

Curriculum Vitae

Raffaele Esposito, PhD

Contact

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Research fields

Modern Hebrew literature and theatre; Yiddish literature and theatre; theatre studies; comparative literature; Israel studies; Jewish languages and linguistics; translation studies.

Positions

Associate professor, Università di Napoli L'Orientale (Naples, Italy)

Courses

- Modern Hebrew language (undergraduate and graduate)
- Modern Hebrew literature (undergraduate and graduate)

Appointments

- Università di Napoli L'Orientale
 - Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies
 - Public Engagement delegate
 - Quality Assurance Board
 - MA programme in Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa
 - Admission Board
 - Counselling Board
 - Quality Assurance Board
 - Erasmus and International Mobility Board
 - Public Engagement Board
- Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia
 - PhD Board, DREST (Italian Doctoral School of Religious Studies, section: Judaism)

Previous positions at Università di Napoli L'Orientale

2018-2021. Researcher (tenure track).

2012-2018. Adjunct professor: Modern and contemporary Hebrew language and literature.

2012-2016. Post-doctoral research fellow.

Previous appointments at Università di Napoli L'Orientale

2019. Member of the Academic Senate.

Education

- 2007-2010. PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Università di Napoli L'Orientale. Thesis: *Le espressioni idiomatiche dell'ebraico biblico* [The Idioms of Biblical Hebrew] (supervisor: Riccardo Contini). Studies abroad: Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2008), University of Haifa (2009).
2006. MA in Oriental Languages and Cultures, Università di Napoli L'Orientale. Thesis in Semitic Linguistics: *Gli allocutivi in ebraico antico* [Terms of Address in Ancient Hebrew] (supervisor: Riccardo Contini).

Prizes and distinctions

2014. National prizes for translation, Italian Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Special prize awarded to the Centre for Jewish Studies of the University of Naples L'Orientale for the edition of An-ski's *The Dybbuk*, by Aurora Egidio, Raffaele Esposito, Giancarlo Lacerenza.

Affiliations and editorial boards

Associations

- *Centro di Studi Ebraici* [Centre for Jewish Studies] (Università di Napoli L'Orientale)
- *Associazione di Studi Ebraico-Tedeschi Ayin-T* [Association for Jewish-German Studies] (Rome)
- *Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Giudaismo* [Italian Association for the Study of Judaism] (Università di Bologna, Ravenna Campus)
- *European Association for Jewish Studies* (Oxford)
- *European Association of Israel Studies* (SOAS, London)
- *Association for Jewish Studies* (New York)

Editorial boards

- *Series Archivio di Studi Ebraici*. ISSN: 2035-6528
- *Series Laboratorio di traduzione*, Università di Napoli L'Orientale
- *Journal Orientalia Parthenopea*, ISSN: 1972-3598

Research

- 2020-2021. *The struggle on the Jewish stage: 20th-century political theatre in Yiddish and Hebrew*. Research funding: Università di Napoli L'Orientale.
- 2019-2020. *La drammaturgia yiddish: storia e testi* [Yiddish drama: history and texts]. Research funding: Università di Napoli L'Orientale.
- 2016-2020. *Tutto era musica* [Everything was music]. Research project on Yiddish theatre and cinema directed by Prof. Antonio Attisani, University of Turin.
- 2013-2015. *La letteratura teatrale ebraica: trattazione sistematica e traduzioni* [Hebrew dramatic literature: comprehensive survey and translations]. Research funding: Università di Napoli L'Orientale.
- 2012-2016. Post-doctoral fellow, Università di Napoli L'Orientale. Research project: *Eufemismi, disfemismi e linguaggio politicamente corretto in ebraico moderno: semantica dell'uso tra lingua quotidiana, letteratura e mezzi di comunicazione* [Euphemisms, dysphemisms, and political correctness in Modern Hebrew: Semantics of usage in everyday language, literature, and the media].

