. Ihnat, E. Poleg & M. Žonca (eds.), *Medieval Matters: Europe's Premodern Religious Cultures. Studies in Honour of Miri Rubin*, Brill • 2026 • 129–151
11. Polemical Dialogues With Christianity in Yom Tov Lipman Mühlhausen's Sefer ha-Nizahon in C. Reinle (ed.), *Religionsgespräche und Religionspolemik im Mittelalter*, Jan Thorbecke Verlag • 2023 • 203–223
10. Israel ben Abraham: An Ashkenazic Translator of Aquinas? *Zutot* 19 • 2022 • 103–120
9. Menahem ben Jacob Shalem and the Study of Philosophy in Late Medieval Prague in O. Pavlíček (ed.), *Studying the Arts in Late Medieval Bohemia: Production, Reception and Transmission of Knowledge*, Brepols • 2021 • 27–47
8. Baby, kde jste? Úvahy o významuplné absenci seniorek ve středověké židovské literatuře [Crones, Where Are You? Musings on the Meaningful Absence of Elderly Women in Medieval Jewish Literature] in V. Bažant et al. (eds.), *Staré baby: Ženy a čas ve středověké Evropě*, Lidové noviny • 2021 • 199–213
7. Avigdor Kara's Appeal Reconsidered: A Transcription and English Translation of a Begging Letter Written by a Late Medieval Scholar from Prague *Judaica Bohemiae* 54:2 • 2019 • 31–48
6. Jüdische Siegel und Stempel aus Dambořitz (with T. Dlesková & P. Kocman) *Judaica Bohemiae* 54:1 • 2019 • 67–92
5. The 'Imagined Communities' of Yom Ṭov Lipman Mühlhausen: Heresy and Communal Boundaries in Sefer Nizzahon in C. Cluse & L. Clemens (eds.), *The Jews of Europe around 1400: Disruption, Crisis, and Resilience*, Harrasowitz • 2018 • 95–119
4. '...And Order Was Upset': Easter, the Eucharist, and the Jews of Prague, 1389 in J. Adams & C. Heß (eds.), *The Medieval Roots of Antisemitism: Continuities and Discontinuities from the Middle Ages to the Present Day*, Routledge • 2018 • 287–305
3. Židovská konverze ke křesťanství ve středověku mezi metaforou a realitou [Jewish Conversion to Christianity in the Middle Ages Between Metaphor and Reality] *Religio* 25:2 • 2017 • 189–204
2. Několik poznámek k intelektuálnímu profilu Avigdora Kary [Some Remarks on the Intellectual Profile of Avigdor Kara] in D. Boušek, M. Křížová & P. Sládek (eds.), *Dvarim meatim: Studie pro Jiřinu Šedinovou* [Festschrift for Jiřina Šedinová], Filozofická fakulta • 2016 • 35–56
1. Apostasy and Authority: The Transformation of Christian Anti-Jewish Polemic in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries

in M. Lyčka (ed.), *Focus Pragensis IX: Yearbook for the Philosophy and Phenomenology of Religion*, OIKOYMENH • 2009 • 61–88

ENCYCLOPAEDIA ENTRIES

- Polemics: Medieval Judaism (with D. Boušek)
Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception, vol. 24, De Gruyter • 2025 • 1068–1078
 - Mühlhausen, Yom Tov Lipmann
Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception, vol. 20, De Gruyter • 2022 • 85–86
-

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *The Intellectual History and Rabbinic Culture of Medieval Ashkenaz* by Ephraim Karnafogel
Journal of Intellectual History and Political Thought 2 • 2013 • 232–238
 - Review of *Between Christian and Jew: Conversion and Inquisition in the Crown of Aragon, 1250–1391* by Paola Tartakoff
Parergon 30 • 2013 • 280–282
 - Review of *Ideas of Power in the Late Middle Ages, 1296–1417* by Joseph Canning
Journal of Intellectual History and Political Thought 1 • 2012 • 261–264
 - Review of *Dialog myšlenkových proudů středověkého judaismu: Mezi izolací a integrací* by Jiřina Šedinová et al.
Asian and African Studies 20 • 2011 • 301–302
-

