

CURRICULUM VITAE

• **Personal Details**

Name: Sarah Abu-Kaf

Date and place of birth: December 22, 1976, Beer-Sheva, Israel

Marital status: Married +6

Address and telephone number at work:

POB 653, Beer Sheva, Israel

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Address and telephone number at home:

POB 15173, Beer Sheva, Israel

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• **Education**

B.A. 1995-1999 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Department of Behavioral Sciences.

M.A. 2000-2004 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Department of Psychology, Clinical psychology track

Name of advisor: Prof. B. Priel.

Title of thesis: Polygamy and Adjustment: Parental representations among Bedouin Arab Children.

Ph.D. 2005-2010 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Department of Psychology, Clinical psychology track

Name of advisor: Prof. B. Priel.

Title of thesis: Personality Vulnerabilities to Depression and Somatization among Bedouin Arab and Jewish Students: A Longitudinal Study of Coping with Academic Stress.

• **Employment History**

2017- present Senior Lecturer, Conflict Management & Resolution Program, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

2012-2017 Lecturer, Conflict Management & Resolution Program, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

- 2011-2012 Post-Doctoral fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, USA,
Department of Anthropology. Name of advisor: Prof. A. Kleinman
Title of thesis: Emotional Distress among Bedouin Arab Females:
Circumstances, Factors, and a Proposed Intervention Program.
- 2011 Internship in Clinical Psychology Psychiatric Clinic for Children and
Youth,
Soroka University Medical Center.
- 2010-2011 External lecturer, Recanati School for Community Health Professions,
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- 2009-2011 Lecturer, Achva Academic College of Education, Israel (Courses taught:
Educational psychology and Pedagogy).
- 2009-2011 Workshops to improve ways of coping with economic and social stress
among unemployed Bedouin Arab women, Community Center, Tel-Sheva,
Israel.
- 2009-2011 Instructor and advisor, Recanati School for Community Health
Professions, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- 2008-2011 External lecturer, Access to Higher Education Program, Ben-Gurion
University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- 2007-2009 Workshops to improve ways of coping with academic stress among
female Bedouin Arab students, Dean of Students and RHA Center for
Bedouin Society Studies and Development, Ben-Gurion University of the
Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- 2005-2007 Teaching assistant, Department of Psychology, Ben-Gurion University of
the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- 2003- 2004 Consultative mental assistance for minority students in need, University
Psychological Counseling Services, Dean of Students, Ben-Gurion
University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

- **Professional activities**

- (a) Position in academic administration

- 2016-present Chairman of Research Students Committee, Conflict Management &
Resolution Program, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
 - 2014-present Chairman of Fellowship Committee, Conflict Management &
Resolution Program, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

2013-present Chairman of Ethics Committee, Conflict Management & Resolution Program, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

(c) Significant professional consulting

2015-present Member of the steering committee headed by the rector for assistance to Arab students, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

2015-present Board member of the Association for Multicultural Psychology.

2014-2015 The " Basket of Health" committee, the Ministry of Health.

2014-2015 Advisory committee, Ministry of Education: New 5 level Bagrut program in Diplomacy & International communication with focus on Conflict Management & Resolution.

2012- 2015 Fulbright Outreach committee, The United States–Israel Educational Foundation (USIEF).

(e) Ad-hoc reviewer for journals

American Journal of Orthopsychiatry

Children & Society

Ethnicity & Health

Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology

Journal of Psychotherapy Integration

Journal of Youth Studies

Mifgash: Journal of Social-Educational Work

Social Identities

Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology

Psychiatry Research

The Journal of Primary Prevention

Women & Health

(f) Membership in professional/scientific societies

2015- present International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP)

2013-2014 Political Psychology Society (PPS)

2010- present Israeli Psychological Association (IPA)

- **Educational activities**

- (a) Courses taught

- B.A. Courses**

- Conflicts in the family, (B.A) Conflict Management & Resolution Program, BGU.

- Selected Issues in the Study of Coping and Adjustment among Students, (B.A) Conflict Management & Resolution Program, BGU.

- Society In Conflict- the Case of Bedouin Arab Society, (B.A) Conflict Management & Resolution Program, BGU.

- Personality, Psychopathology, and Psychotherapy in the Cross-Cultural Context, (B.A), Department of Psychology, BGU.