Publications

Books

- 2024 [in press, c. 350 pages]. *Il grande viaggio del teatro yiddish. Avventure di artisti, testi e performance tra l'Europa centro-orientale e il Nuovo Mondo* [The great journey of the Yiddish theatre. Adventures of artists, texts, and performances between East Central Europe and the New World]. Torino: Accademia University Press.
2016. *La nascita del teatro ebraico. Persone, testi e spettacoli dai primi esperimenti al 1948* [The birth of Hebrew theatre. People, texts, and shows from the first experiments to 1948]. Torino: Accademia University Press. ISBN: 978-88-99200-95-4, 272 pages.
2012. *Dibbuk yiddish. Introduzione, traduzione e nuova edizione del testo originale* (Archivio di Studi Ebraici III\3). Napoli: Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale. ISBN: 978-8867190133, 176 pages [critical edition of the Yiddish text of *The Dybbuk* by Sh. An-ski; annotated in Yiddish, accompanied by Italian introduction, translation, and glossary].

Articles

- 2024 [forthcoming]. "Yiddish and Hebrew stage across land and language borders. A transnational and translinguistic theater in the first half of the 20th century".
- 2024 [forthcoming]. "Born in translation. An author's life in exile and the multilingual history of a Jewish play".
- 2024 [in press]. "The love of (a mythical) Zion. Nation building and depictions of landscape in early modern Hebrew literature and drama". *Les représentations paysagères dans les littératures du monde arabe et du Proche-Orient*, ed. by Gianluca Saitta.
2023. "Jewish theatres and Jewish languages. Intersections of the Yiddish and the Hebrew stage". *In Vivo Arts* 1. ISSN: 2825-9599.
2022. "A stage for the Revolution. Yiddish and Hebrew workers' theatres in the interwar period". *Materia Giudaica* 27: 609-624. ISSN: 2282-4499.
2022. "From Russia with a theatre. Habima, Gesher, and the recurring story of a Russian company immigrating to Israel". *Forme dell'abitare / forme del transitare. Adattamenti, traslazioni, contaminazioni linguistiche e letterarie in Europa centrale e orientale*, ed. by Daniela Allocca, Andrea F. De Carlo, Donatella di Leo, Gabriella Sgambati. Roma: Universitalia, pp. 229-252. ISBN: 978-8832936414.
2020. "The hero and his death. Hebrew theatre between national revival and voices of dissent". *Materia Giudaica* 25: 191-202. ISSN: 2282-4499.
2020. "Le origini dello yiddish: ipotesi a confronto [The origins of Yiddish: Comparing hypotheses]". *La Rassegna Mensile di Israel* 85/2: 145-166. ISSN: 0033-9792.
2019. "Real and imaginary Yiddishland. A journey along the borders of a borderless nation". *Materia Giudaica* 24: 473-484. ISSN: 2282-4499.
2018. "«Se ti dimentico, Gerusalemme, è per Tel Aviv». Raccontare le città di Israele [«If I forget you, Jerusalem, it's because of Tel Aviv». Narrating the cities of Israel]". *La città in Asia: letture critiche degli spazi urbani antichi e moderni*, ed. by Gala Maria Follaco and Giulia Rampolla. Roma: Viella, pp. 57-77. ISBN: 978-8833130361.
2018. "«A Little No. 5 didn't blow up that morning». Israeli fiction in the time of the Second Intifada". *Materia Giudaica* 23: 103-114. ISSN: 2282-4499.
2016. "An Israeli subversive biblical novel: the Italian version of Yochi Brandes' *Melakhim Gimel*". *Translating East and West*, ed. by Oriana Palusci and Katherine E. Russo. Trento: Tangram Edizioni Scientifiche, pp. 327-336. ISBN: 978-8864581323.

