

The BGU Center for Women's Health Studies and Promotion

Annual Report – December 2009



"Estie" - Einav Rimon- Photographer

2nd Prize Winner

"Women in Center Frame"



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

THE BGU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH STUDIES
AND PROMOTION
ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

1. **Name of the Center:** THE BGU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH STUDIES AND PROMOTION
2. **Center Directors:** Prof. Julie Cwikel, Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin, PhD, Spitzer Department of Social Work, Deputy Director
3. **Center Advisory Board**
Prof. Moshe Justman, Ph.D, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Prof. Moti Hershkovitz , Vice President and Dean of Research and Development
Prof. Shaul Sofer, MD, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Prof. Aya Biderman, MD, Family Medicine
Dr. David Geffen, MD, Oncology, Soroka
Dr. Esther Iecovitz, PhD, Dept. of Gerontology, Faculty of Health Sciences
Prof. Golan Shahar, Ph.D. Dept. of Behavioral Sciences
Dr. Hagit Perez, Department of Epidemiology
Prof. Ilana Harman-Boehm, MD, Internal Medicine
Prof. Ilana Shoham-Vardi Ilana, PhD, Department of Epidemiology
Dr. Naama Atzba-Poria, Ph.D. Dept. of Behavioral Science
Ms. Naomi Graetz, MA, Dept. of English as a Foreign Language
Dr. Noah Liel, MD, Cardiology
Ms. Nurit Barak, BA, Faculty of Health Sciences
Prof. Ora Kaufmann, PhD, Department of Behavioral Sciences
Ms. Orly Leiberman, MARN, Senior Teacher, Recanati, School of Nursing
Dr. Orly Sarid, Ph.D. Dept. of Social Work
Dr. Rivka Berger, MD, Internal and Behavioral Medicine
Prof. Robert Marks, Ph.D. Biotechnology
Ms. Sheila Warshawsky, MS, Faculty of Health Sciences
Dr. Sheryl Mendlinger, Northeastern University, International Relations
Dr. Vera Fried, MD, Geriatrics

4. **Center Steering Committee**

Dr. Aya Biderman, MD, Family Medicine

Dr. Dorit Segal–Engelchin, PhD, Department of Social Work

Dr. Hagit Perez, Department of Epidemiology

Prof. Ilana Harman-Boehm, MD, Internal Medicine

Prof. Ilana Shoham-Vardi, Ph.D., Epidemiology

Prof. Julie Cwikel, PhD, Department of Social Work

Ms. Nurit Barak, BA, Faculty of Health Sciences

Ms. Orly Leiberman, MARN, Senior Teacher, Recanati, School of Nursing

Dr. Orly Sarid, Ph.D. Dept. of Social Work

Ms. Sheila Warshawsky, MS, Faculty of Health Sciences

Report on Center Activities December 2009

Ongoing Psychosocial Research

Origins of and Influences on Women's Health Behaviors: Examining Intergenerational and Multi-cultural Effects - This project was funded by the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport and yielded a rich set of qualitative and quantitative data. Analysis of these findings continues by Prof. Julie Cwikel, joined by Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and Dr. Orly Sarid. During Prof. Cwikel's 2007 sabbatical at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute of Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, an additional data set on American Jewish mothers and daughters was collected. A first analysis produced an article on how women resist eating disorders through developing a positive body image. In addition, a new diagnostic tool to gauge the mother-daughter relationship has been developed and is currently being tested through a Delphi study of mental health professionals' evaluation of the questionnaire.

The Hetero-gay Family Structure: Parental Coping Patterns – We continue to analyze the qualitative data from interviews with parents raising children in the hetero-gay family structure. Analysis of these data on this unique family structure continues under the leadership of Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and with the collaboration of Prof. Pauline Erera of the University of Washington and Prof. Julie Cwikel. This year an article was prepared on the motivations of heterosexual women to enter into motherhood through this new family structure.

The Impact of Different Types of Stressors and Coping Styles on Women's Health- This study, conducted by Prof. Julie Cwikel and Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin, examined the contribution of diverse sources of stressors (e.g. stressors in daily life, stressors associated with the security situation) and coping styles to understanding women's health status. An article on these findings has now been accepted for publication. Together with Dr. Orly Sarid, we analyzed the impact of stressors on women's experiences in pregnancy, childbirth and during the post-partum period. A paper on this topic is under review for publication.

Research Project in Occupational Health

In conjunction with Dr. Meirav Taib-Maimon and Dr. Bracha Shapiro, from the Department of Information Systems Engineering with Dr. Barbara Rosenstein, an expert on video evaluation and Dr. Ella Kordish from occupational health and epidemiology. We have developed a unique method for the prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders among workers using computers. This study was funded by a grant from Ministry of Industry and Commerce to incorporate video and computer based technology. We have collected data on 60 workers from both the university and the hospital who spend most of their day at the keyboard of computer terminals. This project, now in its final stages, is in the process of collecting and analyzing the data and preparing publications.

