

**Dr. Yael Sternhell**

**History**

**Tel Aviv University**

Yael Sternhell is a cultural historian of modern America, with a particular interest in the Civil War era and its long aftermath. Her first book, *Routes of War: The World of Movement in the Confederate South* (Harvard University Press, 2012) argued that spatial mobility, rather than violence, was the core of the war experience in the South and a driving force behind the profound transformations the region underwent during the war. While historians have studied closely the battlefields and homefronts of the Civil War, *Routes of War* was the first book to focus exclusively on the roads and woods that connected the two. The book was a co-winner of the Francis B. Simkins Prize from the Southern Historical Association, a finalist for the Lincoln Prize, and a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title. A separate but related research project, on news and rumor in the Confederacy, yielded an article, “Communicating War: The Culture of Information in Richmond during the American Civil War,” published in *Past and Present* in 2009. Her current book project, tentatively entitled *The War and the Archive, 1861-1901*, is an inquiry into the fate of Civil War paperwork in the two generations after the war. Wartime papers, it argues, played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural and political processes that defined the late nineteenth century and undergirded America’s recovery from civil war. An article expounding some of the major findings from this project and situating them in a broad theoretical framework was published in *The Journal of American History* in 2016. In addition, Sternhell remains interested in slave emancipation, which was a major concern of her first book, and has published a series of essays, both historical and historiographical, on the collapse of slavery in the United States.

Sternhell received her B.A. *summa cum laude* from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton. She was a Rothschild postdoctoral fellow in Western history and a member of the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the Hebrew

University. She joined the faculty of Tel Aviv University in 2011 as a senior lecturer in History and American Studies and was awarded the Yigal Allon fellowship for outstanding young faculty. In addition, she has been the winner of a grant from the Israel Science Foundation, and fellowships from the American Philosophical Society, the Huntington Library, the Gilder-Lehrman Center for the study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale, and the Charles Warren Center for studies in American History at Harvard. In 2016 she was a fellow at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton.