

NEVET NEWSLETTER

2016

Edited by: Netanya Mischel

NEVET

Written by: Prof. Dorit Roer-Strier

2016 was a year of growth for the NEVET community with its 15 doctoral students 20 masters' students and various faculty members who joined our group. We moved to our new home, and launched our doctorate student lab and community garden and continue to meet at a bi-weekly seminar and through our research groups. We are further developing our mentoring program. Our members participated in 18 conferences, published papers and started working on a book, which will include many of our risk and protection studies. We prepared several courses on context-informed research practice and training that are taught by our graduates at other colleges and universities. Our members are involved with various community projects and national lobbies for children and families.

This is our fourth newsletter. It exemplifies the different areas of our activities. Written by our members, coordinated and edited by our devoted member Netanya Mischel, this newsletter brings to you not only our activities, but the NEVET spirit of cooperation, collaboration, encouragement of academic and personal growth and faith in diversity as an asset.

What NEVET Means To Me

NEVET is a house, and in that house live people who are much more than just colleagues, they are family. NEVET is a place full of warmth and acceptance, a place where you can feel comfortable saying anything, even if it is not always politically correct. Moreover, NEVET is a place where you can make coffee, sit outside in our beautiful community garden and have conversations with people who always have good advice, a kind word, and interesting professional developments. I think NEVET is simply a beautiful collection of warm, accepting and fascinating people, each with their own story, that together build a beautiful and special place together - our NEVET. - *Lital Yona, Doctoral Candidate*

NEVET is a unique place where good people work together in order to get a better understanding of themselves, of other people, and of other cultures. At NEVET it isn't wrong to admit that sometimes you don't know more than you know. I'm glad to be a part of this group! - *Elichen Amitai, Master's Graduate*



I started out at NEVET as a young sprout and slowly but surely I continue to grow thanks to the highest quality of guidance, peer support and mutual fertilization. NEVET is school for life - on how to be more humane, and to live the saying in Pirkey Avot: "In a place where there are no men, strive to be a man." - *Yael Lanzkron Rubenstein, Doctoral Candidate*

NEVET is like one big family where everyone helps each other. NEVET guides students step by step and facilitates many important research projects which have a great impact on society, policy and professional practice. - *Menachem Pollack, Master's Candidate*

I found NEVET during my master's degree, a place to give me all the support needed to utilize my unique knowledge and experience. Today, as a doctoral student, I have the privilege to continue to grow in this great environment and tutor the next generation of NEVET scholars. - *Rivky Keesing, Doctoral Candidate*

NEVET is a place where I grow. I grow as a student, I grow as a researcher, and I grow as a human being. At NEVET, I feel I can be proud of my identity, and that enables me to bring out my voice in a full and rich way. - *Netanel Gemara, Doctoral Candidate*

NEVET Greenhouse is a home and a family. A special place that takes great care to raise me as a researcher, lecturer and mentor. A place that takes the time to recognize my potential and the potential in my hobbies and utilize and empower them through the greenhouse. - *Yan Serdtse, Doctoral Candidate*

Our Research Projects

Risk and Protection from the Point of View of Immigrant Children: A Comparative Study of Jewish Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in Germany and Israel

Written by: Rachel Yishai and Dr. Yael Ponizovsky-Bergelson (PI)

An international development of the "Young Children's Perspectives on Risk and Protection" project is taking place in Germany and Israel. Rachel Yishai and Valerie Henkel, MA students, are currently collecting data among young children of immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in both countries, under the supervision of Prof. Roer-Strier, Prof. Roettger-Roessler, and Dr. Ponizovsky-Bergelson. The study aims to explore what facets of immigrant's worlds are manifested in children's perspectives.



The methodology includes the Photo-Voice technique - utilizing children's photographs, drawings, and verbal explanations in focus group interviews. It engages children fully, in order to explore their experiences and views. The research is conducted within preschool facilities and will contribute to context-informed research by identifying risk and protective factors and our understanding of challenges faced by children and their families in the context of transition. Children's perspectives should be taken into account when planning and providing interventions, services and policies for children at risk.

Context-Informed Perspectives of Child Risk, Well-Being and Protection: Diverse Populations in Israel

Written by: Dr. Yochay Nadan

Risk, well-being and the protection of children are socially formed constructs that are largely contingent on the culture and contexts in which children grow up. NEVET's risk, well-being and protection project aims to provide both a conceptual model and a methodology that "unpacks" culture and context by identifying the specific influencing factors at play when children, parents and professionals belonging to diverse groups construct what they define as "risk", "well-being", "maltreatment" and "protection".

The study adopts a context-informed perspective based on the notion that human development and behavior are influenced by the many interlocking cultural, socio-political, historical, economic, religious and other contexts that surround them.

