



Graduate Studies Authority
Bloom Graduate School

**UNIVERSITY
OF HAIFA**



THE BLOOM GRADUATE SCHOOL



Welcome to the 2026-2027 University of Haifa Research Development Program offered by the Bloom School for Graduate Studies.

We invite you to explore the wide range of professional development workshops we provide for our research students.

Dear Research Students

Dear Research Students,

We warmly welcome you to Bloom Graduate School and congratulate you on embarking on this profound journey of research and discovery. The academic path you have chosen requires dedication and intellectual curiosity, but it is also one of the most fulfilling experiences you will undertake, offering you the opportunity to create new knowledge and make a real impact.

At the Bloom Graduate School, we believe that exceptional research thrives when boundaries are expanded. Alongside your deep commitment to your specific discipline, our vision is to provide you with opportunities to step outside your immediate field. Through shared interdisciplinary experiences, you will connect with fellow doctoral researchers, engage with global challenges, and gain valuable perspectives from a diverse range of leading scholars.

We are proud to present the Researcher Development Program for the 2026-2027 academic year. This program offers a wide range of training sessions, workshops, and activities designed to help you acquire the skills necessary to conduct professional and effective research, as well as to support your ongoing career development. The training you will be provided throughout your doctoral studies is an essential part of your journey toward becoming a prolific and independent researcher.

This program is open to all doctoral researchers and postdoctoral fellows, complementing the specialized academic training provided by your home Department or School. To ensure an inclusive environment for our diverse community, sessions are conducted in English (unless otherwise noted).

We encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities this program offers to enhance your research and personal skills, as well as connect with and learn from your peers in other disciplines.

We wish you an inspiring, productive, and successful year ahead and hope for a peaceful, calm academic year for us all

Sincerely,



Prof. Gur Alroey
President



Prof. Mouna Maroun
Rector



Prof. Irit Akirav
Dean, Bloom School
for Graduate Studies

Cluster One: Cross-disciplinary Encounters

This cluster offers intellectually challenging encounters that encourage critical thinking and theorizing about local and global societal issues. Each thematic encounter consists of several sessions conducted through bottom-up, self-generated learning communities and mediated by faculty members.

Contemporary Perspectives on Trauma and Mental Health



The Emotional Toll of Trauma: Clinical and Neural Features (ZOOM)

Prof. Yuval Neria, Columbia University

In this talk I will speak about the nature of war trauma among civilians and soldiers, underscoring its multiple clinical outcomes, which commonly include PTSD, depression, anxiety, and moral injury. The talk will shed light on the neural basis of PTSD and resilience and in what way it can facilitate normal recovery and successful treatment.

Bio: Yuval Neria is Professor of Clinical Medical Psychology at Columbia University, Departments of Psychiatry and Epidemiology, and Director of Trauma and PTSD at the New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI). Recently, he joined the leadership team of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem as a special consultant for mental health. Neria's body of work was deeply influenced by his extensive war experiences. He was injured in the 1973 Yom Kippur War and at the age of 22 was awarded the Medal of Valor, the highest decoration for combat bravery in Israel. Dr. Neria joined Columbia University Medical Center in 2002 and since then has led and collaborated on numerous studies in trauma and PTSD. He has studied prisoners of war and war veterans, civilians exposed to terrorism, wars and disasters, and people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. To address major gaps in the availability of mental health treatments for service members and their family members, he founded the Columbia-NYP Military Family Wellness Center in 2016, where both veterans and family members can receive free, evidence-based care to address their PTSD, depression, and anxiety problems. In addition, he has co-founded and co-directed the Man O' War Project, dedicated to developing and testing the efficacy of equine-assisted therapy for PTSD, and the Homiyah project, aiming to address the mental health needs of the Israeli community in the aftermath of the October 7 attacks. In his lab, Neria's group is focused on studies aiming to identify brain markers for trauma, PTSD, and resilience. By using advanced multimodal imaging approaches, his lab has developed innovative methods to characterize deficits in fear and reward processing, systematically mapping PTSD biotypes, and has successfully identified biomarkers of clinical improvement in PTSD patients undergoing a range of therapeutic approaches. Neria's research has been supported by NIMH, philanthropy, and private foundations since 2004. He has authored more than 300 scientific articles and book chapters, has edited 5 textbooks focusing on trauma, its mental health outcomes, and their treatments, and has published 2 novels.



From Psychoanalysis to Brain Research and Back: A Professional and Personal Journey (In Hebrew)

Prof. Gil Zalsman MD MHA, Tel-Aviv University, Geha Hospital

This lecture explores the fascinating dialogue between psychoanalysis and modern neuroscience, demonstrating how these perspectives complement rather than contradict each other. Through research on brain plasticity, genetics, psychotherapy, mindfulness, adolescent brain development, OCD, and depression, participants will discover how experiences, relationships, and words shape the brain. Integrating clinical cases with cutting-edge neuroscience, the session highlights the powerful interaction between biology and environment, emphasizing a modern, evidence-based approach that combines high-tech scientific advances with high-touch compassionate clinical care.

Mindfulness Workshop: Theory and Practice (In Hebrew)

Prof. Gil Zalsman MD MHA, Tel-Aviv University, Geha Hospital

This interactive workshop introduces mindfulness from theory to practice, integrating contemporary neuroscience with hands-on experiential learning. Participants will explore the core principles of mindfulness, the neural mechanisms underlying attention, emotion regulation, and self-awareness, and the evidence supporting its effectiveness in preventing relapse and treating depression. The session will explain how mindfulness influences brain networks involved in rumination, stress, and cognitive control, helping individuals develop greater psychological flexibility and resilience. Through guided mindfulness exercises practiced during the workshop, participants will experience these principles firsthand and gain practical skills that can be applied in clinical settings and everyday life to enhance mental well-being.

Bio: Prof. Zalsman has published more than 230 scientific papers, primarily original research, along with dozens of review articles, multiple book chapters, and three edited books. He has also presented his work at more than 270 scientific meetings. Following the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack, Prof. Zalsman dedicated his efforts to addressing the mental health crisis in Israel. He raised approximately \$1.5 million to establish the Olympia Trauma Center for adults and children, led trauma-informed care for displaced communities, and coordinated outreach to affected regions. He also led mental health teams supporting released hostages and their families during their reintegration after prolonged captivity.