Ongoing Medical Research

Fertility, technology and psychosocial intervention – This project combines biology and psychosocial intervention in order to increase fertility and decrease the need for invasive procedures such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF). Prof. Julie Cwikel, Dr. Orly Sarid and Dr. Iris Harvadi, a clinical biologist are part of this research team in collaboration with Prof. Eitan Lunenfeld, , Director of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Soroka University Medical Center. Our PhD student, Johanna Czamanski is now beginning data collection to test how the stress associated with infertility affects DNA integrity among women undergoing IVF treatment. In addition, an MA student in social work, Ms. Nada Qaddah Amara, will be joining Johanna in testing whether cognitive-behavioral interventions reduce infertility-associated stress (both psychological self-report and physiological stress) of women, including from the Bedouin sector.

Specifying the Cognitive Dysfunctions associated with chemotherapy in breast cancer- an exploratory study. This study, funded by an internal grant from the Faculty of Medical Sciences has validated a unique method for the evaluation of cognitive deficits associated with chemotherapy among breast cancer patients.

This work, in conjunction with Dr. David Geffen and Prof. Samuel Ariad from the Dept. of Oncology at Soroka University Medical Center, Dr. Tzvia Rudich from the Pain Clinic and Ms. Yifat Faran from the Dept. of Behavioral Sciences seeks to address a burdensome problem to cancer survivors. Ms. Svetlana Mazankin from Educational Psychology leads this research team and started to collect prospective data for her Ph.D. thesis on cognitive deficits among breast cancer patients. The cognitive function of breast cancer patients is being compared with women being treated with chronic pain conditions. Through a grant from the Yad leHolei Haoncologi (The Oncology Patient Fund), we hope to complete this research project this coming year.

New Research Project

Developing a Tool to Test Women's Empowerment

Last year, Prof. Judith Worell of Kentucky University visited the Center and gave the Keynote Address at our Third National Conference on Promoting Mental Health among Israeli women. She lectured on "Are feminist interventions still relevant today?" and presented, among other issues, the use of an evaluation tool called The "Revised Personal Progress Scale" that tests empowerment among women in general and within the therapy process. This year, through a student third-year seminar, and with the participation of Ms. Anat Shalev, the Director of Social Services at the Beer Sheva Mental Health Clinic, we conducted a preliminary study on the suitability of this instrument for Israeli women. Currently, Dr. Sima Salcberg has joined the research team to test this instrument with religious and ultra-orthodox women.

Two Center PHD Graduates!

We are proud to announce the completion of Ph.D. studies of *Ms. Sheryl Mendlinger*, now resident of Boston, MA, USA (see her activities section below).



We also celebrate the completion of the PhD. of *Ms. Nuzha Allasad-Allhuzaeel* who made history (or her-story) as the first Bedouin woman to complete a Ph.D. in social work at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Her dissertation was on "The Significance of change in the lives of three generation of Bedouin Women" and was supervised by Prof. Lea Kacen. Nuzha received a Whitman Scholarship and has been active in our biogas working group in the Center.



Continuing Graduate Students

- *Ms. Svetlana Mazankin* from Educational Psychology is in the final stages of data collection for her thesis on assessing cognitive deficits among breast cancer patients.
- *Ms. Johanna Czamanski* is a returning Israeli who is a trained art therapist. She is being supervised by Dr. Orly Sarid, Prof. Julie Cwikel and Dr. Iris Harvadi on the relationship between stress, DNA integrity, and the physiological effects of cognitive behavioral interventions in women undergoing in-vitro fertilization
- *Ms. Tzipy Hornik-Lurie* has submitted her Ph.D. thesis proposal on the "Challenges to Israel's Primary Health Care System in the treatment of mental health problems among those seeking care - Implications for health care policy".
- *Mr. David Kozarinsky*, medical student, has completed his thesis, under the supervision of Dr. Aya Biderman (Family and Community Medicine) on the topic of "Using women's video life stories in order to create educational materials for MDs in oncology – a content analysis".

Visitors to the Center

On the 14th of May we were visited by Uri and Nili Paltiel who brought their brother and sister-in-law from Haifa. The Paltiels are active in the Israeli-Jewish community of Melbourne, Australia where they reside.



