**Sharon Avni, PhD**

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**Contact Information**

Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Department of Academic Literacy and Linguistics

199 Chambers St., Room N481, New York, NY 10007

savni@bmcc.cuny.edu

#### Education

#### *Ph.D.* New York University, TESOL, 2009

# Dissertation: Educating for Continuity: An ethnography of multilingual language practices in Jewish day school education. Committee: Bambi Schieffelin, Robert Chazan, Gigliana Melzi

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*M.S. Ed*., Tel Aviv University, Language Education (TESOL), 2000

Thesis: Language maintenance of American immigrants in Israel. Advisor: Elana Shohamy

*Teaching Certification (TESOL)*, Tel Aviv University, 1996

*B.A.,* Binghamton University (SUNY), English, 1992

**Positions Held**

*Associate Professor*, 2016-Present (Tenured, August 2016)

Department of Academic Literacy and Linguistics, BMCC, CUNY

*Assistant Professor*, 2009-2016

Department of Academic Literacy and Linguistics, BMCC, CUNY

*Research Affiliate*, 2015-Present

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education, Brandeis University

*Research Associate*, 2016-Present

Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society

CUNY Graduate Center

**Grants & Awards**

Distinguished Teaching Award, BMCC, 2018-2019

*The Consortium for Applied Studies in Jewish Education (CASJE) Research Award 2018 (*$29,941)

Grant title: Mapping Hebrew education in public schools: A resource for Jewish educators

In collaboration with Avital Karpman (University of Maryland-College Park)

*The Sylvia and Moshe Ettenberg Research Grant in Jewish Education, Network for Research in Jewish Education*, 2017-2018 ($14,476)

Grant title: In search of the knowledge base of Hebrew teaching in Jewish day school education

*Research in Classroom Idea Grant (RICIG), CUNY* (2017) $7,500

Grant title: The languages of religious institutions in New York City: Integrating Discovery-Based Research into the Linguistics100 Curriculum

*Spencer Foundation Small Grant*, (2017-2018) $49,992

Grant title: Diversity in the Expansion of Dual Language Bilingual Education: The Case of Hebrew-English Programs in New York City Public Schools

In collaboration with Kate Menken (Queens College and CUNY Graduate Center)

*Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education* (2015-2016) $38,853

Grant title: Hebrew in American Jewish Summer Camps

In collaboration with Sarah Benor (HUC-JIR) and Jonathan Krasner (Brandeis University)

*The Consortium for Applied Studies in Jewish Education (CASJE) Research Award* $75,000

Grant title: Hebrew in American Jewish Summer Camps (2015-2017)

In collaboration with Sarah Benor (HUC-JIR) and Jonathan Krasner (Brandeis University)

*PSC-CUNY Grant* (Traditional A), 2015, $3,500

Professional Staff Congress, CUNY

Grant title: The role of Hebrew at American Jewish Residential Summer Camps

# *BMCC Faculty Development Grant* (2014-2015) $3,000

Grant title: Negotiating language ownership: Hebrew charter schools and the American Jewish Press, 2007-2014

*PSC-CUNY Grant*, (2009) $5,800

Grant title: The academic socialization of ESL postsecondary students: A language socialization perspective

*Faculty Fellowship Publishing Program*, CUNY, 2011 Teaching Release Time

*AJS Travel Award* (AJS conference, 2013) $500

*William Stewart Travel Grant*, CUNY (2013)$500

*Network for Research in Jewish Education Research Award*, (2012) $500

*Lucius N. Littauer Travel Grant*, (2011) $500

*Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation, Steinhardt School of Culture, Human Development and Education*, NYU, Finalist, (2008)

*Doctoral Student Travel Fund* (2008)

New York University, School of Culture, Education and Human Development

*Dissertation Travel Award*, (2006) $8000

*North American Coalition for Israeli Education*

Grant title: Hebrew and Israel homeland tourism ($5,000)

*Steinhardt School of Education Dean's Fellowship*, (2002-2005) Full scholarship and stipend

New York University

*Steinhardt School of Education Dean's Grant for Student Research* (2004), $1,000

New York University

*Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant*

National Science Foundation Finalist, 2005

**Books**

Benor, S., Krasner, J. & Avni, S. (in preparation, 2019). *Hebrew in the sunshine: Language and community at North American Jewish summer camps*, under contract with Rutgers University Press.

**Publications**

Avni, S. (2018) What can the study of Hebrew learning contribute to applied linguistics? *Modern Language Journal*, 102(2), 446-448.

