



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

# Oral Narratives and the Politics of History Making

The Second International Oral History Conference

The Oral History Division  
The Avraham Harman Institute  
of Contemporary Jewry  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**December 6 – 8, 2016**

Beit Maierdsdorf, Mount Scopus  
The National Library  
Edmond J. Safra Campus, Givat Ram



הפקולטה למדעי הרוח  
The Faculty of Humanities



Avraham Harman Institute  
of Contemporary Jewry



המחלקה להיסטוריה כללית  
Department of History



הספרייה הלאומית  
المكتبة الوطنية الاسرائيلية  
THE NATIONAL  
LIBRARY OF ISRAEL



# Tuesday, December 6, 2016

## Beit Maersdorf

**09:00** Registration

**10:00** Opening Session (Room 405)

Chair: **Margalit Bejarano** (Hebrew University)

Greetings: **Uzi Rebhun** (Head, Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry)

**Eli Lederhendler** (Vice Dean for Research, Faculty of Humanities, Hebrew University)

**Sharon Kangisser Cohen** (Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People)

**Yoel Finkelman** (National Library of Israel)

**10:30-11:45** Keynote Address

Chair: **Vered Vinitzky Seroussi** (Hebrew University)

**Jeffery Olick** (University of Virginia)  
Oral History and Memory Studies

**11:45-12:15** Coffee

**Session 1.a: 12:15-13:45** (Room 405)

## IMMIGRATION

Chair: **Eliyana R. Adler** (Pennsylvania State University)

**Barbora Čísařová** (University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic)

The Specifics of the Czechoslovakian-Jewish Emigration to Israel after the Year 1948

**Leah Lottan** (Ben Gurion University)  
The Exodus of the Jewish Population out of Czechoslovakia 1968-1969

**Marina Polevoy** (Haifa University)

The Immigration of Jews and Greeks from the U.S.S.R. and the FSU to Israel and Greece: A Comparative Study of Narratives

**Session 1.b: 12:15-13:45** (Room 404)

## **PERPETRATORS AND COLLABORATION: ORAL HISTORY**

Chair: **Michael Abrahams-Sprod** (University of Sydney)

**Yuri Radchenko** (Center for Research on Inter-Ethnic Relations in Eastern Europe, Kharkiv, Ukraine)

Auxiliary Police, Self-Government and the Holocaust in Postwar Memories of Gentile Population: Case Study of Ukrainian-Russian-Belorussian Borderland

**Stefanie Rauch** (University College London)

Oral History, Perpetrator Testimonies, and the Search for Meaning

**Verena Buser** (Freie Universität Berlin/Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences)

Survivors Speaking about Jewish Functionaries

**13:45-15:00 Lunch**

**Session 2.a: 15:00-16:30** (Room 404)

## **ORAL HISTORY AND THE ARCHIVE**

Chair: **Suzanne D. Rutland** (University of Sydney)

**Verena Lucia Nägel** (Freie Universität Berlin)

“What Compensation is That?” The Archive Forced Labor 1939–1945. Memory and History in Light of the Forced Labor Compensation and a European Remembrance Culture

**Éva Kovács** (Vienna Wiesenthal Inst/Center for Social Sciences HAS Budapest)

Large Scale Use of Oral History Accounts in the Historiography of the Shoah-The Case of the Hungarian-Jewish Slave Labours in Vienna (1944-45)

**Adara Goldberg** (Hebrew University)  
Breathing Life into Memory: Narrating the Holocaust  
Through Canadian Oral History Archives

**Session 2.b: 15:00-16:30** (Room 405)

### **ORAL HISTORY AND THE NGO**

Chair: **Dalia Ofer** (Hebrew University)

**Nadav Weiman** (Breaking the Silence)  
Testimonies as a Form of Activism: Israeli Soldiers Talk  
About the Occupied Territories

**Anat Ovadia Rosner** (Hotline)  
Asylum Seekers Narratives: The Challenge of Mediation

**Raneen Jeries** (Zochrot)  
Oral History of Palestinian Refugees and IDPs

**16:30-17:00 Coffee**

**Session 3.a: 17:00-18:30** (School of Education, Room 303)

### **VIDEO CONFERENCE (Interactive Format)**

Chair: **Kobi Kabalek** (Hebrew University)

**Henry Greenspan** (University of Michigan)  
Please Don't Hug the Hologram....and Other Moments  
from a Life Among Survivors

**Session 3.b: 17:00-18:30** (Room 405)

### **ORAL HISTORY AND IDENTITY**

Chair: **Paulette Kershenovich Schuster** (Hebrew University)

**Florenta Popescu-Simion** (Romanian Academy)  
Memories Are All that Remain - Identity Construction  
through the Work of Memory

**Cynthia Gabbay** (Hebrew University)

Interviews to Street Artists (2012-2014) Putting 2001's Argentine Crisis into Perspective: The Poetics of Oral Testimony

**18:30 Reception** (Entrance by Invitation)

## Wednesday, December 7, 2016

### Beit Maierdorf

**9:30-10:30 Keynote Address** (Room 405)

Chair: **Guy Beiner** (Ben-Gurion University)