Guest Lecturers at the Center

Ms. Shoshan Rotem

Following her presentation at last year's photography exhibit, "Women in Center Frame", Ms. Shoshan Rotem gave a fascinating lecture on surviving child abuse as part of the Practicum in Treatment of Women for MA social work students. The lecture was on March 18th and was one of the highlights for the students as her insights are invaluable for feminist-oriented practice. Prof. Julie Cwikel gave opening remarks at her one woman show "**Nothing apparently happened**" that opened on December 25th at the Kibbutz Gan Shmuel Art Gallery.



Shoshan Rotem near her picture "The Missing Piece"

Dr. Laura Brown

Our counseling project "Isha Be-Shela" (loosely translated, A Woman in a Place of her Own) has now completed its first year of operation. A full week (May 3th-8th) of lectures, workshops and training were delivered by the world-renowned feminist therapy expert, Dr. Laura Brown, whose visit to Ben Gurion was made possible by a grant from the Distinguished Visitors Program. Dr. Brown is one of the leading theorists and practitioners in women's psychology today in the United States and has recently founded the Fremont Community Therapy Project for women's counseling in Seattle, Washington, USA, where she resides.

Dr. Brown lectured on **feminist therapy, treatment of trauma from a gender point of view and addressing issues of sexual identity in therapy**. All sessions with Dr. Brown were educational, inspirational and very well received by therapists, students and visitors from the Women's Counseling Centers of Jerusalem and Ramat Gan (Merkaz Yeutz Le'Isha). Informal meetings were also held with researchers working in the areas of women's mental health and trauma.



Dr. Orly Sarid sharing a thoughtful moment with Dr. Laura Brown



Dr. Laura Brown & Prof. Julie Cwikel enjoying camaraderie.

May 21st – Dedication of the Goldie Ivener "Isha Be-Shela" counseling project

During the Board of Governors' week, we were proud to dedicate the Goldie Ivener Counseling Center here. Ms. Goldie Ivener, a dedicated psychiatric social worker from Los Angeles gave us the seed-money grant to start the Counseling Center. Ms. Daphna Noily from American Associates of Ben Gurion University in the California region represented her estate in the ceremony. In her honor and memory, a placard was created that is now hanging in the counseling center.



From left to right: Ms. Daphna Noily, Prof. Julie Cwikel and Ms. Nirit Segal holding the poster of dedication

Dr. Michal Liebergall -Paula Method Workshop

Dr. Michal Liebergall, a nurse-midwife, was a post-doctoral scholar here at the Center, where she took part in courses, conducting research and gave several guest lectures. On July 1st, she conducted a workshop to teach women the basic principals of the **Paula Method** of stimulating the circular muscles in the body as a means of preventing and treating urinary stress incontinence, a common problem among women after childbirth. Close to twenty women attended and learned how to do basic exercises for pelvic floor muscular health. We are pleased that Dr. Liebergall has joined Prof. Julie Cwikel on the National Council on Women's Health of the Ministry of Health.



Dr. Michal Liebergall

Prof. Yori Gidron

One of the academic founders of the Center, Prof. Yori Gidron now resides in Brussels, Belgium and conducts research at the Psychooncology Unit, Jules Bordet Institute, Brussels, Belgium. He delivered a lecture on the 14th of July on **psychological inoculation** based on his research on preventing the development of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) reactions among persons exposed to traumatic events such as the bombings from Operation Lead Cast in the Gaza region.



Prof. Yori Gidron

Dr. Zohar Mor

Dr. Mor is a regional health officer in the Ramle-Tel-Aviv area and one of the participating physicians in the Lewinsky clinic for sexually transmitted diseases that serves the population of women and men working in the Tel Aviv sex industry. He gave a fascinating lecture on "**Sex in the City – Prostitution among women and men**" on November 19th.

Dr. Marie-Thérèse Feuerstein

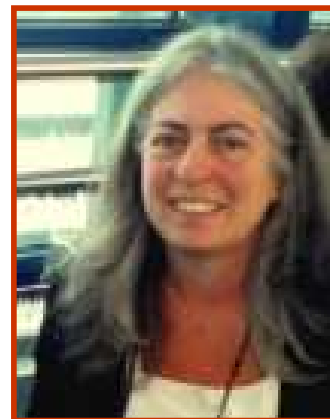
Dr. Feuerstein is a world expert in community development, particularly in developing countries and gave an inspiring lecture on "**Working with women in Poverty – Insights from International Development Work**" on Dec. 8th. She has developed a model that is applicable to working with all groups of women in poverty and is the author of the acclaimed book "Poverty and Health: Reaping a Richer Harvest".



Dr. Marie-Thérèse Feuerstein

Prof. Lorraine Sherr

We were thrilled to host Prof. Lorraine Sherr who is one of the world's experts on women and HIV. She is the head of Health Psychology Unit at the Research Department of Infection & Population Health Royal Free and UC Medical School, London and gave a thought-provoking lecture on "**Gender issues in treating HIV infected persons**" on December 23rd.



