

Newsletter 2015

Edited by Netanya Mischel & Ruthi Senesh

Introduction

Professor Heidi Keller

This is the third NEVET newsletter.

A year full of exciting developments has passed.

What is so special about NEVET?

NEVET embodies diversity. Diversity, inclusion and integration is demanded widely in many different relationships and different contexts. NEVET brings together individuals with different roots, different histories, different living circumstances, different religions and different personalities at different stages of their family and professional careers and provides an arena for exchange. It is noticeable that individuals feel free to express their ideas, to speak out their views and to share sometimes intimate information. This is unique and very touching to me.

NEVET embodies devotion. Students belonging to the NEVET community select their research topics not only for career options, but with personal passion. This is naturally associated with the endeavor of extraordinary achievement. But it is also associated with respect and responsibility for the participants of our studies. We care for them, we want to understand their special situation, their living circumstances and we do not exclude political issues. We take a stand.

NEVET embodies responsibility. We are not mere observers and rapporteurs of what we observe and hear. Our mission is to help children in need and to support families. We try to achieve this in a manifold ways: We accumulate research results from cultural groups where not much information is available, such as Ultra-Orthodox families, Bedouin families, Ethiopian families etc. With the dissemination of this knowledge we hope to make a difference. We are heard. Our members are invited to sit in committees and inform policy. Some examples among others: Our doctorate students were invited to teach context informed perspectives in the Central School for Training Welfare Workers, of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services. We support families directly in their quest to battle and prevent risk for their children. Ibtisam Marey helped in founding a kindergarten in the unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Naqab, collected play materials and furniture and transported all this from the north to the villages in the south. Her collaboration with the parents led to a dramatic change in state policy. Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kervorkian with a group of women escorts Palestinian children in East Jerusalem to school every morning so that they have a safe journey. Yaara Shilo initiated a coalition of organization for "education from birth to three" and participated in parliament committees. These are only few examples. We all share the hope that social responsibility will make a difference to this world.

NEVET is demanding. We do not deal with cold topics, everything is hot, because it has a personal relevance - what we do is a part of ourselves. Therefore, NEVET seminars are emotionally intensive. Finding a personal path through the many challenging perspectives that maintains personal integrity and embraces the respect for the other may sometimes be exhausting. Some of us may have to negotiate different roles between different facets of life which may not be easy. But obviously the communal experience outweighs the personal tensions.

NEVET is fun. The joy of being together and sharing these experiences contributes tremendously to personal growth. We all learn from each other all the time in many respects. Friendships evolve, we laugh and we cry.

I am looking forward to the next year with great enthusiasm.

Research

Niedersachsen

Written by: Yan Serdtse

For the Niedersachsen joint international research team of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Osnabrueck University in Germany, data collection is nearing its end and we have begun writing our first papers about the findings. Yan is concentrating on the comparison of Israeli born and Former Soviet Union born fathers of young infants.

Ruthi Senesh is studying the emerging subjectivity of mothers and the development of early mother-infant relationship, among Israeli born and Former Soviet Union born mothers of young infants. Niklas Dworazik is concentrating on the parental investments from an evolutionary developmental perspective. He is detecting the more fine-grained psychological investment that show up during dyadic interactions, among cross-cultural samples within Israel and Germany.

Child Arrest

Written by: Bella Kovner

Over the last five months, our research, data, interviews, and media coverage revealed a serious increase in child arrests in East Jerusalem. The media coverage, as well as civil society organizations such as ACRI, Human Rights Defenders Fund, The Public Committee Against Torture and DCI, attest to the fact that from September – December, 2015, out of the 967 arrests in East Jerusalem, 398 were of minors; 70% of whom ended up in home imprisonment.

During this period, we had the opportunity to attend a recent Knesset meeting on conditions of arrest and imprisonment of children held by the Committee of Child Rights. This meeting was a valuable platform to present our study in front of both formal and informal decision-makers and duty-bearers, as well as to advocate for increased awareness on child rights in all juvenile justice proceedings.

Our article titled 'Children's rights, state criminality and settler colonialism: Violence and child arrest in occupied East Jerusalem' is set to be published in the special issue on Palestine in the 'State Crime' Journal scheduled to be released in May, 2016.