Avni, S. & Finn, H. (2017). Pedagogy and Curricular Choice in Community College Accelerated Writing Courses. Community College Journal of Research and Practice. DOI: [10.1080/10668926.2017.1398687](https://doi.org/10.1080/10668926.2017.1398687)

Avni, S. 2017. Considering disruptive and transformative Jewish education. *Journal of Jewish Education*, 83(3), 170-173.

Menken, K. & Avni, S. (2017) Challenging linguistic purism in dual language bilingual education: A case study of Hebrew in a New York City public middle school. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics*, 37, 185-202.

Avineri, N. & Avni, S. (2017). Language socialization in Jewish communities: Sites of religious, cultural and national identities. In P. Duff & S. May (eds.) Language socialization. In Series: Encyclopedia of Language and Education. 3rd Ed. Cham: Springer International. 323-338.

Jacknick, C. & Avni, S. (2016). Shalom, bitches: Epistemic stance and identity work in an anonymous online forum. *Discourse, Context, and Media*. 15, 54-64.

Finn, H. & Avni, S. (2016) Negotiating Academic Literacy in Community College Developmental Writing, *Current Issues in Language Planning* 17(3-4), 369-384.

Avni, S. (2016). Historical perspectives on diasporic language education: Hebrew education in the US from the 1920s to the present *The International Journal of Sociology of Language* 2016, 119-138.

Avni, S. (2015). Negotiating language ownership: Hebrew charter schools and the American Jewish Press. *Language and Communication* 45, 83-95*.*

Avni, S. (2015) The meanings of Hebrew: Defining bilingual education in dual language charter school education. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism* 18(2), 188-202.

Avni, S. (2014) Hebrew education in the United States: Historical perspectives and future directions. *Journal of Jewish Education* 80(3), 256-286. [Invited manuscript for special issue celebrating the Journal’s 80th anniversary]

Avni, S. (2014)Hebrew in the North American linguistic landscape. In B. Spolsky, M. Tannenbaum, & O. Inbar (Eds.), *Challenges for language education and policy: Making space for people* (pp. 196-213). New York: Routledge.

Avni, S. (2014) Homeland tour guide narratives and the discursive construction of the diasporic. *Narrative Inquiry* 23:2, 227-244.

Avni, S. (2013). Becoming a people of the book: Interactional positioning of community in Bible discourse. *Journal of Jewish Education* 79(1), 4-23.

Avni, S. (2013) Introduction. Rethinking Jewish education. *Journal of* *Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education, 2*(1)*,*1-5.

Avni, S. & Menken, K. (2012). Educating for Jewishness: The teaching and learning of Hebrew in day school education. In O. Garcia, Z. Zakharia, & B. Otcu (Eds.), *Bilingual community education for American children: Beyond heritage languages in a global city*. (pp. 190-203). Clevedon, UK: Multilingual Matters.

Avni, S. (2012). Hebrew as heritage: The work of language in religious and communal continuity. *Linguistics and Education,* 23, 323-333*.*

Avni, S. (2012). Translation as a site of language policy negotiation in Jewish day school education. *Current Issues in Language Planning*, 13(2), 76-104.

Avni, S. (2012). Hebrew-only language policy in religious education. *Language Policy,* 11, 169-188.

Avni, S. (2011). Toward an understanding of Hebrew language education: Ideologies, emotions, and identity, *International Journal of the Sociology of Language, 2011*(208), 53–70.

**Publications under review/in preparation**

Menken, K. & Avni, S. (accepted). Language Policy Conflicts: New York City’s Efforts to Expand Bilingual Education Amidst English-Only Pressures. Ricento, T. (ed.) *Language and Politics in the United States and Canada: Taking Stock on the Occasion of the 150th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation*

Menken, K. & Avni, S. (2018). The expansion of dual language bilingual education into new communities and languages: The case of Hebrew in a New York City public middle school

*Theory into Practice* (under review)

**Editorial Work**

Avineri, N. & Avni, S. (2016). Introduction to N. Avineri & S. Avni (Eds.), Language Policy and the Reconceptualization of Religions *as* and *in* Institutions. *Language Policy* 15(2), 11, 117-221.

Avni, S. & Bekerman, Z. (2013). Special issue on Jewish education. *Journal of Diaspora, Indigenous, Minority Education*, 79(1).

**Reports**

Avni, S. (2016) The Contributions of Second/Foreign Language Learning Scholarship to Identity Development and Hebrew Education. Invited research brief for the *Consortium for Applied Studies in Jewish Education*.