- Educational Psychology,(B.A) , The Bedouin Track, Achva Academic College of Education.

- M.A. Courses**

- Psychological Aspects of Familial Conflicts, (M.A) Conflict Management & Resolution Program, BGU.

- Dialogue between Arab and Jewish students (workshop), (M.A) Conflict Management & Resolution Program, BGU,(with Dr. Shulamit Fisher).

- Violence as a Social Phenomenon from Theory to Practice, (M.A) Conflict Management & Resolution Program, BGU.

- Sexual Violence in a Social-Cultural Context: Educational Prevention and Intervention (M.A) Conflict Management & Resolution Program, BGU.

- (b) Research Students

- 2014 Ibrahim Al-Atawneh (M.A). (With Prof. Shifra Sagy). BGU

- 2015 Enas Abu Khalaf (M.A). BGU

- 2015 Zehavit Gilboa-negari (M.A). (With Prof . Ephrat Huss). BGU

- 2016 Dima Khalifa (M.A). (With Prof. Shifra Sagy). BGU

- 2016 Wafa Abu-Hamad (M.A). BGU

- 2016 Naomi Notkobitz (M.A). BGU

- 2016 Mohamad Alaobra (M.A). BGU

- 2017 Tal Gamshi. (M.A). BGU

- 2017 Nadia El-Atawna.(M.A). BGU

- 2018 (expected). Danit Gidion .(M.A). BGU

- 2018 (expected). Muhamad Debsan. (M.A). BGU

- **Awards, Citations, Honors, Fellowships**

- (a) Honors, Citation Awards

- *2017 World Science Forum, The Royal Scientific Society in Jordan, selected to be included in the exhibition for Arab women in science.
- *2016 Councils for Higher Education, The Planning and Budgeting Committee, Israeli Higher education award for the category of "Junior Faculty".
- *2015 The Embassy Amman's Environment, Science, Technology and Health Office for the Middle East and North Africa, US Embassy, Named to the "Women in Science Hall of Fame 2014" .
- *2013-2014 Councils for Higher Education, The Planning and Budgeting Committee, Involvement of Academia and students in the community: course entitled " Preventing sexual violence in social and cultural contexts". (8,500 \$).
- *2013 The Marker, selected to be one of forty most promising young people in Israel.
- *2012-2013 Councils for Higher Education, The Planning and Budgeting Committee, Involvement of Academia and students in the community: course entitled " Preventing sexual violence in social and cultural contexts". (14,000 \$) (with Dr. Tamar Icekson).
- 2011 Ben-Gurion University, The RHA Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, The RHA Center for Bedouin Studies and Development Award for distinguished doctoral dissertation.
- 2008 Ben-Gurion University, Department of Psychology, The Head of Psychology Department Distinction Award.
- 2008 Personality and Individual Differences (PID), Articles Recommended for reading for the article:" Dependent and self-critical vulnerabilities to depression in two different cultural contexts".

- (b)Fellowships

- Year, granting institution or foundation, amount (\$), purpose of fellowship

- *2013-2015 Council for Higher Education, Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC), (140,000\$ for three academic years), The "Maof" Fellowship for Outstanding Arab Lecturers.

2011-2012 The United States-Israel Educational Foundation (USIEF), (40,000\$ for one academic year), Fulbright-Rabin Post-Doctoral Scholar Award for Post-doc.

2011-2012 The American Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, New-York, USA, (50,000\$ for one academic year), The AABGU Scholarship for Post-doc.

2006-2008, Council for Higher Education, Planning and Budgeting Committee(PBC), (45,000 \$ for 3 years), Vut"at Scholarship for distinguished doctoral students among the Arab society.

- **Scientific Publications**

ISI: h index=3; Sum of the times cited: 16, Sum of times cited without self-citation: 11.
Google Scholar (GS h index=3; Sum of the times cited: 48, Sum of times cited without self-citation: 41)

c. Refereed chapters in collective volumes

*1. **Abu-Kaf, S.**^{PI} (Accepted). Mental Health Issues among Arab Palestinian Women in Israel. Haj-Yahia, M., Nakash, O., & Levav I. (Eds.). *Topics in Mental Health of the Palestinian in Israel*. Indiana University Press.

