



Curriculum Vitae

**Nina B. Lichtenstein**, Ph.D. MFA

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## EDUCATION

### University of Southern Maine, Portland

#### **2020 MFA in Creative Writing**

Thesis title: *Body: A Life in Parts*. A memoir.

### University of Connecticut, Storrs

#### **2007 Ph.D. French Literature**

Dissertation title: "*Maghrebian Memories: Exodus and Marginality in Sephardic Women's Writing*." Dissertation Advisor: Lucy Stone McNeece

#### **1992 M.A. French Literature**

**1991 B.A. Jewish Studies and French (double major), *summa cum laude***, (in affiliation with l'Université de Pau, France and the University of Oslo, Norway) - Awarded Full Scholarship and Teaching Fellowship for Graduate Studies.

### **Distinctions while a university student:**

- ***Graduated in top 1% of class***
- Awarded both Honor and University Scholar Designations
- Elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Societies
- Based on faculty nomination, recipient of Universités Françaises aux Etats-Unis Award for Achievement

### **Distinctions post-graduation:**

- Awarded Excellence in Teaching at University of Connecticut, July 2014
- Young Leadership Award by Jewish Community Center, West Hartford, CT

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Fall 2012-Spring 2016:** Adjunct Faculty at the University of Connecticut, Hartford, Department of English. Teaching Undergraduate Literature and Writing Courses.

**Spring 2016:** Visiting Assistant Professor in Jewish Studies at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. Course title: *Jews and Muslims in France*.

**May Term 2013:** Adjunct Faculty at the University of Connecticut, Hartford, Department of English. Teaching “The Short Story,” University of Connecticut, Hartford, Department of English.

**Spring 2012:** Visiting Assistant Professor in Residence at University of Connecticut, Storrs, Department of Literatures, Cultures & Languages. Graduate seminar entitled *Jewish Identity in Post-World War II France: A Journey in Literature and Film*.

**January 2011-Septemeber 2018:** Appointed as Research Associate at the Hadassah Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

**Spring 2011-2018:** Member of the Hadassah Brandeis Institute's Academic Advisory Committee, whose primary role it is to assist in the annual revive of proposals for their Research Awards.

**Fall 2010:** Scholar-in-Residence at the Hadassah Brandeis Institute. Began preparations to turn dissertation into book manuscript; lectured on the topic of Sephardic Women Writers.

**Spring 2010:** Visiting Assistant Professor in Jewish Studies at Trinity College. Course title: *Jewish Women and Memory in the Mediterranean World*.

**2008-2010:** Program developer for Chai Mitzvah, the program called a “Jewish Educational Game Changer” offering a meaningful journey for Jewish adults to reconnect, recharge and re-examine their Jewish lives, while building community.

**2008-2009:** Co-chair of Hartford Jewish Film Festival’s New Film Competition “Tribute: Observations on Survival and Spirit Lessons from the Holocaust.”

**2007-2010:** Member of the Greater Hartford Jewish Film Festival committee. Reviewing, selecting and presenting international films for the Annual Festival.

**Fall 2008:** Teacher at YACHAD: Greater Hartford Jewish Community High School. Created and taught two courses: “Jews from Arab Lands” and “Jewish Women and Identity.”

**2006-2008:** Monthly columnist in *Norway Times*, a Norwegian-American Newspaper published in New York. Title of column: “Adventures of a Homecoming” and “The Ex-Pat Chat.”

**2006-2007:** Teacher of English and Spanish at Sandvika Videregående Skole, Norway. Acted as advisor to students. Created and ran adapted language learning class for students with social and learning difficulties.

**2003-2007:** Resumed doctoral studies.

**1995-2003:** Actively engaged in the Greater Hartford Jewish community leadership through area synagogues, schools and cultural institutions while raising my three children. **Includes fundraising, programming, outreach, communications and hospitality.**

**1991-1995:** University of Connecticut, Teaching Assistant in French, all levels, using Capretz's proven language-immersion method of *French in Action*.

**1990-1995:** ACCENT, INC. West Hartford, CT. Editor/Translator, and Language Instructor. English, Norwegian and French.

