



מחזור נוסף יוצא לדרך: הזמנה להצטרפות

An integral part of the training of researchers should be the exchange of ideas and critique with other scholars-to-be, even in an informal setting. This exposure to different mindsets and methodologies could benefit any aspiring doctorate student. To this end, we initiated the doctorate co-operation program "Chevruta": discourse groups comprised out of aspiring researchers from a wide range of disciplines, meant to enhance co-ordination across the boundaries of different science disciplines outside the classroom.

The project has begun its trials in 2008, and now opens admissions for nine new discussion groups, on top of three doctorate groups, which are already in session. By now, the program has successfully formed and concluded 70 different discussion groups in varied topics. Each of the new groups will comprise 5-12 PhD students, spread, as much as it is possible, across as many fields, and will conduct 12 meetings in a year. Progress and activities are to be updated in the program's site for the benefit of all the participants.

We invite you to join and follow the program's progress on [our site](#).

The Leadership Committee "Chevruta"

Dr. Raz Chen-Morris (Chairman), Prof' Elisheva Baumgarten, Dr. Orly Shenkar, Prof' Muhammed Haj Yechia, Ms. Alina Meltzer, Prof' Ilana Pardes, Prof' David Levi-Pawer, Dr. Michal Shur-Ofri, Dr. Nicole Hochner and Prof' Edna Lomsky-Feder.



הקבוצות הזכות לשנת הלימודים 2016-2017

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בראשות רם ראובן
- **המדינה והאינטרנט במבט בינתחומי**
בראשות אדם הופמן ורותם מדזיני
- **מוגבלויות**
בראשות אפרת לסטר קידר
- **ייצוגים מנטליים ותפקידם ההסברי במדעי הקוגניציה**
בראשות אורי הכהן
- **תקשורת המדע- מבט אינטרדיסציפלינרי על מערכת היחסים בין מדע, אקדמיה וחברה**
בראשות אוראל בני עמנו
- **קבוצת קריאה ומחקר בנושא תרבות ויזואלית**
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בראשות מיכל הוניג ואדר כהן
- **סטטיסטיקה בייסינית במחקר במדעי החברה: שימוש לניתוח נתונים ולבניית מודלים חישוביים**
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- **Inside Out: A Cognitive Journey Down Musical Paths**
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- **The Internet and the State in an Interdisciplinary Perspective**
Group Coordinators Adam Hoffman and Rotem Medzini
- **Study Group on Disabilities**
Group Coordinator Efrat Lester Kedar
- **Mental Representations and their Explanatory Role in the Cognitive Sciences**
Group Coordinator Ori Hacoen
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Group Coordinator Orel B. Amano
- **Reading and Research Group on Visual Culture**
Group Coordinators Rebekka Grossman and Hila Lavi
- **The Study of Aging- the Future's Future: An Interdisciplinary Perspective**
Group Coordinators Ella Schwartz and Yafit Cohen

- **Research at Your Homebase: Dilemmas of Researchers in their Immediate Surroundings**
Group Coordinators Michal Honig and Adar Cohen
- **Bayesian statistics in social science: data analysis and computational modelling**
Group Coordinator Itzik Fradkin

קבוצות ממושיכות

- **טיפול וייעוץ בין תרבותי**
בראשות מתי אנגל
- **עיבוד ורכישת שפה בגישה הבינתחומית**
בראשות גלית אגמון, אווה קימל ואליאור סולם
- **פוליטיקה עכשיו**
בראשות גיוני איסא
- **Cross Cultural Therapy and Consulting Thought, Application and Reflection**
Group Coordinator Mati Engel
- **An Interdisciplinary Approach to Language Processing and Acquisition**
Group Coordinators Galit Agmon, Eva Kimel and Elijor Sulem
- **Politics Now: Dilemmas in the Political Research of Contemporary Events**
Group Coordinator Jony Essa

1) New Group

Inside Out: a cognitive journey down musical paths

This group will establish a cognitivist platform with which to unite music scholars from various disciplines, e.g. music theory, ethnomusicology, popular music and Neuroscience. The group will review cognition research from the last decade. Each participant will demonstrate applications of cognitive principals within the framework of their disciplines and personal research. The annual syllabus includes three general subjects:

1. **Prediction and expectations**. Four approaches will be reviewed: [1] Hohwy's brain mechanism, focusing on minimizing errors; [2] Huron's ITPRA theory of five anticipatory responses (Imagination, Tension, Prediction, Reaction, Appraisal) and the linkages among them; [3] Examination of repetitions within music using tools from different disciplines, e.g. music theory, linguistics, psychology and neurology; [4] Recent computational models relating to harmonic, melodic and rhythmic parameters.

