Groups and Projects This Year

בגושים grupim

1) Orson Yidim - ziņa šebim (brašasot še aronšek - bukada sośialita)
Parents, Children, and What's Between Them

2) Gintot šev šofito (brašasot apier šed dots nešu gal nor - mađa mhdino)
Political Discourse Analysis

3) Nishtot bmarhty hedyt: tsohvay, nskhty yizg (brašasot avig yito - mađu hdmtyt)
Femininity in Religious Spheres: Experience, Presence, and Representation

4) Khylta - dizor btohm oy btohm bmosh bmnkhr (mramsot lmcil nmp aluo - bukada)
Community: an Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary

5) Brašasot tilha hoss - lmaidim ropanymb utiyna amrikym)
Discussion in the Term and the Research

6) Reading Group on: The Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs
(Orbrašasot yoni šer - pisikah)
Beyond the Standard: Understanding Language Variation

7) Mebser losterkote: nemt ynow yzovio (brašasot ambramo zekh yzdnev lažev - bukada)
Parents, Children, and Everything in Between

There are numerous theoretical approaches to research on parenting and the socialization processes that occur within the parent-child relationship. The study group "Parents, Children, and everything in between" deals with parenting and its relationship to the social and emotional development of the child. We intend to delve...
into the subject of parenting with the goal of understanding the different points of
view, and conceptualizations of parenting that arises from the literature to date. We
will examine how different processes of socialization, reflected in the parent-child
relationship are related and contribute to child's social emotional development. The
parent child relationship is complex and unique, and impacts the child's behavior, in
different circles of life. The group will examine the emotional and social development
of children, from the ability to develop empathy and pro-social behaviors,
relationships and social perceptions, to behavioral problems. We will try to determine
how different aspects of parenting contribute and/or prevent these abilities/difficulties.
To that end, we will review how the research to date refers to parenting in the context
of the child's social emotional development and discuss how the research of each of
the group members contributes to and integrates into this research field.

Parenting is a broad concept, which can be measured in many different ways. Our
focus will be on methods of measuring parenting behaviors presented in the literature.
We will examine the different methods of measuring parenting behaviors that exist in
the literature, as well as in the research carried out by group members. We will
discuss the various possibilities for coding and analyzing the data and characterize
the challenges and advantages of each of the different possibilities.

In summary, our meetings will expand our knowledge of parenting processes, both
theoretically and methodologically, through an examination of and discussion on the
individual research projects of the group members.

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"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world" (Wittgenstein 1922)
Political Discourse Analysis

Political Discourse Analysis is an umbrella term for a variety of methodologies for the study of text and expression. Discourse scholars come from a wide range of approaches, such as positivist, critical and hermeneutic. Yet, all share a basic common denominator – the desire to expose the overt and the covert components of the political world and its use of words, signs, sounds, and images, each of which shape, reflect, and compel action in reality. Behind the term "Political Discourse Analysis" lies a range of ontological and epistemological research assumptions as well as diverse research methodologies. Thanks to this broad definition, the study of political discourse analysis is growing and flourishing in a variety of disciplines.

This “Chavruta” welcomes any research students who share this broadly defined common denominator. The group explores political discourse analysis from a variety of perspectives, methodologies, assumptions, innovations, and conceptualizations, all of which serves as fertile ground for learning, sharing, and expanding horizons. The group is open to researchers from diverse fields and disciplines who experiment with political discourse analysis in their research.

*The group meets once a week on Mondays during the first semester.

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Femininity in Religious Spheres: Experience, Presence, and Representation

This research group will serve as an academic, professional, and social platform for students interested in issues situated at the intersection of comparative religion and gender studies. Using a variety of theories and methodologies, the group will focus on topics such as the presence of women in the religious world, the religious experience of women, and the representation of women in the religious world.
Discussions will examine the broader context of issues related to femininity in the religious sphere, such as social customs, history, ideology, and worldviews, as well as the literary and artistic expressions of these experiences, either as conflicts or avenues of growth.

In order to facilitate fruitful discourse and a variety of theoretical positionings, the group invites scholars from different departments, who are interested in similar fields, to participate. The goal of the group is to create peer education on the issue of femininity in the religious sphere. The resulting interdisciplinary academic discourse will contribute to the individual research of each of the participants and enrich their knowledge and thinking. Depending on the nature of the group that is formed, the meetings will include feedback on academic writing and methods for research development, alongside discussion and joint learning of selected topics. Some of the meetings will deal with theoretical aspects and relevant research methods, as well as the study of current issues from research in Israel and abroad, while other meetings will discuss the research of each participant and offer constructive feedback.

The group will meet every three weeks, on Mondays from 10:30 to 12:00, at the Hebrew University campus on Mt. Scopus. We will follow the regular academic schedule. For more information contact: agi.wittich@mail.huji.ac.il
Community: an Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary discussion in the term and the research

Communities are highly important and profoundly meaningful to human life and identity. They play a central role in socialization and social control, “qualify” their members for social participation, provide support, reduce loneliness, contribute to the strength and welfare of their members, and constitute an important change agent in times of distress, emergency, or disaster. For these reasons, the concept of “community” is a central one in the social sciences and one that interests many researchers from across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

This interest in “community” can potentially lead to fascinating and enriching interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary discussions. However, this requires that researchers from across disciplines have space where they can meet and talk.