d. Refereed articles and refereed letters in scientific journals

1. **Abu-Kaf, S.**^{PI} & Priel, B.^{PI} (2008). Dependent and self-critical vulnerabilities to depression in two different cultural contexts. *Personality and Individual Differences, 44*, 689-700. doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2007.10.002 (ISI 9 citations; IF 1.951; JR 19/62; Q1; GS 27 citations)
2. **Abu-Kaf, S.**^{PI} & Priel, B.^{PI} (2012). Vulnerabilities to Depression and Sense of Coherence among Bedouin Arab and Jewish Students: A Test of a Mediation Model. *International Journal of Psychology and Counseling, 4*(3), 31-40. (GS 3 citations IF=NA)
- *3. Braun-Lewensohn, O.^{PI}, **Abu-Kaf, S.**^{PI} & Sagy, S.^{PI} (2015). Attitudes towards war and peace and their relations with anxiety reactions among adolescents living in a conflictual area. *Journal of Youth Studies, 18*(1), 68-79, DOI: 10.1080/13676261.2014.933193 (ISI 4 citations; IF 0.805; JR 41/95; Q2; GS 8 citations)
- *4. **Abu-Kaf, S.**^{PI} & Braun-Lewensohn, O.^{PI} (2015). Paths to depression among two different cultural contexts: Comparing Bedouin Arab and Jewish students.

Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, 46(4) 612–630. (ISI 3 citation; IF 1.929; JR 20/62; Q1; GS 9 citations)

- *5. Benatov, J. ^{PI}, Nakash, O. ^{PI}, Chen-Gal, S. ^{PI}, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI}, & Brunstein Klomek, A. ^{PI} (2016). Religious-Ethnic differences in prevalence and correlates of suicidal ideation and attempts among Israeli vocational education students. *Israel Journal of Psychiatry and Related Sciences* (IF 0.821; JR 119/136; Q3).
- *6. Kalagy, T. ^{PI}, Braun-Lewensohn, O. ^{PI}, & **Abu-Kaf S.** ^{PI} (2017). Youth from Fundamentalist Societies: What are Their Attitudes Toward War and Peace and Their Relations with Anxiety Reactions? *Journal of Religion and Health*, 1-17. Doi.10.1007/s10943-017-0358-4(IF 0.977; JR 113/153; Q2).
- *7. Gilboa-negari, Z. ^{S**}, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI}, Huss, E. ^{PI}, Hain, G. ^C, & Moser A. ^C (2017). Medical clowning in cross-cultural perspective: Comparison of its effectiveness in reducing anxiety and pain among hospitalized Bedouin and Jewish Israeli children. *Journal of Pain Research*, 10, 1545-1552. (IF 2.363; JR 94/193; Q2).
- *8. **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI} & Shahaar, G. ^{PI} (2017). Depression and Somatic Symptoms Among Two Ethnic Groups in Israel: Testing Three Theoretical Models. *Israel Journal of Psychiatry and Related Sciences*, 54(2), 32-40. (IF 0.821; JR 119/136; Q3).
- *9. Braun-Lewensohn, O. ^{PI}, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI}, & Kalagy, T. ^{PI} (2017). Are 'sense of coherence' and 'hope' related constructs? Examining these concepts in three cultural groups in Israel. *Israel Journal of Psychiatry and Related Sciences*, 54(2), 17-24. (IF 0.821; JR 119/136; Q3).
- *10. **Abu-Kaf, S.**, ^{PI} Shahaar, G., ^{PI} Noyman-Veksler, G., ^C & Priel, B. ^{PI} (Accepted). Role of Perceived Social Support in Depressive and Somatic Symptoms Experienced by Bedouin Arab and Jewish Israeli Undergraduates. *Transcultural Psychiatry* (IF 1.861; JR 17/84; Q1).
- *11. **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI}, Braun-Lewensohn, O. ^{PI}, & Kalagy, T. ^{PI} (2017). Youth in the Midst of Escalated Political Violence: Sense of Coherence and Hope Among Jewish and Bedouin Arab Adolescents. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health* 11:42. DOI: 10.1186/s13034-017-0178-z (IF 1.538; JR 78/139; Q2).