**Amia Lieblich** (Hebrew University, Academic College of Tel Aviv) The Oral History of Neve Shalom- Wachat-al-salam

Session in Honor of **Sharon Kangisser Cohen**, ex-Academic Director of the Oral History Division, Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University

Greetings by **Dalia Ofer** (Hebrew University)

**10:30-10:45 Coffee**

**Session 4.a: 10:45-12:45** (Room 404)

### SURVIVOR ACCOUNTS AND ORAL HISTORY

Chair: **Christina Isabel Brüning** (Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg, Zentrum Jüdische Studien)

**Boaz Cohen** (Western Galilee College)

Turning Oral History Into an Historical Source: The Case of Holocaust Testimonies

**Rita Horvath** (Yad Vashem)

In the Force Field of Various Kinds of Truths: Employment of Literary Methods (Tropes) to Convey Simultaneously Personal, Psychological, Factual and Historical Truths

**Kobi Kabalek** (Hebrew University)  
“Professional Survivors” and the Politics of Holocaust Memory

**Mary Fulbrook** (University College London)  
Filtering Memories: The Significance of the Present in Shaping the Past

**Session 4.b: 10:45-12:45** (Room 405)

## **WRITING ORAL HISTORY**

Chair: **Dorothee Wierling** (Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte in Hamburg)

**Dagmāra Beitnere-Le Galla** (University of Latvia)  
From Life Stories to History and Back

**Alexander von Plato** (University of Hagen)  
Oral History or Journalism? Reports from Russia

**Irene Aue-Ben-David** (Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem/  
Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center) and **Sharon Livne** (Rosenzweig Minerva Center HU/University of Haifa)  
Beyond and Behind the Documents: A History of the German-Israeli Cooperation in the Humanities

**Rina Lapidus** (Bar-Ilan University)  
Written and Oral in Historical Discourse

**12:45-14:00 Lunch**

**Session 5.a: 14:00-15:30** (Room 405)

## **MIGRATION, DISPLACEMENT, ASYLUM**

Chair: **Brian Schiff** (The American University of Paris)

**Sabine Marschall** (University of KwaZulu-Natal)  
Memories of Forcible Displacement and the Revisit of the Lost Home

**Julia Mirsky, Nelly Elias, Julia Lerner, Jackie Feldman, Galia Plotkin Amrami** (Ben-Gurion University)  
Documenting Migrants' Lives in Israel and Educating About Them

**Michael John** (University of Linz)  
Austria as "Waiting Room" after 1945: Jewish Displaced Persons in Collective and Individual Memory

**Session 5.b: 14:00-15:30** (Room 404)

## **ORAL HISTORY AND FILM**

Chair: **Deborah Steinmetz** (Hebrew University)

**Danielle Schwartz** (University of Chicago)  
The Film: *Tmunat Mara'a*

**Liat Steir-Livny** (Sapir Academic College, Open University)  
Understanding the Past through the Present: Oral History as a Subversive Narrative in the Documentary Film *Oy Mama*

**Arua Oko Omaka** (Federal University Nigeria)  
Soldiers' Orality: Hermeneutics of Music as a Form of Resistance in the Biafran Army, 1967-1970

**Session 6.a: 15:30-16.30** (Room 404)

## **LATIN AMERICAN JEWRY**

Chair: **Margalit Bejarano** (Hebrew University)

**Silvina Schammah Gesser** (Hebrew University)  
Aesthetics, Politics and the Complexities of Arab Jews, Identities in Authoritarian Argentina

**Pedro Goldfarb** (Hebrew University)  
Young Jews in the Argentine Guerrilla in 1966-1983: Dilemmas of National and Ethnic Identity

**Session 6.b: 15:30-16.30** (Room 405)

## **HISTORY AND MEMORY**

Chair: **Steven Bowman** (University of Cincinnati)

**Guy Beiner** (Ben-Gurion University)

“Whatever You Say, Say Nothing”: Tuning into the Sounds of Vernacular Silence in Northern Ireland

**Gulay Kayacan** (History Foundation, Istanbul),

**Esra Danacıoğlu Tamur** (Yildiz Technical University,

Istanbul), **Gürel Tüzün** (History Foundation, Istanbul)

Voices of a Silent Past: An Oral History Project on the Past and Present Being “Afro-Turk”

**16:30-17:00 Coffee**

**Session 7.a: 17:00-18:30** (Room 404)

## **ORAL HISTORY, MEMORY AND NARRATIVE**

Chair: **Sharon Kangisser Cohen** (Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People)

**Atalia Shragai** (Hebrew University)

“As Luck Would Have It” – Patterns of Narrative and Rhetoric Strategies in the Life Stories of U.S. Americans in Costa Rica, 1945-1980

**Michael Abrahams-Sprod** (University of Sydney)

Completing the Picture: The Role and Impact of Oral History on Writing the History of the Jews of Magdeburg under Nazism