2. **Processes in the auditory system as reflected by the ERP component "mismatch negativity ."**Discussion of the theory claiming basic parameters, e.g. pitch ,require complex processing in high brain areas, while prediction processes occur in lower brain areas and within varying time frames.
3. **Crossmodal perception and processing in the context of music .**Perception is a complex system that includes not only discrete sensory processing but also various types of connections between different senses. Understanding these connections is an important component of understanding the complex mechanisms of perception involved, because some of the elements perceived as inherent to music are not exclusive to the sense of hearing .

Group Coordinator Ram Reuven : ramreu@gmail.com

2) New Group

The Internet and the State in an Interdisciplinary Perspective

During the last few decades, the Internet and its online social platforms have become an integral part of our public and private lives .In tandem with the Internet's growing diffusion in society, its increased influence on international relations, and its rising impact on citizen-state relations, questions associated with the role and influence of states and non-state actors are being magnified within digitally networked contexts.

However ,despite the increased scholarly interest in the phenomena and its political consequences, most research pertaining to it is scattered across different academic disciplines, resulting in an isolated and fragmented research of the topic. In order to overcome this disciplinary fragmentation, – fragmentation that is contrary to the Internet's character as a phenomenon that challenges classical disciplinary barriers – this research group will investigate the relationships between sovereign states and the Internet from an interdisciplinary viewpoint. The goal of the group will be to bring together graduate students from different disciplines, who focus their research on the Internet and its social and political consequence, in an effort to break across the disciplinary divides mentioned above.

Meeting once a month in the Mount Scopus Campus, the group will investigate the use of the Internet by three categories of actors: governments ,non-state actors, and social movements working within state boundaries. This framework promotes a joint interdisciplinary research discussion into the Internet and its influence from a social sciences viewpoint. The first part of the forum will focus on reading leading texts

investigating the Internet, its influence over the state and other political actors. In later stages, participants will have the opportunity to present their research projects in order to receive feedback on their work from the other participants .

Group Coordinators:

Adam Hoffman ,Adam.hoffm@gmail.com

Rotem Medzini ,rmedzini@gmail.com

3) New Group

Study Group on Disability

Over the past decades, we have witnessed the development of a critical discourse about disabilities that has begun to be increasingly significant in Israel and the world over. This discourse, initiated by social and political activist groups of people with disabilities in England and the United States, has brought about a perceptual change in the attitude to social, therapeutic, and legal aspects of disability as well as effecting real changes in Israeli legislation .Such one was the Law on Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities , .1998The field of disability studies is still being configured in the Israeli academia and has the potential for continued expansion and many more insights .

This discussion group will attempt to expand the discourse on disability employing a critical point of view and will delve into the diverse approaches that this field incorporates. Since the field of disability runs across disciplinary boundaries, with its many facets and points of reference, the group will be suitable for people addressing the field of disability or handicaps from a variety of angles: therapeutic professions, law, sociology and anthropology ,history, art, culture, and more. The aim is a location in which it will be possible to be exposed to the various research topics covered by members of the group and to learn research methods and methodologies of various types. This combined study will generate a sense of belonging and cooperation for doctoral students.

The group's meetings will alternate between presentations of articles in the field of disability, together with a productive debate, and presentation of the research of each participant in the group .Feedback and consultation will be provided in a constructive and respectful atmosphere. In addition, two guest lectures will be delivered during the course of the year. Adaptations to ensure accessibility will be provided as necessary. The meetings will be held once a month at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on the

Mount Scopus campus. Exact dates and times of the meetings will be provided at the beginning of the year.

