

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson: A Short Bio

Professor Hava Tirosh-Samuelson is Irving and Miriam Lowe Professor of Modern Judaism, the Director of Jewish Studies, and Professor of History at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. She was born in Kibbutz Afikim, Israel and served in the Israeli army (1968-1971). She holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Philosophy and Mysticism from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1978), and a BA in Religious Studies from SUNY-Stony Brook, New York (1974). Prior to joining the faculty of Arizona State University, she taught at Indiana University (1991-1999), Emory University in Atlanta (1988-1991), Columbia University in New York (1982-1988), and Hebrew Union College in New York (1980-1982). In these institutions she has taught courses in Jewish history, Jewish philosophy and mysticism, and Western religions for graduate and undergraduate students.

Prof. Tirosh-Samuelson's research focuses on medieval and early-modern Jewish intellectual history, with an emphasis on the interplay between philosophy and mysticism. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters in academic journals and edited volumes, she is the **author** of *Between Worlds: The Life and Work of Rabbi David ben Judah Messer Leon* (SUNY Press, 1991) that received the award of the Hebrew University for the best work in Jewish history for 1991, and the author of *Happiness in Premodern Judaism: Virtue, Knowledge and Well-Being in Premodern Judaism* (Hebrew Union College Press, 2003). She is also the **editor** of *Judaism and Ecology: Created World and Revealed World* (Harvard University Press, 2002); *Women and Gender in Jewish Philosophy* (Indiana University Press, 2004); *Judaism and the Phenomenon of Life: The Legacy of Hans Jonas* (Brill Academic Publishers, 2008); *Building Better Humans? Refocusing the Debate on Transhumanism* (Peter Lang GmbH, 2011); and *Hollywood's Chosen People: The Jewish Experience in American Cinema* (Wayne State University Press, 2012). Currently she is the **editor-in-chief** of the Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers, a series of 20 books (Brill Academic Publishers, 2013-) and the editor of *Jewish Philosophy for the Twenty-First Century* (Brill Academic Publishers, 2014).

Professor Tirosh-Samuelson has received grants from national institutions and private foundations, including two large grants to study transhumanism: 1) "Facing the Challenges of Transhumanism: Religion, Science, and Technology" (\$350,000; 2006-2010) from the Templeton Foundation and "The Transhumanist Imagination: Innovation, Secularization and Eschatology" (\$200,000; 2012-14) from Boston University. These grants have funded symposia, public lectures, faculty seminars, and international conferences. As Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at ASU she has organized international research conferences on Judaism, science and medicine; Judaism and the arts, and Judaism and environmentalism. She works closely with civic organizations, including the Phoenix Symphony, the Desert Botanical Garden, and private foundations such as the OREL Foundation. She is active in several international academic societies and her professional services include serving on editorial boards, refereeing manuscripts for publications, and referring applications for doctoral and post-doctoral scholarships and fellowships.