

## *Curriculum Vitae*

# Raffaele Esposito, PhD

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Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo  
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### Research fields

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

### Current position

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Associate professor, University of Naples L'Orientale.

#### Courses

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

#### Administrative appointments

- Erasmus and International Mobility Committee
- Public Engagement Committee
- Public Engagement delegate, Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies
- Quality Assurance Group, Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies
- Research Committee, Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies
- Counselling Group, MA programme in Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa
- Entrance Committee, MA programme in Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa

### Previous positions

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2018-2021. Researcher (tenure track), University of Naples L'Orientale.

2012-2018. Adjunct professor: Modern and Contemporary Hebrew Language and Literature.  
University of Naples L'Orientale.

2012-2016. Post-doctoral research fellow. University of Naples L'Orientale.

2011. Teaching assistant: Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew. University of Naples L'Orientale.

#### Previous administrative appointments

2019. Member of the Academic Senate.

## Education

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- 2007-2010. PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Studies, University of Naples 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, University of Naples L'Orientale. Thesis in Semitic Linguistics: *Gli allocutivi in ebraico antico* [Terms of Address in Ancient Hebrew] (supervisor: Riccardo Contini).

## Prizes and distinctions

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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

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### Associations

- *Centro di Studi Ebraici* [Centre for Jewish Studies] (University of Naples 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] (University of 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 of the Translation Workshop, University of Naples L'Orientale
- Journal *Orientalia Parthenopea*, ISSN: 1972-3598

## Research

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- 2020-2021. *The struggle on the Jewish stage: 20th-century political theatre in Yiddish and Hebrew*. Research funding: University of Naples L'Orientale.
- 2019-2020. *La drammaturgia yiddish: storia e testi* [Yiddish drama: history and texts]. Research funding: University of Naples 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: University of Naples L'Orientale.
- 2012-2016. Post-doctoral fellow, University of Naples 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

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### Books

- 2021 [in press, c. 350 pages]. *L'avventura del teatro yiddish. Viaggi di testi e performance tra l'Europa Orientale e Broadway* [The adventure of the Yiddish theatre. Journeys of texts and performances between Eastern Europe and Broadway]. 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

- 2021 [in press]. "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 Gabriella Sgambati, Donatella Di Leo, Daniela Allocca, Andrea F. De Carlo. Roma: Universitalia.
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. Dramatische legende in fir aktn*.

2011. "Etimologia e motivazioni metaforiche: il campo lessico-semanticamente 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 tsey veltn: Der dibek. Dramatische 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. Berakhayah 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

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, University of 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, University of Naples L'Orientale (19th May).
2021. "Bibbia, letteratura e identità israeliana [Bible, literature, and Israeli identity]". *La Bibbia nelle letterature d'Oriente e d'Occidente*. Seminar, University of Naples L'Orientale (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, University of Naples L'Orientale (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, University of Bologna, Ravenna Campus (2nd September).
2019. "Tel Aviv". *Metropoli. Un viaggio attraverso le città dell'Oriente. I Saperi dell'Orientale*. Series of lectures, University of Naples L'Orientale (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, University of Bologna, Ravenna Campus (6th September).
2018. *Talk with the Israeli author Savoyon Liebrecht*. University of Naples L'Orientale (28th February).
2017. "Il teatro ebraico [Hebrew theatre]". *Teatro ebraico, teatro yiddish. Storie, immagini, personaggi fra Vienna, Varsavia e Genova*. Series of lectures, Library and Museum of the Actor, 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, University of 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]". Conference, *Le lingue degli ebrei: problemi e metodi*. 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, University of Naples L'Orientale (24th November).
2016. "Lingua e cultura yiddish in Isaac Bashevis Singer [Yiddish language and culture in Isaac Bashevis Singer]". Lecture, *Giornata Europea della Cultura Ebraica*. Jewish Community of Naples (18th September).
2016. "Yiddish". *Giudeo-lingue. Chi parla, quando, dove e con chi*. Seminar, University of Naples L'Orientale (28th April).
2015. "The Eleven-Minute War: 1967 as a turning point for Israeli theatre". *Shibboleth 1967/1968*. International conference, University of 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, University of Naples L'Orientale (19th November).
2015. "Plurilinguismo ebraico e critica testuale [Jewish plurilingualism and textual criticism]". *World Philologies*, Seminar, University of Naples L'Orientale (4th June).
- 2015 (with Aurora Egidio, Giancarlo Lacerenza, and Olek Mincer). *Il dybbuk fra tre mondi*. [The dybbuk among three worlds]. Lecture, University of Salerno (12th May).
2015. *Talk with the Israeli author Miki Bencaan*. Ubik bookstore, 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, University of Naples L'Orientale (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, University of 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, Film festival *CinemaTov*, 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, University of Naples L'Orientale (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*. Ubik bookstore, 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, University of Naples L'Orientale (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, University of Naples L'Orientale (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. Conservatory of Music 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, University of Naples L'Orientale (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, University of Naples L'Orientale (31st March).

## Seminars and workshops

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2021. *L'avventura del teatro yiddish dall'Europa Orientale a Broadway [The adventure of Yiddish theatre from Eastern Europe to Broadway]*. University of Naples L'Orientale (13th April – 18th May).

2021. *Laboratorio di traduzione sulla satira israeliana* [Israeli satire translation workshop]. University of Naples L'Orientale (2nd March – 9th April).
- 2015 (with Florinda de Simini, Antonio Manieri, et al.). *World Philologies*. University of Naples L'Orientale (5th May – 17th June).
2013. *Quattro madri. Seminario e rassegna di cinema israeliano* [Four mothers. Israeli film show and seminar]. University of Naples 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]. University of Naples 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]. University of Naples L'Orientale (5-26th March).

## Relevant professional qualifications and experiences

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- 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

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Mother tongue: Italian.

Advanced proficiency: English, Hebrew, Yiddish, French.

Intermediate: German, Russian.

Basic: Swedish, Hungarian, Arabic.

## IT

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Professional proficiency in designing and building dynamic, database-driven websites, online communities, and web-based or desktop software. Programming: PHP, Xojo. Markup: XHTML, CSS. Databases management systems: MySQL, SQLite, ODB.

Updated on 8th October 2021