

## **Na'ama Pat-El**

---

Assistant Professor for Hebrew Linguistics

The University of Texas at Austin

Department of Middle Eastern Studies

1 University Station, F9400

Austin, TX 78712-0527

office phone: 512-232-8292

npatel@austin.utexas.edu

### **Research Interests:**

Syntax, Historical Linguistics, Languages in Contact, Typology, Linguistic Methodology, Dialectology, Negation, Clitics.

### **EDUCATION:**

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D., June 2008. Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Semitic Philology)

Dissertation Title: "Studies in the Historical Syntax of Aramaic".

Advisors: John Huehnergard, Wolfhart Heinrichs, J. F. Coakley, Gideon Goldenberg

**Hebrew University**, Jerusalem, Israel

MA Degree *summa cum laude* 2002 in Semitic Linguistics

Dissertation Title: "Negation of the Nominal Clause in Classical Syriac"

Advisor: Gideon Goldenberg

University Rector's Honours List (2000/1, 2001/2)

**Hebrew University**, Jerusalem, Israel

BA Degree *summa cum laude* 2000 in Germanic Linguistics; minor in Hebrew Bible and Biblical Hebrew.

Thesis Title: "Structural Notes on the Syntax of Dutch *maar*".

Humanities Dean's Honours List (1997/8, 1998/9, 1999/2000)

Frenkel prize for best thesis in Linguistics (2000)

### **HONORS AND AWARDS:**

Gorgias Press Book Grant for outstanding graduate students in Syriac **2003**

Whiting Dissertation Fellowship **2007/2008**

**BOOK:**

(forthcoming 2010). *Studies in the Historical Syntax of Aramaic*. Gorgias Press.

**PAPERS:**

(2006). "Syntactical Aspects of Negation in Syriac." *Journal of Semitic Studies* 51(2): 329-348.

(2007). "Some Aspects of the Cleft in Semitic Languages". with John Huehnergard, in *Studies in Semitic and General Linguistics in Honor of Gideon Goldenberg*. E. Cohen and T. Bar (eds.). Munster, Ugarit-Verlag: 325-342.

(2008). "Some Notes on the Syntax of Biblical Hebrew *zeh*." *Zeitschrift für Althebraistik* 20: 150-158.

(2008). "Historical Syntax of Aramaic: A Note on Subordination". *Aramaic in its Historical and Linguistic Setting*. H. Gzella and M. L. Folmer (eds.), Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz: 55-76.

(2008). "Traces of Aramaic Dialectal Variation in Late Biblical Hebrew." *Vetus Testamentum* 58: 650-655.

(2009). "On Adnominalization of Prepositional Phrases and Adverbs in Semitic." with Alexander Treiger, *Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 158: 265-352.

(2009). "The Development of the Definite Article in Semitic: A Syntactic Approach." *Journal of Semitic Studies* 54(1): 19-50.

(2009) "The Origin of the Official Aramaic Quotative marker *lʾmr*." *Aramaic Studies* 7(1): 27-38.

(forthcoming) "On Negation in Phoenician". *The Phoenician Language: Studies in Writing and Linguistics*. R. Holmstedt and A. Schade. Winona Lake, IN, Eisenbrauns.

(forthcoming) "stative", "inalienable possession", "possession" in G. Khan (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*, Leiden, Brill.

**CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION:**

2005. The North American Conference of Afroasiatic Linguistics 33, with Rebecca Hasselbach, Philadelphia, PA.

2009 The North American Conference of Afroasiatic Linguistics 37, with Rebecca Hasselbach, Albuquerque, NM.

2010 The North American Conference of Afroasiatic Linguistics 37, with John Huehnergard, Austin, TX.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

2009. "The Change in Demonstrative Position in Aramaic: A Syntactic Innovation", The North American Conference for Afroasiatic Linguistics 37, Albuquerque, NM.

2009. "On Verbal Negation in Semitic", The American Oriental Society annual meeting, Albuquerque, NM.

2008. "The Origin of the Official Aramaic Quotative *lʾmr*", The North American Conference for Afroasiatic Linguistics 36, Chicago, IL.

2008. "The Proleptic Genitive in Aramaic: A Re-evaluation", The American Oriental Society annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

2007. "The Origin and Function of the So-called 'Correlative' in Classical Syriac", The North American Conference

for Afroasiatic Linguistics 35, San Antonio, TX.

2007. "The Function and Etymology of the Aramaic Particle *LM*", The American Oriental Society annual meeting, San Antonio, TX.

2006. "Historical Syntax of Aramaic: A Note on Subordination", Aramaic in its Historical and Linguistic Setting, Leiden.

2006. "Adnominal Prepositions in Semitic" (with A. Treiger). The American Oriental Society annual meeting, Seattle, WA.

2005. "Aspects of Cleft Sentences in Hebrew and Arabic" (with J. Huehnergard). The American Oriental Society annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

2004. "Some Notes on the Syntax of Biblical Hebrew *ze*", The North American Conference for Afroasiatic Linguistics 32, San Diego, CA.

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

Assistant Professor For Hebrew Linguistics, UT Austin, DMES

2008-present

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**Advanced Hebrew for Academic Reading** (Fall 2008, Fall 2009) A class aimed at helping students achieve a good command of Modern Hebrew for the purpose of using it for their research. Readings include excerpts of academic papers from a variety of academic fields (literary criticism, comparative religion, political science, history of the Middle East, sociology etc.).

**Introduction to the Semitic Languages** (Graduate seminar, Spring 2009) A class focused on familiarizing students with the linguistic structure of the family, through experiencing them in practice. Students are exposed to some of the major differences between Semitic and Indo-European languages, learn simplified grammars in transliteration of several major languages (Akkadian, Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic and Ethiopic) and attempt to read short excerpts with the help of a glossary. Relevant secondary literature is reviewed.

**PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:**

The American Oriental Society; The Society of Biblical Literature; The North American Conference of Afroasiatic Linguistics (member and past convener); The Linguistic Society of America; The Association for Linguistic Typology.

**LANGUAGE SKILLS:**

Fluency: Modern Hebrew, English

Excellent: Gəʿəz, Syriac, Biblical Hebrew, Classical Arabic, Ugaritic, Phoenician, Qumranic Aramaic, Babylonian Aramaic, Biblical Aramaic, Targumic Aramaic, Mandaic, Neo-Aramaic, Christian Palestinian Aramaic.

Working knowledge: German, French, Dutch, Italian, Latin, Greek.