Community: an Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary discussion in the term and the research is just such a space. The research group is intended for Ph.D. students from the Hebrew University whose individual research deals, on some level or another, with “community.” In the meetings we will explore the concept from a variety of viewpoints and contexts; discuss different types of communities, the historical development of the term, and the relevance of communities today. We will examine research methods used to study communities, as well as challenges and limitations in the research. Relevant articles, from both Israel and abroad, will be read and discussed and participants will also be encouraged to share their own research.
The group will investigate reading as a practice, tool, and form of representation and/or interpretation. We will concentrate on the different ways in which we encounter reading in daily life and in our research. During our meetings we will try to observe and think about the uses of reading in literature, history, religious and lay practices, and in various social, cultural, and cognitive contexts.

Ideally the group will be comprised of research students from various departments and fields (literature, history, anthropology, sociology, religious studies, philosophy, psychology, cognition, and more), whose research relates in some way to the topics suggested. The group will seek to cover a broad range of perspectives and research methodologies. We will read theoretical texts together and use them as points of departure for discussions on the ways the practice of reading is investigated and interpreted; explore different views of reading and the discourse it offers; and examine directions in current research. Through the theoretical discussions we will try to think about the ways reading and its study are expressed in different disciplines and learn about a variety of approaches to the study of reading. We will also examine the relevance of the theory to our own individual research. In addition, the group can

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also serve as a platform for the discussion of the research of those group members interested in presenting their work.

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Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs

The group is intended for graduate students from the computer science, philosophy, linguistics, and brain science departments.

The aim is to read the book and discuss the ideas that arise, such as the connection between structure and meaning, the equivalence between computational models (such as Turing machines and Lambda calculus), and the ability to translate any programming language to assembly, but not directly from language to language (something that applies to natural languages as well). Other ideas arising from the book are also welcome, as per the interests of the participants. The full text is available online, MIT Press.

For more information please contact: yoni.sher@mail.huji.ac.il
Beyond the Standard: Understanding Language Variation

The goal of this study group is to broaden our understanding of the parameters of complex sociolinguistic situations and how they are reflected in language phenomena. The choice to focus on this issue was a product of our knowledge of and interest in Yiddish. The seminar will be fascinating for researchers interested in the interrelationship between language and society: philology and history provide the context and the textual documentation of the linguistic data, and sociology and anthropology reflect the ideologies of and relationships within the community.

The group will be comparing several languages/communities (Jewish languages, Romani, languages in diaspora, conservative communities etc.), by reading academic papers, looking for available data, introducing research tools, methodologies and corpora from different disciplines and perspectives, and establishing connections between researchers. We are inviting guest experts to participate in our discussions. Our hope is that the seminar will lead to several outlines for potential comparative case studies.

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Testimony, Memory and Trauma in Culture, History and Psychoanalysis

Through the group we hope to generate multidisciplinary discourse on testimony, memory and trauma in relation to current historical issues. The theory of testimony was formulated as a result of the historical and cultural crisis of the 20th century, particularly with regards to the destructive aspects of World War II and the Holocaust, which were: "an unprecedented historical occurrence...which in its very nature eliminated its own witnesses..." (Shoshana Felman and Dori Laub 1992). The crisis led to the formulation of a new field of research, which deals with the affinities between narrative and history, art and memory, and speech and survival. Following
in the footsteps of Felman and Laub's seminal study, we wish to continue to develop a "theory of testimony," through discussions on the relationship between performative, sometimes non-representative, artistic and cultural enactments and the unconscious aspects of testimony, memory and trauma, both past and current.

The group welcomes students from fields such as: history, literature, art history, psychology, communication and journalism, sociology and anthropology, and cultural studies – and anyone whose research relates to these issues. We will seek to create an interdisciplinary examination of the ways in which testimony is expressed in contemporary culture, as well as the critical relations between history, narrative, memory, trauma, documentation and survival, and their manifestations in cultural practices and everyday life.

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The Foundations of Talmudic Discourse

We are happy to announce the opening of a new study group that will explore the fundamentals of Talmudic and Halakhic discourse, focusing not on the ritual, legal, and theological ideas expressed in the texts, but rather on the discourse itself and its methods and on the dialectical infrastructure of the Talmudic text, which is what makes it so distinctly unique.

The various groups of scholars who contributed to Talmudic and Halakhic literature developed a unique discourse and varied methods of discussion through which they interpreted the traditions of the 'Oral Tora', developed them, and applied them to changing realities. For the modern reader, this discourse often seems foreign and over-complicated, even scholastic. But for anyone researching different intellectual discourses, it is exactly this strangeness that makes it such a relevant and important case study.

The group will focus on the Talmud's dialectics, seeking to describe and investigate them using different research methodologies and according to a variety of academic disciplines. Our aim is to bring together researchers who examine Talmudic and Halakhic literature from different perspectives – historical, literary, legal, or philosophical. We believe that these different perspectives, even if occasionally contradictory, can also complement and enrich one another, and that this multidisciplinary approach will be beneficial to the individual research projects of the group members.

The meetings will be facilitated by all the participants and will focus on readings of select texts and seminal articles in the field.

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