

## **Prof. Zohar Shavit – Short CV**

Zohar Shavit, incumbent of the Porter Chair of Semiotics and Culture Research, is a full professor at the School for Cultural Studies and the Chairperson of the Program in Research of Child and Youth Culture at Tel Aviv University. 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.

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 Enlightenment 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 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 addition, she has published more than ninety 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 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 *The Library of the Haskalah 1755-1812: The Creation of a Modern Book Culture in German Jewry* (with Professors Shmuel Feiner and Christoph Schulte).

Currently, Prof. Shavit is involved in two research projects: "The Linguistic Map of Jews in Eretz-Israel at the End of the Ottoman Period and during the British Mandate"; and "Innovation durch Tradition? Jüdische Bildungsmedien als Zugang zum Wandel kultureller Ordnungen während der 'Sattelzeit'" (with Prof. Dr. Simone Lässig).

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 (four 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 and acting chairperson of the Unit for Culture Research. 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, and the elected Senate of Tel Aviv University, as well as a representative of the Senate to the University's Board of Directors and chair of the finance committee of the School of Cultural Studies. She is currently vice dean for research in the Faculty of Humanities, a member of the university committee for research students and a member of the editorial board of *Kesher*.

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 member of the 18<sup>th</sup> City Council of the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality and is currently cultural affairs advisor to the mayor of the city, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Tel Aviv Cinematheque.

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).

**Address:**

University: The Porter School of Cultural Studies. Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, 69978 Tel Aviv, Israel.

Office:

Tel: 972-3-6409188; Fax: 972-3-6405800

*E-mail:* [zshavit@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:zshavit@post.tau.ac.il); [shavit.zohar@gmail.com](mailto:shavit.zohar@gmail.com); [zshavit@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:zshavit@tauex.tau.ac.il)

Home:

25 Hazzaz Street, 69470 Tel Aviv, Israel.

Tel: 972-3-6472873; Fax: 972-3-6449383; Mobile: 972-54-5555-411