

**ALEXANDRA POLYAN (Moscow)**

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Sefer influenced my professional academic career choice when I enrolled in the Institute and found myself at a Sefer summer school where I signed up for a course in the history of Yiddish poetry. Between 2001 and 2004 I attended Sefer schools as a student (at that time I highly valued the opportunity to learn something that could not be heard at Moscow universities, nor found at the Moscow libraries, without going far away from Moscow). And of course, I enjoyed meeting people who were interested in Jewish studies.

Since 2008 I've been attending these schools as a teacher. Now I enjoy teaching what is of interest to me rather than what is prescribed by the university curriculum.