

Prof. Elisheva Baumgarten

History

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof. Elisheva Baumgarten was born in New York and made aliyah to Israel in high school. She completed all of her degrees at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specializing in Jewish History (PhD 2001, *summa cum laude*). After spending two years as a research associate and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, she returned to Israel in 2002 and joined the faculty of the Jewish History Department and the Gender Studies Program at Bar-Ilan University, where she taught until 2013. She also headed the Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Center for the Study of Women in Judaism at Bar-Ilan from 2006 to 2011. In autumn 2013, Prof. Baumgarten joined the faculty of the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry and the Department of History at the Hebrew University. She has been a research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton; at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris; and at the Katz Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Prof. Baumgarten's research focuses on the Jewish communities of medieval Germany and northern France. She is a social historian who uses gender methodology and comparative methods to examine the daily life of medieval Jews within their Christian surroundings. Her work has examined family life, life-cycle rituals, education, midwifery and piety. Her first book was *Mothers and Children: Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe* (Princeton University Press, 2004; Hebrew publication: Zalman Shazar Center, 2006). Her second book, *Practicing Piety in Medieval Ashkenaz: Men, Women and Everyday Religious Observance* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014) focuses on how the daily activities of medieval Jews expressed their gendered and religious identities. She has edited several collections of essays on medieval Jewish life and on gender and Jewish studies, and she is currently writing a social history of medieval Jewish marriage in northern Europe.

Prof. Baumgarten is a member of the Directory Board of the Israel Historical Society and serves on a number of editorial boards of journals and presses. Among the awards she has received are the Ephraim Elimelech Urbach postdoctoral grant (Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture), the Yad Hanadiv fellowship for European History (Rothschild Foundation) and the Yigal Alon Award (2002–2005). Her research has been supported by grants from the German-Israeli Fund (GIF) and the Israel Science Foundation .

Elisheva Baumgarten lives in Jerusalem with her husband Yaacov Deutsch and their four children.

Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry and Department of History,
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Elisheva.baumgarten@mail.huji.ac.il

025883623

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