From Trauma to Recovery: Neurocognitive Mechanisms, AI, and Resilience Research

Dr. Ziv Ben-Zion, School of Public Health

This lecture will examine why some individuals develop persistent posttraumatic stress symptoms while others recover or remain resilient. I will present findings from longitudinal studies of recent trauma survivors, integrating clinical assessments, cognitive and behavioral tasks, physiological measures, and structural and functional brain imaging. The lecture will discuss neurocognitive mechanisms of PTSD development and recovery, including individual differences in fear, emotional pain, reward, punishment, and cognitive flexibility. I will then briefly introduce newer work on AI and mental health, including emotional dynamics in large language models, and conclude with the STRONG study - a national longitudinal cohort designed to identify multi-level mechanisms of resilience and recovery in Israel.

Bio: Dr. Ziv Ben-Zion is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Health, University of Haifa, and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Yale School of Medicine. He completed his PhD in Neuroscience at Tel Aviv University and postdoctoral training at Yale, where he studied neurocognitive mechanisms of PTSD, resilience, and recovery. He directs the Ben-Zion Resilience & Recovery Lab, which integrates longitudinal cohorts, neuroimaging, physiology, computational modeling, and AI-based methods to study stress-related psychopathology and recovery.

Mental Health, Trauma, and Resilience in Arab Society: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Asala Halaj, Department of Community Mental Health

Arab society faces unique mental health challenges shaped by the interaction of social, cultural, economic, and political factors. In recent years, ongoing exposure to violence, collective trauma, uncertainty, and social change has further highlighted the importance of understanding mental health within its broader community context. This lecture will explore current mental health challenges in Arab society, including barriers to help-seeking, stigma, access to care, and the need for culturally responsive services. It will also examine sources of resilience at the individual, family, and community levels and discuss implications for research, policy, and mental health practice.

Bio: Dr. Asala Halaj is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Community Mental Health at the University of Haifa. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at University College London (UCL). Her research focuses on trauma, resilience, and mental health disparities, with a particular emphasis on Arab communities. She leads and collaborates on initiatives aimed at improving access to mental health services and culturally adapting evidence-based interventions for Arab populations.

Insidious Consequences? Cyberterrorism, Psychological Distress, and Political Trust

Prof. Daphna Canetti, School of Political Sciences

In today's conflicts, some of the most destabilizing weapons don't leave physical scars—they fracture public trust. While the world watched the physical devastation of the October 7 attacks, a quieter but no less insidious front was already unfolding online. In the lead-up to Hamas' assault, cyber operatives affiliated with the organization—trained, supplied, and coordinated by Iran—had begun probing Israel's digital defenses. They phished, surveilled, and sowed confusion. Fake rocket alerts, spoofed emergency apps, and denial-of-service attacks targeted hospitals, universities, and government services. These early strikes weren't a prelude—they were integral. They reveal the contours of a new hybrid doctrine: one that fuses terror proxies with cyber weapons, and treats civilians—and scholars—as its battlefield. This session explores how cyberterrorism, unlike conventional violence, exploits ambiguity, invisibility, and psychological disorientation to undermine democratic institutions at their core. At stake is public trust in government—the linchpin of democratic legitimacy, compliance, and resilience during crisis. As governments increasingly confront asymmetric, politically motivated cyber threats, understanding the psychological dynamics of trust has never been more urgent. This session unpacks the hidden front of modern conflict—and what it means for the future of democratic stability in an era where the cloud is a battlefield.

Bio: Daphna Canetti is Professor of Political Science and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. She is the founding director of the Political Psychology Lab and serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Peace Research and the Journal of Conflict Resolution. Her research on terrorism, cyber conflict, political psychology, and public health has been published in leading outlets including the American Journal of Political Science, Political Psychology, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Cybersecurity, and Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. Canetti has been a visiting professor or invited speaker at Yale, the University of Notre Dame, Stony Brook University, and others. Her work has been supported by foundations such as the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Israel Science Foundation (ISF), and the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF).

Emotional Processing in Mental Disorders: From Neurocognitive Mechanisms to Clinical Insights

Prof. Hadas Okon-Singer, School of Psychological Sciences

This lecture will provide a comprehensive background on emotional processing and the mutual influences between emotional and cognitive processes and explore the brain networks that enable emotional responses. We will discuss the processing of emotional stimuli, primarily threatening ones, among healthy populations and individuals with anxiety and depression. The session will focus on cognitive processes and the brain pathways that mediate these reactions. Furthermore, we will discuss cognitive biases, such as the tendency to prioritize attention toward negative or threatening information even when it is irrelevant to the task at hand, the interpretation of ambiguous information as threatening, and the perception of threatening stimuli as more negative (e.g., perceiving the distance from strangers as shorter than it truly is in social anxiety). We will further discuss the unique manifestation of these cognitive biases in different clinical groups, including anxiety, depression, and social anxiety disorder, and how these biases may assist in the diagnosis and treatment of these disorders. Throughout the lecture, participants will be introduced to principles of research design, methods for interpreting findings using machine-learning-based analyses, and future research directions.

Bio: Hadas Okon-Singer is a Full Professor in the School of Psychological Sciences at the University of Haifa, and a Guest Researcher at the Max Planck Institute. She earned her PhD in Neuroscience and Psychology from Ben-Gurion University, followed by two postdoc fellowships focusing on advanced neuroimaging. She joined the University of Haifa in 2012, where she leads a large research lab and has served as Chair of the Department of Cognitive Sciences. Her research, published in over 80 papers and book chapters, has been supported by grants including the Marie Curie, the Israel Science Foundation, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She has served as an Associate Editor for Cognition and Emotion, Frontiers in Emotion Science, and Frontiers in Social Cognition, and as a Guest Editor for Frontiers in Human Neuroscience and Biological Psychology.

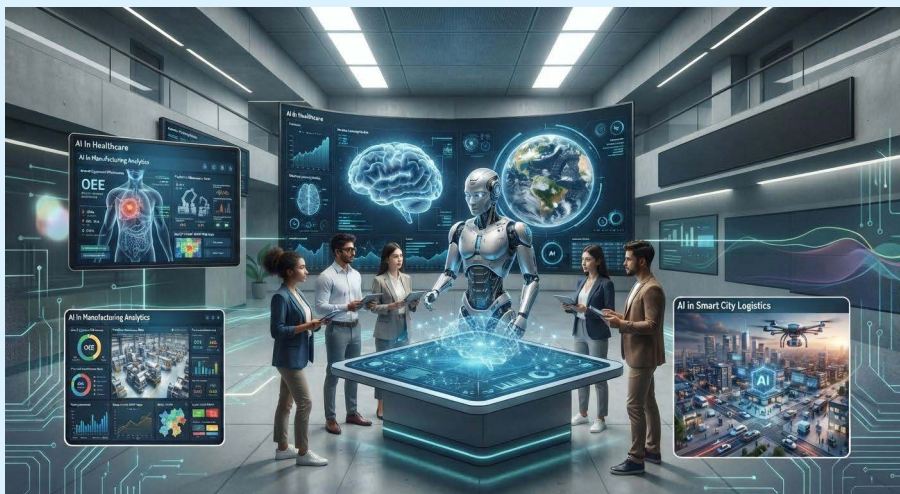
Artificial Intelligence: Transforming the Future (AI)



AI Tools for Research: From Basic Prompts to Smart Systems

Prof. Pavel Goldstein, School of Public Health

This immersive session explores how AI tools can transform your academic research and writing process. Participants will learn to select and apply different platforms suited to specific research tasks. Throughout the workshop, you will: Harness Creative Ideation: Discover how AI can serve as your brainstorming partner, assisting in generating and refining research ideas. Refine Research Concepts: Learn techniques for honing research hypotheses and developing structured proposals using AI assistance. Overcome Writer's Block: Address writer's block and other common writing challenges with strategies tailored to academic writing. Elevate Writing Excellence: Explore how AI tools can enhance the clarity, coherence, and overall quality of your academic papers. Maximize Productivity: Efficiently generate drafts, literature reviews, and other research-related content to boost your research output.



Bio: Prof. Pavel Goldstein is the director of the Integrative Pain Laboratory (iPainlab) and head of the MPH Biostatistics track at the School of Public Health. His research focuses on developing a) an integrative understanding of dynamic pain mechanisms expressed in behavior and physiology in near-natural environments, b) chronic pain diagnostic tools, and c) therapeutic approaches for chronic pain and mental comorbidities, utilizing state-of-the-art neuroscience and clinical research and digital technological tools.

AI for Studying Behavior and Affective States

Prof. Anna Zamansky, Department of Information Systems

Recent advances in AI and Computer Vision allow for real-time recognition of human emotions in real time. Apps such as PainChek can recognize pain based on facial expressions of infants and other non-verbal patients. These technologies are expanding to the world of nonhuman animals, holding a great promise for studying animal behavior, emotions and pain and promoting animal welfare. We will review the fascinating world of affective computing for human and nonhuman animals, diving into some methodological issues of how to prepare and annotate datasets, or measure performance of AI in this domain.

A Practical Workshop on Using Generative AI tools for Research (2 sessions 3 hours each)

Prof. Anna Zamansky, Department of Information Systems

In our hands-on masterclass, we'll cover fundamental concepts of large language models and delve into how AI tools can revolutionize scientific research. The workshop will cover general prompting techniques and specialized AI tools for academic research.

Bio: Anna holds a PhD in Computer Science from Tel Aviv University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Technical University of Vienna. Anna established the Tech4Animals Lab at the University of Haifa around 10 years ago. This multi-disciplinary lab investigates AI-based approaches for understanding animal behavior and promoting animal welfare, well-being and health. It has made major contributions to the field of animal affective computing, developing methods for recognition of behavior, affect, pain, emotional states and communication signals in non-human animals, covering a variety of species: insects, companion and farm animals, big cats and primates. The lab has notable visibility in the media due to its unique animal-centered innovations. Since 2023 Anna has been teaching various courses on the use of AI in organizations and academic institutions. She has also taken professional courses in copywriting and screen writing and is interested in all aspects of storytelling. Anna has given several of these talks for Bloom students in 2024-2026.

Thinking with AI: Critical Tools for the Thinking Researcher

Prof. Bracha Nir, Department of Hebrew Language

This meeting invites PhD students to explore how critical thinking and artificial intelligence can work in tandem to support intellectual exploration and original research. We'll discuss key taxonomies of critical thinking and consider how AI can be used as a powerful tool to develop ideas, structure arguments, and achieve conceptual synthesis. Emphasis will be placed on the essential role of the researcher's own disciplinary knowledge: understanding how AI can assist the independent researcher. Through examples and discussion, participants will gain practical insights into strategies for using AI as a partner that enhances, rather than replaces, their critical engagement with complex problems in their field.

Bio: Prof. Bracha Nir (Ph.D. in Linguistics, 2008; MA in Cognitive Studies of Language and Language Use; BA in Linguistics, Tel Aviv University, Israel) is a professor at the Department of Hebrew Language. She is a functionalist linguist working in the frameworks of socio-cognitive discourse analysis and text psycholinguistics, focusing on form-function relations in language, in extended discourse, and in dialogic interaction (both mundane and institutional). Her studies explore the role of context in shaping meaning and structure in the different domains of grammar (from morphology to syntax to text), in constraining language use from a developmental, cross-linguistic perspective, and in serving various functions of intersubjectivity.

AI Tools for Academic Research: Practical Skills and Ethical Use

Ms. Ronit Marco, Library Staff

This workshop introduces AI-powered tools that support academic information retrieval. Participants will learn how to identify the AI tools most suitable for their specific research field and develop effective prompts tailored to their information needs. The session highlights best practices, demonstrates recommended platforms, and addresses critical ethical considerations, including data privacy, copyright, and responsible use. Through practical examples, participants will gain both technical skills and an informed understanding of the limitations and risks of AI-assisted research.

Bio: Ms. Ronit Marco BSc MA – Library staff: is an expert reference librarian at the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library and the library liaison for the following university departments: Public Health, Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, Marine Biology, Human Biology, Medical Imaging Sciences, Natural Resources and Environmental Management, Neurobiology & Biophysics.

Artificial General Intelligence

Dr. Erez Firt, Center for Humanities and AI, University of Haifa and The Technion

This lecture explores Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), focusing on the concept of machines achieving human-level cognitive capabilities across diverse tasks. It examines the challenges in defining and measuring intelligence, comparing human and artificial cognitive capabilities. The discussion delves into the essential attributes AGI systems might need to rival human intellect, including reasoning, learning, creativity and understanding. Can machines be creative, understand the world, and align with human values? The lecture addresses fundamental questions about the nature of intelligence and consciousness. It also explores some potential impacts of AGI on society and human-machine relationships, weighing both the promising advancements and potential risks of one of the most significant technological developments of our era.

Bio: Dr. Firt holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Tel Aviv University and a degree in Information-Systems Engineering from the Technion. He currently leads the Center for Humanities and AI at the Technion and the University of Haifa. Prior to this role, he worked as a senior software engineer in the Israeli Hi-Tech industry for more than 15 years, holding various senior R&D positions at companies such as CheckPoint and Bizzabo. As the head of the Center for Humanities and AI, Dr. Firt is responsible for developing new BSc and MSc programs in AI and ethics, organizing conferences and workshops, and teaching at both institutions. As a researcher and philosopher, his research focuses on the future of AI, with particular interest in artificial consciousness, moral agency, machine ethics, and the future implications and nature of general AI systems.

