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CURRICULUM VITAE

Hanoch Ben-Yami

Affiliation

Professor, Head of Department, Department of Philosophy, Central European University (CEU), 9 Nádor Street, 1051 Budapest, Hungary.

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Education

Tel-Aviv University (TAU), Philosophy Department, PhD, 1 June 1995

TAU, Philosophy Department, MA, 10 Oct. 1989

The Hebrew University, Mathematics & Physics, BSc, 1 Sep. 1983

Career History

2005-Present CEU, Department of Philosophy, Associate Professor and then Professor

1998-2004 TAU, Philosophy Department, Lecturer

1997-1998 TAU, Special Interdisciplinary Programme for Outstanding Students, Educational Advisor

1996-1998 TAU, Philosophy Department, Instructor

Academic and Professional Awards

1998 The Alon Scholarship, for lectureship at Tel-Aviv University

1995-1996 The Rothschild Fellowship, for post-doctoral study and research work at The Queen's College, Oxford University

1994-1995 The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Chevening Scholarship, for post-doctoral study and research work at The Queen's College, Oxford University

Research

My current research divides into a few areas.

- I have developed a new, powerful system of logic, which I call the Quantified Argument Calculus. Its main ideas are contained already in my 2004 book, *Logic & Natural Language: On Plural Reference and Its Semantic and Logical Significance*. However, the system has gone significant developments and modifications since then, including a development of a rigorous and elegant formal system. A paper I published in the *Review of Symbolic Logic* in 2014 contains its most up-to-date presentation. My system is closer to the logic of natural language than is the Predicate Calculus. In my book, in that paper and

in other publications I have also compared my system to others found in the literature (generalised quantifiers, plural quantification), applied it to modal logic, discussed the possibility of higher-level plurals, and more. I continue developing my system, and others are currently doing some work on it as well, at CEU and other departments.

- I have recently published a book, *Descartes' Philosophical Revolution: A Reassessment* (Palgrave 2015). In the book I reassess the way Descartes developed and justified some of his revolutionary philosophical ideas. The first part of the book shows that one of Descartes' most innovative and influential ideas was that of representation without resemblance. I show how Descartes transfers insights originating in his work on analytic geometry to his theory of perception. The second part shows how Descartes was influenced by the technology of the period, notably clockwork automata, in holding life to be a mechanical phenomenon, reducing the soul to the mind and considering it immaterial. I explore the later role of another technological breakthrough, the digital computer, in Turing's criticism of Descartes' ideas. The last part discusses the *Meditations*: far from starting everything afresh without presupposing anything that can be doubted, Descartes' innovations in the dream argument, the *cogito* and elsewhere are modifications of old ideas based upon considerations issuing from his separately developed theories, formed under the influence of the technology, mathematics and science of his age.
- In 2005 I published a paper on simultaneity in Special Relativity (SR). Since then I have been working on several related issues: becoming in SR, alternative conceptions of simultaneity and their implications, the impossibility of backward causation and of time travel, and more. Some of this is work-in-progress, while some has already been published. I am also beginning to work on related ideas in the philosophy of Quantum Mechanics.
- Other bits and pieces include work on vagueness, Wittgenstein, the infinite, criticism of Kripkean ideas, voluntary action, truth-valuational approach to logic... For more information, see [my Publications List](#).