



## Call for Papers: Women Write Buber (Conference)

100 Anniversary of *I and Thou* (1923)

University of Haifa | July 17-18, 2023

### Keynote Speakers

**Prof. Vivian Liska**  
University of Antwerp

**Prof. Leora Batnitzky**  
Princeton University

| The Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society, University of Haifa |

| School of Jewish Theology, University of Potsdam |

| The Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem for the Study of German-Jewish History and Culture |

| Stiftung Schwarz-Schütze Potsdam |

How would *I and Thou* read if it were written by a woman? Martin Buber was not a feminist thinker, however his philosophy has been occasionally viewed by its virtue of being feminine (Gustav Landauer) while, at other times, insulted as a philosophy for "ladies" (Yeshayahu Leibowitz). Yet, for generations, scholarship on Buber has been dominated by male scholars shaping Buber's intellectual legacy and the interpretive canon of his works. As in the larger tradition of Jewish thought, women's experiences, spiritual sensibilities, and intellectual expressions have rarely been acknowledged. At the same time, a new awareness of embodied thinking and positionality necessitates and makes urgent the presence of women's voices.

The present project invites women scholars to join a conference in Haifa and read Buber from a multiplicity of philosophical and disciplinary perspectives. The presented papers of the conference will be submitted for publication as an edited volume. Our aim is to expand the canon of Buber scholarship and to offer a more inclusive reading of his multifaceted work.

Martin Buber (Vienna 1878 - Jerusalem 1965) was an extraordinarily versatile thinker writing on a variety of disciplines, including philosophy, politics, theology, ethics, education, Hasidism, Bible, translation, religion, sociology, psychology, art, and mysticism. We believe that Buber's remarkable

multiplicity of interest invites a greater diversity of readership. We wish to bring to the forefront the voices of women's scholarship to reclaim and reinvigorate Martin Buber's legacy in light of the centenary of his seminal book *I and Thou* (1922/23).

By offering perspectives from women, our conference seeks to introduce new ways of reading and new approaches to Buber's legacy, providing greater diversity and giving more attention to neglected voices. In this way, our conference will increase the visibility of women scholars from different cultural, religious, social, and ethnic backgrounds.

**We invite women scholars identifying with feminist discourses at any stage of their academic careers to submit papers on every possible aspect of Buber's thought. Please send us your proposals (350 words) and a short bio by June 23, 2022. To the following email address: [womenwritebuber@gmail.com](mailto:womenwritebuber@gmail.com)**

The conference is scheduled to take place in Haifa, from July 17-18, 2023. We will cover up to one night of accommodation for Israeli participants, up to two nights for European participants, and up to three nights for transatlantic travelers. Need-based travel stipends may be available.

We are looking forward to receiving your proposals!

## Conference Organizers

**Dr. Yemima Hadad | Dr. Hannah Vitelson**

**Yemima Hadad** teaches Modern Jewish Thought and German-Jewish Philosophy at the University of Potsdam. Dr. Hadad is a Research Fellow at the Bucerius Institute for Research of German Contemporary History and Society, University of Haifa. Her research interests focus on Political Theology, Continental Philosophy, Feminism and 20th-Century Jewish Thought. She is currently working on a book on the political significance of Hasidism in Martin Buber's thought.

**Hannah Vitelson**, BPT, MSc, PhD. Independent scholar, Israel. Practiced physical therapy in child development and special education settings. Moving away from a medical model of thinking towards more critical, socially-oriented approaches, she joined a nation-wide Disability Studies research group (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute) which published the first Hebrew Disability Studies book. Dr. Vitelson is currently co-editing a book that explores the relevance of Martin Buber's thought to contemporary Israeli society.