2015. Introduction to *Tra due mondi. Il dibbuk*, by S. An-ski. Novara: Libromania.
2014. "Lexical wars: Euphemisms and dysphemisms in phrases relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict". *Materia Giudaica* 19: 537-547. ISSN: 2282-4499.
2014. "Hebraisms in English versions of the Bible". *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*, ed. by Geoffrey Khan. Leiden – Boston: Brill, online edition. ISSN: 2212-4241.
2013. "Translation of Hebrew in English Bible versions". *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*, ed. by Geoffrey Khan. Leiden – Boston: Brill, vol. 3, pp. 847-850. ISBN: 978-9004176423.
2012. Introduction to S. An-ski. *Tra due mondi: Il dibek. Leggenda drammatica in quattro atti*, in Esposito 2012. Italian translation of the Yiddish play *Tsvishn tsvey veltn: Der dibek. Dramatishe legende in fir aktn*.
2011. "Etimologia e motivazioni metaforiche: il campo lessico-semantico della fuga tra semitico e indoeuropeo". *L'etimologia. Atti del XXXV Convegno della Società Italiana di Glottologia*, a cura di Alberto Manco e Domenico Silvestri. Roma: Il Calamo, pp. 273-278. ISBN: 8889837764.
- 2009 (2012). "Kinship terms as forms of address in Biblical Hebrew: Fictive and literal use". *AION* 69: 127-140. ISSN: 0393-3180.
2009. "L'allocuzione indiretta in ebraico antico". *Orientalia Parthenopea* 10: 73-88. ISSN: 1972-3598.

Translations

- 2019 (Italian-Hebrew). Valerio Magrelli. "Cinque poesie politiche di Valerio Magrelli". *Dialogoi* 6: 215-219. ISSN: 2420-9856.
- 2018 (English-Italian). Lester L. Grabbe. "La Diaspora ebraica al tempo dei Maccabei". *Ebrei, una storia italiana. I primi mille anni*, a cura di Anna Foa, Giancarlo Lacerenza, Daniele Jalla. Milano: Mondadori Electa, pp. 40-44. ISBN: 978-8891817150.
- 2018 (English-Italian). Dan Bahat. "Gerusalemme e il suo Tempio: storia e monumenti dell'era ellenistico-romana". *Ibid.*, pp. 55-57.
- 2018 (English-Italian). Tessa Rajak. "Gli ebrei nella vita della Roma imperiale". *Ibid.*, pp. 70-77.
- 2018 (English-Italian). Leonard V. Rutgers. "Le catacombe ebraiche e gli Ebrei di Roma nella Tarda Antichità". *Ibid.*, pp. 78-84.
- 2018 (English-Italian). David Noy. "La Magna Grecia ebraica: Sicilia e Calabria". *Ibid.*, pp. 100-107.
- 2018 (English-Italian). Kenneth Stow. "La cultura ebraica italiana dell'Alto Medioevo". *Ibid.*, pp. 134-138.
- 2015 (Yiddish-Italian). S. An-ski. *Tra due mondi. Il dibbuk*. Novara: Libromania (translation from Yiddish into Italian of the play *Tsvishn tsvey veltn: Der dibek. Dramatishe legende in fir aktn*).
- 2010 (Hebrew-Italian; subtitles for classroom use). *I segreti*, a film directed by Avi Nesher (*Ha-sodot*, Israel, 2007).

Reviews

2014. Berakhyah ben Natronai ha-Nakdan, *Sefer Ko'ah ha-Avanim (On the Virtue of the Stones). Hebrew text and English translation. With a lexicological analysis of the Romance terminology and source study (Études sur le judaïsme médiéval, 40)*. Edited, translated and annotated by Gerrit Bos and Julia Zwink. Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2010. Reviewed in *Orientalia Parthenopea* 14: 115-117. ISSN: 1972-3598.