RECENT TALKS

- Incense and Other Incendiaries: Employing the Senses in Jewish-Christian Polemic • International Medieval Congress 2026, University of Leeds • 8 July 2026
- Studying and Teaching the Bible in Late Medieval Ashkenaz • International Medieval Congress 2025, University of Leeds • 9 July 2025
- Rabbis, Philosophers, and Reformers: The Jewish Community of Prague in the Intellectual Landscape of Late Medieval Bohemia • The Jewish Museum in Prague First Annual Lecture, Bohemian National Hall, New York USA • 20 November 2024
- Hannah's Dragons: Gender and Conversion in a Fourteenth-Century Jewish Woman's Manuscript • 12th Congress of the European Association of Jewish Studies, University of Frankfurt • 17 July 2023
- Philosophical and Kabbalistic Interpretations of Sacrifices in Late Medieval Ashkenaz • 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem • 8 August 2022
- The Reception of Kabbalah and 'Intellectual Resilience': The Example of Late Medieval Ashkenazic Interpretations of Biblical Sacrifice • workshop 'Disruption und Resilienz in der aschkenasisch-jüdischen Geschichte (14.–16. Jh.)', Universität Trier • 8–9 June 2022

- Transregionalism and Jewish ‘Mental Geographies’ in Early Modern East-Central Europe (with P. Sládek) • ‘What’s New, What’s Next? Innovative Methods, New Sources, and Paradigm Shifts in Jewish Studies’, online conference, POLIN • 6 October 2021
- ‘Sephardic Knowledge’ in the East: The Circulation of Philosophical Manuscripts in Ashkenaz Before 1492 • ‘Jewish Transregionalism’, Charles University & Brown University joint workshop, online • 28 July 2020
- The Old Law in Bohemian Reform Discourse: Matthias of Janov on Jews and Judaism • ‘Thinking with and against the Jews. Christian Understandings of the Old Law, 1100–1500’, Queen Mary, University of London • 7–8 November 2019
- Polemical Motifs in Yom Tov Lipman Mühlhausen’s Sefer Nizahon • ‘Religionsgespräche und Religionspolemik im Mittelalter’, Tagung des Konstanzer Arbeitskreises für mittelalterliche Geschichte, Reichenau • 8–11 October 2019
- Christianity and Christians in Yom Tov Lipman Mühlhausen’s Sefer Nizahon • XIth Congress of the European Association of Jewish Studies, Paris • 16 July 2018
- Yom Tov Lipmann Mühlhausen and his 1399 ‘Disputation’ with Pessah/Peter • ‘Disruption and Resilience in Later Medieval Ashkenaz: Jewish Experience and Jewish Reactions, 1350–1520’, Universität Trier • 9–10 July 2018

TEACHING

- Faculty of Arts, Charles University • BA and MA courses include: Introduction to Hebrew & Jewish Studies; Judaism and Interreligious Polemics (with D. Boušek); The Hebrew Chronicles of the First Crusade; Jewish History and Culture in the Middle Ages; Hebrew Bible: The Text and Its History; Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls; Jewish Medieval Cultures and Their Afterlives; History of the Jews in the Czech Lands • since 2013
- School of History, Queen Mary, University of London • Guest lecturer and seminar leader: Outsiders in the Middle Ages; Africa in Europe, 1440–1650: Renaissance Encounters • 2011–2013
- Nový Dvůr Trappist Monastery, Czech Republic • visiting lecturer of Hebrew • 2009–2011, 2017
- Ulpan Praha • modern Hebrew teacher • 2007–2010, 2014–2016