Benor, S. & Krasner, J. & Avni, S. Connection, not proficiency: Survey of Hebrew at North American Jewish summer camps. Waltham, MA: Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education, Brandeis University. <http://www.brandeis.edu/mandel/pdfs/2016-Hebrew-in-camp-survey-report.pdf>.

Avni, S. (2016). The Contribution of /Second Language Learning Scholarship to Identity Development. Invited research brief for the *Consortium for Applied Studies in Jewish Education*.

Avni, S. Kattan, S. & Zakai, S. (2013). Purposes and practices of Israel/Hebrew Education: Towards a joint agenda for applied research. Invited research brief for the *Consortium for Applied Studies in Jewish Education*.

**Conference Presentations**

Avni, S. (2018, April). *Hebrew, Jewish overnight camps, and the summer shlichim program*. The Center for Jewish Studies. CUNY Graduate Center.

Avni, S. & Menken, K. (2018, April). *Hebrew-English Dual-Language Bilingual Education in New York City: New Understandings for the 21st Century*. In symposium: When in New York City…Bilingual education programs, practices, and contexts. AERA, New York NY.

Avni, S. & Menken, K. (2018, April). *Expanding dual language bilingual education in NYC: A Hebrew program grows in Brooklyn*. Advanced Research Collaborative(ARC). CUNY Graduate Center.

Avni, S. & Menken, K. (2018, March). *School language policies and families: Community engagement with a new Hebrew-English dual language bilingual program*. On panel: Exploring community sense-making in U.S. language education policy implementation. American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Portland, Oregon.

Avni, S. & Finn, H. (2017). *Pedagogy and Curricular Choice in Community College Accelerated Writing Courses.* American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Avni, S. & Krasner, J. (2016, December). *Nostalgic narratives: Memory and Jewish summer camp*. On panel: Wet hot American (Jewish) summer: Nostalgia, tragedy, and the making of the ideal American Jewish child at summer camp. Association of Jewish Studies: San Diego, CA.

Avni, S. (2016, June). *Embodying the homeland: Israeli schlichim, Hebrew, and American Jewish summer camps.* On panel: Polycentric approaches to language and national migration. Sociolinguistics Symposium. Murcia, Spain.

Benor, S., Krasner, J. & Avni, S. (2016; February). *Hebrew infusion at American Jewish summer camps.* Foundation of Jewish Camps, New Brunswick, NJ.

Benor, S., Krasner, J. & Avni, S. (2015, December). *Hebrew at American Jewish summer camps: The role of Israel and Israelis.* Association of Jewish Studies, Boston, MA.

Benor, S., Krasner, J. & Avni, S. (2015; June) Ruach in the chadar or Ivrit bemachane: Competing ideologies of Hebrew pedagogy at American Jewish Summer Camps. Network of Research in Jewish Education. New York, NY.

Avni, S. (2014, December). *Teenagers studying Talmud in Hevruta: Learning to be a reader of a culture.* [Invited Panelist : What Does Learning Look Like in Jewish Studies] Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Baltimore, MD, Dec. 14-16.

Avni, S. & Jacknick, C. (Oct. 2014). Lapsed Catholic and mother of two: Interactional identity work in an anonymous online forum. LANSI (Language and Social Interaction Working Group), Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

Avni, S. (2014, March). *Speaking of Jewish identity: Exploring the value of linguistic anthropology for reconceptualizing the construct of Jewish identity*. Conference on Rethinking Jewish identity [Invited panelist]. Brandeis University.

Avni, S. (2014, March). *The meanings of Hebrew: Defining bilingualism in dual language charter schools.* American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Portland, Oregon.

Avni, S. (2013, December). *Constituting American Jewishness through Hebrew Materiality*.[Panel on Jewish material culture] Association for Jewish Studies. Boston, MA.

Avni, S. (2013, November). *Multilingualism as educational opportunity?: Debating the establishment of a Hebrew language charter school in Washington DC.*American Association of Anthropology, Chicago.

Avni, S. (2013, June). Hebrew in the North American linguistic landscape: Subverting the sacred. School of Education, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

Avni, S. (2013, July) *Hebrew cultural material as a site of language maintenance and revitalization*. Sociology of Language and Religion. NYU, New York.

Avni, S. (2013, June). *Multilingualism in Urban Schooling: Debating the opening of a Hebrew language charter school in Washington DC*. Cultural Sustainability, Social Cohesion and Glocal Education Conference, Jerusalem, Israel.

Avni, S. (2013, June) Roundtable participant: Israel education. [CASJE] ]Network for Research on Jewish Education Conference. Boston, MA.