The Art of Creating: Exploring Creativity, Expression, and Imagination



Breaking the Mold

Prof. Erez Maayan Shalev, Department of Theatre and Performance studies

In this session, Prof. Erez Maayan Shalev, Head of the Department of Theatre and Performance studies at the University of Haifa, will take participants behind the scenes of his interdisciplinary artistic practice, which moves between performance, dance theatre, and material-based art. Through his ongoing collaboration with his brother, ceramic artist Roy Maayan, the session will explore siblinghood, love, rivalry, memory, and the ways ceramics and performance come together to form a shared artistic language. The discussion will then give way to hands-on making, as participants create a small personal cast to take home as a unique and functional object. Along the way, we will explore molds, casting, and replication, discovering how ancient material techniques continue to shape contemporary art.

Bio: Prof. Erez Maayan Shalev is an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and dramaturg. He is Head of the Department of Theatre and Performance at the University of Haifa and Co-Artistic Director of Tmuna Theatre in Tel Aviv. He holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies, as well as B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Plant Sciences and Biotechnology, all from Tel Aviv University, and is a graduate of the Yoram Loewenstein Acting Studio. His artistic practice spans theatre, dance, installation art, performance, video, and hybrid forms that blur disciplinary boundaries. His works have been presented at festivals, exhibitions, museums, galleries, and theatres in Israel and internationally.

Playing Silence

Prof. Oded Zehavi, Department of Music

Musical creation is fundamentally shaped by the interplay between expectation and fulfillment. Yet today, as stylistic boundaries have dissolved and listeners are exposed to an endless stream of sonic stimuli, the question of how music can still surprise and remain original has become more urgent than ever. This lecture explores silence and the role it plays in contemporary music, examining how the absence of sound functions as an expressive element, carrying the resonance of what has already been heard while shaping the listener's anticipation of what is yet to come. Through examples drawn from the musical repertoire, we will consider silence as an expressive tool, its place within the spectrum of human expression, and the ways it shapes the experience and meaning of music.

Bio: Prof. Oded Zehavi is a composer, Full Professor, Head of the Department of Music, and Deputy Head of the School of the Arts at the University of Haifa. He studied composition with Prof. André Hajdu and completed his master's and doctoral studies in the United States. His works have been performed by leading orchestras and conductors in Israel and abroad, and he has received numerous awards, including the ACUM Lifetime Achievement Award, the Landau Prize, the Rosenblum Prize, and two Prime Minister's Awards for Composition. In addition to his concert works, he has composed music for theatre, dance, film, and multimedia installations, and has collaborated with a wide range of artists and ensembles in Israel and internationally.

Writing the Mind (In Hebrew)

Prof. Ravit Raufman, Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature

In this session, Prof. Ravit Raufman, Head of the Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of Haifa, will discuss the conscious and unconscious processes that shape her literary writing, focusing on her two novels, *Under the Circumstances* (2019) and *The Right Thing* (2026). Together, we will explore the transformative power of literary writing, the ways in which literature gives voice to the inner world, and its dialogue with psychoanalysis. Through these two novels, we will consider different modes of thinking and reflect on themes such as mother-daughter relationships, intergenerational transmission, and the capacity of literature to engage with social and political questions.

Bio: Prof. Ravit Raufman is a novelist, literary scholar, clinical psychologist, and interdisciplinary fellow at the Tel Aviv Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis. She is Head of the Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of Haifa. Her research explores the intersections between psychoanalysis and literature, with a particular focus on dreams, folktales, and the relationships between them.

To Feed the Other: On Art, Food and Politics

Dr. Thalia Hoffman, Department of Fine Arts

Art and food share remarkable similarities, both in their creation and in the ways they are experienced. Both engage hunger, desire, pleasure, beauty, satisfaction, rejection, discomfort, and even ugliness. They also shape and express identity, belonging, personal expression, and memory. Yet neither art nor food exists solely on a personal or interpersonal level. Both influence and are influenced by the social environments in which they are created and consumed, reflecting the social, economic, environmental, and political conditions that shape their time and place. This session explores the connections between culinary practice, gastronomy, and the arts, revealing the relationships between art, food, and politics. Through a discussion of selected artworks, we will consider the unique encounter between audiences and artworks involving food, where taste, smell, and touch become part of the aesthetic experience alongside sight and hearing. We will also examine the political dimensions of food and eating, from food production and distribution to consumption, dietary habits, and culturally embedded notions of taste.

Bio: Dr. Thalia Hoffman is a visual artist and researcher working across film, video, performance, and public-space interventions. She holds a Ph.D. in Artistic Research from Leiden University and teaches video, performance, and artistic research at the University of Haifa. She currently serves as Co-Head of the University's M.F.A. Program in Art. Her artistic practice seeks to create an engaged dialogue with its surroundings, encouraging people to look, listen, and experience the landscape through multiple senses.

Current Issues in Gender Research



Gender Future of Sex Segregation in Sport: Is Separate Really Equal? (In Hebrew)

Dr. Maayan Sudai, Faculty of Law

This talk explores the history, rationale, and contemporary challenges of gender segregation in sport. From the historical exclusion of women to today's debates surrounding transgender and intersex athletes, it examines how ideas of fairness, equality, and biological difference have shaped sporting institutions. Drawing on legal cases, scientific controversies, and feminist perspectives, the lecture asks whether the traditional model of sex-segregated competition remains the best way to promote both inclusion and fair play—or whether it is time to rethink how we organize sport.



Bio: Dr. Maayan Sudai is an Associate Professor at the University of Haifa, Faculty of Law. She received her LL.M. and S.J.D. from Harvard Law School. Her work examines how legal systems shape and responds to scientific understandings of sex and gender, addressing issues ranging from gender segregation in sport and transgender inclusion to broader questions of human rights and public policy. Her scholarship has appeared in leading journals, including Science, the Yale Law Journal, and the Harvard Journal of Law & Gender.

Visual Representation of Gender in Public Space: Urban Signage and Visual “Normativity”

Dr. Onna Segev, Department of Visual Communication Design

The proposed presentation examines how public space is socially constructed through visual communication, with particular attention to mechanisms that exclude women and all “others” from public space, while reinforcing “normative” ways of appearing and behaving in public. It explores how gender is visually represented in urban signage, emphasizing the role that images and graphic forms play in shaping gender identities and in establishing power relations between the sexes. The presentation traces changes in pictogram design over time and critically evaluates whether, and to what extent, these developments contribute to emerging notions of equality and inclusive design. By the conclusion of the presentation, the audience will have developed an awareness of the latent messages conveyed through pictograms in urban signage, as well as an understanding of the capacity of visual communication to both reproduce and subvert dominant social norms.

