

Anat Biletzki

(Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy,
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Born in Jerusalem in 1952, Professor Anat Biletzki spent much of her childhood and schooling (elementary and high school) in the United States and Canada. Her university degrees were acquired at Tel Aviv University in Israel, in Political Science and Philosophy. Her Master's thesis was on Aristotle's logic and determinism; her PhD. Dissertation on the history of the philosophy of language.



Biletzki has been teaching at the philosophy department in Tel Aviv University since 1979. She has also travelled widely, as a visiting scholar and fellow at, among others, the department for History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge University, the Philosophy Department at Harvard University, and the School of Social Science in the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

Her publications include books and articles on Ludwig Wittgenstein, Thomas Hobbes, analytic philosophy, political thought, digital culture, and human rights. Her book *Talking Wolves: Thomas Hobbes on the Language of Politics and the Politics of Language* begins with the words: "Philosophy is my profession; politics is my life." She has been engaged, for three decades now, in bridging the two – philosophy and politics –by attempting to use analytic philosophy in the investigation and study of human rights, and by investing her work in human rights organizations with philosophical grounding. During her year at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton she was part of a research group on the Universalism of Human Rights.

Outside academia Biletzki has been active in the peace movement and in several human rights projects in Israel for over 25 years. During the first intifada she was one of the founders (and in charge of communications) of the peace movement "The Twenty-First Year" – a group devoted to promoting civil objection to the occupation. In those same years she also worked with the Beta Committee, which attempted to coordinate rehabilitation efforts for the West Bank village, Beta. In 1997-1998 Biletzki helped establish the human rights movement "Open Doors" which worked on liberating Palestinian administrative detainees in Israel – especially 11 detainees who had been incarcerated, without trial or due process, for over five years. (Within a year almost all the administrative detainees were released.) Since 1996 Biletzki has been active as one of the leaders of Hacampus Lo Shotek – The Campus Is Not Silent – the most vociferous and influential campus group, made up of faculty and students at Tel Aviv University (recently branching out to other Israeli universities), which runs campus events dedicated to ending the occupation and ensuring a just peace. She is presently chairperson of the board of B'Tselem - the Israeli Information center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. Although she is often invited abroad for public lecturing, most of her efforts in public education for human rights and peace is invested in the school system, in youth movements, and in public arenas in Israel.