Group Coordinator Efrat Lester Keidar, efrat.keidar@mail.huji.ac.il

4) New Group

Mental Representations and their Explanatory Role in the Cognitive Sciences

Since the start of the cognitive revolution, mental representations have played a central role in the cognitive sciences and the philosophy of mind. It seems that every type of cognitive explanation – such as general philosophical theories, models in cognitive psychology, computational models, and neuroanatomical research – all use the notion of mental representation. Yet there is no consensus over the nature of representation- What is the ontological status of mental representations? What is their explanatory role? And how do the answers to such questions differ with regards to the different types of cognitive explanations?

A study group involving Ph.D. students from different disciplines of cognitive research (such as philosophy, cognitive psychology, linguistics, computational neuroscience, and neuroanatomy) will allow for a thorough and extensive discussion over the use of representations in the cognitive sciences.

Furthermore, the fact that mental representations are found in a wide variety of cognitive sciences makes it an ideal subject for creating a discussion between otherwise distinct types of research. This is an opportunity for an interdisciplinary conversation in cognitive science, which might deepen our understanding of different cognitive explanations and the relations between them.

The group will meet once a month. In each meeting, one member of the group will present her or his research. We will then discuss the explanatory role of representations within this type of research, what this use of representations tells us, and how it relates to different types of research.

Group Coordinator: Ori Hacoheh hacohehori1@gmail.com.

5) New Group

Science & Communication: An Interdisciplinary Observation on the Relationship between Science, Academia & the Public Sphere

One of the assumptions in the scientific world is that knowledge is created in the field but not created by it, something that may create a segregation between scientists and lay people, and between the public environment and the ivory tower. Though there seems to be a change in the way that scientists perceive the status of the public sphere in their work, the majority of their discussions stay at the boundaries of their scientific sphere(s). And while researchers may have advanced theoretical knowledge, such knowledge is neither easily applied in practical situations nor easily translated into non-specialist language .

Acknowledging that, this research and discussion group addresses the intersection between the academic and the public sphere. Through open conversations on the participants' works, and by academic ,professional and supportive collaborations, this group aims to produce interdisciplinary discourse in addition to concrete contribution at the public sphere. In order to accomplish that, the tentative conceptual frames of the group are Science, Technology and Society (STS) and Public Understanding of Science (PUS). These frames may change in accordance with the dynamics of the group.

In its essence, this group is intended for all research students, from any department, who feel that the open discussions can provide additional value to their academic work. The main goals of the group are to actively acknowledge the informative voice of the public sphere as an equal companion to the academic information on it, and to create an interdisciplinary experience-based frame. Thus, we will be able to focus not only on grounded theory, but on shared theory as well .

The meetings will take place once a month .

Group Coordinator Orel B. Amano ,OrelB.Amano@mail.huji.ac.il

6) New Group

Reading and Research Group on Visual Culture

This group will be a research and reading group concentrating on the theory and history of Visual Culture in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Its primary purpose will be to foster a solid knowledge of the central debates and topics of the scholarly field of Visual Culture Studies among the participants. It shall present a platform both for discussions of various scholarly inquiries and of group members own research projects. For those

who would like to present their topic the group will be an intimate and friendly space to receive helpful feedback.

In the center of every meeting will be a text of the field of literature, film, photography, architecture, the fine arts, geography, archaeology, popular culture, the history of science, theories of gender or post-colonialism, that has shaped the way we talk about visual culture and that has benefited from new methodological approaches of visual culture studies. Among the thinkers and theorists whose texts and ideas we will focus on are Siegfried Kracauer, Roland Barthes, Jaques Rancière, Stewart Hall, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Irit Rogoff and Ariella Azoulay.

For one or two meetings, we will be joined by eminent scholars for a discussion on their particular field of interest. One of them will be Professor Marc Silberman (University of Wisconsin Madison) who has dealt extensively with German film and the phenomenon of a fascist aesthetics.

The exact nature of our meetings as well as the dates will be decided upon our first meeting, which will take place at the Mount Scopus central library in the last week of November. The meetings will take place in a language (or mix of languages: Hebrew/English) that allows for the inclusion of everybody who is interested.