** MA Student

• **Lectures and Presentations at Meetings and Invited Seminars not Followed by Published Proceedings**

- (a) Invited plenary lectures at conferences/meetings
- 2000 **Abu-Kaf, S.** The Bedouin Family and the Difficulties because of Rabid Changes in Social, Educational, and Economical Levels. The First International Conference on the Bedouin Culture, the Center of Studies and Development of the Bedouin Society, BGU, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- 2005 **Abu-Kaf, S.** A Future Vision on Education of Bedouin Women: The Role of the Bedouin Family. Conference for Excellence, Leadership, and Motivation among the Bedouin Community, The Motivation and Emotion Unit, the Department of Education, BGU, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- 2010 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Teaching and training in the context of cross-cultural: ways to enhance cultural Sensitivity. Conference for guides, Recanati School for Community Health Professions, BGU, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- *2012 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Feathers in the Storm: Young Women among the Bedouin Arab Society. Sderot- Israel Conference, Sapir College, Sderot, Israel.
- *2015 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Keynote Speaker. CBT in Non-Western Cultural Contexts — The Case of Arab Society. 45th Annual European Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Therapies (EABCT) Congress. August, 2015, Jerusalem, Israel.
- *2015 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Characteristics of Collectivistic cultures in general and Bedouin Arab society in particular and the implications on adolescents' roles and Adjustment. Year-end meeting of Parole services, Southern Region. October, 2015, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- *2016 **Abu-kaf, S.** Stress, Coping and Expressions of Emotional and Physical distress among youth in the Bedouin Arab society. A seminar on Depression and Suicide among Youth in the Bedouin Society, Southern Province. January, 2016, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- *2016 **Abu-kaf, S.** Resilience factors for mental health in the Bedouin Arab society. The Israel Trauma Coalition and Mental Health Center Conference. November, 2016, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- *2017 **Abu-kaf, S.** Challenges and resources in the adjustment process - the Bedouin society in the south. The annual conference of judges and court official in

“Ha’shalom” Court, Southern Province. March, 2017, Maale Hachamisha, Israel.

- *2017 **Abu-kaf, S.** Culturally competent\ sensitive psychology in Israel. Conference "Psychology in Israel - to where? 40th anniversary of psychologists Law. May, 2017, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel.

b. Presentation of papers at conferences

- 2001 **Abu-Kaf, S & Tibon, S.** The Rorschach Test in Cross-Cultural perspective: Results from Female Bedouin Arab students. The Society of Personality Assessment Conference. Philadelphia, U.S.A.
- 2007 **Abu-Kaf, S. & Priel, B.** Vulnerability to Depression among Arab-Bedouin and Jewish Students in Israel. 21st European Health Psychology Society Conference. Maastricht, Netherlands. (Poster)
- 2008 **Abu-Kaf, S. & Priel, B.** Self-Criticism, Dependency, and Sense of Coherence among Bedouin Arab and Jewish Students. XXIX International Congress of Psychology. Berlin, Germany.
- 2008 **Abu-Kaf, S. & Priel, B.** Depression and Somatization among Students: A Comparison between Bedouin Arab and Jewish Women. The Third National Conference on Promoting Mental Health among Women, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
- *2013 **Abu-Kaf, S. & Braun-Lewensohn, O.** Coping resources as explanatory factors of stress reactions during missile attacks: comparing Jewish and Bedouin Arab adolescents in Israel. The 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting of International society of political psychology, IDC Herzliya, Israel.
- *2013 **Abu-Kaf, S. & Braun-Lewensohn, O.** Vulnerability to depression and Sense of coherence Among Bedouin Arab and Jewish female Students. 21st IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion, Pattaya, Thailand.
- *2014 **Abu-Kaf, S. & Braun-Lewensohn, O.** Between A Rock And A Hard Place: Mental health among Bedouin Arab Adolescents: Coping Resources and Stress Reactions during two Military operations. Children and Conflict Conference, Sapir College, Sderot, Israel.
- *2014 **Abu-Kaf, S., Shahar, G., & Priel, B.** Depression and somatization among Bedouin Arab and Jewish students. 3rd European conference on mental health, Tallinn, Estonia.

