

Prof. Aharon Geva Kleinberger

Executive Summary & Current Affiliation

Prof. Aharon Geva Kleinberger is a Full Professor in the Department of Hebrew Language at the University of Haifa. Recognized globally as a leading authority on Arabic dialects and macro-linguistics, his research spans Semitic philology, dialectology, and the documentation of endangered cultures. In 2025, he was appointed Head of The Joseph & Racheline Barda Chair for the Study & Research of Jewish Heritage in Egypt.



Education & Academic Appointments

Prof. Geva Kleinberger earned his PhD with honors (*summa cum laude*) in Semitic Philology, Islamic Studies, and Assyriology from the University of Erlangen, Germany (2000). He subsequently served as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2003–2004). Demonstrating extensive institutional leadership, he served two consecutive terms as Head of the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Haifa (2014–2019). His administrative contributions also include memberships in the University Senate and various academic committees, notably the Honorary Doctorate Selection Committee.

Global Teaching & Research Footprint

With over two decades of academic tenure at the University of Haifa (2000–2026), Prof. Geva Kleinberger has held numerous prestigious international and domestic appointments, including:

- **Affiliated Professor:** University of Malta (2022) and Tbilisi State University, Georgia (2022).
- **Visiting Scholar/Researcher:** The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid (2019–2020).
- **Lecturer & Faculty:** Tel Aviv University (2012–2015), the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology (2013–2017), and institutions in Sweden (2009) and Germany (1999–2000). He has been repeatedly recognized as an Outstanding Lecturer and has successfully supervised dozens of Ph.D. dissertations and M.A. theses.

Research Contributions & Linguistic Documentation

As a pioneering field linguist, Prof. Geva Kleinberger specializes in documenting and preserving the endangered languages, traditions, and oral histories of Arabic-speaking Jewish communities. His fieldwork spans communities from Syria, Lebanon, and Sudan, to Baghdadi diaspora communities in India, Myanmar, and Singapore.

- **Recent Fieldwork (2021–2022):** Conducted extensive audiovisual documentation of Syrian and Lebanese Jewish communities in Panama and Mexico, collaborating with a Jewish journalist of Lebanese descent.
- **Major Publications:** Co-authored the seminal first *Atlas of Arabic Dialects in the Galilee Region* (2019) alongside the late scholar Peter Behnstedt.
- **Current Research:** Focuses on macro-linguistics, exploring the multi-disciplinary intersections between language, agriculture, botany, and geology. He is a renowned polyglot who has mastered numerous languages throughout his career.

Public Service & Advisory Roles

Prof. Geva Kleinberger's expertise extends significantly beyond academia:

- **Academy of Arabic Language in Israel:** Served as its sole Jewish member.
- **Ministry of Education:** Managed the Arabic curriculum for the Arab sector and oversaw matriculation examinations for the Druze sector.
- **Media & Broadcasting:** Worked as a broadcaster, program editor, and news editor for Israel Broadcasting Authority's in Arabic (1989–1995).
- **Global Conferences:** Delivered keynote addresses and presentations at dozens of prominent academic platforms worldwide.