

**The Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Report to the 2018 Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

January 24, 2018

Professor Adriana Kemp, Chair

Young Scholars:

Natalie Levy, Ph.D. candidate

President of the State of Israel Scholarship for Scientific Excellence and Academic Innovation (a three years scholarship for the years 2018-2021).

Miss Levy is writing a PhD dissertation on Arab-Jewish mixed schools in Israel. While the vast majority of Jewish and Arab students in Israel study in separate schools, in the last two decades a new phenomenon of mixed schools - either ideological or what she terms 'circumstantial' schools - is rising. The research examines social identification, values and life styles of Jewish and Arab students who study in both types of mixed schools and segregated schools in Israel.

Kineret Sadeh

President of the State of Israel Scholarship for Scientific Excellence and Innovation (a three years scholarship for the years 2017-2019).

The name of the research: *Ultraorthodox Mizrahi Education and the Challenge of Living Together with Others: A Post-Liberal View on Religious Education in Action*

Miss Sadeh's doctoral dissertation explores the pedagogic decision-making processes that take place within two distinct social groups in Israeli-Jewish society: the secular-Ashkenazi-pro-Western-liberal group, and the ultra-Orthodox-Mizrahi group. In particular, Miss Sadeh's research examines how ultraorthodox Mizrahi educators in Israel face the challenge of educating their students for living in a shared society alongside those who are deeply different from them – be they non-Jews, secular Jews, Jews from other denominations, LGBT individuals, or others. These decision making processes are viewed from a post-liberal/post-secular perspective, which seeks to study the different—and even conflicting—worlds of meaning of both groups, while critically examining the underlying assumptions of secular-liberalism. The research is based on a comprehensive research program that relies on mixed methods, including participant observation, content analysis, interviews and a public opinion survey.

Towibah Majdoob

2017 - Azrieli Fellows Program – This is a highly competitive and prestigious 3 years fellowship (2017-2019) awarded to PhD and postdoctoral students on the basis of outstanding academic merit and other exceptional personal achievements such as community involvement.

Miss Majdoob's dissertation examines the phenomenon of "singlehood" among unmarried Palestinian men and women in Israel.

Her research investigates late singlehood as experienced and interpreted by single men and women in Palestinian society in Israel. This phenomenon has been previously addressed in sociological literature mainly through the perspective of hegemonic Western society and dominant, gendered worldviews. Miss Majdoob's research, in contrast, explores it through the intersections of socio-political, gender-based, ethnic, national and geographic positions. Based on more than forty interviews with women and men, her study demonstrates that singlehood is not a uniform social category, but rather a diverse one that varies with the interrelations between these positions. The research enriches the literature that has yet to analyze this phenomenon in Palestinian society in Israel.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Guy Shalev

PhD, Cultural and Medical Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
MA, Social Anthropology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (*Magna Cum Laude*)

BA, Sociology-Anthropology and Psychology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (*Magna Cum Laude*)

Guy Shalev is the Shapiro postdoctoral fellow at Tel Aviv University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Guy is a medical anthropologist whose research considers the professional and political lives of Palestinian physicians in the Israeli public health system. He is particularly interested in 'medical neutrality' as an organizing ideal upon which political subjectivities are realized in the medical sphere. Papers he authored received student paper awards from the Middle East Section of the AAA (2017), the Middle East Studies Association (2017), the Society for Medical Anthropology (2014), the Society for the Anthropology of Religion (2013) and the Israeli Sociological Society (2013).

Research interests:

Medical Anthropology, political Anthropology, Anthropology of Expertise, Borders, Ethno-Nationalism, Medical Neutrality, Anthropology of the Middle East, Israel/Palestine

Senior Faculty -Research Grants

Professor Hadas Mandel, Sociology and Anthropology

The European Research Council (ERC) Grant under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 724351).

Sum of the grant: 1.4 million Euros, for a period of 5 years.

Title of the project – **“The ‘Declining Significance of Gender’ Reexamined: Cross-Country Comparison of Individual and Structural Aspects of Gender Inequality”**.

The research examines different aspects of gender inequality over a period of 40 years in four representative countries – Sweden, Germany, Spain and the United States, countries that differ in many of the institutional aspects that affect gender inequality, including the provision of welfare, gender ideology, wage structure, and political economy factors. The project aims to uncover two countervailing processes of gender in/equality that took place over the last 40 years: on the one hand- women's (individual) upward occupational mobility (for example women's integration in

politics and prestigious jobs in male-dominated occupations like industrial engineers) and on the other hand women's (collective) effect on occupational pay (for example, the fact that industrial engineers have enjoyed lower pay increments relative to electrical engineers, and its relation to the fact that many more women have become industrial engineers than electrical engineers over the last decades). I argue that the effect of the latter increased over time, but is concealed by the former, i.e. by women's (individual) upward mobility. The implication is that the importance of gender as a determinant of economic inequality in the labor market becomes insufficiently acknowledged, and thus difficult to track and eradicate.

Dr. Erica Weiss

Dr. Weiss received an Israel Science Foundation (ISF) grant in the amount of 260,000 NIS for her project on "**Post-Liberal Democracy**". This research project examines grassroots experiments in post-liberal democratic forms. It investigates attempts to develop alternative democratic expressions and modes of pluralism that do not rely on liberal values, especially those of individualism and secularism. This project explores the possibility of "democratic diversity", the idea that democracy is not "one size fits all". By examining experiments in post-liberal democracy, this research has the potential to suggest the contours and content of a democratic process decoupled from liberal assumptions.

Dr. Anastasia Gorodzeisky

Dr. Gorodzeisky received an ISF grant in the amount of 450,000 NIS on the subject of "**The long arm of children's age at immigration: Educational and labor market outcomes**".

The aim of the proposed study is to investigate the short- and long-term consequences of children's age at immigration, while taking into account the dynamics of the individual choices and institutional constraints that shape cumulative advantage and disadvantage. While previous studies on the effects of age at immigration focused mainly on language acquisition and high school achievement, the proposed study emphasizes the importance of course-taking during high school, of transfer to higher education, and of enrollment in different types of institutions and fields of study as the main educational mechanisms that facilitate successful incorporation in the labor market. The study, thus, bridges three main areas of social research: education, migration, and labor markets.

PI: Anastasia Gorodzeisky, Yariv Feniger and Hana Ayalon.

Professor Alexandra Kalev

Prof. Kalev was awarded the 2017 prestigious HBR McKinsey Award for a co-authored article:

Dobbin, Frank and Alexandra Kalev. (2016). [Why Diversity Programs Fail](#). Harvard Business Review, 94(7), 14.

Dr. Isaac Sasson

Dr. Sasson received two important grants:

The German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (GIF) research grant to study "**The Changing Locus of Lifespan Inequality in the United States**"

The European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Network/Workshop Grant to host an international workshop on "**Inequality and Uncertainty in Length of Life**" at TAU.

New and Exciting Program in Migration Studies Taught Entirely in English

The graduate program on Migration Studies took off this year. The two-year program focused on global migration is taught in English by internationally renowned experts from Israel and abroad. It is unique in that it brings into one classroom International students, Israeli-born students, and recent Olim. The first cohort of 19 students is remarkably diverse. It includes students from India, Thailand, Mexico, Russia, UK, Brazil, USA, and Australia; all of whom quickly struck friendships among themselves and with their Israeli co-students. In addition to their academic studies, students are required to take part in our internship program. Through work in a variety of organizations students receive invaluable experience and knowledge of the field. Professional workshops and a semester abroad further add to the attractiveness of the program. The program is run by Professor Noah Lewin-Epstein (academic Head) and Professor Adriana Kemp Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.