## **RECENT AND CURRENT ENGAGEMENTS**

**January 2019 – ongoing:** Narrative 4 Story-Exchange Facilitator. Narrative 4 is an internationally-recognized nonprofit that harnesses the power of the story exchange to equip and embolden young adults to improve their lives, communities, and the world. Backed by a vast network of artists, educators and students, Narrative 4 is one of the world's most impactful change-makers in the fields of empathy and education.

**October 2018 – ongoing:** Editor of The Telling Room *STORIES* page. The Telling Room is an award-winning Portland, Maine non-profit writing center that empowers youth ages 6-18 to find their voices and share them with the world. Their online publication *STORIES*, accepts submissions from young writers from all over the world and works with selected authors in editing their writing before we publish them.

**Spring 2019:** Writing mentor at The Telling Room's Young Writers and Leaders Program, which is a competitive and free, afterschool literary arts program for international multilingual high school students.

**July 2018-2020:** Enrolled in the Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Maine, with focus on creative nonfiction.

**July 2018-2020:** Reader for the *Stonecoast Review*, *A Literary Arts Journal*.

**2017-2018:** On Editorial Board for the new *Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women*, published by the Jewish Women's Archive.

**January 2011-September 2018:** Research Associate at Hadassah Brandeis Institute

**2011-2017:** On Advisory Board for The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization. A project of enormous scope and importance, *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization*, published by **Yale University Press**, is an anthology of important literary works produced primarily by Jews from the Biblical period through the end of 2002. Profs. Samuel Kassow and David Roskies, editors of Volume IX (1939-1973), asked me to assist in preparing recommendations and selections from works by Francophone Jews, with a focus on Jews from North Africa and Arab Lands.

## LEADERSHIP ROLES IN EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- ***Jerusalem Storytelling: Live Storytelling in and About Jerusalem.*** While living in Jerusalem, initiated and organized the “Inaugural Jerusalem Live Storytelling in English Event” that ran in a popular art-café to a sold-out crowd. April 2017.
- ***Jews and Muslims: Intimate Strangers:*** Organized Film Screening and Speaker Event at Trinity College Jewish Studies Program. French film director and author Karim Miské from Paris joined us on campus to discuss his award-winning film project with students and the greater community. May 2016.
- Moderator/organizer of AJS Roundtable “Teaching Approaches: Jews and Muslims in France, 1962-Present.” December 2015.
- Guest speaker/discussion facilitator Trinity College “April in Paris Film Festival” for *Le Chat du Rabbīn* (2011). Hartford, CT., April 2, 2014.
- Moderator of panel including among others Jane Gerber, Rabbi Marc Angel and Houman Sarshar, at a conference entitled *Sephardic American Jewry: Communities and Contributions* at Baruch College in NYC. May 15, 2012. Organized by Prof. Jessica Lang, Director of the Baruch College Center for Jewish Studies.
- Invited as part of a special panel on Religion and Personal Journeys run by *Project Nur* at Brandeis University, a student group focused on civic-minded dialogue about interfaith and multi-ethnic issues. October 24, 2011.
- Organized Speaker Event at Trinity College Jewish Studies Program. Joyce Zonana, Professor of English, Borough of Manhattan Community College: “Kibbe, Kugel, and the Quest for Home: An Egyptian Jewish Woman’s Journey.” March 17, 2010.
- Chair of Inaugural Event for the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. A film program on Czech performer Karel Hasler, who perished in Mauthausen in 1941 under the Nazi regime. Gave opening remarks and introduced the film producer, Thomas Hasler. University of Hartford, CT., September 12, 2010.

- Co-Chair of Hartford Jewish Film Festival's New Film Competition "Tribute: Observations on Survival and Spirit Lessons from the Holocaust." March, 2009.

## PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

### ***Body: A Life in Parts* — A Memoir**

### ***Kaddish* — A Novel**

A Norwegian woman learns about her dying mother's life-long secrets, including a Jewish lover, a lost son, and a Nazi-collaborating husband.

### ***Convert: The Making of a Viking Jewess* — A Memoir**

On navigating the many "tribal" matters that can be at once daunting and hilarious for a new-Jew, in search of her home.