We are currently collecting data for our next article and have recently conducted an expert focus group discussion that included both social and legal professionals from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

One of the recommendations of the focus group was to organize a task force to focus on the situation in East Jerusalem with emphasis on prevention. This task force will include members of civil society, universities, the government and relevant Parliament members. We believe that as the front-liners in researching this important issue, it is our role and responsibility to bring all stakeholders together to initiate a joint strategy addressing the current situation.

Young children's perspectives of risk and protection: A context-informed study(Funded by the ISF - Israeli Science Foundation)

Written by: Dr. Yael Ponizovsky-Bergelson, Post-doctoral fellow at NEVET

Under the joint supervision of Prof. Roer-Strier, Dr. Wahle, and Dr. Ponizovsky-Bergelson and with the guidance of Dr. Dayan, the ambitious research project is advancing into its second year. This national project aims to capture the perspectives of 450 young children (ages 3-6) from diverse communities on risk and protection.

MA students (Elichen Amitay, Orly Erlichman and Yaara Shilo) are analyzing data and writing their dissertations. Yael Lanzkron-Rubinstein has received excellence for her master thesis entitled "Perceptions of risk and protection in children aged three to six living in a religious village". Nomie Benchimol-Nakash completed a well-written seminar paper about perspectives on risk and protection among young immigrant children from France. Sixteen graduate students supervised by Dr. Dayan completed their seminar papers on young children's perspectives of risk and protection in a wide range of contexts (i.e., various ethnic and cultural groups, migration, religion, type of residence etc.). Two MA students (Hodaya Bashan and Sigal Ashtar) and three seminar students (Ayala Ezer, Ayelet Halperin and Ayelet Nave) have joined our project this year and will be conducting research with young children in various contexts.

We successfully presented some of our preliminary results in national and international conferences: Three thematic sessions were held at the 17th European Conference of Developmental Psychology (ESDP) in Braga, Portugal, the Early Childhood Conference in Levinsky College in Tel-Aviv, and at the Israeli Multidisciplinary Conference for Qualitative Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Upcoming conference include paper presentation at the Ruppin International Conference on Immigration and Social Integration.

The supervisors together with MA student Orly Erlichman submitted a paper entitled "On the margins of race immigration and war: Perspectives on risk and protection of young children from the Ethiopian Community in Israel" for publication in a special issue of the [European Early Childhood Education Research Journal](#) (EECERJ). In addition, several scholarly publications on how children from diverse groups define risk and protection are planned for the upcoming year.

To refine data collection processes and to achieve the goals of future international collaborations, Dr. Ponizovsky-Bergelson and Dr. Wahle have been working on a videotaped manual for the study. The manual introduces the methodology developed specially for the study (including the PhotoVoice method); a guide for the study procedures that highlights core principles for conducting research with young children from diverse groups.

Why do we study attachment, (again)?

Written by: Hannah Bartl

Imagine, a mother returns after having left her one-year-old alone for a short time. What would be a healthy way for the baby to react? 1) The baby approaches the mother and shows positive emotional behavior, 2) the baby continues playing without any signs of emotional involvement, or 3) the baby shows signs of anger and rejects the mother? This situation mirrors the reunion episode of the *Strange Situation Paradigm* (Ainsworth et al, 1978) designed to evaluate the quality of a child's attachment behavior toward the mother. The formation of an attachment relationship between an infant and his or her primary caregivers is a developmental task, crucial for a child's social and emotional development. This task is universal, but its solution may look very different depending on socio-demographic factors and associated socialization strategies. We have a rather good understanding of what Western middle class socialization philosophy would look like (option 1 above would be the most adaptive), but we do not know much about the perspectives of members of other cultural contexts. However, we need knowledge of different cultural solutions in multi-cultural societies. This is especially important for immigrant families. Parents may consider one behavior healthy, while child practitioners from the host culture (e.g. child doctors, kindergarten teachers, family counselors) rate the same behavior as dysfunctional and maladaptive. Therefore, we study

the perceptions of mothers as well as those of practitioners in early child-care development with the same or similar methods.

