Katharina Galor – Academic Biography

Current Positions

Hirschfeld Associate Teaching Professor of Judaic Studies, Brown University (2021–present)

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Program in Judaic Studies

Affiliate Faculty, Center for Middle East Studies and Program in Urban Studies, Brown University

Visiting Scholar, Taub Center for Israel Studies, New York University (2024–2025)

Education

Ph.D., Old World Art and Archaeology, Brown University (1996)

D.E.A., Art History and Archaeology, Université d'Aix-Marseille (1991, magna cum laude)

Maîtrise and Licence, Art History and Archaeology, Université d'Aix-Marseille (1987–1988)

Abitur, Comenius Gymnasium, Düsseldorf, Germany (1985)

Research and Teaching Profile

Trained as an art historian and archaeologist, I specialize in the visual and material culture of Israel-Palestine with a focus on cultural heritage, gender, and Jewish studies. My work spans ancient domestic architecture, contemporary questions of memory and identity, and the politics of representation.

At Brown, I teach courses on Jerusalem, Israeli and Palestinian cinema, Jewish art and architecture, gender in antiquity and modernity, and public humanities. My research bridges disciplinary and geographic boundaries, combining fieldwork, archival research, and public scholarship.

Books (Authored and Co-Authored)

Out of Gaza: A Tale of Love, Exile, and Friendship (Potomac Books / University of Nebraska Press, 2025)

Jewish Women: Between Conformity and Agency (Routledge, 2024)

The Moral Triangle: Germans, Israelis, Palestinians (Duke University Press, 2020; German edition: De Gruyter, 2021) – with Sa'ed Atshan

Finding Jerusalem: Archaeology between Science and Ideology (University of California Press, 2017)

The Archaeology of Jerusalem: From the Origins to the Ottomans (Yale University Press, 2013) – with Hanswulf Bloedhorn

Le jeu d'Esther: La femme juive dans le Comtat Venaissin (in submission) – with Aurélie Lior Bonan

Edited and Co-Edited Books

Qumran: The Site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Archaeological Interpretations and Debates (Brill, 2006) – co-ed. with Jean-Baptiste Humbert & Jürgen Zangenberg

Crossing the Rift: Resources, Routes, Settlement Patterns and Interaction in the Wadi Arabah (Oxbow, 2006) – co-ed. with Piotr Bienkowski

From Antioch to Alexandria: Studies in Domestic Architecture during the Roman and Byzantine Periods (Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean, 2007) – co-ed. with Tomasz Waliszewski

Unearthing Jerusalem: 150 Years of Archaeological Research in the Holy City (Eisenbrauns, 2011) – co-ed. with Gideon Avni

Gender and Social Norms in Ancient Israel, Early Judaism and Christianity (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019) – co-ed. with Martin Bauks & Jutta Hartenstein

Reel Gender: Palestinian and Israeli Cinema (Bloomsbury, 2022) – co-ed. with Sa'ed Atshan

Resisting Far-Right Politics in the Middle East and Europe: Queer Feminist Critiques (Edinburgh University Press, 2024) – co-ed. with Tulay Altay & Nadje Al-Ali

Current Projects

Innocent Knowledge: Israeli and Palestinian Children's Drawings (2024–2025) Co-directed with Amani Moussa, this traveling exhibition explores the visual expressions of children from Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Drawing from Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze communities, the project examines the impact of war, displacement, and identity formation through the lens of childhood art.

The Darius Milhaud Triptych (2023–2024)

Co-curated with Kai Hinrich Müller, this interdisciplinary series of concerts, lectures, and video installations marks the 50th anniversary of French-Jewish composer Darius Milhaud's death. Staged across France, Germany, and the U.S., the project explores Jewish identity, exile, antisemitism, and resistance through Milhaud's legacy in music, politics, and visual art.

Selected Honors and Fellowships

Fellow, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania (2023–2024)

Marcus Bierich Distinguished Visitor, American Academy in Berlin (2020)

Fellow, Einstein Center Chronoi, Berlin (2018)

National Science Foundation Grants (2008, 2012)

Brown University Arts Initiative, Public Humanities, and Salomon Research Grants (2025)

Teaching Areas

Jerusalem: Politics, Heritage, and Religion

Jewish Art and Architecture from Antiquity to Present

Israeli and Palestinian Cinema

Gender in Ancient and Modern Jewish Contexts

Public Humanities in Israel-Palestine

Urban Studies and Cultural Memory

Languages

Modern: German, French, English, Hebrew (fluent); Italian, Hungarian (proficient); Arabic (basic)

Ancient: Biblical Hebrew (proficient); Greek and Latin (reading knowledge)

Public Engagement

In addition to academic research and teaching, I engage actively in public scholarship. I have participated in cultural heritage evaluation for UNESCO and contribute essays and opinion pieces on memory, identity, gender, and Israel-Palestine. My work has also been featured in documentary films, podcasts, and cultural programming across Europe, the U.S., and the Middle East.