Prof. Zohar Shavit – Short CV

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Zohar Shavit, former incumbent of the Porter Chair of Semiotics and Culture Research Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University, is a full professor emerita in the School for Cultural Studies, founder and former chairperson of the Program in Research of Child and Youth Culture.

She is an internationally renowned authority on the history of Israeli culture, child and youth culture, and the history of Hebrew and Jewish cultures in modern times, in the context of their relations with various European cultures, in particular with the French and German cultures.

At Tel Aviv University Prof. Shavit founded the academic field of the study of child and youth culture and the study of texts written for Jewish children in German-speaking countries. She has authored major pioneering works on the founding of Hebrew cultural institutions in Eretz-Israel, and studied the processes of the construction of national pasts and their linkages to national-cultural identities. She has also investigated cultural translation and intercultural relations, especially those pertaining to Jewish society in Germany during the Haskalah period, with special emphasis on the construction of its habitus and cultural repertoire, as well as the extent of its acquaintance with non-Jewish cultures.

Thus far Prof. Shavit has published more than ten books, including a pioneering work on the creation of Hebrew culture in Eretz-Israel, published by The Israel Academy of Sciences, *The Construction of Hebrew Culture in the Jewish Yishuv in Eretz-Israel* (1998); a ground-breaking work (in collaboration with Hans-Heino Ewers), on books for Jewish children in German-speaking countries, *Deutsch-jüdische Kinder- und Jugendliteratur. Von der Haskalah bis 1945* (1996); and several other pioneering works on child and youth culture*.* *A Past without Shadow,* *Avar belo Tzel* [Hebrew] – her challenging and polemic study of the construction of the past in German books for children − was published by Routledge in 2005. With Annegret Völpel, she published the first comprehensive description of the cultural history of books for Jewish children in the German-speaking world, *Deutsch-Jüdisch Kinder- und Jugendliteratur. Ein literaturgeschichtlicher Grundriß* (2002). Her standard work *Poetics of Children's Literature* (revised Hebrew edition: *Just Childhood: Introduction to Poetics of Children’s Literature* 1996), was published in Portuguese (2004) and in 2009 in a paperback edition. In 2014 she published with Shmuel Feiner, Natalie Naimark-Goldberg, Tal Kogman (eds.) a pioneering socio-historical study of the republic of books of the Haskalah, *The Library of the Haskalah* [Hebrew]*.*

In addition, she has published more than 110 peer-reviewed articles in various journals in Hebrew, English, German, French, Finnish, Swedish, Danish, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, and Turkish. Prof. Shavit has also translated several children’s books into Hebrew, including E.B. White's *Charlotte’s Web*, for which she received the Hans Christian Andersen Certificate of Honor for distinguished translation.

Between 1998 and 2004 she was the senior researcher of the annual reports prepared by the Pilat Research Institute for the Israeli Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport on the activities of state-subsidized cultural activities.

Over the past twenty years Prof. Shavit has conducted several comprehensive research projects in collaboration with scholars from Israel, Germany and France. Several of these projects have already been completed, among them: *Books for Jewish Children in the German-Speaking Countries*; *Kinder- und Jugendliteratur im Prozeß der Modernisierung*; *Jewish Childhood in Germany under the Third Reich, 1933−1941* (all three together with Prof. Hans-Heino Ewers); *The Construction of Hebrew Culture in Eretz-Israel; German Historical Consciousness and Texts for Children*; *Programming Cultural Contacts; The Functions and Politics of Intercultural Contacts. Case Study: Translation of Israeli Literature into French* (together with Prof. Gideon Toury and Prof. Gisèle Sapiro); and *The Library of the Haskalah 1755−1812: The Creation of a Modern Book Culture in German Jewry* (withProfessors Shmuel Feiner and Christoph Schulte). She has recently concluded a large scale research project entitled: *Innovation durch Tradition? Jüdische Bildungsmedien als Zugang zum Wandel kultureller Ordnungen während der 'Sattelzeit'"* (with Prof. Dr. Simone Lässig).Currently, Prof. Shavit is involved in two pioneering research projects: *The genesis of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda’s Complete Dictionary of Ancient and Modern Hebrew* and *'Anonymous Laborers': The History of Hebrew Literary Translators in the Yishuv Period*.

Her research projects have been backed by several research institutes and foundations, including von Humboldt Foundation, DAAD, GIF (five times), Thyssen Foundation (twice), Berthelsmann Foundation, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (twice), the ISF (six times) and the DFG (twice), amounting to support of nearly four million dollars.

Prof. Shavit has actively participated, often as keynote speaker, in dozens of national and international conferences. She has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, Léon University, and the University of Paris 8, and has been a guest lecturer and presented research seminars at the universities of Bangkok, Berlin, Bonn, Brandeis, Chicago, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Giessen, Gothenburg, Heidelberg, Helsinki, Köln, Leuven, Linköping, Lund, Munich, Northwestern, Naples, Paderborn, Salzburg, Sorbonne, Stockholm, Surrey, Roehampton, Uppsala, Umeå, Vienna, and Vigo.

She has served as vice chairperson of the department of Poetics and Comparative Literature, vice director of the Institute for German History, acting chairperson of the Unit for Culture Research, and vice dean for research in the Faculty of Humanities. She has also been a member of several committees, including the appointments committee of the School of Cultural Studies, the committee for appointments and promotions of Tel Aviv University,Tel Aviv University Research Authority Council, a member of the university committee for research students, and a member of the editorial board of *Kesher*, chair of the finance committee of the School of Cultural Studies, a member of the elected Senate of Tel Aviv University, as well as a representative of the Senate to the University's Board of Directors.

Prof. Shavit has served on the Board of Directors of the Leo Baeck Institute, the editorial board of Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi, and the Rabinovich Foundation for the Arts. She has been a member of several prize committees (Zeev, ACUM, *First-*Publication, Translators, Galaz, Bialik, and Sokolow prizes), as well as of committees dealing with various areas of Israeli culture. She chaired the *Vision 2000* committee of the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport, which drafted and presented the cultural program of the ministry, entitled: *Culture Charter – Vision 2000, Cultural Policy for the State of Israel in the 21st Century: Consensus Statement*. She also chaired the follow-up committee, which supervised and coordinated the work of the committees appointed by the minister. She was appointed a cultural affairs advisor to the Minister of Science, Culture and Sport, a member of the Board of Directors of the Second Television and Radio Authority, and a member of the new Council for Arts and Culture. She served as a of the 18th City Council of the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality, as a cultural affairs advisor to the mayor of the city, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tel Aviv Cinematheque. Currently, she is a member of the board of directors of the Israeli opera and a member of the board of directors of the literary prizes of the ministry of culture.

Prof. Shavit is married to writer and historian Prof. Yaacov Shavit. She has three children (Noga, Uriya and Avner) and two grandchildren (Yonatan and Nimrod).

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