Talks and lectures

2024. "No longer a land of milk and honey. Hostile nature in Hebrew speculative fiction". *Wandering beyond the Boundaries: Defining the Natural in Jewish and Modern Hebrew Literature*. International Conference, INALCO, Paris (14th November).
2024. "A rejected mother and her lingering ghost. The role of Yiddish during the formative years of Israeli Hebrew". *Small languages, big ideas: the smaller Germanic languages from a theoretical, general and comparative perspective*. International Conference, Uppsala Universitet (13th June).
2024. "Conoscere in senso biblico. Espressioni idiomatiche e figure tra Bibbia ebraica e traduzioni [To know in a biblical sense. Idioms and figures of speech across Hebrew Bible and translations]". *Procedimenti di stile. La lingua in figure*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale (22nd March).
2023. "Yiddish and Hebrew stage across land and language borders: A transnational and translinguistic theatre in the first half of the 20th century". *East-Central Europe at the Crossroads: Jewish Transnational Networks and Identities*. International conference, Polin, Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw (19th June).
2023. "Dal sacrificio alla santificazione. Lo yiddish e la sua relazione tormentata con l'ebraico [From sacrifice to sanctification. Yiddish and its troubled relationship with Hebrew]". *Language Reclamation*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (26th May).
2023. "«Lì dove noi viviamo». La condizione diasporica dello Yiddishland [«There, where we live». The diasporic state of Yiddishland]". *Diaspore. Dispersioni e pluralità ebraiche fra mondo antico e contemporaneo*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (18th April).
2023. "Born in translation. An author's life in exile and the multilingual history of a Jewish play". *Exil et traduction. Phénomènes parallèles et croisements*. Journées d'études, Aix-Marseille Université, Aix-en-Provence (27th March).
2022. "Jewish theatres and Jewish languages: intersections of the Yiddish and the Hebrew stage". *Le théâtre juif: un objet anthropologique ?* International conference, INALCO, Paris (28th June).
2022. "Teatro yiddish: un'arte migrante tra vecchi e nuovi mondi [Yiddish theatre: a migrant art between old and new worlds]". *Seminario di cultura ebraica*. Seminar lecture, Comunità Ebraica di Genova, Genoa (11th January).
2021. "Attori ebrei dalla Russia all'America (passando per Londra) [Jewish actors from Russia to America (via London)]". *In viaggio contro la propria volontà, in Transizioni. Futuro Remoto 2021*. Lecture, Città della Scienza, Naples (26th November).
2021. "The love of (a mythical) Zion. Nation building and depictions of landscape in early modern Hebrew literature and drama". *Les représentations paysagères dans les littératures du monde arabe et du Proche-Orient*. International conference, INALCO, Paris (16th October).
2021. "Il palcoscenico della Rivoluzione. Teatro politico tra yiddish ed ebraico nella prima metà del Novecento". *34th International Congress of the Italian Association for the Study of Judaism*. International conference, Università di Bologna, Ravenna Campus (3rd September).
2021. "'And I will strike down upon thee': le traduzioni della Bibbia e l'invenzione dell'inglese biblico [Bible translations and the invention of Biblical English]". *Teorie, spazi e pratiche della traduzione*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (19th May).
2021. "Bibbia, letteratura e identità israeliana [Bible, literature, and Israeli identity]". *La Bibbia nelle letterature d'Oriente e d'Occidente*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (7th April).

