

**Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU**

**Course: Russia in Israel: People, Culture and Ideology**

**Level and status: 4 credit points B.A. research seminar**

**Prior requirements: course on academic writing; Introduction to Qualitative methods**

**Lecturer: Dr. Julia Lerner**

**Taught: 2009/10, 2010/11**

**Course description:**

The seminar explores the manifestations of Russianness at the Israeli cultural space. These manifestations are embedded in the spheres of art and literature, ideology, politics and everyday life in Israel. The "Russian field" is also found at the cultural dynamics among the Russian immigrants in Israel and in the public discourse about them. We will explore the imported cultural tool kit of the Russian speaking immigrants, its origins as well as its change in context of Israel and post-Soviet condition. The students will choose one of the Russian fields for their own empirical research in the frame of the seminar duties.

**Course requirements:** students are required to attend the class meetings, prepare and present the requested reading materials, submit their research proposal at the mid of the course, conduct the empirical research and submit the seminar research paper (up to 25 pages).

**Grade:** participation (10 % of grade), research proposal and presentation at class (20 %), seminar paper (70% of grade)

**Course schedule and reading list:**

**Subject 1: Israel as a Little Russia**

Lerner, J. co-edited with Feldhay, R. forthcoming in 2010. "Russians" in Israel. Van Leer Jerusalem Institute: Hakibbutz Hameuhad. (Hebrew)

Ilana Gomel, *The Pilgrim Soul: Being a Russian in Israel*. Tel-Aviv: Zmura-Bitan, 2006, (translated into Hebrew)

Baruch Kimmerling, 'Russian Speaking Immigrants', in his *Immigrants, Settlers, Natives: The Israeli Society between Cultural Pluralism and Cultural War*, Tel-Aviv: Am Oved, 2004, (in Hebrew)

Al-Haj, Majid, 2004. *Immigration and Ethnic Formation in a Deeply Divided Society: the Case of the 1990's Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in Israel*. Leiden: Brill.

Ben-Rafael, E., M. Lyubansky, O. Glockner, P. Harris, and J. Schoeps, 2006. *Building a Diaspora: Russian Jews in Israel, Germany and the USA*. Leiden: Brill.

- Elias, Nelly, 2008. *Coming Home: Media and Returning Diaspora in Israel and Germany*. New York: SUNY Press.
- Remennick, Larissa, 2007. *Russian Jews on Three Continents: Identity, Integration and Conflict*. New Jersey: Transaction Publishers.

## **Subject 2: Issues of Religion, Atheism and Spirituality**

- Altshuller, M. (2007). *Judaism in the Soviet Vise: Religion and Jewish Identity in Soviet Union between 1941-1964*. Jerusalem: Merkaz Shazar Center.
- Slezkine, Yuri. 2005. *The Jewish Century*, Princeton: Princeton University Press. (selected pages in Hebrew version)
- Kornblatt, Judith Deutsch. 2004. *Doubly Chosen: Jewish Identity, the Soviet Intelligentsia and the Russian Orthodox Church*. University of Wisconsin Press.
- Shtereshnis, A. (2007). "Kaddish in a Church: Perceptions of Orthodox Christianity among Moscow Elderly Jews in the Early Twenty-First Century". *The Russian Review*, 66, 273–94.
- Steinberg, M. D. and Coleman, H.J. (2007). *Sacred Storied: Religion and Spirituality in Modern Russia*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Lindquist, Galina, 2006, *Conjuring Hope: Healing and Magic in Contemporary Russia*. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Epstein, M, (1999). Minimal religion, pp 163-171 and Post-Atheism. In M. Epstein, A. Genis and S. Vladiv-Glover (Eds.), *Russian Postmodernism: New Perspective on Post-Soviet Culture* (pp. 345-393). New York: Berghahn Books.
- Goodman, Y. (2004). "Hazara betshuva and new religiosity in Israel in the beginning of 2000". In A. Kleineberg (Ed.), *"Hard to believe": Rethinking Religion and secularism in Israel*, (pp 98-177). Tel Aviv: Keter (Hebrew).
- Kravel, M. (2008). "Verifying the lies: biographical performance of the conversion in the filed of orthodox *giyur* in Israel". Paper presented at the annual conference of the IAA, May.
- Leshem, E. (1993). "Jewishness, Jewish way of life and attitudes towards the religion and the state amongst immigrants from the Former Soviet Union" (pp. 36-53) *Yearbook "Religion and State"*. Ha-Kibutz Ha-Meuhad, Tel-Aviv (Hebrew).
- Asher Cohen and Susser Bernard, 'Jews and Others: Non-Jewish Jews in Israel', *Israel Affairs*, Vol. 15, no. 1 (2009), pp.52-65

## **Subject 2: Perceptions of Nation/ality, Race and Citizenship**

- Slezkine, Y. 1996. "The USSR as a Communal Apartment, or How a Socialist State Promoted Ethnic Particularism". Pp. 203-238 in Geof Eley and Ronald Suny (eds.) *Becoming National: A Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Or 1994. *Slavic Review* 53(2)).
- Lemon, A. 2002. Without a "Concept" ? Race as Discursive Practice. *Slavic Review* 61(1) 2002
- Slezkine, Yuri. 2005. *The Jewish Century*, Princeton: Princeton University Press. (PP in Hebrew version)

- Chlenov, M. (2003). "The characteristics of the ethnic and religious identity of the Russian Jews". *Jews of the former Soviet Union in Israel and diaspora*, 20-21, 254-273 (Hebrew).
- Shumsky, D. (2001). Ethnicity and Citizenship in the Conception of the Israeli-Russians. In D. Levy and Y. Weiss (Eds.), *Challenging Ethnic Citizenship: German and Israeli Perspectives on Immigration*. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Lerner, J. 2001. "Multiplicity and Hybridity of Russian Israeli perception". *Theory and Criticism* 19: 41-44 (Hebrew).