Bio: Dr. Onna Segev is the Head of the Visual Communication Design Department at the NB School of Design, University of Haifa. She is a graphic designer, a senior lecturer in typography, and a researcher focusing on visual communication in public space. Her research examines visual representations of gender, protest, and social injustice in the public sphere.

Gender and Sexual Diversity from a Developmental Perspective

Prof. Tomer Shechner, School of Psychological Sciences

The talk will focus on gender and sexual diversity across the lifespan. Historical context will be discussed by examining the gender-related changes in psychiatry and psychology, specifically, the evolution from the diagnosis of gender identity disorder to Gender Dysphoria. This change indicates a shift from pathologizing any gender identity that is not congruent with the assigned sex to emphasizing gender-related subjective stress. Recent community-based studies estimate that roughly 12% of adults in the US identify as LGBT. Moreover, 1-2.7% (or even more in some studies) of adolescents identify as transgender or gender diverse (TGD). These data are supported by studies showing an increase in referrals to gender clinics in the past 10 years (UK, Scandinavia, Israel etc.). Nonetheless, despite the increase in LGBT identities and the social gender revolution discussed in the previous class, LGBT individuals of all ages commonly experience stigmatization, prejudice, and discrimination, resulting in minority stress. This term refers to the unique stress LGBT individuals experience in addition to the general stressors experienced by all. The last part of the class will discuss ways of building resilience in LGBT individuals, by helping families, schools, and workplaces to be more inclusive and supportive of sexual and gender minorities.

Bio: Prof. Tomer Shechner is a clinical psychologist and a faculty member in the School of Psychological Sciences. His main research focuses on the development of anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. By using a multiple-level analysis approach, his lab studies the biological, cognitive, behavioral and environmental factors that contribute to the etiology and maintenance of anxiety disorders. Over the past ten years, he has been focusing on information processing and more specifically, on threat learning. Another line of research in his lab focuses on gender development. By using age-appropriate and culturally adapted measurements, the lab examines typical and atypical gender development across the lifespan. Prof. Shechner received his Ph.D. from Tel-Aviv University (clinical psychology) and completed a post-doc at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) in the Section on Development and Affective Neuroscience. He started his position at the University of Haifa on March 2013.

Obstetric Violence – a Perspective from Feminist Philosophy

Prof. Sara Cohen Shabot, The Philosophy Department

Obstetric violence – violence against women giving birth in medicalized settings – has been widely recognized as a phenomenon affecting numerous women globally and systematically, and as one that is in urgent need to be tackled and solved. Obstetric violence is not mere medical violence but constitutes structural gender violence. The lecturer’s research has dealt with different aspects of the phenomenon from the perspective of feminist philosophy, mainly feminist phenomenology and epistemology. Some of the insights on the subject will be discussed in the present lecture.

Bio: Sara Cohen Shabot is an Associate Professor at the Philosophy Department. She specializes in phenomenology, feminist philosophy, and philosophies of the body. Her present research and publications address feminist philosophical perspectives on childbirth and the maternal embodied subject. Lately, her research has focused on the phenomenon of obstetric violence as gender violence – and she has published several papers looking at this subject from different philosophical perspectives in journals such as *Human Studies*, *Feminist Theory*, and *Hypatia*. Her book: *Obstetric Violence and the Birthing Body - A Reading from Feminist Philosophy*, was published by Routledge in 2026.

Rethinking Pain

Emotions and Pain: Evolution of a Research Program – (Zoom)

Prof. Mark A. Lumley, Wayne State University in Detroit, USA

Do stress, emotions, and the processes by which people regulate them contribute to chronic pain? In this presentation, I describe the evolution of my research program, focusing on different questions asked and methods used to answer them. My initial research examined how individual differences in people's emotional awareness and expression ("alexithymia") are correlated with their pain and other symptoms. The second phase of my research used an experimental paradigm to test whether expressing emotions about stressors in writing or talking reduced people's pain and symptoms. My recent research has focused on clinical trials of a psychological therapy that my colleague and I developed—Emotional Awareness and Expression Therapy—to reduce pain and improve functioning. Attendees will learn not only about how emotions and pain are related, but also the factors that impact a researcher's focus over the years.

Bio: Mark A. Lumley, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist and Distinguished Professor in the Department of Psychology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, USA. For over three decades, he has conducted research on the role that psychosocial stress and emotional processes play in chronic pain, resulting in over 220 publications. He has been funded by the NIH for over 25 years, is a fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) and several other professional societies, and the President-Elect of the Society for Health Psychology (APA Division 38). He also loves mentoring and has trained nearly 50 PhD psychologists over his long career.



credit: Prof. Pavel Goldstein

Rethinking Chronic Pain: From Mechanisms to Recovery and Prevention

Prof. Pavel Goldstein, School of Public Health

Chronic pain affects one in five people and is the world's leading cause of disability - yet the standard biomedical model, which treats pain as a damaged-tissue alarm, has largely failed it (the opioid crisis being its most visible casualty). This workshop walks PhD students through the paradigm shift now reshaping the field: pain as a learned brain output, recovery as a trainable process, and prevention as a multilevel challenge that begins long before the first symptom. You will gain: a clear understanding of the neural, psychological, and social mechanisms that turn acute pain into chronic suffering; a model of recovery, developed in our Integrative Pain laboratory - that has been tested in clinical practice and is being scaled in healthcare; and a transferable case study in how a research program moves from bench to clinic to population, useful to anyone doing applied or translational science. You will leave seeing pain and chronicity itself through a fundamentally different lens.

Myths and Facts in Managing Back Pain

Dr. Hilla Sarig Bahat, Department of Physical Therapy

An evidence-based lecture aligned with international guidelines. It deconstructs common misconceptions, fears, and avoidance behaviors surrounding back pain—a widespread issue affecting large segments of the population. By understanding the true anatomy of pain, attendees will walk away with practical daily habits to build long-term resilience and confidence in managing back pain.

Bio: Dr. Hilla Sarig Bahat is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Physical Therapy, University of Haifa. She is a musculoskeletal physiotherapist and researcher and was recently appointed as the Head of the Center for Research and Study of Aging (CRSA). Her research focuses on musculoskeletal rehabilitation, chronic spinal disorders, movement impairments, and fall prevention. Dr. Sarig Bahat pioneers the integration of advanced technologies like ML and virtual reality in clinical solutions. Her academic background includes a PhD from the University of Haifa and an MPhty from the University of South Australia. Through her work, she bridges clinical expertise and technological innovation to improve physical health outcomes.

