Chair: Prof. Shifra Sagy

Members of the Steering Committee:

Prof. Chaim Hames – Rector
Prof. Amit Schejter - Dean, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Dr. Sarab Abu Rabia – Qedar
Prof. Yoella Bereby-Meyer
Prof. Danny Filc
Prof. Haim Maor
Prof. Dorit Tubin
Prof. Hanna Yablonka
Prof. Oren Yiftachel

A. Research Grants:

1. “Hearts of flesh, not stone”: Does encountering the “suffering of the other” influence reconciliation in the Middle East Conflict? (2013-2020). Prof. Shifra Sagy, BGU, Prof. Arie Nadler, TAU, Prof. Martin Leiner - Jena, Germany FSU, and Prof. Mohammed Dajani Wasatia, East Jerusalem. Project supported by the DFG. Foundation (1,800,000 Euro).


B. Publications:

Peer reviewed articles


Submitted:


**Book Chapters**


**Forthcoming Book Chapters** in A.Ma & A. Srour (Eds.). Collective narratives in conflictual contexts: The case of the Israeli society and Palestinian societies. A collection of studies in the spirit of Shifra Sagy and her life’s work. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing

**Part I - Researchers dialogue: Being an active bystander in studying and promoting peace education**

- Sagy, S. Introduction: Can we empathize with the narrative of our enemy? A personal odyssey in studying peace education
- Leiblich, A. Interface: War and peace in my academic work. A dialogue with Shifra Sagy’s “personal odyssey."
- Bar-On, D., & Adwan, S. PRIME Shared history project: Peace building under fire.

**Part II- Perceptions of collective narratives as a tool in understanding intergroup relations**

- Bar-Tal, D. Conflict supporting narratives and the struggle over them.
- Sagy, S., Adwan, S., & Kaplan, A. Development of an empirical model of perceptions of collective narratives in the context of Israeli and Palestinian youth.
- Kalagy, T., Srour, A., & Sagy, S. Perceptions of collective narratives as indicators of intergroup relations: The case of Ultra-Orthodox and National Religious Jewish communities in Israel
• Mana, A., Srour, A., & Sagy, S. Sense of community coherence, perceptions of collective narratives and identity strategies in intra-and inter religious group conflicts

• Mana, A., Srour, A., & Sagy, S. A sense of national coherence and openness to the “other's” collective narrative: The case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

• Leshem, B., & Sagy, S. Legitimization of the "Other" Narrative as a Mediator of the relationships between National Honor and Dignity Perceptions and Willingness to Reconcile: The Case of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Part III- Personal and collective narratives of different groupings in Israel and Palestine

• Rosenthal, G. Voices from the West Bank: We-images and collective memories.

• Levinas, S. & Berkovitch, N. Women in a conflict zone: Narratives of three generations of women living in the southern periphery of Israel.

Part IV- The healing effect of perceptions of collective narratives: From socio-psychological barriers to peace-making to promoting conflict resolution

• Krondorfer, B. Countering the power of master narratives through unsettling empathy: A conceptual approach to a case study on Palestinian-Israeli relations.

• Gross, Z. Facilitating coexistence between Palestinian Arabs and Jewish Israelis at a higher education setting in Israel: A case study.

• Zigenlaub, E. & Sagy, S. Learning the narrative of the other: What type of encounter is more effective?

• Sternberg, M. “You chose what to see”: Israeli students reflect about their encounter with Palestinian narratives.

• Ben David, Y & Idan, O. Encountering the Other's Narrative: Implications for Gendered Intragroup Dynamics.

• Waisman, O.S. The third in a two-sided coin: The role of Germany as reflected in the narratives of Arab and Jewish participants in intergroup discussions.

• Benheim, S. Encountering the narratives of the other: A long term study of Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli participants in a multicultural program at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies.

Epilogue: Adi Mana and Anan Srour

- Anat Sarid, Anan Srour, & Shifra Sagy - Sense of national coherence and willingness to concile: The case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict before and after Gaza war in 2014
- Becky Leshem - Legitimization of the "Other" Narrative as a Mediator of the Relationships Between National Honor and Dignity Perceptions and Willingness to Reconcile. The Case of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Efrat Zigenlaub - Learning the Narrative of the Other. What type of Encounter is More Effective?
- Michael Sternberg - When Israeli Students encounter Palestinian Narratives
- Sharón Benheim - A retrospective study of alumni of the multicultural program of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies: Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli participants
- Shiri Levinas - Women in conflict. Narratives from the periphery. Stories of women living in the southern periphery of Israel
- Yael Ben David & Orly Idan - Talking Politics. The Delimitation of the ‘Political’ as a Gendered Disciplinary Mechanism in Intra-group Dialogue among Young Israelis”
- Yoav Kapshuk - Reconciliation in peace agreements? The case study of Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Courses

- Encountering the ‘other’ (ESO) project: Encountering the ‘other’ in conflict relationship in the context of life in the Negev – a semester-long seminar with Jewish and Arab Israeli participants to experience and explore the encounter with the other in a conflict relationship, in the context of the relationship between Jews and Bedouins in the Negev including social identities, power relations in the structures and culture, and collective narratives. (Spring 2017)

- Short Course: Encountering the narrative of the "other": Jews and Arabs in southern Israel. A course in the framework of the Erasmus Scholar Exchange at Fredrick Schiller University of Jena, Germany (October 2017).

