



**February 6-7, 2018**

**Call for Papers**

Submission closes October 17, 2017

Abstracts should be sent to

**[icqm@bgu.ac.il](mailto:icqm@bgu.ac.il)**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Israeli Conference of Qualitative Research will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva. The theme of this year's conference is **“Qualitative research between the personal and the political”**

There is much debate about the place of politics in Academia in Israel. But in what ways is this debate manifested in qualitative research? How do qualitative researchers construct the complicated connections between the personal, political and social aspects of their work? Qualitative researchers often highlight their commitment to social justice; but within this field, there is a wide range of possibilities for understanding the place of politics in research. Some researchers claim that all research is political, because research always operates within an existing social framework of power relations. Others argue that a researcher must enter the field without a political agenda, in order to enable an unbiased engagement between researcher and participants and to create together a shared vision.

As academics, we have the responsibility to act in support of a better and more humane society, and to challenge through our research existing imbalances in power relations. However, an overt political agenda can impact on the quality and trustworthiness of research. Hence, there are important questions to consider about the ways in which political and personal aspects influence the research process. More specifically, in what ways do the personal and political aspects of the research subject and the researcher mold the research question, design, data analysis, writing and dissemination of a research project?

The conference will provide an arena for the Israeli qualitative research community to discuss these and other questions. The aims of the conference are to showcase contemporary qualitative research in Israel, and to expand the epistemological, ontological, methodological, and political discussion within the Israeli qualitative community.

We are calling for presentations of research from education, psychology, social work, criminology, communication, management, sociology, anthropology, geography, information systems, law, nursing, medicine and more. We are calling for papers about narrative research, phenomenology, discourse analysis, ethnography, auto-ethnography, mixed-method research, visual research, art-based research, case studies, performance, action research, participative action research, feminist research, and post-colonial research, as well as papers about teaching qualitative research and ethics.

The keynote speaker will be **Professor Shulamit Reinharz** (Brandeis University); Prof Reinharz has written much about qualitative and feminist research. In her books "On Becoming a Social Scientist", "Feminist Methods in Social Research" and "Observing the Observer: Understanding Our Selves in Field Research" she discuss in depth the political and personal aspect of the research process. The conference will feature plenary, featured, regular and poster sessions, and post-conference workshops with leading qualitative researchers in Israel.

We invite papers, panels, roundtables and posters. Abstracts should not exceed **250 words** (for roundtables, 150 words). Most paper presentation sessions will be 1.5 hours in duration. Sessions will normally consist of 4 presentations (15 minutes presentation time per paper) and a discussion.

Abstracts should be sent, by email, to [icqm@bgu.ac.il](mailto:icqm@bgu.ac.il). Abstracts will be peer-reviewed and selected for presentation by the conference's scientific committee. Notifications of acceptance will be sent in early December 2017.

Abstract submission deadline: 17th October 2017

**Dr. Maya Lavie-Ajayi**

Chair of the conference

**Prof. Michal Krumer-Nevo**

Chair of the Scientific Committee

**More information at ICQM Website:** <http://www.bgu.ac.il/icqm>