Prof. Lorraine Sherr

John R. Goldsmith Prize Winners

Each year, in memory of Prof. John R. Goldsmith, prizes are allocated in the fields of occupational medicine, epidemiology and environmental studies.

Ms. Dafna Granit Dgani was awarded the John R. Goldsmith prize in recognition of her ground-breaking work in the development of environmental education for Bedouin and Jewish schools in the Negev. Her Ph.D. thesis in the Department of Education is on "Exploration processes among young adolescents in environmental, educational programs through the Society for the Protection of Nature, Israel".



Ms. Tsafnat Test, a fifth year medical student at Ben Gurion was awarded the Goldsmith Prize in recognition of her excellent research work on "The influence of hearing impairment on sleep quality among workers exposed to harmful noise". Her supervisors include Dr. Ayala Canfi (also a Goldsmith prize winner from 2005) and Prof. Ilana Shoham-Vardi who is active member of the Center's advisory board.



2009 RESEARCH AND PROJECT PROPOSALS

Title	Submitted to	Amount	Status
Addressing the cognitive impairment of women with breast cancer	Fund for the Oncology Patient	\$20,000	Granted
Isha Be-Shela, creating supports for women under security stress	Kathryn Ames Foundation	\$15,000	Not granted
Isha Be-Shela, creating supports for women under security stress	Schusterman Family Foundation	\$50,000	Not granted
Training Mental Health Practitioners for the Negev's Women's Health Counseling Project – Isha Be-Shela	Boston Jewish Community Women's Fund	\$25,000	Not granted
Mother to Mother	Federation in Birmingham Alabama	\$12,000	Granted
Isha Be-Shela, creating supports for women under security stress	The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation	\$25,000	Not granted
Reading to Babies and Toddlers as an aid to Immigrant Absorption in Israel	Helen Bader Foundation, Inc.	\$91,320	Not granted
Empowerment of women in the periphery: women who are economically disadvantaged improve their social and economical position	NCJW Israel Office	\$15,000	Not granted
Connecting The Dots – Leadership For Jewish Girls Between Ages 10-18	JWFNY	\$25,000	Not granted

Community Health Promotion Projects

Continuing Project – Em le Em – Mom to Mom –Negev

This is the fourth year we are running a unique volunteer project modeled after a most successful program that started in Boston and has been running in Jerusalem under the direction of Dr. Marsha Kaitz, a developmental psychologist of Hebrew University. Veteran mothers receive volunteer training to provide one-on-one support on a weekly basis through home visits to mothers who feel that they do not have adequate confidence in the first year after the birth of a newborn. When we support new mothers, we help them foster healthy child development for the next generation. Up until now, 19 groups of volunteers have been trained, our coordinators have done over 270 home visits to birthing mothers and we have matched volunteers to 184 birthing mothers since the project's beginning in 2006. There are currently 26 active mother-volunteer pairs.

We are very proud of the achievements of this project, which is now recognized through-out the Negev as an important resource for new mothers. This year we added a new coordinator, Ms. Limor Niego, an experienced MSW, who is also a mother of four small children. She joins Ms. Mati Talmon, our public health nurse and together with Ms. Nirit Segal as administrator and Prof. Cwikel as supervisor we have expanded the project to include some very challenging cases. This year, we opened a mother's group that meet once a week and combine group discussions with didactic lectures on issues of mothering a new infant. There were approximately 30 women who took part in this group over the year. Some of these mothers only come to the group which connects them with other mothers and the staff while others feel the need to be in the group while also receiving support from a Mom to Mom volunteer. The group was so successful that some women in the last trimester of pregnancy have also joined in order to connect up with the Mom to Mom project before birth.

Hanukah in the Mom to Mom Group



Biogas for Unrecognized Bedouin Villages

A Biogas Digester recycles organic material (human/animal waste) into renewable energy for lighting, cooking and heating. This pilot project will be implemented in several unrecognized Negev villages that lack access to sewage treatment. Forty percent of the Bedouins of the Negev currently reside in unrecognized villages. This community project will be primarily implemented by women who will learn to build, maintain the digesters and document the process. They will also learn to use the gas safely for home use in lieu of the traditional open fire cooking. This economically viable source of energy can also provide future business opportunities. This collaborative project is being run together with the Arava Institute and professionals from the Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research and has been supported by the Robert H. Arnow Center for Bedouin Studies and Development and the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation. Ms. Ilana Meallem continues to actively fund raise for this project and was recently featured on the front page of the Jerusalem Post Magazine:

<http://traubman.igc.org/ilana-jpost.pdf>

Ilana Meallem at Um-Batim with family members



Ilana Meallem with a Bedouin woman

On November 11, there was a collaborative site visit to investigate possible sites for the first demonstration biogas digester. Representatives of: the Abu Basma Regional Council (Hila Nahon), the Arava Institute (Yair Teler, Ilana Meallem), our Center (Prof. Julie Cwikel, Ms. Rina Akaby) and the SPNI (Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel) (Aya Rimon) participated in the site visit. We conducted two focus groups in Al Nassra and in the periphery of Tel Sheva with approximately 15 women at each location in order to gauge their potential interest in the biogas and environmental activists project. We hope that two digesters will eventually be built this year.