2019. "From Russia with a theatre. Habima, Gesher, and the recurring story of a Russian company immigrating to Israel". *Forms of Moving / Forms of Living. Adaptations, Translations, Linguistic and Literary Contaminations in Central and Eastern Europe*. International conference, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (13th December).
2019. "Killing the *mame-loshn*. The sacrifice of mother tongue at the altar of a new Hebrew identity". *Maternal Sacrifice in Jewish Culture. Rethinking Sacrifice from a Maternal Perspective in Religion, Art, and Culture*. International conference, INALCO, Paris (21st November).
2019. "La morte dell'eroe. Il teatro ebraico da strumento della rinascita nazionale a voce del dissenso [The death of the hero. Hebrew theatre from instrument of the national rebirth to voice of dissent]". *33rd International Congress of the Italian Association for the Study of Judaism*. International conference, Università di Bologna, Ravenna Campus (2nd September).
2019. "Tel Aviv". *Metropoli. Un viaggio attraverso le città dell'Oriente. I Saperi dell'Orientale*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (16th May).
2018. "Tra ulica Krochmalna e il Lower East Side. Lo Yiddishland nell'opera di I. B. Singer [Between ulica Krochmalna and the Lower East Side. Yiddishland in the work of I.B. Singer]". *32nd International Congress of the Italian Association for the Study of Judaism*. International conference, Università di Bologna, Ravenna Campus (6th September).
2018. *Talk with the Israeli author Savyon Liebrecht*. Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (28th February).
2017. "Il teatro ebraico [Hebrew theatre]". *Teatro ebraico, teatro yiddish. Storie, immagini, personaggi fra Vienna, Varsavia e Genova*. Lecture, Biblioteca e Museo dell'Attore, Genoa (8th November).
2017. "«Quella mattina il nove piccolo non era esploso». Narrativa israeliana al tempo della Seconda Intifada [«A Little No. 5 didn't blow up that morning». Israeli fiction in the time of the Second Intifada]". *31st International Congress of the Italian Association for the Study of Judaism*. International conference, Università di Bologna, Ravenna Campus (4th September).
2017. "Yiddish: da lingua di una nazione a lingua di un'idea [Yiddish: from language of a nation to language of an idea]". *Le lingue degli ebrei: problemi e metodi*. Conference, Centro Bibliografico dell'UCEI, Rome (7th June).
- 2016 (with Andrea F. De Carlo, Sarah Kaminski, Giancarlo Lacerenza). *Dybuk. Il taccuino di Andrzej Wajda* [Dybbuk. The sketchbook of Andrzej Wajda]. Lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (24th November).
2016. "Lingua e cultura yiddish in Isaac Bashevis Singer [Yiddish language and culture in Isaac Bashevis Singer]". *Giornata Europea della Cultura Ebraica*. Lecture, Jewish Community of Naples (18th September).
2016. "Yiddish". *Giudeo-lingue. Chi parla, quando, dove e con chi*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (28th April).
2015. "The Eleven-Minute War: 1967 as a turning point for Israeli theatre". *Shibboleth 1967/1968*. International conference, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warsaw (4th December).
2015. "In principio: il testo della Bibbia ebraica [In the beginning: The text of the Hebrew Bible]". *La Bibbia e le sue traduzioni. I: le versioni antiche*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (19th November).
2015. "Plurilinguismo ebraico e critica testuale [Jewish plurilingualism and textual criticism]". *World Philologies*, Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (4th June).
- 2015 (with Aurora Egidio, Giancarlo Lacerenza, and Olek Mincer). *Il dybbuk fra tre mondi*. [The dybbuk among three worlds]. Lecture, Università di Salerno (12th May).
2015. *Talk with the Israeli author Miki Bencaan*. Libreria Ubik, Naples (28th January).