Group Coordinators Rebekka Grossman rebekka.gro@gmail.com

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7) New Group:

The Study of Aging – the Future's Future: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

Aging and the study of gerontology are currently on the public agenda, an interest propelled by an increase in life expectancy and a steep and sustained increase in the number of elderly adults around the world. This new reality poses a series of challenges to society and to organizations caring for the elderly, and raises moral, psychological, legal and economic questions pertaining to the needs of the elderly population, as well as the need to find appropriate solutions. Gerontology is an interdisciplinary field, requiring an integrated discussion involving different schools of thought and various perspectives.

The group will function as an academic, professional and social forum that will enable research students to discuss issues in the study of aging while examining different contexts and research issues relevant to participants. Its goal is to create an interdisciplinary academic discourse of aging that will be open, critical and attentive,

that will encourage group learning, contribute to each participants' research and enrich their knowledge and insight. The group will deal with the dilemmas and challenges facing qualitative and quantitative research, theories, innovations in Israel and worldwide, and more, in addition to discussion and feedback on the research and writing of group members. The group will meet once a month at the Hebrew University campus on Mount Scopus, where the first half of each meeting will deal with theoretical aspects and relevant research methods, as well as current issues in research. The second half of the meeting will address the specific research projects of each participant and provide feedback from the group. Each group member will take an active part in the group and will give a presentation on a relevant topic. Also, there is a possibility of inviting an expert guest speaker to address issues discussed by the group.

Group Coordinators

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Yafit Cohen coyafit@gmail.com.

8) New Group

Research at your home base”: Dilemmas of Researchers in Their Immediate Surroundings

Is it desirable that a researcher study a field in which he feels “at home ?”Do the limitations and difficulties outweigh the benefits ?In many cases ,researchers in the fields of education, sociology, political science ,religious studies, Law, as well as scholars of the Middle East and social work are individuals active in the practice of their field who also belong to a professional community. In some cases, they belong to the wider social and cultural circle of the group or the community they are studying .The dual” Insider-Outsider ”perspective might prove to be a powerful research tool, however, there are at the same time considerable ethical and methodological pitfalls . This group aims to examine and clarify methodological and ethical issues stemming from this reality, by means of discourse between scholars from different disciplines who are studying their own professional field of action.

Group sessions will be devoted to seeking reliable interpretation of participants' study materials and to discussing the dilemmas arising from research in the immediate surroundings. Toward this end, the members will read methodological articles, talk with experienced researchers and share research data and discuss the ensuing ethical and

methodological dilemmas. linking theory with research practice will better allow mapping and outlining of the challenges that characterize near-field research, and detecting ways to deal with them.

Group Coordinators

Michal Honig eran.miki@gmail.com

Adar Cohen adarcOH@gmail.com

9) New Group

Bayesian statistics in social science: data analysis and computational modelling

In recent years, Bayesian principles gain increasing attention across disciplines. Interest and usage of Bayesian statistical methods for data analysis increase exponentially, while theories and models that use Bayesian principles to describe the updating of knowledge, beliefs and perceptions flourish. The scope of Bayesian models includes among others low-level neural models, cognitive models of learning, perception, and sensorimotor functioning, and conceptual models of belief update in social and political contexts. Notwithstanding its many advantages, most researchers are relatively unfamiliar with Bayesian methods, and consider them to be complicated and inaccessible.

The goal of this group is to provide a practical ground for learning and thinking about the potential contribution of Bayesian methods to various disciplines and research interests. After several meetings of theoretical and mathematical introduction into Bayesian principles, meetings will be dedicated to practical applications of Bayesian models to questions, theories and data presented by the participants. The group's target audience are research students who want to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for applying Bayesian models to their personal research. Participation will require basic knowledge of statistics and probability theory, and either knowledge or willingness to learn either R or MatLab, which make the most convenient and up-to-date software for Bayesian analysis and modelling. In addition, group participants will be asked to contribute to the group by presenting ideas for applying Bayesian methods to their own work. Most meetings will be dedicated to group discussions focused on the optimal way of adopting Bayesian methods to the presenting participants research questions.

Group Coordinator Itzik Fradkin, jdifdif@gmail.com.

10) Continuing Group

Cross Cultural Therapy and Consulting Thought, Application and Reflection

What is the interaction between psychotherapy and culture? How can we modify and adjust therapy and counseling to fit different cultural contexts? Is providing help interlocked with values? To what extent is the help thus provided meant to fulfill the values of the helper ,or those of the help seeker ?