Avni, S. (2013, June) *Rethinking the language of Jewish education* [spotlight session]Network for Research on Jewish Education Conference. Boston, MA.

Avni, S. (2013, June) *Multilingualism in urban schooling: Debating the opening of a Hebrew language charter school in Washington DC*. Conference on Cultural sustainability, social cohesion, and glocal education, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.

Avni, S. (2013, June). *Redefining Jewishness through the semiotics of Hebrew* [Symposium on Rethinking the language of Jewish education.] Network for Research in Jewish Education, New York.

Avni, S., J. Beaumont & J. Yancey (2012, November). *Building bridges from ESL writing to college composition*. CUNY conference on best practices in reading/writing instruction. Laguardia Community College, CUNY, New York.

Avni, S. (2012, February). *Modern travel and education: Homeland tourism as a site of diaspora identity*. Ethnography in Education Research Forum, University of Pennsylvania, PA.

Avni, S. (2012, March). (panel organizer and presenter). *"This trip was like no other trip": Reflections*

*from an educational homeland tour to Israel* [panel on The exploration of language practices

in religious contexts: Prayer, diaspora and ritual.] American Association of Applied

Linguistics (AAAL), Boston, MA.

Avni, S. (2012, April). *Educating for Jewishness: The teaching and learning of Hebrew in day school education.* [Symposium on Bilingual Community Education in the Multilingual Apple: Institutional Alliances, Innovations, and Challenges]. International Linguistics Association. New York, New York.

Avni, S. (2012, April) *Homeland tourism and the discursive construction of diaspora*. International Linguistics Association. New York, New York.

Avni, S. (2012, June) “*What I learned about being Jewish in Israel”: Day school students and post-tour reflections.* Network for Research on Jewish Education Conference. Boston, MA.

Avni, S. (2011, October). *Becoming a people of the book: Language practices in the religious classroom*, Language and Social Interaction Conference (LANSI), Teachers College, New York.

Avni, S. (2011 ) *Language ideologies enacted and challenged: Translation practices in contemporary Jewish education*, [Symposium on Translation and Multilingualism in Jewish Culture] Association for Jewish Studies. Boston, MA.

Avni, S. (2011) (panel organizer and presenter) *Hebrew untethered: Can a language be disconnected from its heritage*? [Symposium on Jewish Languages in Use: Identities, Ideologies, and Interactions] American Association of Applied Linguistics. Washington DC.

Avni, S. (2011) *Heritage languages at work: The study of Hebrew*, National Association of Bilingual Education, New Orleans.

Avni, S. (2010, June) ***People of the book: Language socialization and religious identity*.** Network for Research in Jewish Education, **New York, NY.**

Avni, S. (2010) *People of the book: Text, community and religious identity.* American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Atlanta, Georgia

Avni, S. (2010, February) *Contemporary pilgrim: Narratives in cultural tours.* Penn Ethnography and Education Forum, University of Pennsylvania.

Avni, S. (2008, December) *Ideologies in practice: Hebrew in the classroom.* [Symposium on Contemporary Hebrew Usage] Association for Jewish Studies, Washington DC.

Avni, S. (2008, June) *Ideologies and practice: Hebrew in the classroom*. The Network for Research in Jewish Education, Cleveland, OH.

Avni, S. (2008, March) *Found in translation: Language socialization in religious education*. American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Washington DC.

**Invited Talks and Presentations**

Avni, S. (2017, December). The localness of Hebrew: Ideologies of authenticity. Invited panel speaker at Hebrew Council Annual Meeting, Newark, NJ.

Avni, S. (2017, April). Consortium for Applied Studies in Jewish Education Hebrew Language Education. Middlebury College, Washington DC.

Avni, S. (2016, November 3) Yom Yiyyum at HUR-JIR (NYC); Best practices in second language acquisition; Hebrew as heritage

Beaumont, J., Yancey, J. & Avni, S. (2015). ESL across the Curriculum. BMCC

Beaumont, J. & Avni, S. (2014). ESL across the Curriculum. BMCC (workshop for BMCC faculty)

Avni, S. (Invited, 2013, December). Panel on Hebrew education and Israel education. CASJE (The Consortium of Applied Studies in Jewish Education).

Avni, S. (Invited, 2013, June). Hebrew in the North American linguistic landscape: Subverting the sacred. School of Education, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

Avni, S. (2012). Post-tour narratives: Homeland tourism and the negotiation of Jewishness. BMCC The Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship. New York, New York.

Avni, S. (2011) The semiotics of Hebrew: Hebrew in the American linguistic landscape. BMCC Teaching and Learning Center. New York, New York.

