



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



Name: Yael Machtinger, PhD Candidate

Institution Affiliation: Socio-Legal Studies, York University

Supervisor: Benjamin Berger

e-mail: yaelmach@yorku.ca

Bio and Research Statement

Yael Machtinger is a PhD Candidate in Socio-Legal Studies, at York University. Yael's Doctoral Dissertation focusing on religion, law, and storytelling is a comprehensive, qualitative study of Jewish divorce (get) refusal and the first comparative study between Toronto and New York, the cities with the largest and most diverse Jewish populations in their respective countries. Using both interviews inspired by oral history and ethnography, and archival sources to get a 'thick description', Yael is contributing to women's historiography of marriage as well as examining the overlapping legal norms of Jewish and civil laws. Yael incorporates socio-legal literatures dealing with religion, identity and culture, as well as gender and storytelling (by talking to diverse stakeholders) and brings the diverse literatures of social theory, religious feminism and legal pluralism together in examining women's narratives of being "chained" to a marriage.

Yael's recent publication, "Socio-Legal Remedies to Sex Segregation Stemming from Siruv Get: Top Down, Bottom Up" in *Women's Rights and Religious Law*, was published by Routledge Press. She has a forthcoming publication, "In the Name of God? Investigating an overlooked aspect of Get Refusal" in *When Prayers are Not Enough: Religion, Gender, and Family Violence* (Brill Press, 2017). This research has been funded by the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship and the Religion and Diversity Project Fellowship.

As a Teaching Assistant at York University in the Law and Society Program, Yael won the President's University-Wide Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She received a ticket to Course Direct in 2016-2017. Yael has sat on numerous academic committees, most recently, on the Law and Society Tenure Track Hiring Committee, and a double term on the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies Committee on Teaching, Learning & Student Success. She has presented papers at numerous conferences, and guest lectured on a variety of subjects; most recently, presenting at Columbia University in New York. Yael was a Graduate Research Assistant, working on Modern Slavery and Forced Marriage projects with Annie Bunting and assisted with publications.

In 2014, Yael was recognized as one of the 24 Jews changing the world by the Canadian Jewish News. She also chairs the "By Women for Women Education Program" at the largest Orthodox synagogue in Canada, BAYT.