

Naomi Katz

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RESEARCH & TEACHING FOCUS

Ritual and ceremony as relational and ecological epistemologies; collective healing practices; adaptation of Indigenous ceremonial forms in contemporary Western contexts; women's rites and menstrual ritual; embodiment, language, and prayer; community-based and experiential pedagogy.

EDUCATION & INITIATORY TRAINING

School of Secrets (Carmen Vicente lineage) — International
Ordained Ritualist

- Altar of the Media Luna (2020)
- Altar of the Temazcal / Sweat Lodge (2014)
- Retiros de la Luna / Moon Retreats (2014)
- Altar of the Chanupa / Peace Pipe (2013)
- Ongoing field training (15+ years): ceremonial leadership, ritual design, and collective healing practices

University of California, Berkeley — M.A., Political Science, 2003

- Travers Ethics Fellow (full fellowship)
- Thesis: *Understanding Eminem as a Free Speaker*
- Additional training: 3-year intensive study in Martha Graham dance technique

Brown University — B.A., Political Science & Comparative Literature, 2000

- Magna Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa
- Thesis: *The Problem of Impassioned Politics*

Additional Certifications

- Clinical Western Herbalism, Ran Herbs (Israel), 2011
- Permaculture Design & Education, Israel Permaculture Association, 2009

- Teaching Certification (Social Studies, Grades 7–12), New York State, 2000

PUBLICATIONS & TRANSLATION

Books

- Contesse, Natalia. *The Rite of Menstruation (El Rito de la Menstruación)*. Co-translated with Claudia Cuentas, 2022.
- Katz, Naomi. *Beautiful*. iBooks (2016); Agam Publications, Hebrew edition (2018).

Selected Articles

- “Why is there still a stigma about women and sex?” *Time*, 2016
- “What happens when adolescent girls really talk?” *Kveller*, 2016
- “Why I Teach Young Women about Amy Schumer,” *Huffington Post*, 2016

Public Scholarship & Media

- Monthly newsletter (essays and poetry), ongoing since 2018
- Guided meditations and audio teachings, 2026
- *Living Well with Grief: A Guide to Building Personal Grief Rituals*, 2025
- “Who is Raising Our Young People?” TEDx Savyon, 2020

SELECTED TEACHING & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures & Academic Presentations

- Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (2019) — Adolescent identity, sexuality, and social media
- National Coalition of Girls’ Schools Global Forum (2018) — Intersectionality and identity
- North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (2017) — Keynote on social-emotional learning
- Hadassah National Convention (2016) — Women’s embodiment and autonomy

Invited Teaching & Workshops (International)

Selected recent engagements across Europe, the Middle East, and North America:

- *Grieving Together*, Palestine (2025), in collaboration with Combatants for Peace, Sulaiman Khatib and Dr. Leor Roseman

- *Courage to be Present*, Slovenia (2024)
- *Returning to Balance*, Spain (2024)
- *Listen to the Water*, Israel (2024)
- Ongoing teaching in the United States, Sweden, Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, and Israel/Palestine

Embodied Prayer (Workshops & Trainings)

- New York, and Central Europe (2023–present)
- Focus: ritual, voice, embodiment, and collective process

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- Founder, *Return to Your Animal Body* (2023–present): online learning community integrating ecofeminism, embodiment, and relational worldviews
- Developer of interdisciplinary curricula in humanities, arts, and social-emotional learning (U.S. and international contexts)
- Co-editor, *Youth on the Move* (Destiny Arts Center, 2005)

CEREMONIAL LEADERSHIP & FIELD EXPERIENCE

- 15+ years of international fieldwork in ritual facilitation, ceremonial leadership, and community-based practice
- Initiated carrier of ceremonial altars including Chanupa, Temazcal, and Media Luna
- Participation in and support of multi-year vision quest cycles and large-scale ceremonial gatherings across four continents
- Training and mentorship of emerging practitioners in the US, Europe and the Middle East

ARTISTIC & INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK

- Featured Artist, *El Destino de la Sangre* (The Destiny of the Blood)
 - Museo de la Moneda, Santiago, Chile (2018)
 - Exhibition, Houyet, Belgium (2023)
- Research focus: poetry, craft, textile traditions, and women’s embodied knowledge systems

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Travers Ethics Fellowship, UC Berkeley (2002–2003)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Co-Founder, Eco Israel Program (2007–2011): residential permaculture education
- Secondary education: teacher and curriculum developer (New York, Oakland)
- Leadership development and mentorship for educators and youth

REFERENCES

Robin Stern, Co-Founder, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence
New Haven, CT
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Claudia Cuentas, MA, LMFT, Lead Facilitator, Cora Center
Portland, OR
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Jakub Moulis, Production Manager, Maitrea Educational Center
Prague, Czech Republic
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Carmen Vicente, Spiritual Leader and founder, School of Secrets
Alangasi, Ecuador
with Rahel Ben Cnaan (Director, School of Secrets) to translate
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