

Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 13:15

Department of Man in the Desert Seminar Room

ES Seminar

“Post-Soviet Women immigrants in the Israeli Negev: An Ethnography of Multiple Marginality

Yulia Shevchenko

Ph.D Proposal presentation

supervised by Prof. Pnina Motzafi-Haller and Dr. Sigal Nagar-Ron



My research focuses on post-soviet women living in the Negev region. It seeks to examine their position as a social group located in multiple marginality. I ask how do post-soviet women act within larger structures of power shaped by more than two decades of neoliberal policies in Israeli society.

Placing the agency of my research subjects at the center along with social power structures, I will use intersectionality feminist theory to explore how patterns of employment are shaped by gender, ethnicity, space, nationality, religiosity and generational differences.

Research methodologies include in-depth interviews and feminist ethnographic fieldwork including the use of auto-ethnography.

Theoretically, my entry point into this research undermines the conventional notion that has viewed post-soviet community in Israel as a homogenous collective with no internal differences and conflicts and as a hegemonic social group which supposedly rooted itself only in central regions of Israel. By challenging those standpoints, I wish to expand the scope of established research of this subordinated social group and offer an alternate understanding of the constructed neoliberal subjectivity.