Stanford



Amir Eshel

Edward Clark Crossett Professor of Humanistic Studies and Professor of Comparative Literature

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Amir Eshel is Edward Clark Crossett Professor of Humanistic Studies. He is Professor of German Studies and Comparative Literature and as of 2019 Director of Comparative Literature and its graduate program. His Stanford affiliations include The Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Modern Thought & Literature, and The Europe Center at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. He is also the faculty director of Stanford's research group on The Contemporary and of the Poetic Media Lab at Stanford's Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA). His research focuses on contemporary literature and the arts as they touch on philosophy, specifically on memory, history, political thought, and ethics.

Amir Eshel is the author of Poetic Thinking Today (Stanford University Press, 2019); German translation at Suhrkamp Verlag, 2020). Previous books include Futurity: Contemporary Literature and the Quest for the Past (The University of Chicago Press in 2013). The German version of the book, Zukünftigkeit: Die zeitgenössische Literatur und die Vergangenheit, appeared in 2012 with Suhrkamp Verlag. Together with Rachel Seelig, he co-edited The German-Hebrew Dialogue: Studies of Encounter and Exchange (2018). In 2014, he co-edited with Ulrich Baer a book of essays on Hannah Arendt, Hannah Arendt: zwischen den Disziplinen; and also co-edited a book of essays on Barbara Honigmann with Yfaat Weiss, Kurz hinter der Wahrheit und dicht neben der Lüge (2013).

Earlier scholarship includes the books Zeit der Zäsur: Jüdische Lyriker im Angesicht der Shoah (1999), and Das Ungesagte Schreiben: Israelische Prosa und das Problem der Palästinensischen Flucht und Vertreibung (2006). Amir Eshel has also published essays on Franz Kafka, Hannah Arendt, Paul Celan, Dani Karavan, Gerhard Richter, W.G. Sebald, Günter Grass, Alexander Kluge, Barbara Honigmann, Durs Grünbein, Dan Pagis, S. Yizhar, and Yoram Kaniyuk.

Amir Eshel's poetry includes a 2018 book with the artist Gerhard Richter, Zeichnungen/רישומים, a work which brings together 25 drawings by Richter from the clycle 40 Tage and Eshel's bi-lingual poetry in Hebrew and German. In 2020, Mossad Bialik brings his Hebrew poetry collection בין מדבר למדבר, Between Deserts.

Amir Eshel is a recipient of fellowships from the Alexander von Humboldt and the Friedrich Ebert foundations and received the Award for Distinguished Teaching from the School of Humanities and Sciences.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Comparative Literature
- Professor, German Studies

- Professor, Comparative Literature

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE)
- Modern Thought and Literature
- Philosophy and Literature

Research & Scholarship

PROJECTS

- Poetic Media Lab - CESTA, Stanford University
- The Contemporary - Stanford University

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Graduate Studies Colloquium: COMPLIT 397 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Honors Thesis Writing: DLCL 189H (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Love's Reach: A Visual and Poetic History: ARTHIST 214A, ARTHIST 414A, COMPLIT 214A, COMPLIT 318 (Win)
- The Sacred at Hand: COMPLIT 260, COMPLIT 360, GERMAN 260E, TAPS 260E (Spr)

2025-26

- From the Ruins: Art, Literature, and Thought ca. 1945 and Beyond: ARTHIST 213A, ARTHIST 413A (Win)
- From the Ruins: Art, Literature, and Thought ca. 1945 and Beyond: COMPLIT 187, COMPLIT 387 (Win)
- From the Ruins: Art, Literature, and Thought ca. 1945 and Beyond: GERMAN 213A (Win)
- Honors Thesis Seminar: DLCL 189A (Aut)
- Literature and the Practice of Freedom: COMPLIT 279, COMPLIT 379, ENGLISH 279A, ENGLISH 379A, GERMAN 279, GERMAN 379 (Spr)
- Modern Jewish Thought - Voices of Tradition and Transformation: COMPLIT 282, JEWISHST 283 (Spr)
- Senior Seminar: COMPLIT 199 (Win)
- The Contemporary: DLCL 229 (Win, Spr)

2024-25

- Graduate Studies Colloquium: COMPLIT 397 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Redemption and Jewish Modernity: COMPLIT 258, GERMAN 258, JEWISHST 258 (Spr)
- Senior Seminar: COMPLIT 199 (Win)
- The Contemporary: DLCL 229 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Wonder: The Event of Art and Literature: ARTHIST 274, ARTHIST 474, COMPLIT 274, COMPLIT 374A, JEWISHST 274 (Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Antje Gebhardt

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Hannah Hudson, Ido Keren

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Daniela Tolchinsky

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Ariel Horowitz, Gilad Shiram

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Hevin Karakurt, Jon Tadmor, Tetheren Yu

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **German and Hebrew: Histories of a Conversation** *PROOFTEXTS-A JOURNAL OF JEWISH LITERARY HISTORY*
  Eshel, A., Rokem, N.
  2013; 33 (1): 1-8
- **Between spontaneity and reflection: Reconsidering Jewish modernism - Introduction** *MODERNISM-MODERNITY*
  Eshel, A., Presner, T.
  2006; 13 (4): 607-614
- **Special issue on: Paul Celan - Introduction** *NEW GERMAN CRITIQUE*
  Baer, U., Eshel, A.
  2004: 5-14
- **Paul Celans' other: History, poetics, and ethics** *NEW GERMAN CRITIQUE*
  Eshel, A.
  2004: 57-77
- **Against the power of time: The poetics of suspension in W.G. Sebald's 'Austerlitz'** *NEW GERMAN CRITIQUE*
  Eshel, A.
  2003: 71-96
- **Wolfgang Hildesheimer's life as a Jew and a German (Book Review)** *GERMAN STUDIES REVIEW*
  Book Review Authored by: Eshel, A.
  2002; 25 (1): 193-194
- **Judaism and aesthetic sense** *MERKUR-DEUTSCHE ZEITSCHRIFT FUR EUROPAISCHES DENKEN*
  Eshel, A.
  2002; 56 (2): 162-168
- **Diverging memories? Durs Grunbein's mnemonic topographies and the future of the German past** *GERMAN QUARTERLY*
  Eshel, A.
  2001; 74 (4): 407-416
- **The 'Crime of Writing' (Book Review)** *MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE*
  Book Review Authored by: Eshel, A.
  2000: 41-43
- **"The rest remains": Essays on Judaism (Book Review)** *GERMANIC REVIEW*
  Book Review Authored by: Eshel, A.
  1998; 73 (4): 370-374