- *2015 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Coping resources among Bedouin Arab youth across three periods of political violent escalation. 36th Annual Conference of the Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR). June, 2015, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- *2015 Khalaf, E. ^S & **Abu-Kaf, S.** Acculturation Stress and Depression among Arab Students In Israel: The Mediating Role of Coping Resources and Coping Strategies. 36th Annual Conference of the Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR). June, 2015, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- *2015 Gilboa-negari, Z. ^S, **Abu-Kaf, S.**, & Huss, E. The cross-cultural effect of medical clowning on levels of stress and pain: A comparison between Bedouin Arab and Jewish Hospitalized Children. 36th Annual Conference of the Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR). June, 2015, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- *2015 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Clinical Roundtable: CBT in (Social and Political) Context. 45th Annual European Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (EABCT) Congress. August, 2015, Jerusalem, Israel.
- *2015 **Abu-Kaf, S.**, Shahar, G., & Priel, B. Depression and Somatic Symptoms Among Two Ethnic Groups in Israel: Testing Three Theoretical Models. World Psychological Forum. September, 2015, Prague, Czech Republic.
- *2016 **Abu-Kaf, S.**, Shahar, G., Noyman-Veksler, G., & Priel, B. The roles of three social-support indices in predicting depressive symptoms and somatic complaints: A longitudinal investigation among Bedouin Arab and Jewish students in Israel. The 31st International Congress of Psychology. July, 2016, Yokohama, Japan.
- *2016 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Acculturative Stress and Adjustment Among Bedouin Arab Students: The Roles of Social Support on and Off the Net. The 23rd Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology. August, 2016, Nagoya, Japan.
- *2017 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Bedouin Arab–Jewish youth encounters: Effects on emotions and openness toward the other group and social involvement. The 9th European Regional Conference of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology. July, 2017, Warsaw, Poland.

2012 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Bedouin Women's Mental Health Uncharted Course, Daunting Obstacles. Macaulay Honors College at City University in New-York, NY, USA.

2018 **Abu-Kaf, S.** Feathers in the wind: Bedouin Women and Higher Education. Annual Spiro Tribute lecture, JW3, London, UK.

- **Research grants**

2005-2006 The Robert H. Arnow Center for Bedouin studies and development, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI} & Priel Beatriz ^{PI}, Vulnerabilities to depression among Bedouin Arab and Jewish students, Total amount 3,500\$.

2011-2012 Mark Rich Foundation, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI}, Emotional distress among Bedouin Arab females: Circumstances, factors, and a proposed intervention program, Total amount 10,000\$.

*2013-2014 The Magi Foundation, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI} & Huss, E. ^{PI}, & Moser, A. ^{PI} Medical clowning among Bedouin children with cancer, Total amount 14,000\$.

*2016-2017 Fohs Foundation, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI}, Interpersonal Contact and Academic Adaptation: Measuring Contact between Bedouin Arabs and Jewish Students in Order to Assess its Impact on Academic Adaptation, Annual amount 18,000\$, Total amount 36,000\$.

*2016-2017 Fohs Foundation, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^{PI}, Understanding and identifying barriers to contact and factors that facilitate contact with the other among Bedouin Arab and Jewish students, Annual amount 16,250\$, Total amount 32,500\$.

*2016-2018 The Israel National Institute for Health Policy Research and Health Service Research, **Abu-Kaf, S.** ^C, Nakash, O. ^{PI}, Hayat, T. ^{PI}, & Levav, I. ^C, Ethnic differences in sources of mental health information and their impact on mental health literacy among older adults in Israel, Annual amount 17,766\$, Total amount 53,000\$.

- **Present academic activities**

- Research in progress

1. Models involving vulnerabilities to depression, resilience, coping resources, and indices of distress among different cultural groups in Israel. With Shahar, G., 2018.
2. Coping resources among adolescents during political violence periods: A Longitudinal Investigation. With Braun-Lewensohn, O., 2018.

3. Acculturation Stress and Adjustment among Arab and Bedouin Arab Students in Israel, 2018.
4. Social interaction between Jewish and Bedouin Arab students in higher academic institutions. With Litvak-Hirsch, T., 2019.
5. Ethnic differences in sources of mental health information and their impact on mental health literacy among older adults in Israel. With Nakash, O., Hayat, T., & Levav, I., 2020.

Articles to be published

In Preparation

1. **Abu-Kaf, S.**, Braun-Lewensohn, o., & Kalagy, T. Between A Rock And A Hard Place: Mental health among Bedouin Arab Adolescents during three Military operations.
2. **Abu-Kaf, S.** Personality vulnerabilities, social media use, and depressive symptoms among Bedouin Arab and Jewish students.
3. Khalaf, E.^S & **Abu-Kaf, S.** Acculturation stress, coping resources, and adjustment among Arab students in Israel.

