Martin-Springer Center for Conflict Studies
www.bgu.ac.il/martinspringer

Chair: Prof. Shifra Sagy

Members of the Steering Committee: Prof. David Newman - Dean, Humanities and Social Science Faculty; Prof. Oren Yiftachel; Prof. Hanna Yablonka; Prof. Danny Filk; Prof. Yoella Bereby-Meyer, Prof. Haim Haimes, Prof. Aviad Raz.

A. Research Grants:

1. “Hearts of flesh, not stone: Does encountering the "suffering of the other" influence reconciliation in the Middle East Conflict?” (2013-2018) Prof. Shifra Sagy, BGU, Prof. Arie Nadler, TAU, Prof. Martin Leiner - Jena, Germany FSU, and Prof. Mohammed Daoudi Dajani Wasatia, East Jerusalem. Project supported by the DFG Foundation (1,800,000 Euro).

2. “Belonging to the outsider and established groupings: Palestinians in various figurations” (2009 - 2015). Prof. Shifra Sagy, BGU, Prof. Gabriela Rosenthal, Gottingen University, Germany, and Prof. Mohammad Dajani Al-Quds University, East Jerusalem. Project supported by the DFG Foundation (725,000 Euro).


4. Enhancing community involvement of Bedouin youth by art: An intervention program and evaluation (2011-2013) Prof. Shifra Sagy and Dr. E. Huss. Supported by the Arnow Center for Bedouin Studies and Development. (USD $5000).

B. Publications:


C. **Courses**

Encountering the ‘other’ (ESO) project: Encountering the ‘other’ in conflict relationship in the context of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict – a yearlong seminar to experience and explore the encounter with the other in a conflict relationship, in the context of the Israel Palestinian conflict including social identities, power relations in the structures and culture, and collective narratives. (2013-2014 and 2014-2015)

Transitional Justice: A yearlong course about Transitional Justice and its possible adaption for the context of Arab and Jewish communities in the Negev. The course integrates theoretical approaches to the subject of transitional justice with the specific
issues of conflict resolution, reconciliation, justice, and with action research in both Bedouin-Arab and Jewish communities in the South. (2015-2016 – current)

D. Field trips:

March 2014 - Ramle-Lod – ESO group - Narratives from 1948 and today, walking tour of neighborhoods, municipality, visit to Lod Mosque, stories from battle, viewing of video testimonies, visit to Cultural Center.

March 2014 – East Jerusalem – ESO group - Overlooking the separation wall and refugee camps and meeting with refugees from different generations, visit to a camp with Machsom Watch representative, meeting with school principal, visit to Wasatia.

March 2014 – Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland – Research students from Ben Gurion University and Tel Aviv University as part of ESO project – historical sites in Krakow, ghetto and death camp.

March 2015 – Ramle – ESO group – Visit to a mosque, archeological museum, the marketplace and tour around town historical sites. Meeting Abu Tony and his personal story, since 1948. Visit to Open House in Ramle, discussion of then and now in Ramle.

March 2015 - Jerusalem – ESO group – Overlook from Mt. Scopus, history of borders of Jerusalem, visit to Kalanswa checkpoint with Machsom Watch representative, Officer from checkpoint, Mayor of Al Aqareb, visit to Sheikh Jarah, meeting with Aryeh King, meeting with Elder from community, meeting with head of Teacher’s College, and tour of neighborhood including settlement houses. Visit to Search for Common Ground.

December 2015 – Tel Sheva and Omer – Transitional Justice Course – tour of Tel Sheva and discussion with head of local council, social activist, and local resident, visit to Educational center for children with special needs, tour of Omer, discussion with head of local council and founding resident of town.
E. **Conferences organized by the Martin Springer Center**

1. The Arab Peace Initiative (still) waits for Israel (May 19, 2015)

2. The Impact of the Occupation on Israeli Society: On the publication of the book by Daniel Bar Tal and Yitzchak Snell (March 10, 2014)

3. To Think Salutogenically: 30 Years of Research, Theory and Practice. Ben Gurion University of the Negev (April, 2013)

F. **Presentations:**


Kalogy, T. (2103, May). *Between incitement and appeasement – Changing attitudes to ultra-Orthodox society in face of increasing academisation in the last decade.* The Annual Conference of Political Science, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.


Leshem, B. (2104, July 4-7). *Perceptions of honor and dignity as potential facilitators in advancing willingness to reconcile between groups.* Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy.


Ben David, Y. & Sternberg, M. (2014, November 16-17). *Encountering the suffering of the other in a conflict: an invitation to internal dialogue within ourselves in conflicted relations.* Presented at the International Conference at the Minerva Center for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Tel-Aviv University, Tel Aviv.
Sarid, A. (2014, November 16-17). *Perceptions of collective narratives and willingness to reconcile.* Presented at the International Conference at the Minerva Center for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Tel-Aviv University, Tel Aviv.


Sagy, S. (2015, March). *Coping, conflict, and culture: The salutogenic approach in research among adolescents.* Invited lecture at the Department of Psychology, University of Zurich, Switzerland.


Kalagy, T. (2015, July). *Opinions and perceptions of adolescents from different religious movements towards war and peace during a violent confrontation and their connection with anxiety reactions*. 36th Annual Conference of the Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR), Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv.


G. Graduate students:

**Post Doc**

**Phd.**
- Edelman, A. (2014). Sense of coherence as mediator between long term exposure to missile attacks and stress reactions


Mjally-Knani, S. (submitted). Muslim-Christian relationships in Israel: The moderating role of SES and education levels


Sarid, A. (current). Sense of national coherence as a barrier to reconciliation: Israeli students before and after the Gaza War.


Telaku, M. (current). Community sense of coherence and openness toward the “other” in intergroup relations: The case of Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo.

Yassin R. (current). Community sense of coherence: Religious beliefs and emotional reactions to stress among three minority groups during the natural disaster of the forest fire on the Carmel.

**MA-theses**

Higazi, I. (2013). “Beyond the fence”: Identity and collective narratives among Israeli Palestinian students at a West Bank university


Ben Atar, O. (2015). Community sense of coherence, and openness to the "other" among religious groups in Israel: Ethnicity as a moderator variable

Benheim, S. (2015). Perceptions of collective narratives, values, and conflict resolution: Attitudes among Jewish Israeli youth (with Dr. O. Braun-Lewensohn and Dr. T. Litvak Hirsch)
- Meir, T. (2015): The relationship between community and personal sense of coherence and perceptions of collective narratives among two minority groups in Israel: Ultra-Orthodox and National religious (with Dr. T. Kalagy)
- Sternberg, M. (2015). Nobody ever told us: Action research on an encounter of Jewish Israeli students with Palestinian conflict narratives (with Dr. T. Litvak Hirsch)