Comparing, contrasting and triangulating the perspectives of service providers (social workers, educators and health professionals) and service users (parents and children) provides a platform for exploring the universal versus context-informed dilemmas of child risk, well-being, and protection.

The project focuses on Ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities (in Israel and in the US), Bedouins in the unrecognized villages and immigrants from Ethiopia and the former USSR.

The Cross-Cultural Encounter between Healthcare Providers from the Majority Culture and Bedouin Parents of Premature Babies from the Minority Culture in the Soroka Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Written by: Dr. Nira Wahle

Over fifty percent of the patients in the Soroka NICU are Bedouin infants, while the medical staff of doctors, specialists, nurses and social workers are all Jewish and don't speak Arabic. The study aims to understand the needs of everyone involved in the cross-cultural encounter: Bedouin parents, nurses and doctors, and to help further programs better tailored to help improve and streamline the medical services and bring about better outcomes.

The first phase of the study is complete. Dr. Nira Wahle, the study coordinator, conducted interviews with the doctors. Boaz Cohen, a master's student in NEVET, conducted interviews with the NICU nurses, and Ahlam Abokir, another master's student in NEVET, is completing her thesis which includes interviews with Bedouin mothers of premature babies. The interviews showcased how overwhelming the great distress of the Bedouin mothers surrounding giving

birth to a premature baby is while having to conduct a cross-cultural encounter with the medical staff. They relayed their experience of exclusion, judgement and rejection. The study findings suggest a balance in power relations between the medical staff and the parents, and a stronger sense of power relations among men who spoke Arabic than among women who did not speak Arabic. It is interesting to note that the political conflict, that is very present in everyday relations, was absent in the interviews with the nurses (most of whom were from the Former Soviet Union) as well as from the interviews with the doctors. In the near future, the findings will be presented to the medical staff. The dialogue will serve as a basis for building intervention plans, the second phase of the study.

The Coalition for Early Childhood Education

Written by: Yaara Shilo

The Coalition for Early Childhood Education was established and is led by NEVET member Yaara Shilo. The coalition arose from the needs that surround children between the ages of birth to age three, incorporates dozens of organizations working in the field of early childhood such as daycare centers, caregivers and even academic staff. The coalition is a part of the organization ANU, supported by the Bernard Van Leer Foundation.



EDUCATING THE PMO ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE

Representatives of the Prime Minister's Office recently visited early childhood centers in the Jerusalem neighborhoods of Beit Ya'acov and Beit Hanina. The trip, organized by the Coalition for Early Childhood Education, was designed to inform officials about the problems of balancing work and family faced by haredi and Arab residents in the capital. At the Beit Ya'acov daycare center, community leader Rabbi Yitzchak Goldknopf told the group that the government must focus on both the quantity and quality of early childhood care in the country. Goldknopf later joined the group on its visit to Beit Hanina, where they met community leaders Hussam Wattad and Ahmad Abu. According to the Coalition for Early Childhood Education, all Jerusalem residents share a common reality in which mothers must find the best care for their infants and toddlers in order to integrate into the labor force.

(Text: Jerusalem Post staff. Photo: Anu-Making change)

Conferences

The International Research Workshop: "Studying Young Children's Perspectives: Challenges and Implications"

Written by: Dr. Yael Ponizovsky-Bergelson

Following the research project "Young Children's Perspectives on Risk and Protection" 2014/6, a research workshop of the Israel Science Foundation "Studying young children's perspectives: Challenges and implications" was held on June 7th - 9th 2016 at NEVET, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. About 30 international and national leading scholars on children's perspectives presented their studies during the workshop, among them: Prof. Jóhanna Einarsdottir from University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland; Prof. Bob Perry and Prof. Sue Dockett from Charles Sturt University, Albury, Australia and many more.



The presentations and discussion groups covered crucial questions such as: How do we do research with young children? What have we learned on the methodology of studying young children's perspectives? What have we learned about young children from studying their perspectives? What have we learned from children about their self-perception and agency? What have we learned about children's thinking? What are the implications for research and practice (teacher's education, social workers and therapists)? In addition, ethical concerns

regarding children's rights to privacy were discussed.

The workshop enabled the first exposure in Israel regarding studying young children's perspectives. While discussing future directions, many local researchers and practitioners requested to hold workshops to deal with course construction for training programs like social work and education. We are currently planning the follow-up workshop.

ISPCAN Conference – August, 2016

Written by: Dr. Yochay Nadan

In August 2016, Dr. Yochay Nadan and Prof. Jill Korbin attended the *International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Congress* in Calgary, Canada. The subject matter was "Protecting our children, protecting our future" and attracted delegates from all over the world. Dr. Nadan and Prof. Korbin represented the research group of Netanel Gemara, Rivky Keesing, Dr. Esther Bamberger and Professor Dorit Roer-Strier. They presented a paper conceptualizing "Spiritual Risk" among close-knit, Ultra-Orthodox communities, based on the analysis of 50 interviews with Ultra-Orthodox parents in Israel and the US.