Isha Be-Shela – A woman in a place of her own – a new Women's Counseling Project in the Negev

This marks the first full year of our counseling program called "Isha Be-Shela" – the first counseling center for women in the Negev. We are very proud of the achievements of our staff, Ms. Andy Ifergane, the clinical director and our coordinator, Ms. Esther Lilian who together with Prof. Julie Cwikel and Ms. Nirit Segal keep the project running smoothly. A group of 15 therapists of all different backgrounds (psychology, social work, art therapy) started working in both group and individual practice with women of all walks of life from the Negev (Beer Sheva, Arad, Sderot). Most of the therapists are graduates of Ben Gurion University and are now engaging in in-service training on women's mental health and treatment. The clinical director, Ms. Andy Ifergane has many years of experience in psychiatry and has worked in the Ministry of Defense counseling men and women soldiers. During Operation Lead Cast, she gave lectures to emergency counseling teams on dealing with trauma.

Andy also participated in supervision this year of the staff and starting in the academic year 2009-2010 is supervising three third-year social work students. Since the beginning of the project, we have seen over 50 women in psychotherapy treatment, over half of them young women between the ages of 20-30. Many have significant financial problems and would not have been able to get psychotherapy otherwise. We have psychotherapists who can work in: Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, and English.

In addition to individual psychotherapy, two new groups were begun this year in response to community requests. One group is with women in Dimona, organized through the Dimona Municipality (the unit for community work) and deals with empowerment of mothers as parents to teenage children. The other is being held for middle-aged women facing challenges in the mid-life who work in Nuclear Research Center – Negev (NRCN) and is organized through the Employment Assistance Office of the NRCN.

Andy Ifergane and Julie Cwikel delivered a series of lectures on the work of Isha Be-Shela to collaborating mental health services around the Negev including: the Beer Sheva Psychiatric Hospital, the Psychiatric Department and the Social Service Unit of Soroka Hospital, and the school psychology service in the Ministry of Education.

Lectures were also given in English, Hebrew and Spanish at the 10th National Masorti Women's Study day on June 19th at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. The study day focused on "Our Bodies – Ourselves from a Jewish perspective" and both Andy and Julie presented an interactive lecture called "Caring for everyone but ourselves – Self-care and coping". This presentation was also delivered to several community groups around the Negev including in Meitar and in the University.

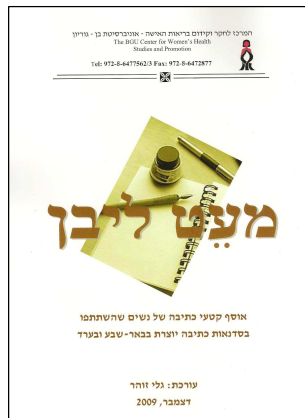


Staff members of Isha Be-Shela meeting with Dr. Laura Brown

New Publication!

Straight from the Heart – Women's Creative Writing

A collection of women creative writing from the participants of the groups running in Beer Sheva and Arad was just published (Dec 28th). The authentic, sensitive and personal writing reflect the spectrum of daily life of people in general and women in particular. This monograph was edited by Ms. Gali Zohar who was a creative writing group facilitator in Beer Sheva and now supervises the other group facilitators. We want to thank one of our long time supporters of the Center for helping to make this publication possible.



An evaluation of the writing group technique developed at the Center was conducted by Drs. Huss, Tekoa and Cwikel and published recently:

Ephrat Huss; Shir Daphna Tekoa; Julie G. Cwikel, (2009).

“Hidden Treasures” from Israeli Women's Writing Groups:

Exploring an Integrative, Feminist Therapy, *Women & Therapy*, 32 (1): 22-39

Coming Soon – Pre-publication Announcement

Mind-body mosaic: Women's health in Israel – is the title of the forthcoming volume of new cutting edge research expected to be published in the Spring of 2010, through Ben Gurion University Press. Editors Dr. Orly Sarid, Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and Prof. Julie Cwikel selected the twenty-four best and most interesting papers presented at the 3rd National Conference on the Promotion of Women's Mental Health that took place in Sept. 2008. Included in the volume are research articles on: pregnancy, childbirth, family life, sexuality, eating disorders, coping with trauma, family violence and chronic illness.