Lectures included:
- Shifra Sagy – Can we empathize with the narrative of our enemy? A personal odyssey in studying peace education
- Michael Sternberg – Encountering narratives of the other in the course of dialogue
- Efrat Zigenlaub – Acknowledgment of the other's narrative and willingness to reconcile: A comparative study between an intra-group and inter-group
- Talee Ziv – Effects of exposure to the "other" in infancy and early childhood
Dorit Tubin – Strengthening the common, concealing the differences: The case of a training program for Jewish and Arab school principals

Short Course: Encountering the narrative of the "other": Jews and Arabs in southern Israel. A course in the framework of the Erasmus Scholar Exchange at Fredrick Schiller University of Jena, Germany (July, 2018). Lecturers included: Shifra Sagy, Michael Sternberg, Efrat Zigenlaub, Talee Ziv, and Hadas Shabat-Nadir

Field trips:

Feb 2017  Ramle-Lod – ESO group - Narratives from 1948 and today, walking tour of neighborhoods, municipality, visit to Lod Mosque, stories from battle, viewing of video testimonials, visit to Cultural Center.

April 2017 Um Hiran, Hura – Bedouin-Jewish ESO group – Tour with Prof. Abu Ras and local activists to learn the story of recognized and unrecognized villages and tensions around the subject.

July - Aug 2017  The summer program “Borders, Identities, Social Repair: Majority Cultures & Indigenous Lives in Arizona and Israel” was structured as a joint three-week, international summer program for students from Northern Arizona University’s Martin Springer Institute and Ben Gurion University’s Martin Springer Center: 10 days in the Negev and 10 days in the Flagstaff, Arizona region (including Hopi Reservation and Navajo Nation).

Conferences organized by the Martin Springer Center

24 January 2017 – Salutogenesis: The Journey from its Origins at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev to a Global Movement. The conference celebrated and launched the new Handbook of Salutogenesis as well as honored the memory of Prof. Aaron Antonovsky and the birthplace of the concept of Salutogenesis. Participants included Prof. Maurice Mittelmark, Prof. Georg Bauer, and others.

25 January 2017 – Meeting of the Global Working Group on Salutogenesis – including:  
- Georg F. Bauer (chair), University of Zurich, Switzerland  
- Geir Espnes, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway  
- Dolors Juvinya, Universitat de Girona, Spain  
- Adi Mana, Peres Academic Center, Israel  
- Maurice Mittelmark, University of Bergen, Norway  
- Jürgen Pelikan, University of Vienna, Austria  
- Mathieu Roy, Centre de recherche du CHUS, Sherbrooke (Québec), Canada  
- Shifra Sagy, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel  
- Lenneke Vaandrager, Wageningen University, Netherlands
Hege Vinje, University College of Southeast Norway, Norway

Forthcoming Conference:

‘An enemy is someone, whose story you have not heard yet’ International Conference on the Legacy of Prof. Dr. Dan Bar-On, October 3-5, 2019. Fredrich Schiller University 0f Jena, Germany. Shifra Sagy – member of organizing committee.


Presentations:


2. Ben David, Y. (September, 2017) “We don’t have to talk about how I feel”: Delimitation of the “political” as a gendered disciplinary mechanism in intra-group dialogue. The European Association of Israel Studies 6th Annual Conference, Wroclaw, Poland.


Accepted Panel:


Panel Moderator: Prof. Shifra Sagy.

Presenting authors:
Samar Aldinah
Sharon Benheim
Hadas Shabat-Nadir
Michael Sternberg
Talee Ziv

Hosted Erasmus Exchange visitors:
1. June 2018 Tim Baush, Fredrick Schiller University of Jena, Germany

2. June 2018 Carolina Rehrmann, Fredrick Schiller University of Jena, Germany

3. Spring semester 2018 Jakob Mittelsdorf, Erasmus scholar, Fredrick Schiller University of Jena, Germany
**Research students:**

**Post Doc**
1. Sternberg, M. (current). When our children encounter the other: a community based action research on intergroup relations (funded by DFG).

**Phd.**
6. Sarid, A. (current). Sense of national coherence as a barrier to reconciliation: Israeli students before and after the Gaza War (funded by DFG).
7. Levinas, S. (current). Narratives of women from the periphery living in the shadow of violent conflict. (funded by DFG)
8. Benheim, S. (current). Encountering the narrative of the other: A long term examination of the attitudes of Middle Eastern alumni of the Arava Institute (funded by DFG)
10. Daoud, M. (current). Encountering the other in kindergarten: The impact of exposure to an educational figure from another ethno-cultural sector on the perceptions of the other sector in the eyes of children and their parents.
11. Zchut, Y. (current). Does volunteering for the community in the Resilience Center of Ofakim affect the volunteer’s resilience? A salutogenic approach to measuring the emotional and physical impact on the volunteers.