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Coordinator (*garant*) of the BA programme in Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University since 2020
- Head, Academic board of the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University • 2017–2023
- Member, Executive Committee of the European Association of Jewish Studies • since 2023
- Member, 4EU+ Alliance Flagship 2 programme committee (*ex officio*, as Vice Dean) • since 2022

- Member, Charles University rectorate evaluation panels (Programme of Support for Internationalisation of the Charles University; Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Programme) • since 2022
- Member, doctoral study-programme board for Jewish Studies at Faculty of Arts, Charles University • since 2020
- Member, Editorial Board, Prague Medieval Studies (PRAMS), Karolinum Press • since 2020
- Member, Editorial Board, MEDIUM series, Faculty of Arts Press • since 2017
- Member, Editorial Board, Judaica series, Academia Publishing House • since 2013
- Co-organizer, Medieval Matters: A Symposium in Honour of Professor Miri Rubin • School of History, Queen Mary University of London • 29–30 June 2023
- Co-organizer, Nachmanides Forum 2019, ‘The Role of Hebrew Instruction in European Jewish Studies Programmes’ • Prague Centre for Jewish Studies & Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main • 22–24 September 2019
- Organizer, Workshop ‘Difficult Neighbours? Jews and Christians in Medieval Legal Texts’ • Prague Centre for Jewish Studies • 2–3 April 2019
- Organizer, Workshop ‘A Key to the Soul: Philosophical Knowledge, Spiritual Life, and Religious Identity in Medieval Judaism (1250–1600)’ • Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague • 12–13 June 2017
- Convenor, Inter-Disciplinary Lecture Series ‘Medieval Social Conflicts and Contrasts’ • Centre for the Study of the Middle Ages, Faculty of Arts, Charles University • 2016–2019
- Convenor, Graduate Study Day ‘Liturgy in History’ • Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, Queen Mary, University of London • 2013
- Convenor, Postgraduate Association first-year PhD student colloquium • Queen Mary, University of London • 2011–2012
- Peer reviewer • *Auriga; Judaica Bohemiae; Studia Medievalia Bohemica; Religio: Revue pro religionistiku*; Israel Science Foundation

INSTITUTIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

- Herzl Centre for Israel Studies, Charles University • Charles University Rector’s Office institutional development grant • Co-investigator (Principal Investigator: Dr Irena Kalhousová, Faculty of Social Sciences). Coordinating and supporting teaching and research activities in Jewish/Israel studies at Charles University. • 2024–2027
- Teaching Fellow in Modern Hebrew • Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe • Coordinator. Externally funded teaching post in Modern Hebrew. • 2023–2027
- The Next Step for Jewish Studies in Prague: Creating Partnerships, Fostering Dialogue, Sharing Knowledge • Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe • Coordinator. Programme-development and partnership-building initiative for Jewish Studies at Charles University. • 2017–2023

RESEARCH GRANTS

- CoRe - Beyond Security: Role of Conflict in Resilience Building • Postdoctoral researcher (0.1 FTE) • since 2024
- KREAS – Creativity and adaptability as conditions for the success of Europe in an interrelated world • Postdoctoral researcher (0.1 FTE) • 2018–2022
- University Centre for the Study of Ancient and Medieval Thought (UNCE/HUM/016) • Junior team member • 2018–2023
- University Centre for the Study of Ancient and Medieval Intellectual Tradition (UNCE) • Junior team member • 2015–2017
- Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) project no. 15-09766S, ‘The Reflection of Interreligious Relations in Medieval Aragon in the Works of Solomon ibn Adret and Profiat Duran’ • academic collaborator • 2015–2017
- Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) project no. 401/08/0426, ‘Jewish Philosophical and Religious Thought’ • academic collaborator • 2008–2013

MEMBERSHIPS

- European Association of Jewish Studies

LANGUAGES

- Slovak (native), Czech (near-native), English (advanced), Hebrew (advanced), German (advanced), French (intermediate), Latin (intermediate reader)