Professional and Community Activities of Center Researchers and Scholars (in Alphabetical Order by Last Name)

Dr. Edna Ahronson

Dr. Ahronson was active in two women's groups. She led a group of creative writing in Magan – community services for people with cancer and their families. The aim was twofold – to both tell the personal narrative of coping with a life-threatening illness and to create a world that gives meaning and hope to the participants. In the other group, she led an empowerment group for wives of men in prison. This group eventually started a study house for these women.

Prof. Julie Cwikel

Academic presentations:

Sept. 22, 2009 – The night of the scientists – "Self-care and self nurture for men and women – new research findings" (together with Andy Ifergane). Ben Gurion University.

November 23rd, Sexual health issues of religious women. Organization of English-speaking medical students, Columbia Medical Program, Ben Gurion University.

Students

2005- present Ms. Svetlana Mazankin - Prokeshev, Ph.D. student in Psychology. Characterizing the cognitive deficits among women with breast cancer. Jointly supervised with Prof. David Geffen, Oncology, Soroka Hospital. Proposal accepted.

2007- 2009 Mr. David Kozarinsky, MD. Student, Using women's video life stories in order to create educational materials for MDs in oncology – a content analysis. Together with Dr. Aya Biderman, Family and Community Medicine. Thesis Completed.

2008- present Ms. Johanna Czamanski Cohen, The effect of cognitive behavioral interventions on fertility and DNA integrity among women undergoing in vitro fertilization, Ph.D. student together with Dr. Orly Sarid and Dr. Iris Harvadi (biology). Ph.D. Proposal Accepted.

2009- present Ms. Tzipy Hornik-Lurie, Challenges to Israel's Primary Health Care System in the treatment of mental health problems among those seeking care - Implications for health care policy. Ph.D. student jointly supervised with Dr. Nelly Zilber, Falk Institute, Jerusalem. Proposal submitted.

Book Chapters

Cwikel, J. & Ifrah, A. (2009) The epidemiology of women's mental health in Israel: a life-course perspective. In Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Behavioral Disorders in Israel. (Levav, I., Editor). Jerusalem: Gefen Publishing. Chapter 1, Pps 2-26

Cwikel, J. (2009) Gender based strategies for public health activism: Tools from social epidemiology to address inequalities in women's health. In: Equity in Access to Health Promotion, Treatment and Care for All European Women. (Lasch, V. Sonntag, U. Maschewsky-Schneider. U., eds.). Kassel, Germany, Kassel University Press, p. 45-62

Publications

Cwikel, J. Segal-Engelchin, D. Mendlinger, S. (2009). Mothers' coping styles during times of chronic security stress: effect on health status. Health Care for Women International. (in press).

Cwikel, J., Savaya, R., Munford, R., Desai, M. (2010). Innovation in schools of social work: an international exploration. International Social Work, 53(2), (in press).

Cwikel, J. Gidron, Y. & Quastel, M. (2009) Low-dose environmental radiation, DNA damage and cancer: The possible contribution of psychological factors. Psychology, Health & Medicine. (in press).

Cwikel, J. (2011). Strategies for resisting eating disorders over the life course – A mother-daughter case analysis. Women & Therapy, 34(1) (in press).

Johanna Czamanski-Cohen

Doctoral studies: “The effect of cognitive behavioral interventions on stress, pregnancy rates and DNA integrity in women undergoing in vitro fertilization”.

- Data collection was initiated (approximately ¼ of data has been collected)
- Research proposal was accepted and comprehensive examination was passed.
- Promotion to doctoral candidate.

Academic presentations:

November 2009- American Art Therapy Association’s 40th Annual Conference, Dallas, TX. “Is this the Gush?”- An examination of best practices and a narrative based case study of art therapy with adolescent girls who experienced non voluntary relocation. Study was published in the conference proceedings.

Teaching:

- Guest lecturer in "arts based research" class, Dr. Ephrat Huss, The use of creative means in social work program, Ben Gurion University of the Negev.
- Reader of MA thesis for the Art Therapy Program, LaSalle University, Singapore.

Isha B’shela: Clinical work with 3 women in feminist practice using techniques of art therapy.

Dr. Ephrat Huss

Dr. Huss provided professional supervision to a group of new therapists working in Isha Be-Shela which aimed to integrate feminist stances together with therapeutic skills as psychotherapists. At the beginning of the 2009-2010 academic year, she gave a culminating workshop on the theme of developing skills as feminist therapists.