The role of culture and context in child maltreatment: Ultraorthodox (Haredi) perspectives of risk and protection

Written by: Dr. Yochay Nadan

The main goal of the study is to generate a comprehensive and thorough understanding of ultraorthodox perspectives of risk and protection in the community's everyday surroundings. Specifically, the study aims to shed light on local definitions of "risk," "protection," "neglect," and "abuse"; to explore explanations of etiology; to identify help-seeking behaviors; and to assemble ideas regarding effective prevention and intervention. To achieve this goal, the perspectives of four groups of informants are examined: children, parents, community leaders (rabbis and other prominent influential figures), and professionals from the community who work with children in different domains (educators and social workers), for a total of 120 participants. Utilizing qualitative methodology, data is collected using focus groups and in-depth semi-structured interviews. The research is supported by the Israel Science Foundation. The research group members include Professor Dorit Roer-Strier, Netanel Gemara, Rivki Keesing, Zev Ganz and Mani Pollack.

Intercultural Encounter in the neonatal intensive care unit of Soroka Hospital, Israel: Medical staff and Bedouin parents' perspectives

Written by: Dr. Nira Wahle

A research team headed by Dr Nira Wahle has been conducting extensive research at the neonatal intensive care unit (premature babies) of Soroka Hospital in Beer Sheva, Israel. The research was launched following approval of the hospital's Helsinki committee. It aims to investigate the implications of this encounter for the parents (both fathers and mothers) and for the medical staff (doctors, nurses and social workers), and explore ways to construct an effective intervention that would narrow the intercultural gap in this complex situation. The medical staff: Boaz Cohen, an M.A. student, has examined the perceptions of the nurses in the premature babies ward. He has been exposed to the intensity of their work and the extreme burden it involves. Analysis of the findings reveals a noteworthy complexity in the way the nurses perceive the encounter with Bedouin parents, particularly those who come from unrecognized villages and do not speak Hebrew. Boaz has recently completed and submitted his thesis. Dr. Nira Wahle has finished interviewing neonatologists, including interns and residents. She is now in the process of analyzing the interviews. This will eventually enable the comparison of the perceptions of the doctors with those of the nurses as well as obtaining a comprehensive picture of the overall perceptions of the neonatal intensive care unit's medical staff. The parents: Ahlam Abokirn, an M.A. student, has begun her thesis research by interviewing Bedouin mothers of premature babies. The interviews, which are held in Arabic, allow for the mothers' perspectives to be heard for the first time. The highly significant points that have emerged from the interviews held to date are sure to play an important role in constructing intervention programs in the future. Ibrahim Abu Ja'far, A PhD student, focuses his research on Bedouin fathers. He is currently planning his research at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in collaboration with NEVET. The doctors, nurses and social workers of the neonatal intensive care unit have been extremely cooperative, showing deep interest in our work. This greatly enhances our understanding of the overall circumstances and helps advance the research.

Small changes can affect a big policy

Written by: Ibtisam Marey-Sarwan

This research is based on a case study of Bedouin parents from unrecognized villages in the Naqab desert who experience dispossession, severe structural oppression and cultural transition in the

midst of an ongoing political conflict. The study provides an opportunity to witness processes of change. It was originally aimed at learning from parents about their perception of risk but ended up with an additional lesson regarding action.

During the study the participants shared their desires to change the risk-loaded reality for children, protect their children and lobby for their children's right for education. A group of mothers decided to take action. They initiated a community-managed kindergarten (called 'Hope') that allows their children to play in a safe place. Supported by their husbands, the mothers invited Arab-Israeli parliament members, journalists and NGO directors to visit the kindergarten in order to raise attention to their children's needs. The local media documented this visit and the women opened a Facebook page called 'hope'. It is apparent that these efforts were fruitful, and the authorities have decided to provide transportation for the children (ages 4-5) from unrecognized villages to a governmental kindergarten in a nearby recognized village. Nowadays, the parents continue to support the "Hope" initiative for younger children to keep them out of danger. Mothers were invited to testimony at the Israeli parliament committee.



'Hope' - a community managed kindergarden

This year our Masters students are researching a number of different topics:

Mani Pollak is researching perceptions of Ultraorthodox (Haredi) parents, who are treated by welfare services, regarding child risk and protection.

Hodaya Bashan is researching perceptions on Risk and Protection of young children (aged 3-10) from Bene Menashe.

Natali Zohr is researching relationships between siblings from large Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) families of eastern origin.

Naden Jeries is researching relationships between siblings within the Christian-Arab population in Israel.

Ahlam Amuri is researching the experiences of Bedouin mothers of premature infants in the NICU at Saroka Medical Center.