The Science of Aging

Ageing, Ageism, Ageivism, and Beyond

Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron, Department of Gerontology

In this lecture, students will be introduced to the demographic aging of society (the aging revolution); to the social construction of old age (ageism); and to the ideology of social activism in old age (ageivism). Critical perspectives will be discussed regarding social stereotypes and prejudices regarding old age, and how these influences social policies.

Bio: Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron is the Past Dean of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences. He specializes in the field of law and aging, ethics and aging, and human rights of older persons. Prof. Doron is the founder of the Association of Law in the Service of the Elderly, and the Past President of the Israeli Gerontological Society.

Neurodegeneration and Brain Aging: Insights from Fruit Fly Research

Prof. Estee Kurant, Department of Human Biology

Neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease are characterized by the progressive loss of neurons and decline in cognitive function. Despite their increasing prevalence in the aging population, the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying these diseases remain incompletely understood. In this lecture, I will present research from our laboratory using the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, as a model to study neurodegeneration. We investigate how interactions between neurons and glial cells influence neuronal survival and brain health during aging. Our findings provide new insights into the mechanisms that drive neurodegeneration and highlight potential pathways that may be targeted to slow disease progression and preserve brain function in later life.

Bio: Estee Kurant is an Associate Professor and the head of the Department of Human Biology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences. She completed her PhD at the Technion in Haifa and her postdoctoral training at the Rockefeller University in New York. Prof. Kurant's research focuses on molecular mechanisms controlling development and ageing of the brain, specifically, elimination of dying or stressed neurons, which is crucial for establishment and maintenance of the functional brain. This process also plays a critical role in different neurodegenerative disorders including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Her work has been published in top peer-reviewed scientific journals and she serves as a Head of the Israeli Society for Developmental Biology (IsSDB), as well as a member of the editorial boards of several international academic journals.

Our Changing Planet

Building a Time Machine to Travel to the Past in order to Understand the Present and Model the Future

Prof. Nicolas Waldmann, Department of Marine Geosciences

In the current module, we will learn about past climate reconstruction. A key part of understanding recent climate changes is to understand climates of the past - the realm of paleoclimatology. Here, we will learn about the science of paleoclimatology, different types of paleoclimate data and some of the causes of past climate changes. We will focus on climates from the past few million years up to the modern period, noting the tremendous changes that have occurred in recent times, setting the stage for the present Anthropocene and a peek into the future.

Bio: Prof Nicolas Waldmann is a geologist and sedimentologist with a wide experience in research in marine and lake settings. He received his MSc from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (geochemistry) and his PhD from the University of Geneva in Switzerland (sedimentology). Following a postdoc position at the University of Bergen in Norway, in which he dealt with gas hydrates in the North Atlantic, he continued



at the Department of Marine Geosciences, University of Haifa for a tenure position. In Haifa, he founded the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Paleoclimate and Petrophysics (PetroLab), where currently 10 team members are doing their research, including associated researchers, postdocs, PhD, and MSc students. Prof Waldmann was awarded in 2013 with the Krill Prize for Scientific Excellence from the Wolf Foundation.

Our Food Plate and Climate

Prof. Ofira Ayalon, School of Environmental Sciences

Climate change affects food production by altering weather patterns, increasing frequency of extreme weather events like droughts, floods, and storms. These disrupt agricultural cycles, leading to decreased crop yields, reduced livestock productivity, and affect food security. Moreover, rising temperatures can worsen pest and disease outbreaks, further jeopardizing food supply. On the other hand, food production significantly impacts climate change. Agriculture is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, primarily through deforestation, methane emissions from livestock, and the use of fertilizers. Additionally, intensive farming practices lead to soil degradation and loss of biodiversity, intensifying environmental degradation. One third of agriculture produce is lost globally, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions from decomposition in landfills and wasted resources like water, energy, and land used in production. Addressing food waste is crucial in mitigating both the impacts of climate change on food production and the contribution of food production to climate change. Sustainable agricultural practices, improved food distribution systems, and consumer behavior are essential steps toward a more resilient and sustainable food system.

Bio: Prof. Ofira Ayalon is the head of two MA programs at the school of Environmental Sciences. Her research topics involve a wide range of activities related to environmental research and policy implications. The research subjects include waste management and reduction of food loss, energy policy and management, agriculture and the environment, business opportunities in environmental technologies (clean-tech), reducing transportation-related air pollution and recent research topics include mitigation of greenhouse gases as well as adaptation to climate change. New studies are related to the role of nature in building personal resilience by increasing physical and emotional well-being. Prof. Ofira Ayalon has been awarded the 2018 Michael Landau Prize for Sciences and Research in the field of Sustainability.

How Climate Change Makes Tsunamis, Floods, and Storms More Dangerous (Or does it?)

Prof. Beverly N. Goodman-Tchernov, Department of Marine Geosciences

Climate change impacts us in many different ways, not all of which have clear relationships. The proposed trajectory of climate combined with human factors (coastal development, population, geopolitics, landscape change, etc.) results in a complicated mix. Risks associated with tsunamis have been estimated to increase with the increased sea level and temperature changes. How does this make any sense if tsunamis are an outcome of earthquakes, volcanoes, slumps, etc.; and floods are associated with rain, and storms wind?

Bio: Prof. Beverly N. Goodman-Tchernov is a faculty member in the Leon Charney School of Marine Sciences within the Department of Marine Geosciences. Her research blends archaeology, geology and anthropology to explore the complex ways nature and humans interact on coastlines. Her work concentrates on the causes and effects of ancient environmental events like tsunamis and floods in an attempt to better understand what risks are present today and how broader climate-linked trends, such as sea-level change and fluctuations in precipitation, can be recognized in the sedimentary record.

Cluster Two: Performing as a Researcher

This cluster covers the more practical fundamentals of advanced academic studies including topics related to personal and interpersonal skills, as well as career planning and time management required in graduate school and beyond. Instructional methods include face-to-face lectures and workshops (two-hour academic sessions, unless otherwise specified).

1. Writing Marathons & Writer's Block



How is a Book Born? (In Hebrew)

Mr. Eshkol Nevo, Author

On inspiration, blocks, and breakthroughs in the writing process.

Bio: Mr. Eshkol Nevo is one of Israel's most acclaimed and beloved authors. His books have been translated into 14 languages and have received literary awards in Israel and internationally. His novels include *Four Homes and a Yearning*, *World Cup Wishes*, *Hungry Heart*, and *The Longest Night*. Together with Orit Gidali, he co-founded Sadnaot Habait, Israel's largest creative writing school, where he mentors the next generation of writers.