Ongoing research includes: the use of art for women with somatic problems in cooperation with Kupat Holim through a grant from the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, analysis of the identity of social workers as expressed in identity puzzles including issues of gender (together with Prof. Julie Cwikel) and a paper on the use of art as a method of dealing with the trauma of war (with Dr. Orly Sarid and Prof. Julie Cwikel).

Publications

Huss, E., (2009). Bedouin Women Negotiating the Cultural Spaces of Childhood: Arts Based Research within a Welfare Training Course in Early Child-Care In the Negev. Gender and Education (in press).

Huss, E., (2009). A model of social arts intervention with traditional women negotiating Western cultures. Social Work Education. Special Edition: Cultures in Transition, Social Work Education Vol 28, No 6, September, 2009

Haimovich A., & **Huss E.** (2009). The impact of belly dancing and drawing of the dancing experience on women's body image. Accepted for publication in Dance and psychotherapy.

Huss E., (2009). A coat of many colors. An integrative approach to art therapy theory. Accepted for publication in Arts in Psychotherapy, Vol 36 2009 p 154-160

Dr. Michal Libergall

Post doctorate research:

Planning the research program of: "Long term follow-up of eighty two consecutive cases of women who underwent reconstructive surgery with uterus preservation" with Prof. Cwikel and Dr. Sarid in addition to Dr. Ben-Meir and Dr. Lavy, Hadassah Hospital.

Academic presentations:

2009 - Liebergall, M, Ben-Meir, A, Cwikel, J, Sarid, O, Lavy Y Long term follow-up of eighty two consecutive cases of women who underwent reconstructive surgery with uterus preservation. Annual Urogynecology Conference, Tel-Aviv.

2009 - Liebergall, M, Ben-Meir, A, Cwikel, J, Sarid, O, Lavy Y Long term follow-up of eighty two consecutive cases of women who underwent reconstructive surgery with uterus preservation. Poster presentation in ICS conference, San Francisco.

Ms. Ilana Meallem

The Bedouin Women's Environmental Health Activist project

In Sept 2009 Alexandra Polsky, a young American volunteer with the Dorot Fellowship program, joined the Bedouin Women's Environmental Health Activist project utilizing her creative skills to design a graphic and informative educational materials in Arabic about environmental hazards associated with waste disposal. Now the project is entering its second phase which involves surveying a sample of local Bedouin women and relevant organizations to assess the materials effectiveness, user-friendless and cultural adaptation. Several meetings were held with local NGOs working with Bedouin women to develop collaboration on this project. Phase three involves printing and distributing the materials in local clinics, schools, organizations and initial preparations have been made on this.

Finally, part of Ilana Meallem's tasks in the project has been to coordinate the writing of additional funding grants, including the expansion of the program into a wider training in Wastes Recycling Systems to be conducted in a joint collaboration with Jordan and Israel. The Center for Women's Health Studies and Promotion has also identified potential funding sources and a full proposal was submitted to one funding source. We are awaiting final answers to these proposals.

In addition, Mazen Zoabi has finished his research work on the laboratory side of this project at the Blaustein Institute of Desert Research and is in the process of completing his thesis write up. His results until now show high quality of biogas (more than 60% methane). Mazen presented the biogas project in Eilat at the renewable energy conference and his presentation was greeted with interest and enthusiasm.

Yair Teller joined the Biogas Project as an intern at the Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC) – AIES in June 2009. He has experience building small scale biogas digesters in Mexico and has now been recruited to build the first Biogas demonstration digester (with a small private donation) in CREEC at the AIES, Kibbutz Ketura.

Finally, two papers are presently being co-written by Ilana Meallem, Prof. Julie Cwikel and Dr. Yaakov Garb. The first is titled “*Environmental hazards of waste disposal patterns in moving from semi-nomadic to sedentary life styles – A multi-method study in an Unrecognized Bedouin Village in the Negev area of Israel*” which has now been submitted for publication and is under review. The second focuses on “*Indigenous women and environmental health problems and biogas as technological transfer.*”

Dr. Orly Sarid

Chapters in Collective Volumes

Hermoni-Amar, A., Shalev, M., **Sarid, O.**, & Cwikel, J. The sex industry and trafficking in women: attitudes survey. Body-mind mosaic: Women’s health in Israel. Accepted. (Hebrew).

Shraga, Y., & **Sarid, O.** Attitudes of mothers towards their infant’ physical health and ways of caring: cultural aspects. Body-mind mosaic: Women’s health in Israel. Accepted. (Hebrew).

Sarid, O., Segal-Engelchin, D., & Cwikel, J. Risk factors and viewpoints of mothers for traumatic birth. Body-mind mosaic: Women’s health in Israel. Accepted. (Hebrew).