Noémie Bloomberg is researching the experiences, parental perceptions and coping mechanisms of French mothers in Israel.

As Masters Students we began a journey together at the start of the year and our experiences as researchers have been very fulfilling. We feel like a family and see NEVET as source of immense support with many role models.

Conferences

Portugal Conference

Written by: Lital Yona

In September 2015 we (Professor Dorit Roer-Strier, Dr. Nira Wahle, Natalie Ulitsa, Dr. Yael Ponizovsky-Bergelson, Yael Lanzkron-Rubinstein and myself), participated in a conference of the European Association for Developmental Psychology in Portugal. Our presentation at the conference was an unforgettable experience, especially for me as it was the first conference I've had the opportunity to present at.

The presentations were on the perception of risk among parents and their children. The feedback given to us by researchers who came to hear our presentation was both positive and moving. During the three days over which the conference took place, we had the privilege to hear about a wide range of studies being researched currently all over the world, such as studies on children, parenting, fatherhood and more.

Furthermore, we were able to experience the beautiful Portugal together as a group. We visited the capital, Lisbon, and were blown away by the breathtaking views and the exciting culture. We also had the privilege to visit Porto, a beautiful town, where we got to experience the unique sounds, delicious foods and rich history of the beautiful country.

My participation in both the conference and the trip itself was an unforgettable experience for me, both on a professional level as I was able to present my research for the first time and on a personal level as I had the privilege of experiencing it all with a wonderful and special group of people.



A conference of the European Association for Developmental Psychology in Portugal

Haruv Conference

Written by: Netanel Gemara and Michal Gatenio-Kalush

The first international Haruv conference took place in October, 2015. The subject of the conference was Child Maltreatment in Context. The atmosphere in Jerusalem was tense in light of the security situation, but despite that there were no cancellations. Professor Jill Korbin and other international speakers and guests partook in the event, and many leading researchers from Israel made the effort to participate.

NEVET received a notable panel entitled "The role of culture and context in child maltreatment: Perspectives of risk and protection in diverse societies" chaired by Dr. Yochay Nadan with Professor Dorit Roer-Strier as the speaker. Netanel Gemara presented research on the Ultra-Orthodox perspective on risk and protection. Ibtisam Marey-Sarwan's project with the Bedouin community from unrecognized villages was presented. Natalie Ulitsa and Lital Yona presented their study on immigrant parents from the Former Soviet Union in Israel, and Michal Gatenio-Kalush presented her study with Ethiopian mothers. There was a noteworthy number of participants from the conference who attended our symposium and took an active part in the discussion at the end of the session. The feedback was positive and led to an invitation to write a book on risk and to an invitation to another conference. The presenters all had a great experience.

Family and loss in cultural transition, November, 2015

Written by: Naomi Shmuel

This was a very special event in the Education & Social Work Library, introducing NEVET's member Naomi Shmuel's new book "A Belly full of Tears" (published by Pardes). The book was written following research into a murder case in the family and depicts both the tragedy of the children left without their mother and the desperate attempts of her sister, an Ethiopian immigrant social worker, to assist them and come to terms with her own tragic loss.

"The beauty of the book is in its modesty, its gentleness, like a water-color painting. Grief and pain are internalized to perfection, and alongside them, without exhortation, are the universal human values that we have almost forgotten; family commitment, parental respect, human dignity – including the dignity of children and young people, the longing for love and the hope for good."- Excerpt from the Akum Prize.

The seminar was chaired by Professor Ruth Pat-Horenczyk from the Israeli Center for Psychotrauma and included a fascinating lecture by her co-worker Asher Mequannent Rachamim, who gave us insight into the traumas facing the Ethiopian immigrants who came to Israel on foot via Sudan, an incredibly hazardous journey. Shelly Engedau, a NEVET's doctorate student, enlightened us with her intriguing research on "Being a Black Jew in Israel", in which she interviewed adults who had made this journey as children. Professor Dorit Roer-Strier inspired us all with her profound perception of the concepts of cultural transition and hybridity, and a new context-informed way of looking at the human experience. The active participation of NEVET members and the audience made the evening a moving and unforgettable experience.