2013. "Manfred, Adam, Erich: rappresentazioni della diaspora ebraico-tedesca nella narrativa israeliana [Manfred, Adam, Erich: depictions of the Jewish-German diaspora in Israeli fiction]". *Die deutsch-jüdischen Migranten in Israel in literarischen und mündlich-autobiographischen Zeugnissen. Kulturwissenschaftliche und linguistische Analysen*. International conference, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (12th December).
2013. "Guerre lessicali. Eufemismi e disfemismi nelle espressioni relative al conflitto arabo-israeliano [Lexical wars. Euphemisms and dysphemisms in phrases concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict]". *27th International Congress of the Italian Association for the Study of Judaism*. International conference, Università di Bologna, Ravenna Campus (2nd October).
- 2012 (with Asher Salah et al.). "Le donne nel cinema israeliano di ieri e di oggi [Women in yesterday's and today's Israeli cinema]". Lecture, *CinemaTov* Film Festival, Bari (26th November).
- 2012 (with Fiorenzo Iuliano et al.). "Quando si traduce da una lingua minore [Translating from a minor language]". *Translating East and West*. International conference, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (9th November).
- 2012 (with Giancarlo Lacerenza). *Il dibbuk fra tre mondi [The Dybbuk among three worlds]*. Lecture, Goethe-Institut, Turin (28th September).
2012. *Dallo shtetl a Hollywood: mille anni di lingua e cultura yiddish [From the shtetl to Hollywood: Thousand years of Yiddish language and culture]*. Lecture, Jewish Community of Naples (24th June).
2012. *Talk with the Israeli author Nir Baram*. Libreria Ubik, Naples (25th January).
2011. "Termini di parentela e allocuzione: Uno studio cognitivo dell'ebraico biblico [Kinship terms and terms of address: A cognitive study on Biblical Hebrew]". *Nuove acquisizioni documentarie e metodologiche degli studi sul Vicino Oriente antico*. Seminar, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (22nd March).
2010. "Etimologia e motivazioni metaforiche: Il campo lessico-semantico della fuga tra semitico e indoeuropeo [Etymology and metaphoric motivation: The lexical-semantic field of the flight between Semitic and Indo-European]". *35th Congress of the Italian Society of Glottology*. International conference, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (23rd October).
- 2010 (with Giancarlo Lacerenza and Aurora Egidio). *Il dibbuk fra tre mondi [The dibbuk among three worlds]*. Lecture, Penguin Café, Naples (29th November).
2010. "Di goldene medine: Il cinema yiddish tra Polonia e Stati Uniti [Di goldene medine: Yiddish cinema between Poland and the United States]". *I progetti dell'uomo, il riso di Dio. Arti ed emozioni dalla cultura yiddish*. Conference, Former concentration camp of Fossoli, Carpi, Modena (25th September).
2010. Introduction to *Jewish Music and Yiddish Language*. Lecture by Daniel Galay. Conservatorio di Musica San Pietro a Majella, Naples (24th September).
2010. "Lo yiddish come lingua di contatto [Yiddish as a contact language]". *Safoth Yehudiyoth – Giudeo-lingue – Jewish languages*. Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (24th May).
- 2009 (with Giancarlo Lacerenza). "Tradurre il gran codice: perché è necessario ritradurre la Bibbia [Translating the Great Code: why it is necessary to retranslate the Bible]". *Esistono gli intraducibili?* Seminar lecture, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Naples (31st March).

Seminars and workshops

2021. *L'avventura del teatro yiddish dall'Europa Orientale a Broadway* [The adventure of Yiddish theatre from Eastern Europe to Broadway]. Università di Napoli L'Orientale (13th April – 18th May).
2021. *Laboratorio di traduzione sulla satira israeliana* [Israeli satire translation workshop]. Università di Napoli L'Orientale (2nd March – 9th April).
- 2015 (with Florinda de Simini, Antonio Manieri, et al.). *World Philologies*. Università di Napoli L'Orientale (5th May – 17th June).
2013. *Quattro madri. Seminario e rassegna di cinema israeliano* [Four mothers. Israeli film show and seminar]. Università di Napoli L'Orientale (9-30th May).
2012. «*E l'amore riderà dell'inferno e del cielo*». *Seminario e rassegna di cinema israeliano* [«And love will laugh at Heaven and at Hell». Israeli film show and seminar]. Università di Napoli L'Orientale (16th April – 14th May).
2010. *A fargesene velt – Un mondo dimenticato. Seminario e rassegna di cinema yiddish* [A forgotten world. Yiddish film show and seminar]. Università di Napoli L'Orientale (5-26th March).

Relevant professional qualifications and experiences

- 2018-present. Member of the examining committee for tour guides of the Region Apulia, Italy.
Subject: Hebrew language.
- 2016-present. Member of the examining committee for tour guides of the Region Campania, Italy.
Subject: Hebrew language.

Languages

Mother tongue: Italian.

Proficient: English, Hebrew, Yiddish, French.

Basic: German, Swedish, Russian, Hungarian, Arabic.

IT & other

Professional proficiency in:

- Database management systems with graphic user interfaces (web-based or desktop) for data collection, analysis, and presentation or for online networks.
- Photography and image editing.

Updated on 19 June 2024