Publications

Shahar, D.R., Levi, M., Kurtz, I., Shany, S., Zvili, I., Mualleme, E, Shahar, A, **Sarid, O.**, & Melzer, I. (2009). Nutritional status in relation to balance, gait, and falls in the elderly. Annals of Nutrition and metabolism. 54(1): 59-66.

Sarid, O., Ruch, W., & Proyer, R.T. (2009). Gelotophobia in Israel: On the assessment of the fear of being laughed at, The Israel Journal of Psychiatry & Related Sciences. Accepted.

Grinstein-Cohen, O., **Sarid, O.**, Attar, D., Pilpel, D., & Elhayany, A.. (2009). Improvement and setbacks in post-operative pain treatment, Orthopedic Nursing, 28 (5), 232-239

Sarid, O., & Shraga, Y. (2009). Perceptions and attitudes towards infant’s physical health and caring: Immigrants and native born mothers. World Academy of Science Engineering & Technology, 55, 216-221.

Presentation of Papers at Conferences/Meetings

Liebergal, I. M., Ben-Meir, A., Cwikel, J., Sarid, O., & Lavy, Y. Long term follow-up of eighty two consecutive cases of women who underwent reconstructive surgery with uterus preservation. Poster accepted to the Israeli Urological Conference, December, 1-4, 2009, Eilat, Israel.

Sarid, O., & Shraga, Y. Perceptions and attitudes towards infant’s physical health and caring: Immigrants and native born mothers. Oral presentation in the World Academy of Science Engineering & Technology, July, 29-31, 2009, Oslo, Norway.

Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin

Students:

2008- present: Ms. Noa Kfir-Levin, MSW student, The meaning of "psychache" in the life stories of women who are survivors of suicide. Proposal accepted.

2008- present: Mr. Ariel Cohen, MSW student, Pathways to fatherhood among gay men. Proposal accepted.

2009- present: Ms. Rina Okaby, MSW student, The phenomena of polygamous families in the Bedouin-Arab society from the junior wives' perspective. Jointly supervised with Dr. Sarab Abu-Rabia-Queder.

2009-present: Ms. Najala Masri, MSW student, Marriage trends among educated women in the Arab society. Jointly supervised with Dr. Efrat Huss.

Chapters in Books

Segal-Engelchin, Erera, P., & Cwikel, J. The meaning of choosing a hetero-gay family configuration from the women's perspective. In O. Sarid, D. Segal-Engelchin, & J. Cwikel (Eds.), Mind-body mosaic: Women's health in Israel. Beer-Sheva: Ben-Gurion University Press. Accepted (Hebrew).

Sarid, O., **Segal-Engelchin**, D., & Cwikel, J. Risk factors for traumatic births and their meaning from the mother's perspective. In O. Sarid, D. Segal-Engelchin, & J. Cwikel (Eds.), Mind-body mosaic: Women's health in Israel. Beer-Sheva: Ben-Gurion University Press. Accepted (Hebrew).

Publications

Cwikel, J., **Segal-Engelchin**, D., & Mendlinger, S. Mothers' coping styles during times of chronic security stress: effect on health status. Health Care for Women International. (in press).

Dr. Frida Simonstein

Chapters in books

Simonstein F. & Balabanova E., 2009 Reproductive policy: assisted reproduction in pro-natalistic countries. In Reprogen-ethics and the Future of Gender (Ed. Frida Simonstein) Springer (in press)

Simonstein F. & Machiach M., 2009 Ectogenesis and the artificial womb – a survey in Israel. In Reprogen-ethics and the Future of Gender (Ed. Frida Simonstein) Springer (in press)

Books

Simonstein, F. (2009) Reprogen-ethics and the Future of Gender Springer.



Dr. Sheryl Mendlinger - Yea! A Graduate!

Dr. Sheryl Mendlinger – Completed requirements for her Ph.D. “Knowledge Acquisition: Examining Intergenerational and Cultural Effects of Origins and Influences of Women’s Health Behaviors in Israel”.

The dissertation examined knowledge acquisition in the area of women's health behavior between mothers and daughters: aspects of universality and cultural dependency: a qualitative and quantitative study of women in the Negev. This Ph.D. is in Education under the supervision of Prof. Julie Cwikel. Three articles and a chapter in a book have been published.

Program Development

Administration Manager of the Institute on Urban Health Research, Northeastern University, Boston, MA. Responsible for program development, research and grant writing in the area of women's health, female offenders and reentry programs for formerly incarcerated men and women. Developed the entrepreneurship educational training module for previously incarcerated women as part of a larger grant proposal, Safe and Sound Return that was funded for three years through SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Lectures

Guest lecture for Colleges against Cancer at Northeastern University:

A personal experience with breast cancer and the importance of early detection.