'Family and loss in cultural transition', The Hebrew University

NEVET Seminar

Written by: Natalie Ulitsa

Last year we held a NEVET Seminar entitled "Multicultural Workshop on Multiculturalism" in cooperation with the School of Education and Faculty of Law. Doctoral and Masters Students from the Social Sciences, Social Work, the Faculty of Law and The School of Education, Folklore and Criminology all participated in this workshop supervised by Professor M. Karayani, Professor Gabi Horenczyk and Professor Dorit Roer-Strier. The purpose of this workshop was to expose the participants to the research on multiculturalism, to introduce the main challenges and dilemmas this approach creates and to foster dialog between the participants who came from different disciplines. The lectures were challenging as were the discussions that followed. We also hosted some guest lectures (Professor Birgitt Röttger – Rössler, Professor Katja Liebal and Gabriel Scheidecker from Freie Universitaet, Berlin, and Professor M. Tatar from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem). At the last meeting of the seminar students successfully conducted a marathon of presentations on their research.

We received a lot of positive feedback from the students about the workshop and hope to hold it in this multidisciplinary format in the future.

New Collaborations

International research collaboration in Prishtina, Kosovo

Written by: Dr. Yael Ponizovsky-Bergelson, Post-doctoral fellow at NEVET

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between NEVET and the Private Bearer of Higher Education "Qeap-Heimerer" at the Department of Pedagogy and Speech Therapy in Prishtina, Kosovo. In the spirit of intellectual cooperation and international understanding, both parties voluntarily joined in agreement on research cooperation and agreed to establish a program of collaboration on the study of 'Young Children's' Perceptions on Risk and Protection'. The purpose of this cooperation is to promote cooperative research and to facilitate the international exchange of ideas on the study. The modes of cooperation will include: a) exchange of information on the research; b) implementation of the research study; and c) joint scholarly publications. Dr. Ponizovsky-Bergelson and PhD candidate Mr. Uka will coordinate the implementation of this joint project.

Cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services

Written by: Dr. Yael Ponizovsky-Bergelson, Post-doctoral fellow at NEVET

NEVET Ph.D. students, Natalie Ulitsa and Yan Serdtse, and Dr. Yael Ponizovsky-Bergelson will give lectures on families in cultural transitions from context-informed perspectives in the updated

curriculum of cultural competence training courses for social workers developed by Yael Steinfeld. The lectures will be held in the Central School for Training Welfare Workers, which operates within the Division of Research, Planning and Training in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services. We welcome this important initiative and hope to continue cooperating with practitioners in the field.

NEVET-PENN Collaboration

Written by: Professor Dorit Roer-Strier

In June 2015 we initiated a new collaboration between NEVET and The School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. Together we plan to study the role of context (race, religion and ethnicity) in risk prevention and intervention as a platform for context-informed competence training. The American partners are Professors Roberta Sands, Lina Hartocollis, Irene Wong and Jerry Bourjolly together with 3 DSW candidates. The Israeli team includes Professor Roer-Strier and Dr. Nadan Yochay as well as doctorate students Lital Yona, Shelly Ingdao-Vanda and Netanel Gemara.

New collaboration with Russian State Social University (Moscow, Russia)

Written by: Natalie Ulitsa

As part of the Tempus Project ("TACHYwe"), a group of NEVET members visited Russia and hosted two groups of social work students and their teachers in Israel visiting from Moscow. Through this project we met Professor Firsov, one of the 3 leaders of social work in Russia, who founded the Center for Cross-Cultural and Transversal Social Work in Russian State Social University (Moscow, Russia) this year. The social University is responsible for writing the curricula for all the schools of social work in the Russian Universities. The main goal of the center is the realization of scientific and educational activities in the field of cross-cultural social work, implementation of research and the development of international collaborations.

In December of 2015 Natalie Ulitsa and Yan Serdse, both PhD candidates at the Social Work and Social Welfare at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, visited Moscow as part of the Tempus TACHYwe project.

The relationship between the center and NEVET Greenhouse are in ongoing development and we signed an agreement of scientific and research collaboration this February. Both sides are very interested in professional collaborations which include the exchange of knowledge, joint research, joint publications and workshop. Natalie Ulitsa was appointed to coordinate the collaborative venture.

Congratulations on Submitting a Doctorate/Master's Thesis!

Doctorate Students:

Ibtisam Marey-Sarwan

Michal Gatenio-Kalush

Master Students:

Netanel Gemara

Lital Yona

Rivka Keesing

Yael Lanzkron

Boaz Cohen

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