

Yaniv Belhassen received his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007, after which he joined the Program of Hotel & Tourism Management at Eilat Campus. Over the years he taught courses on sociology of tourism, principles of management, introduction to tourism studies, critical management studies, political tourism in the Israeli-Palestinian spaces, qualitative methods and cultural tourism studies. His research interests span over two main areas: the first includes a variety of socio-cultural and managerial issues related to tourism as a unique service industry and as a growing consumerist practice. In this area he has conducted research on psychoactive substance ab/use in tourism, spirituality and religion in contemporary travel, political involvement and activism in tourism and leisure, critical analysis of tourism-related discourses, residents' attitudes toward tourism, and sustainable development. The second area includes philosophical and pedagogical inquiries related to education and knowledge creation in the study of tourism, leisure and hospitality. In this line of research, he has been involved in projects on the epistemology of the tourism scholarship and on pedagogical research projects, such as the need for critical pedagogy on management education in tourism programs, and on ethics education in culinary art programs.