

**Title:** Poetics of Influence: The Case of Boris Slutsky and Yehudah Amichai  
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The focus of this presentation is the only collection of Israeli poetry in Russian translation published in the Soviet Union, *Poety Izrailia* (1963). The anthology was edited by Boris Slutsky, a major poet and a subject of my recent monograph, *"I am to be read not from left to right, but in Jewish: from right to left": The Poetics of Boris Slutsky* (Borderlines: Russian and East European-Jewish studies, Academic Studies Press, 2011). In this paper I aim to investigate what role Slutsky played in the creation of the anthology and what role this encounter with Hebrew poetry played in his own poetics and creativity. I investigate Slutsky's relationship with Aleksandr Penn, an Israeli communist poet and a native speaker of Russian, who was instrumental in putting the anthology together. My main argument is that Slutsky was particularly influenced by the poetry of Yehudah Amichai, major voice of Israeli poetry from the '50s and on, three of whose poems were included in the anthology. I suggest that Slutsky himself translated Amichai's programmatic poem, "God Full of Mercy" for the collection and later responded to it with his own poem, "Svoim stil'kom pleteniia sloves..." Never before discussed in critical literature, the Amichai/Slutsky link sheds rich light on Slutsky's engagement with various Jewish sources and the role he played in bringing Israeli and Soviet literatures together.

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