



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism

## MIGRATION IN ISRAELI CONTEXTS

Fall Semester, 2023-24  
Thursdays, 14:30-18:00  
Sede Boqer Campus

**Dr. Aviad Moreno**

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Office hours: Thursday, 18:00-19:00

(please email me in advance if you intend to show up)

### Course Description

Migration has been a key force shaping modern Israel before its founding as a state in 1948 and it still shapes Israeli society, culture, economy and politics well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course will focus on the historical, ideological, social, cultural, economic, and political factors that have structured different Israeli migration experiences. Among other topics we will discuss the role of Zionism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jewish religion, the ethnic divide, non-Jewish immigration to Israel and the development of a new Israeli diaspora. We will explore both the unique and more "universal" aspects of migration to and from Israel through a variety of studies and through interactive class discussions.

### Course Assignments and Evaluation

This seminar is designed to facilitate class discussions. Course assignments and final grades are all based on that requirement.

**Class Participation** (20%): Although class attendance is not mandatory, participation in class will constitute a quarter of your final grade, and you will be expected to address issues discussed in class in your final essay.

**Presentation (30%):** Each student is expected to choose a non-Israeli case study of particular interest to him/her, which s/he will compare to one of the topics discussed in class. The comparison can be thematic or offer a complementary historical perspective on Israeli issues. Students are encouraged to use office hours to discuss their choices with me.

By November 1, each student is expected to schedule a day to present his/her topic in class. Students are also expected to discuss with me the reading material they will pre-circulate prior to their presentation in class. Class presentations should run about 15 minutes. PowerPoints are welcomed.

**Final essay (50%):** Based on his/her class presentation and class discussions, each student will write a 15-page essay elaborating on the chosen topic and demonstrating how it relates to our class discussions. The essays may highlight a theoretical concept or focus on a specific historical event or phenomenon discussed in class. Students are required to base their essays on additional up-to-date literature.

### Course Layout, Schedule and Assigned Readings

#### 1. **Introduction: Israeli Migration in a Global Context (19/10)**

Castles, Stephen, Hein De Haas, and Mark J. Miller. *The age of migration: International population movements in the modern world*. Macmillan International Higher Education, 2013. Chapter 1 and 8.

Cohen, Yinon. "Migration Patterns to and from Israel." *Contemporary Jewry* 29.2 (2009): 115-125.

#### 2. **Aliyah and Yeridah: the Zionist Perspective(s) (26/10)**

Halamish, Aviva. "Immigration is Israel's History, So Far." *Israel Studies* 23.3 (2018): 106-113.

Katriel, Tamar. "The rhetoric of rescue: "Salvage Immigration" Narratives in Israeli Culture in *Jewish Studies at the Crossroads of Anthropology and History: Authority, Diaspora, Tradition*, R. Boustan, O. Kosansky, M. Rustow, University of Pennsylvania Press (2009), pp.185-203

Avi Picard, "Building the country or rescuing the people: Ben-Gurion's attitude towards mass Jewish immigration to Israel in the mid-1950s," *Middle Eastern Studies* (2018): 1-17.

Hodes, Joseph. *From India to Israel: Identity, Immigration, and the Struggle for Religious Equality*. No. 69. McGill-Queen's Press-MQUP, 2014. Chapter 3.

Collyer, Michael, and Hein De Haas. "Developing dynamic categorisations of transit migration." *Population, Space and Place* 18.4 (2012): 468-481.

### 3. Is Israel unique? (2/11)

Sheffer, Gabriel. "A Nation and Its Diaspora: A Re-examination of Israeli—Jewish Diaspora Relations." *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, vol. 11 no. 3, 2002, p. 331-358.

Rubin, Aviad, and Ofir D. Rubin. "Is There a Distinct Israeli Diaspora? Impact of Temporal Sociopolitical Circumstances on the Formation of Diaspora Groups." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 40.5 (2014): 737-758.

Alroey, Gur. "Two Historiographies: Israeli Historiography and the Mass Jewish Migration to the United States, 1881–1914." *Jewish Quarterly Review* 105.1 (2015): 99-129.

### 4. The Arab-Israeli Conflict: a Migratory Perspective (9/11)

*\*class presentations start here [choose a comparable "unique" case]\*\**

Von Borstel, Johanna, Tom Gobien, and Duncan Roth. "Terror and Internal Migration in Israel." *Defence and Peace Economics* 30.4 (2019): 421-437.

Sa'ar, Gideon. *Israel, the West, and the Migration Challenge*. Institute for National Security Studies, 2016.

