

## 'Judaean-Arabic Translations: From the Bible to The Count of Monte Cristo'

**Ofra Tirosh-Becker** is a Professor in the Department of Arabic Language and Literature and in the Department of Hebrew Language at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She received her PhD from the Hebrew University and had her post-doctoral training at Harvard University. She is the Head of the Center of Jewish Languages and Literatures at the Hebrew University, an executive member of The Academy of the Hebrew Language, and a co-editor of the *Journal of Jewish Languages* (Brill) and *Massorot: Studies in Language Traditions and Jewish Languages*. She has published an award-winning two-volume book *Rabbinic Excerpts in Medieval Karaite Literature* and many research papers. Her research focuses on the contacts between Arabic and Hebrew, including: North African Judeo-Arabic; Judeo-Arabic translations of the Bible and of post-biblical literature; Medieval Hebrew; Hebrew in Algeria in the 19th-20th centuries; The contact between Hebrew and Arabic in the Middle Ages; Rabbinic Hebrew in Karaite writings.

**Abstract:** The evolution of Judeo-Arabic translations is traced from Rav Saadya Gaon's Tafsir of the Bible, written in 10th century mediaeval Judeo-Arabic, to the later North African šurūh written in Neo Judeo-Arabic. This translation corpus spans Bible translations as well as translations of liturgical and religious Jewish texts. In the 19th and 20th centuries Judeo-Arabic translations of modern secular French and English novels were also introduced. Two models for the complex interaction between Center and Periphery are demonstrated through the discussion of these translations.

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

6.00 pm (UK time), Online via Zoom

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