Submitted for publication

1. Daoud, N., Polsky- Berger, A., **Abu-Kaf, S.**, & Sagy S. (submitted). Sense of coherence among women in polygamous and monogamous marriages. *Family process*.
2. **Abu-Kaf, S.** (submitted). Acculturation stress and academic adjustment among Bedouin Arab students: the role of offline and online social support. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*.

• **Additional Information**

2013- Present, Advisor to the Dean of Students in Ben-Gurion University concerning the adaptation of the dean services for Arab students.

• **Synopsis of research, including reference to publications and future plans**

Summary of previous research:

For more than three decades, personality vulnerabilities to depression (Self-criticism and Dependency) have been considered to be critical to the emotional states of individuals. These vulnerabilities have been found to affect thoughts, coping, and emotional distress. The vulnerabilities to depression and their effects on emotional state have been investigated mainly in western-individualistic cultures.

The main objectives of my previous research were to explore the cross-cultural generalizability of the model of Dependency and Self-critical personality vulnerabilities to

depression. Moreover, I was interested to test whether vulnerabilities to depression interact with cultural characteristics to affect the use of coping strategies and social support, which, in turn, may affect an individual's emotional state and adjustment.

To achieve this goal, three research projects were conducted. The first, cross-sectional study, explored the cross-cultural generalizability of the model of Dependency and Self-critical personality vulnerabilities to depression. In this study, I tested the reliability and validity of the first Arabic version of the Depression Experiences Questionnaire (Abu-Kaf & Priel, 2008#1). The study of the Arabic version of the DEQ indicated that it is a reliable and valid instrument for assessing Bedouin Arabs' levels of Dependency and Self-criticism. The Bedouin Arab students reported higher levels of Self-criticism and depression than the Jewish students did. In addition, Bedouin Arab students reported levels of Dependency similar to those reported by their Jewish counterparts. The results of Study 1 supported the claim that culture affects the levels and implications of vulnerabilities to depression, especially the Self-critical vulnerability. Self-criticism was found to be a severe vulnerability to depression in both cultures, but its effect was much more pronounced in the Bedouin Arab culture.

The second cross-sectional study, examined cultural differences in self-critical and dependent vulnerabilities to depression and sense of coherence as predictors of depression among Bedouin Arab and Jewish university students in Israel (Abu-Kaf & Priel, 2012#2). In addition, this study explored the effects of sense of coherence on the associations between self-criticism-depression and dependency-depression. The results of this study suggest that different cultural contexts are associated with different levels of vulnerability to depression and resilience.

The third project, designed as a longitudinal study, further examined the associations between the vulnerabilities to depression, social support, coping strategies, emotional distress, and adjustment (Abu-Kaf & Braun-Lewensohn, 2015#4). In addition, it examined the causal relations between these variables and the mechanisms by which these vulnerabilities affect the outcomes in Bedouin Arab and Jewish cultures. In this study, two waves of measurements were collected. The first wave of measurements was collected during the first month of the students' first year in university/college. The second wave of measurements was collected a year later, when students were in their second academic year. Findings showed cultural differences in levels of Self-criticism, social support, avoidant coping, depression, somatization, student adaptation, and academic achievements. These findings indicated that Dependency has less deleterious effects among members of collectivistic cultures than among members of individualistic cultures. However, these findings underscored the importance of Self-criticism as a severe vulnerability factor for depression in both cultures. Moreover, these results indicate that the general mechanisms involved in the formation of depressive states and adjustment differ across cultures. Within the Jewish culture, Self-criticism directly induces depression and maladjustment. Within the Bedouin culture, Self-criticism induces depression by increasing avoidant coping, the favorite way of coping with stress in collectivistic cultures (Abu-Kaf & Braun-Lewensohn, 2015#4). These findings enrich our understanding of the complex interplay of personality traits, social contexts, and mental health, underscoring cultural differences that relate to personality characteristics, the mechanisms activated to cope with stress, as well as to levels of emotional \somatic distress and adjustment outcomes.