The Art of Writing (3 sessions, 3 hours each)

Prof. Bracha Nir, Department of Hebrew Language

The aim of the course is to develop and hone-in essential writing skills via a workshop-like experience. The course includes five modules, each focusing on a particular domain: (1) stance-taking in writing and the exploration of original ideas; (2) paraphrasing and integrating sources; (3) coherence and cohesion in discourse; (4) synthesis and engagement as the goal of writing; and (5) the norms of academic genres and writing to specific audiences. The modules will include a short lecture, a principled discussion of the skill under focus, and short online and offline writing exercises that target the development of the skill. The writing exercises will not be limited to academic genre writing, encouraging the students to relate between different types of writing and to explore their commonalities.



Tools for Efficient Academic Research (2 sessions, 1.5 hours each)

Prof. Roe Diamant, The Hatter Department of Marine Technologies

The workshop is intended for students whose research involves development of research methodologies: algorithms, protocols, techniques of data analysis or measurement methods. The workshop will provide tools for conducting effective high-level research with focus on defining research objectives, conduct efficient literature survey, plan ahead of experiments, paper and rebuttal writeup and preparation of presentation slides. Each session will focus on a single topic and examples for to-do and not-to-do. Students will be encouraged to showcase examples from their own research. Session 1: Plan ahead your research. Becoming superman: defining research objectives; explore research background; conduct preliminary work; Gantt keeping; the one-day-one-task approach. Session 2: Learn from your peers. How to read papers; tools for efficient literature search; conduct a "one-time" survey; techniques how to invent the new wheel; how to write effective survey. Session 3: Experiment planning. How to plan, implement and lead experiments from the hypothesis question, through data collection, and until analysis and conclusions, step-by-step technique for clear writing; the one-paper-one-story approach; how to answer reviewers.

Bio: Roe Diamant is an Associate Professor at the Department of Marine Technologies and heads the underwater Acoustic and Navigation Laboratory (ANL). He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of British Columbia, in 2013, and his B.Sc. and the M.Sc. degrees from the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. From 2001 to 2009, he worked in Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, as a project manager and systems engineer, where he developed a commercial underwater modem with network capabilities. In 2015 and 2016, he was a visiting Prof. at the University of Padova, Italy. In 2009, he received the Israel Excellent Worker First Place Award from the Israeli Presidential Institute. In 2010, he received the NSERC Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. Prof. Diamant has received three Best Paper awards and serves

as an associate editor for the IEEE Journal of Ocean Engineering. He was the coordinator of the EU H2020 project SYMBIOSIS (BG-14 track), and is the recipient of the EU ERA-Chair appointment to the University of Zagreb, Croatia. His research interests include underwater acoustic communication, underwater localization and navigation, object detection and classification, and sonar signal processing.

On Writing Barriers – (In Hebrew)

Prof. Dana Amir, Department of Counselling and Human Development

A writing block is a phenomenon that attacks suddenly, impairs the ability of writers to work, drains the soul of inspiration and causes symptoms that are somewhat like the symptoms of mild depression. Writing barriers of all sorts are often related to the struggle between internal, intrapsychic forces. The workshop will present the internal conflicts related to writing barriers and will offer techniques that can help in dealing with them.

Bio: Prof. Dana Amir is a clinical psychologist, supervising and training analyst at the Israel Psychoanalytic Society, a full professor, and head of the interdisciplinary doctoral program in psychoanalysis and the Postgraduate Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Program at Haifa University, a poetess and Psychoanalytic researcher. She is the author of 11 literary books and five psychoanalytic books, all published by Routledge. She was awarded literary and academic prizes, among them seven international psychoanalytic awards, including the prestigious Sigourney Award (2025).

2. Publication Aspects

Simple Formulas to Structure a Paper and Prepare a Talk

Prof. Roi Poranne, Department of Computer Sciences

This lecture will be offered twice: once at the Carmel Campus and once at the Downtown (port) Campus

Writing a paper and delivering a talk can often appear daunting and overwhelming. Many questions may arise: Where do I start? How can I effectively communicate my ideas? Do I start with the results, or the abstract? In this lecture, we will discuss simple yet powerful formulas to help you confidently structure your paper and deliver an engaging presentation. By following these guidelines, you will be equipped with the necessary tools to effectively convey your research findings and captivate your audience.

Bio: Roi Poranne is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science, specializing in computer graphics and robotics. He builds interactive design tools for shapes, animation, art, and architecture using augmented reality. His research also explores computational fabrication, focusing on new techniques to manufacture large-scale physical objects

Publishing in the Humanities

Prof. Samuel Lebens, Department of Philosophy

This talk will break down the various obstacles that lie in wait for us, between having a good idea for a paper, and getting that paper published in a peer-reviewed journal. Technical issues like the structure of a paper, and strategic issues such as the choice of a journal, and how to shepherd your paper through peer-review, will be discussed.

Bio: Prof. Samuel Lebens works in multiple areas of philosophy. He has published books on Bertrand Russell, the philosophy of fiction, and the philosophy of religion. He has also published numerous papers in journals such as Philosophical Studies, Syntheses, Philosophers' Imprint, Religious Studies, and Faith and Philosophy. He is on the editorial board of Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion, Religious Studies, and the Journal of Analytic Theology.



Publishing in Legal Journals

Dr. Yahli Shereshevsky, Faculty of Law

The meeting is open to graduate students who are interested in publishing in legal journals

The meeting will consist of two parts. The first part will discuss general issues regarding legal papers. It will address, inter alia, the desirability of publishing during the Ph.D, how to choose a topic for the article, and the conventional structure of a legal publication. The second part of the meeting will address the publication process and will focus on deciding where to publish including, inter alia, a discussion of journals' rankings and the choice between peer-reviewed and student-edited journals.

Bio: Dr. Yahli Shereshevsky is a senior lecturer (associate professor) at the University of Haifa Law School. He was previously a post-doctoral fellow at the Federmann Cyber Security Research Center, the Minerva Center for the Rule of Law under Extreme Conditions, and a Grotius Research Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School. Yahli specializes in international law, focusing on international humanitarian law, international lawmaking, international legal theory, war and technology, and international criminal law. Yahli received his PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he was a Hans-Guth Dreyfus Fellow for Conflict Resolution and the Law and was enrolled in the Hoffman Leadership and Responsibility Fellowship Program. Yahli holds an LLB in Law and the "Amirim" Interdisciplinary Honors Program for Outstanding Students (summa cum laude) from the Hebrew University. He clerked for the Honorable Deputy Chief Justice Eliezer Rivlin of the Supreme Court of Israel. Yahli's work has been published in leading journals including the European Journal of International Law, the Virginia Journal of International Law, The Michigan Journal of International Law, and the Journal of International Criminal Justice.