Avni, S. (2010, April) The work of Hebrew language education in religious day school education, BMCC Teaching and Learning Center. New York, New York.

Avni, S. (2004) Language socialization in Jewish day school education**Dean's Grants to Support Student Research Colloquium**. New York University, New York.

**Invited Consultation & Convenings**

Consultant on project: Hebrew for what? Hebrew at the heart of Jewish day schools. Pomson, A. & Wertheimer, J. The Avi Chai Foundation. (2016).

Transformative Education, Brandeis University, **Jack,** Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education (March, 2016)

Mentoring Workshop (2015). Network of Research on Jewish Education, New York, NY.

Learning Agenda Project, Brandeis University , **Jack,** Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education (March 8-9, 2015)

Rethinking Jewish Identity and Jewish Education, Brandeis University, **Jack,** Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education (March 30-31, 2015)

Problem Formulation Convening on Hebrew Language Education, CASJE (The Consortium for Applied Studies in Jewish Education), New York, Sept. 2014

Hebrew language education blogcast, CASJE, Oct. 21-24, 2014 (<http://casje.com/casts/teaching-and-learning-hebrew/>)

RAVSAK (The Jewish Community Day School Network) Hebrew Language Initiative Think Tank, New York, October 1, 2014

**Courses Taught**

Language and culture (BMCC) – online/face-to-face/hybrid

Forensic Linguistics (BMCC)

Academic Writing (BMCC)

Language Assessment (New School University; MA TESOL Program)

English in the World (New School University, MA TESOL Program)

Sociolinguistics (New School University; MA TESOL Program)

Language Acquisition and Literacy Education in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts (NYU)

Second Language Acquisition: Theory and Research (NYU)

Foundations of Second Language Acquisition; Open University, Israel

Methods in ESL Education (Open University, Israel)

**Service**

**College-wide service**

BMCC Provost’s Equity and Inclusion Task Force 2018

Teacher Advisor, Gateway Initiative – Center for Excellence in Teaching,

Learning, and Scholarship (CETLS) 2018-2019

COACHE committee member` 2015-2016

Middle States accreditation committee 2015-2016

Distinguished Teaching Award (spearheaded project and evaluator) 2015-2016

Gateway project participant 2015

Chairperson, BMCC, Faculty Development Committee of Academic Senate 2014-2016

Academic Senate member (department representative, elected) 2014-2016

Chief CATW Reader for BMCC, 2014-2016

Judge, BMCC Annual Research Symposium 2015

Search Committee (College Testing Coordinator) 2013

Co-organizer of Language, Society and Culture Conference, BMCC 2011

Faculty and Student Disciplinary Council; Elected 2011-2012

Department Liaison, BMCC Teaching and Learning Center 2009-2010

Departmental Liaison, Library Services 2011-2016

Member/chair Faculty Interest Group on Language, Society, and Culture 2010- 2013

Member, Writing Across Curriculum Workshop (WAC) 2010

Consultant, ESLAC (ESL across the Curriculum) 2012

CUNY Faculty Diversity and Inclusion Committee 2010

**Departmental service**

Chair, Department Name Change Committee 2013

Co-chair, Testing Committee 2011-2014

Member, Faculty Observation Committee 2012-2014

Chairperson, Linguistics Committee 2011-2013

Member, Linguistics Committee 2013-present

Chair, Curriculum Committee 2009-2010

Member, Curriculum Committee 2010-2011

Member, Lab Committee 2009-2011

Mentor for department adjuncts 2009-2016

**Memberships**

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL)

Network for Research on Jewish Education (NRJE)

Association of Jewish Studies (AJS)

American Association of Anthropology

Society of Linguistic Anthropology

Council of Anthropology and Education

**Professional Activities**

Associate Editor, *Journal of Jewish Education* (2014-present)

Program Chair, Network for Research in Jewish Education conference, Brandeis, June 2017

Consultant, Rosov Consulting, Hebrew in Jewish Day School Project, 2016

Steering committee, Network for Research in Jewish Education (NRJE) conference, New York, 2015

Mentor, Emerging scholars and graduate students, NRJE, 2013-present

Reviewer for AAAL conference 2015, 2016

Reviewing for Academic Journals

*Journal of Language, Identity and Education*

*American Ethnologist*

*Journal of Linguistic Landscape*

*International Journal of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education*

*Journal of Jewish Education*

*Contemporary Jewry*

*Language Policy*

*Journal of Diaspora, Indigenous, Minority Education*

*Language and Education*