**Paulette Kershenovich Schuster** (Hebrew University)

Porosity of Memory and Jewish Mexican Women’s Reminiscence

**Session 7.b: 17:00-18:30** (Room 405)

## **ORAL HISTORY POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND CHANGE**



Chair: **Alexander von Plato** (University of Hagen)

**Linde Apel** (Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte in Hamburg)

Political Formation in the Seventies in the Shadow of a Leftist Majority

**Katja Schatte** (University of Washington)

Oral History as a Collaborative Practice and the Politics of East German Jewish History

**Joanna Wawrzyniak** (University of Warsaw)

Biographies, Emotions, Neoliberalism: Moral Economy of Transformation in Poland

## Thursday, December 8, 2016

### The National Library of Israel

09:00-10:00 Tour the National Library

**Session 8.a: 10:15-11:45** (The Music Room)

#### ORAL HISTORY AND THE SHOAH

Chair: **Rita Horvath** (Yad Vashem)

**Johannes-Dieter Steinert** (University of Wolverhampton)

Jewish Child Slave Labourers, 1938-1945: A Workshop Report

**Eliyana R. Adler** (Pennsylvania State University)

Exile after Exile: Framing Refugee Religious Life in the USSR during WWII

**Nava-Tova Barazani** (Hebrew University)

An Italian School, the Caves and Lola, a Jewish Girl from Libya: A Short Colonial Story

**Session 8.b: 10:15-11:45** (The Training Room)

#### RESEARCH AND ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

Chair: **Rina Lapidus** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Shlomi Chetrit** (Israel Police Heritage Center)  
The Israel Police Oral History Project

**Dotan Brom** (Haifa University) and **Yoav Zaritsky** (Haifa University)  
The Haifa Queer History Project

**Lina Lifshitz Rozin** (Ben-Gurion University)  
Challenging the Myths of Cultural Congruence in Social Work Interventions

**11:45-12:15 Coffee**

**Session 9.a: 12:15-13:45** (The Music Room)

### **ANALYZING TESTIMONIES ON THE SHOAH AND DE-COLONIZATION**

Chair: **Johannes-Dieter Steinert** (University of Wolverhampton)

**Christina Brüning** (Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg, Zentrum Jüdische Studien)  
When Night Falls in Britain in 1946

**Alexis Lerner** (University of Toronto/Hebrew University)  
The Application of Social Scientific Methods to Oral Histories of the Holocaust

**Ruth Ginio** (Ben-Gurion University)  
A Life Story of an African Soldier and the Challenging of Western Terminology

**Session 9.b: 12:15-13:45** (The Training Room)

### **ORAL HISTORY IN THE ISRAELI CONTEXT**

Chair: **Judith Reifen Ronen** (Israel Oral History Association)

**Brian Schiff** (The American University of Paris)  
Narrating Others

**Haim Sandberg** (The Stricks Law School)

Oral History as Legal Evidence for Individual and Collective Rights in Land

**Amos Goldberg** (Hebrew University)

The Poetics of the Nakba in Elias Khoury's *Bab el Shams*

**13:45-15:15 Lunch**

**Session 10.a: 15:30-17:00** (The Music Room)

### **INTERPRETATION OF ORAL HISTORIES**

Chair: **Michael John** (University of Linz)

**Lilach Naishtat Bornstein** (Kibbutzim College of Education)

A Jew Bearing Witness in Germany: Conflicts in the Design of a Local History

**Steven Bowman** (University of Cincinnati)

Stages in Recreating an Unknown Story:  
An Exercise in Oral History

**Session 10.b: 15:30-17:00** (The Training Room)

### **INDIVIDUAL LIFE STORIES**

Chair: **Henry Green** (University of Miami)

**Judith Reifen-Ronen** (Israel Oral History Association)

Golda Meir: Image versus Deed

**Suzanne Rutland** (University of Sydney)

Challenging the Myth: Arthur Calwell and Postwar Survivor Migration to Australia

**Margalit Bejarano** (Hebrew University)

Between Research and Politics: The State's First Statistician

**17:00-17:15 Coffee**

**17:15-17:45 Closing Session** (The Music Room)

**Guy Beiner:** Closing Remarks

## The Oral History Division

The Oral History Division of the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry (ICJ) began collecting oral histories for the purpose of historical research in 1959, aided by pioneering Hebrew University scholars such as Yehuda Bauer, Dov Levin and Haim Avni.

These interviews, covering a wide range of subjects (Holocaust, Zionism and the State, and the Diaspora) and conducted according to the highest professional standards, have made the ICJ the foremost academic collection of oral documentation in Israel. Over the years the archive of the division has received similar collections from other prominent research centers and private libraries. Historians, social scientists, students, high school teachers and pupils, both in Israel and abroad, view the archive as a unique and valuable research and teaching tool. Our collection of more than 11,000 interviews in 20 languages constitutes a treasure of Jewish documentation whose importance cannot be overestimated.

## We would like to thank the following for their Generous contribution to the conference:

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Conference Committee, The Authority for Research and Development, Hebrew University

The Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations

The National Library of Israel