### **Subject 3: Attitude to Authority and Resistance**

- Gorrer, G. 2001. "The Psychology of great Russians" in *Russian culture* by M. Mead, Geoffrey Gorer, John Rickman. New York : Berghahn Books.
- Mead, Margaret. 2001. *Russian culture* / Margaret Mead, Geoffrey Gorer, John Rickman. New York : Berghahn Books.(PP)
- Etkind, A.M. 1996. "Psychological Culture", pp. 99-125 in *Russian Culture at the crossroads: Paradoxes of Postcommunist Consciousness*, ed. By D.N. Shalin. Boulder: WestviewPress
- Yurchak, Alexei. 2006. *Everything was Forever, Until It was No More*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 2 "Hegemony of Form: Stalin's Univanny Paradigm shift", pp. 36-76 Chapter 7 "Dead Irony"
- Alon Wainer, 'Against what? The "anti"-culture of Russian Rock in Israel', Paper presented at International conference "'Russians' in Israel and Beyond: Meanings of Culture in Discourse and Practice", VLJI, June 2005.
- Epstein, A. 2002. Violating the Mores, Seizing the Guards: The Riot of the 'Youth of Perestroika' in an Israeli Military Jail. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 14(2): 123- 138.
- Philippov, Michael, 2008. "1990s Immigrants from the FSU in Israeli Elections 2006: The Fulfillment of the Political Dreams of Post-Soviet Man?", in Asher Arian and Michal Shamir (eds.), *The Elections in Israel 2006*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

### **Subject 4: People of Empire, Inhabitants of Ghetto**

- Fialkova, Larisa & Maria Yelenevskaya, 2004. "How to Find the West in the Middle East: Perceptions of East and West amongst 'Russian' Jews in Israel," In Times, Places, Passages: Ethnological Approaches in the New Millenium, ed. Atilla Paládi-Kovács, Budapest: Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, pp. 453-480.
- Nudelman, Rafael. 1998. "Between the empire and the ghetto". *Panim* 4: 10-16. (Hebrew)
- Maria N. Yelenevskaya & Larisa Fialkova. 2006. "Between Dream Cities and Reality: Personal Narratives of Ex-Soviets in Israel". *Applied Research of Quality of Life* 1:189-209

- Dimitry Shumsky, 'Post-Zionist Orientalism? Orientalist Discourse and Islamophobia among Russian-speaking Intelligentsia in Israel', *Social Identities*, Vol. 10, no. 1 (2004), pp. 83- 100
- Lomsky-Feder, E., Rapoport T. and Lerner J. 2005. "Orientalism and the challenge of migration: Russian students read Israeli ethnicity". *Theory and Criticism* 26: 119-147 (Hebrew).
- Chen Bram, *Ethnic Categorisation and the Plurality of Cultures*, PhD dissertation, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2009.

### **Subject 5: Masculinity, Femininity, Gender and Sexuality**

- Larissa Remennick, 2005. "Cross-cultural dating patterns on an Israeli campus: Why are Russian immigrant women more popular than men?" *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 22(3): 435-454.
- Remennick, Larissa I. *Providers, Caregivers, and Sluts: Women with a Russian Accent in Israel*. *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues* - Number 8, Fall.
- Golden, Deborah. 2003 "A national cautionary tale: Russian women newcomers to Israel portrayed". *Nations and Nationalism*, 9 (1): 83-104.
- Neiterman, E., and Rapoport T. (2009). "Converting to Belong: immigration, education and nationalization among young 'Russian' Immigrant women". *Gender and Education* 21(2), 173-189.
- Edna Lomsky-Feder and Tali Leibovitz, 'Inter-Ethnic Encounters Within the Family: Competing Cultural Models and Social Exchange', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol. 36, no. 1 (2010), pp. 107-124.

### **Subject 6: "Doctors, Musicians and Engineers": Intelligentsia, Education and Identity**

- Slezkine, Yuri. 2005. *The Jewish Century*, Princeton: Princeton University Press. (PP in Hebrew version)
- Volkov, V. 2000. "The Concept of 'Kulturnost': Notes on the Stalinist civilizing process". Pp. 210-230 in Fitzpatrick, Sh. (ed) 2000. *Stalinism: New Directions*. London: Routledge.
- Boym, Svetlana. 1994. *Common Places: Mythologies of Everyday Life in Russia*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Lissak, Moshe and Eliezer Leshem. 1995. "Russian Intelligentsia in Israel: between Ghettoization and Integration". *Israel Affairs* 2(2): 20-37.
- Rapoport, Tamar and Edna Lomsky-Feder. 2002. "'Intelligentsia' as an Ethnic Habitus: The Inculcation and Restructuring of Intelligentsia among Russian Jews". *British Journal of Sociology of Education* 23(2): 233 – 248.
- Lerner Julia and Rapoport Tamar, Lomsky-Feder, Edna 2007. "The 'Ethnic Script' in Action: The Re-grounding of Russian-Jewish Immigrants in Israel". *Ethos* 35 (2): 168-195.
- Epstein, Alek D. and Nina Kheimets (2000). "Immigrant Intelligentsia and its Second Generation: Cultural Segregation as a Road to Social Integration?". *Journal of International Migration and Integration* (Canada), 1 (4), pp. 461-476.

Gershenson, Olga, 2005. *Gesher: Russian Theatre in Israel; A Study of Cultural Colonization*. New York: Peter Lang.