

Dr. Karma Ben Johanan – Bio – June 2025

I am a historian of late-modern religion and religious ideas. My research focuses on Contemporary Christian theology, Jewish-Christian relations, secularism, church-state relations, and antisemitism. My work explores how intellectual communities of established religious traditions mobilize their traditional sources to respond to expansive political, intellectual, and ethical transitions, as well as the implications of these responses for their perceptions of the Other. Currently, I lead an ERC project titled: "[Christosemitism](#)", focusing on the Christian European discourse on antisemitism after World War II, in light of the globalization of Christianity and the secularization of Europe.

I teach at the Department of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Previously, I served as a professor at the Faculty of Theology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where I held the Chair of Jewish-Christian Relations. I studied at the Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students at Tel Aviv University, and completed my PhD in the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, also at Tel Aviv University. I was then a Fulbright postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, and at the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. I taught courses at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and at the "Theologisches Studienjahr" at the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem, and conducted research stays at the Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose Giovanni XXIII in Bologna and the Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften in Bad Homburg.

I was awarded the [Dan David Prize](#) for the Study of the Past in 2023. My book, [Jacob's Younger Brother: Christian-Jewish Relations after Vatican II](#) (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2022), was awarded the Polonsky Prize for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines and the Catholic Media Association Award for a book on interreligious relations. The book's Hebrew version, [A Pottage of Lentils: Mutual Perceptions of Christians and Jews in the Age of Reconciliation](#) (Tel Aviv University Press, 2020), won the Shazar Prize for Research in Jewish History in 2021.