

Prof. Shulamit Elizur

Curriculum Vitae – July 2022

Shulamit Elizur was born on Erev Pesach, 1955, to editor and author Meir Hovav, and Dr. Leah Hovav, a scholar in the field of children's literature. She studied in Horev elementary and high school in Jerusalem, and in 1975 she began her undergraduate studies in Hebrew University, where she went on to complete her graduate studies and doctoral degree in 1981 (under the tutelage of Prof. Ezra Fleishcer ז"ל). She taught in the Department of Hebrew Literature in Hebrew University for forty years (1979–2019), and her students currently teach in universities and academic institutions worldwide.

Elizur's primary area of research is piyyutim, especially those found in the Cairo Geniza. She has published over 100 academic articles and several books, most notably five books dedicated to the monumental works of R. Eleazar b. Qillir, the illustrious liturgical poet who was active in the Land of Israel in late antiquity. The pinnacle of Elizur's research is her comprehensive and innovative book *Sod Meshalshei Qodesh*, which decodes the riddles of the *qedushta* – the central genre in classical piyyut. She also dedicated a three-volume study to secular medieval Hebrew poetry in Spain, published by The Open University of Israel Press. Her other fields of interest include the Hebrew language, and the history of Jewish liturgy and customs. She has written several foundational articles on the history of Jewish liturgy, most notably the book *Wherefore have We Fasted?*, which follows the development of an ancient list of fast days.

Since the passing of Prof. Ezra Fleischer (2006), Prof. Elizur has served as head of the Ezra Fleischer Geniza Research Project for Hebrew Poetry. She is also a member of the Academy of the Hebrew Language; member of the Government Naming Committee; member of the editorial board of Mekize Nirdamim publishing house (where she previously served as chairman of the board for several years); board member of the Rabbi Moses & Amalia Rosen Foundation; and board member of Herzog College. She served as editor of various academic journals, including *Tarbiz* and *Qovez Al Yad*, and is a member of the editorial board of *Jerusalem Studies in Hebrew Literature*, *Leshonenu*, and *Massekhet*.

Shulamit Elizur was awarded the Ben-Zvi Prize for her comprehensive book *The Liturgical Poems of Rabbi Pinhas HaKohen*, and the Rabbi Kook Prize for her book *A Poem for Every Parasha* (which provides easy access to the world of piyyut through an analysis of piyyutim on the weekly portion). In 2022 she was elected as a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.