### ***Our Stories, Our Tribe— (or, That's Funny, You Don't Look Jewish) Essays by Converts to Judaism***

An edited volume of personal essays reflecting the diverse experiences of converts to Judaism.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Books:**

*For the Love of the Father*, a translation of Chochana Boukhobza's *Pour l'amour du père* (Paris: Seuil, 1998). October 2019. Hamsa Press.

*Sephardic Women's Voices: Out of North Africa*. January 2017. Gaon Books.

### **Academic Articles:**

Book Review of Aomar Boum, *Memories of Absence: How Muslims Remember Jews in Morocco*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2013. Pp. 240. In *Journal of Jewish Identities*. Issue 8, Number 1, January 2015, pp. 214-215.

"Dans et Hors de l'Afrique du Nord: l'Identité Juive Féminine Dans le Cinéma Francophone." Spring 2015 in *Tsafon: Vers un retour de l'errance : l'identité juive dans la littérature et le cinéma francophones contemporains*. France. Edited by Irena Trujic.

“Unpacking Her Cultural Baggage: North African, Jewish, and French. The Works of Annie Cohen and Annie Fitoussie.” June 2014 in *Proceedings for the International Conference on Pluri-Culture and Migratory Writings*. Canada-Mediterranean Centre, York University, Canada.

Book review of *Sephardism: Spanish Jewish History and the Modern Literary Imagination*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2012. Pp. 360. In *Journal of Jewish Identities*. July 2013.

“North Africa, France, and Israel: Sephardic Identities in the Work of Chochana Boukhobza.” *Sephardic Horizons*. Summer 2013.

“Chochana Boukhobza.” *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*. Leiden – Boston: Brill. 2012.

“Silent Exodus and Forgotten Voices: Sephardic Women Writers in Postcolonial Discourse.” *Sephardic Horizons*, Volume 1, Issue 2, Winter 2012.

“Nine Moati.” *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*. Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2010.

## PERSONAL WRITING AND PUBLICATIONS:

→ For a list of and links to my non-academic published essays, see my website:  
[www.ninalichtenstein.com](http://www.ninalichtenstein.com)

**Ongoing writing engagements:** I maintain a personal blog about cultural in-betweenness: *The Viking Jewess: A Curiosity Blog*. I own and moderate the blog *That’s Funny, You Don’t Look Jewish. Our Blog, Our Stories: Celebrating the Diversity of Converts to Judaism*. I am also active in live storytelling, but have yet to make it to the MOTH.

## MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS

- New Mexico and Arizona Book Award Finalist for *Sephardic Women’s Voices: Out of North Africa* (Gaon Books 2017)
- Awarded Excellence in Teaching at University of Connecticut, July 2014.
- Maurice Amado Foundation Travel Grant to support presentation of my paper “Heroic Trajectories: Wartime and Beyond: Narrating the Shoah as a Sephardi Woman” at the AJS (Association of Jewish Studies) 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Boston, MA, December 2012.

- Maurice Amado Foundation Travel Grant to support presentation of my paper “Sephardic Women in the Holocaust” at the AJS 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in Washington, DC. December 2011.
- HBI Rosalie Katchen Travel Grant in Gender Studies, to help cover the expenses associated with presenting my paper "Sephardi Women in the Holocaust" at the AJS 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in Washington, DC. December 2011.
- Hadassah Brandeis Institute’s Translation Award, a grant for translating the novel *Pour l’Amour du Père* from French to English. February 2011.
- Summer Workshop 2010 for scholars at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. Theme: Sephardic Jews and the Holocaust. Directed by Aaron Rodrigue and Daniel Schroeter. June 16-25, 2010.
- Maurice Amado Foundation Travel Grant for presenting research on Sephardic Studies, at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual AJS conference in Los Angeles, CA. December 2009.

## TALKS AND PAPERS

Book talk and interview at Jewish Women’s Theater/The Braid in LA in collaboration with JIMENA (Jews Indigenous to the middle East and north Africa), January 2018.