Current and Future Research:

1. The Arab minority population encounters enormous difficulties in the socio-cultural, political and economic domains. These difficulties, which cause mental health problems, inflict a great deal of stress and emotional distress on Arabs in general and women in

particular. Therefore, I reviewed the circumstances and factors that contribute to mental health problems among women and offered a culturally competent intervention program that is both sensitive and visible within the context of Arab society in Israel in order to promote mental health among Bedouin Arab females (Abu-Kaf, In press#1).

2- My current research explores the cross-cultural generalizability of models involving vulnerabilities to depression, resilience, coping resources, and indices of distress among different cultural groups in Israel (Abu-Kaf & Shahr, 2017#8; Abu-Kaf, Shahr, Noyman-Veksler, & Priel, accepted#10).

Today, this research is being extended to include additional major variables such as social media use, online social support, and conflict resolution strategies.

3- A different angle of my research explores the implications of acculturative stress on adjustment among ethnic minority students. These students are at a high risk for drop out (25–40%), tend to get lower grades, and often require more than the standard time of three years to complete their undergraduate degrees. Since the majority of these students are the first generation in their families to be enrolled in institutions for higher education, and since for the first time in their lives they find themselves in prolonged contact with students from the majority group and the culture of Western academic institutions, they experience what is generally referred to as “*acculturative stress*,” which may be defined a reduction in health status of individuals who are undergoing acculturation. Such stress arises from learning new and sometimes confusing cultural rules and fulfilling the relevant expectations, dealing with experiences of prejudice and discrimination. The main aim of the current project is to understand the relationships between acculturative stress, protective factors (social support and coping strategies), and adjustment (depression and somatization) among Arab and Bedouin Arab students (Abu-Kaf, In preparation; Abu-Kaf & Khalaf, In preparation). The predicted relations between acculturation stress, protective factors, and adjustment are important not only for basic research, but also for applied areas. Such knowledge is expected to help student support units to be aware of different factors and aspects of emotional distress and the adjustment problems that characterize collectivistic minority students.

4- Another research project is related to adolescents’ well-being. Youth's well-being is crucial not only to them and their families, but also to society-at-large. Concerning this topic, we explored coping resources as explanatory factors in reducing stress reactions of adolescents in an acute stress situation. To this regards, we compared different ethnic groups— non-religious Jews, religious Jews, Bedouin Arabs during different periods of military operations (*Cast Lead*, *pillar of cloud*, and *Protective Edge*) (Abu-Kaf, Braun-Lewensohn, & Kalagy(2017)#11; Braun-Lewensohn, Abu-Kaf, & Sagy, 2015#3; Braun-Lewensohn, Abu-Kaf, & Kalagy (2017) #9; Abu-Kaf, Braun-Lewensohn , & Kalagy, In preparation; Kalagy, Braun-Lewensohn, Abu-Kaf, 2017#6).

5- In a different venue, focusing in Medical Clowning from an Intercultural Slant - Implications for effectiveness. Medical clowning has already proved itself as overall effective in reducing pain, anxiety, and stress. However, its differential effect on children from diverse cultures has not yet been researched. This research project test the effectiveness of the intervention of medical clowning in reducing pain and stress among Bedouin Arab and Jewish hospitalized children (Gilboa-Negari, Abu-Kaf, Huss, Hain, & Moser (2017)#7).

6- An additional direction my research is moving into is the study of the social interaction between Jewish and Bedouin Arab students in higher academic institutions. The first study evaluates the nature and frequency of their contact within the academic setting and the implications of these social interactions on academic adaptation. The second study seeks to understand and identify obstacles and triggers to contact between these two groups of students. Research results will affect the development of intervention efforts aimed at helping to eliminate or minimize barriers to communication and contact, mitigating fears and distorted images in an effort to ease the way to interpersonal contact.

7- A new collaborative research project focuses on the ethnic differences in sources of mental health information and their impact on mental health literacy among older adults from three ethnic/culture groups in Israel (Israeli elderly born in the FSU, Bedouin Arabs and native Jews) (With Prof. Ora Nakash, Dr. Tsahi Hayat, and Prof. Itzhak Levav).

By working at the edges between theory and practice, vulnerabilities and resilience factors, different idioms of distress, and positive and negative adjustment across different age groups and different cultural groups, I hope to make unique and lasting contributions to both understanding mental health problems and contributing to the development of culturally competent interventions.