Cohen, Nir, Daniel Czamanski, and Amir Hefetz. "Internal Migration of Ethno-national Minorities: The Case of Arabs in Israel." *International Migration* 53.6 (2015): 74-88.

### 5. Social Stratification and Ethnic Divides (16/11)

Offer, Shira. "The Ethiopian community in Israel: Segregation and the creation of a racial cleavage." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 30.3 (2007): 461-480.

Raijman, Rebeca, Moshe Semyonov, and Rona Geffen. "Language proficiency among post-1990 immigrants in Israel." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 41.8 (2015): 1347-1371.

Amit, Karin. "Determinants of life satisfaction among immigrants from Western countries and from the FSU in Israel." *Social Indicators Research* 96.3 (2010): 515-534.

### 6. Gender Aspects (23/11)

Fanta-Vagenshtein, Yarden, and Lisa Anteby-Yemini. "Migration, gender, and mobility: Ethiopian—Israeli women's narratives of career trajectories." *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* 9.2 (2016): 257-273.

Dekel, Tal. *Transnational identities: Women, art, and migration in contemporary Israel*. Wayne State University Press, 2016. Introduction.

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava, "Migration: the case of the Israeli Lesbian", in Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava, and Erella Shadmi, eds. *Sappho in the Holy Land: Lesbian existence and dilemmas in contemporary Israel*. SUNY Press, 2004, pp. 85-73.

## **7. Migration and (Jewish) Religion (30/11)**

Shamir, Hila, and Guy Mundlak. "Spheres of migration: political, economic and universal imperatives in Israel's migration regime." *Middle East Law and Governance* 5.1-2 (2013): 112-172.

Lustick, Ian S. "Israel as a Non-Arab State: The Political Implications of Mass Immigration of Non-Jews." *Middle East Journal* 53, 3 (1999): 417–433.

Prashizky, Anna, and Larissa Remennick. "Weddings in the Town Square: Young Russian Israelis Protest the Religious Control of Marriage in Tel-Aviv." *City & Community* 15.1 (2016): 44-63.

Kalir, Barak. *Latino migrants in the Jewish state: Undocumented lives in Israel*. Indiana University Press, 2010. Intro

## **8. Israel from a Transnational Perspective: East and West (7/12+14/12)**

Remennick, Larissa. "Transnational community in the making: Russian-Jewish immigrants of the 1990s in Israel." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 28.3 (2002): 515-530

Amit, Karin, and Shirly Bar-Lev. "The Formation of Transnational Identity among French Immigrants Employed in French-Speaking Companies in Israel." *International Migration* 54.3 (2016): 110-124.

Harpaz, Yossi. "Rooted Cosmopolitans: Israelis with a European Passport—History, Property, Identity." *International Migration Review* 47.1 (2013): 166-206.

Ouaknine-Yekutieli, Orit, and Yigal Shalom Nizri. "'My Heart is in the Maghrib': Aspects of Cultural Revival of the Moroccan Diaspora." *Hesperis-Tamuda* 51.3 (2016): 165-192

Rosen-Lapidot, Efrat, and Harvey E. Goldberg. "The triple loci of Jewish–Maghribi ethnicity: voluntary associations in Israel and in France." *The Journal of North African Studies* 18.1 (2013): 112-130.

## 9. Labor Immigration and the Global Economy (21/12)

Raijman, Rebeca, and Adriana Kemp. "The institutionalization of labor Migration in Israel." *ARBOR Ciencia, Pensamiento y Cultura* 192.777 (2016): 289

Minghuan, Li. "Making a living at the interface of legality and illegality: Chinese migrant workers in Israel 1." *International Migration* 50.2 (2012): 81-98.

Fleischman, Yonina, et al. "Migration as a social determinant of health for irregular migrants: Israel as case study." *Social Science & Medicine* 147 (2015): 89-97.

## 10. Migrations of Israelis (28/12)

Azary-Viesel, Sagit, and Ravit Hananel. "Internal Migration and Spatial Dispersal; Changes in Israel's Internal Migration Patterns in the New Millennium." *Planning Theory & Practice* 20.2 (2019): 182-202.

Cohen, Yinon. "Israeli-born emigrants: Size, destinations and selectivity." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 52.1-2 (2011): 45-62.

Rebhun, Uzi, and Lilach Lev Ari. *American Israelis: Migration, transnationalism, and diasporic identity*. Brill, 2010. Pp.1-26

**Film screening + discussion and class presentations (4/11)**

## 11. course summary (11/1)