Jewish Museum Oslo, Norway: Invited speaker. “Jewish Women’s Memories from Jewish Life in North Africa.” November 2017.

Ben Gurion University, Israel: a book talk about *Sephardic Women’s Voices: Out of North Africa*. April 2017.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to University of Washington, Seattle, to present my current research at a conference entitled “Sephardic Jewry and the Holocaust: The Future of the Field.” April 2013.

“North African Women in the Holocaust: The Extraordinary Story of Gisèle Braka.” Women and the Holocaust: The Sixth International Conference, Beit Berel College, Israel. March 2013.

“Sephardic Identities in the Work of Chochana Boukhobza.” Panel on Sephardic Dialogue at the MLA Annual Conference, Boston, MA. January 2013.

“Heroic Trajectories; Wartime and Beyond: Narrating the Shoah as a Sephardi Woman.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. Chicago. December 2012.

Invited lecture at the Center for European Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Title of talk: "Minority Narratives of Survival: Sephardic Women Testimonies in the Shoah Foundation Archives." November 2012.

Invited to give talk at The Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, France. Conference organized by The Mémorial de la Shoah and the Ben-Zvi Institute commemorating the Allied Landing in North Africa on November 8, 1942. Speaking on Jewish women from North Africa in World War II. November 2012.

"In and Out of North Africa: Jewish Women's Identity in French Film" ASMEA: Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa) Annual Conference in Washington DC. October 2012.

"Unpacking Her Cultural Baggage: North African, Jewish, and French. The Works of Annie Cohen and Annie Fitoussie." International Conference on "Pluri-Culture et Migratory Writing;" at York University, Toronto, May 18-20, 2012.

"*Francophone Sephardi Women in the Holocaust.*" Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Washington, DC., December 18-20, 2011.

"Voices of Sepharad Today." Invited by Dr. Arnold Dashevsky as guest speaker at the Judaic Studies Faculty Forum, University of Connecticut, Storrs, September 21, 2011.

"In Between Nations: The Case of Arab Jews from North Africa." Paper at Nordic Summer University's Summer Symposium on Psychoanalysis and Politics: Narrativity and Political Imaginaries, Malmö, Sweden, August 2, 2011.

"Women, War and Sephardic Identity in *The Wedding Song* [*Le Chant des Mariées*] (2008)." Paper at the Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, University of Ohio, April 13-17, 2011.

"Women to Reckon With: Writing Sephardic Identities in France: The works of Chochana Boukhobza and Eliette Abécassis." Invited by Prof. Nehama Aschkenazy as guest speaker at University of Connecticut, Stamford, Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies, March 24, 2011.

"North African, Jewish and Woman on the Big Screen: A Different Minority Narrative." Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA, December 19-21, 2010.

"The Sephardic Experience in France: *La Petite Jérusalem* (2005)." Guest Lecturer for Prof. Avinoam Patt in Jewish Film (JS 425). University of Hartford, Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, April 26, 2010.

"Jewish Women Writers in France: A Sephardic Perspective." Invited by Prof. Aviva Ben-Ur as guest speaker at the UMASS Center for Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, April 21, 2010.



“Silent Exodus and Forgotten Voices: Sephardic Women’s Voices in Postcolonial Discourse.”  
Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 22, 2009.

“Women, Memory and Identity: A Sephardic Perspective.” Invited lecture at Trinity College,  
Hartford, CT, November 5, 2009.

## **LANGUAGES**

- **Norwegian:** native speaker
- **English:** native fluency
- **French:** near native fluency
- **Hebrew:** Intermediate level
- **Spanish:** Advance level
- **German, Swedish and Danish:** reading fluency
- **Yiddish & Ladino:** familiar

## **AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

- Creative Writing
- All areas of Jewish Studies with particular interest in Sephardic/Mizrahi History and Literature, Holocaust Studies, Jewish Women’s Literature, and Norwegian Jewish History and Culture
- World Literatures
- Immigration and Migration Narratives
- Diaspora Studies, Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Studies
- Film and Oral Histories
- 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century French and Francophone Literature and Culture

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Association of Writers & Writing Programs
- ATA – American Translators Association

**References available upon request**