Background : psychology and counseling professions have developed in the context of modern Western culture. Thus, help providers who work in these professions are often faced with hurdles when they try to apply their knowledge and skills in a differnt cultural setting. Studies have shown that behavior, language, social perception, emotions, and meaning may vary significantly from one culture to another. This variance challenges some of the conceptions underlining modern psychology. Despite the growing literature on cross cultural practices, the philosophical and theoretical frameworks in this field still require critical examination and further development.

You are invited to take part in a unique and interdisciplinary learning group, which has dual aims: to learn the current” culturally sensitive ”approaches and practices, and to contribute to the development of theoretical thought in the field.

The meetings will be divided between the study of theory and practice from the recent literature and discussion and re-conceptualization of the knowledge in this field. Case studies will be brought before the group by participants from their own experience and from the literature. This “field” experience will be further used to generate new knowledge and to re-conceptualize current knowledge around “best practices .”**The group aspires to be as broad and inclusive as possible** ,and is open to all participants interested in the subject matter ,both from theoretical disciplines (such as philosophy, sociology ,anthropology, cultural studies and psychology) and from practical disciplines (such as psychology, social work, educational counseling and organizational consulting). The group could form its own theoretical framework, stemming from the participants contribution .Nevertheless, it is proposed to use an initial conceptual framework from social psychology / sociology: the description of culture through the values underpinning them (Schwartz’s cultural values). In addition, we will inquire case studies, using the” Learning from Success ”method) Prof. Jonah Rosenfeld.(

This is the group's second year of activity, and it will meet once a month, on Fridays from 09:00-11:00

Group Coordinator Maty Angel Matityah.angel@mail.huji.ac.il.

11) Continuing Group

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Language Processing and Acquisition

This group will engage in the study of language processing, language acquisition and the interaction between the two. Language processing and language acquisition are often studied as two separate cognitive phenomena, despite their interconnectedness. For example, as adults we process language using knowledge and skills we have acquired in the process of language acquisition; on the other hand, processing limitations often determine the rate and quality of acquisition.

The study of language in general, and the study of acquisition particularly touches upon many disciplines, and uses varied research paradigms and methodologies. Accordingly, language is studied at numerous departments in the university, such as: education, psychology, language disabilities, linguistics, cognition, philosophy and computer science. The purpose of the group is to dissipate the academic barriers often felt by students engaged in the study of language processing and acquisition, and to provide a framework for mutual stimulation by presenting and discussing our research, as well as key papers and topics in the field. Such a group would naturally become a platform for interdisciplinary cooperation.

In each meeting, participants will present their own work, and a key paper on the subject (which they may choose to send to the rest of the group in advance). The group will discuss the paper and the students' work in order to provide them with feedback, ideas, and insight which result from debates among researchers from diversified fields. The meetings will be held in Hebrew or English, depending on the presenting student's preference.

Group Coordinators:

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Galit Agmon galit.agmon@mail.huji.ac.il.

12) Continuing Group

Politics Now: Dilemmas in the Political Research of Contemporary Events

One of the significant challenges of the discipline of political science is connected to its ability to deal with contemporary issues, and to contribute important insights under changing circumstances. Methodological difficulties, along with the epistemological necessity to relate to previous studies, result in the distancing of contemporary events from scholars' agendas. In fact, even when scholars are eager to deal with these challenges, formulating insights into academic articles as well as publishing such studies take a relatively long time. Accordingly, these scholars often miss the opportunity to contribute to-, and influence the current relevant public discourse .

The group aims to bridge the existing gap between the academic research and the present political trends and events. It will contend, inter alia, with the refugee crisis in Europe, the current wave of violence between Israel and the Palestinians, the meaningful role of social media and popular culture in the political and diplomatic spheres, and the evolving changes in identity politics in Israel. At the same time, the group will question the role of scholars in coping with current societal and political problems. In this context, the hope is to expand the borders of the academic political discourse across the disciplines of Political Science and International Relations, in order to better understand how different areas of studies can upgrade, stimulate and renew the political research.

Group Coordinator Jony Essa, jony.essa@mail.huji.ac.il.