The National Conference of Doctoral Students of Social Work

Written by: Yan Serdtse

This past year Yan participated in the scientific committee of the National Conference of Doctoral Students of Schools of Social Work in Beer-Sheva on February 7th.

Together with the other members of the committee, Yan helped build the concept, structure and content for the conference. Doctoral students from various universities were then invited

to submit abstracts for talks and posters. Upon receiving the abstracts, the committee conducted a peer review and formulated topical panels. Yan was the chairman of the panel on multiculturalism.

Honoring Traditions and Creating the Future – Reflections on the IACCP Congress and PhD School in Japan

Written by: Hannah Bartl

In August 2016, Hannah had the privilege to receive a Witkin-Okonji Award from the *International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP)* for attending the 23rd *International Congress* in Nagoya, Japan. Additionally, she was accepted to participate in the *IACCP PhD School* that took place in the congress proceedings.

Hannah proudly contributed to the conference's program with a symposium on *Parenting in Diverse Cultural Environments*, co-chaired with Prof. Heidi Keller. During the symposium, Prof. Ruth Pat-Horenczyk presented a longitudinal study exploring the intergenerational transmission of trauma, while Hannah presented data from her PhD project about perceptions of Ethiopian-Israeli mothers and Israeli practitioners on children's attachment behavior. Our discussant, Prof. Deborah Best, gave an exciting and stimulating reflection on the work presented.

The PhD School of Culture & Psychology is located in a traditional Japanese conference center in the Japanese Alps overlooking the small picturesque town Nakatsugawa. Forty PhD students from about thirty different countries enthusiastically engaged in three and a half days of intense instruction and discussion. Students and faculty had the opportunity to practice Japanese customs.

NEVET'S Master's Students

Written by: Noemie Bloomberg

This year, NEVET's master's students researched a variety of subjects.

Mani Pollak conducted his research on the Perceptions of Risk and Protection among Ultra-Orthodox Parents Treated by Welfare Services.

A similar subject was studied by Hodaya Bashan who researched Perceptions of Risk and Protection among Parents and Children from the Bnei Menashe Tribe.

Noemie Bloomberg conducted her research on the Experience and the Perceptions of Parenting among Mothers who emigrated from France in Israel.

Ahlam Abokim researched the Experiences and the Perceptions of Parents with Children in the NICU at Soroka Hospital.

Natali Zohr researched Relationships between Siblings in Large Families among Ultra-Orthodox Families.

Similarly, Nadine Jeries-Assaf conducted the same study among Christian-Arabic Families in Israel.

We master's students have all had an amazing experience conducting our research and discovering and rediscovering the obvious and the subtleties in research. We are extremely grateful to our NEVET family that guided and accompanied us along the way.



NEVET'S New Compound

Written by: Yan Sedtse

In 2016, we were blessed with the transition to the new NEVET compound located on the second floor at the School of Social Work and Social Welfare at the Hebrew University. The compound is a place for people in NEVET to study together. The compound includes three fully equipped spaces for individual and group work. The atmosphere is warm and accepting, and people are able to enjoy each other's company over a coffee.

Additionally, we founded the first Community Garden at the Hebrew University. We grow a wide variety of colorful flowers in our garden, as well as herbs for making delicious tea. The garden is also scattered with seating areas in which we enjoy holding work meetings and relaxing in the summer.



Collaborations

NEVET has formed and strengthened many research collaborations this year. We have signed an MOU with Russian State Social University (RSSU), a leading university in Moscow, Russia; and have an ongoing collaboration with Freie University of Berlin (FU), Germany; and the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (UPenn) in the USA. We also have research collaborations in Argentina and Kosovo.



The Spirit of NEVET

Written by: Heidi Keller

NEVET continues to grow and blossom. It has become an intellectual and social/emotional home for a family of diversity. It is a place that emanates warmth and acceptance and is intellectually challenging at the same time - what a rare combination! And now NEVET also has a physical home, a space to work and socialize. Nothing could express the spirit of NEVET better than a garden.

A warm thank you to all who contribute to NEVET and it the unique place it is. Looking forward to another exciting year!

Congratulations to NEVET Members Who Have Published This Year!

Professor Dorit-Roer-Strier
Dr. Yochay Nadan
Professor Heidi Keller

Dr. Yael Ponizovsky-
Bergelson
Yan Serdtse

Dr. Ibtisam Marey-Sarwan
Professor Nadera
Shalhoub-Kevorkian

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Greenhouse of Context-Informed Research and Training for Children in Need