Publish or Perish: What's Wrong with My Manuscript?

Prof. Shlomo Wagner, Sagol Department of Neurobiology

This lecture will explain how to write a scientific manuscript from the first draft to the final version, guide you through the submission and revision processes, warn you of common mistakes that may cause a rejection of your manuscript and share several tips that will save you time and heartbreaking.

Bio: Prof. Shlomo Wagner is the Dean of the Faculty for Natural Sciences, and the head of the Laboratory for Neurobiology of Social Behavior. He investigates behavioral, neuronal and molecular processes which are involved in mammalian social behavior and memory. In addition, he explores brain mechanisms associated with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Peer Review: Purpose and Practice

Prof. Anat Prior, Department of Learning Disabilities

Appropriate mainly for advanced graduate students, who might be embarking on their career as reviewers

Academics are called upon to act as reviewers for manuscripts and grant proposals, as participating members in the scientific community. The workshop presents the review process in full and discusses our motivations for performing reviews. Workshop participants will consider how to decide whether to review a specific paper and will receive step-by-step practical guidance on writing the review itself. The workshop includes concrete review examples, some exercises on common wording used in reviews, and a discussion of ethical principles in the review process.

Bio: Anat Prior is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Education. She completed her Ph.D. studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a postdoc fellowship at Carnegie Mellon University. Her research focuses on mechanisms leading to individual differences in language learning and processing. She is particularly interested in fostering the development of effective instruction and intervention programs in the domain of foreign language, as well as programs targeted at minority language students in mainstream education. She has published over 40 papers and chapters, mentored over 40 graduate students (12 Ph.D.), has reviewed for 35 different journals and 10 funding agencies, and was ranked in the 88th percentile for number of reviews completed annually.

Academic Publishing: Everything You Wanted to Know, but Were Embarrassed to Ask

Prof. Beverly N. Goodman-Tchernov, Department of Marine Geosciences

Publishing and disseminating our work are key aspects of research today. However, the process can be thoroughly mystifying and foreign, and sometimes intimidating. Many times, as graduate students. This short workshop aims at helping to better understand why we publish, the different forms of publishing used in academia today, when it is time to publish (and what is 'publishable'), and what to expect through the process for yourself, your colleagues, and your supervisor.

Thinking Strategically about How to Publish your Research

Prof. Nehama Lewis, Department of Communication

Publication is a critical element in research impact, but can also be challenging for many scholars, particularly at the early stages of your career. In this talk we will discuss the process of publication from an open and honest perspective, focusing on what factors should be considered at each stage of the publication process. We will discuss ways to manage the challenges of this process while maintaining your mental health and confidence in the face of (frequent) rejection, and what opportunities and pitfalls to look out for. I will describe the roles of editors, reviewers, PIs, and co-authors, as well as how to approach publication from a strategic perspective, and why publication is important for your research goals.

Bio: Nehama Lewis is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication and the Chair of the International Communication Association's (ICA) Health Communication division (2026-2028). She has published over 40 papers and serves as an editorial board member of high-impact journals alongside frequent ad hoc reviewing for other journals. Her research has been published in journals in Communication, Public Health, Psychology and other Interdisciplinary journals.

How to Publish Your Research?

Prof. Shira Zelber-Sagi, School of Public Health

This lecture provides an introduction to the principles of scientific publishing and the process of writing a high-quality scientific paper for an international peer-reviewed journal. Participants will explore why publishing is essential for advancing science and building an academic career, how the publication and peer-review process works, and what editors and reviewers expect from a manuscript. The lecture will also cover the characteristics of a publishable paper, selecting an appropriate journal, avoiding predatory journals, and identifying the central scientific message. Practical examples and interactive discussion will help students begin developing their own manuscripts with a clear and effective publication strategy.

Bio: Prof. Zelber-Sagi graduated BSc in nutrition sciences from the Hebrew University. She graduated with a Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. Since 2009, she has been a faculty member at the School of Public Health, Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, University of Haifa. From 2019 to 2024, she was the Head of the School of Public Health. She is the Public Health Councilor of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL). She has published over 200 scientific papers and book chapters.

The Paper Trail: Turning Discovery into a Story Worth Reading

Prof. Sarit Larisch, The Paul and Herta Amir School of Medicine

This talk maps the journey from a promising research idea to a published, peer reviewed paper. We'll explore the often-counterintuitive order in which papers are actually written, and why that matters. Strategic questions will be addressed: how to choose the right journal, how to craft a title that reflects genuine originality, and how to navigate peer review, turning critical feedback into a constructive ally rather than an obstacle. We'll also discuss how to preserve the spark that drove the research in the first place, and translate it into prose that captures a reader's curiosity rather than just reporting results. Expect practical pitfalls, shortcuts, and mindset shifts along the way.

Bio: Sarit Larisch, PhD, is Full Professor and Head of the Cancer Research Laboratory at the University of Haifa. Her research focuses on understanding how cells naturally protect against cancer and on developing innovative anti-cancer therapies and cancer prevention strategies. She discovered the tumor suppressor protein ARTS, a key regulator of cancer development. She holds multiple patents and is internationally recognized for her contributions to cancer biology and translational cancer research.

3. Presenting your Research

The Three-Minute Thesis Competition (4 sessions, 1.5 hours each)

Dr. Jennifer Lewin, Department of English Language & Literature The Three-Minute Thesis Competition (3MT) is both a local and worldwide phenomenon, in which Ph.D. students prepare presentations on their thesis within a very short time limit. It started as a one-time event fifteen years ago; now it has grown to include more than 900 universities in over 85 countries. In this 3MT workshop, over four meetings, we will train together and hold our own local version of such an event. The experience will facilitate participants' skills in explaining their research in English while creating a supportive community of scholars from diverse disciplines able to build communication techniques together.

How to Give a Successful Academic Presentation

Dr. Jennifer Lewin, Department of English Language & Literature

This lecture will teach participants how to give a successful presentation in English, from preparing the visual and oral components to coping with anxiety and managing interactions with the audience. In essence, it will offer helpful and engaging tips both on building one's confidence and professionalism and on communicating content clearly and effectively.

Bio: Dr. Jennifer Lewin is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of English Language and Literature, where she specializes in academic writing and early modern literature and runs the writing program and writing skills center. She also gives workshops on public speaking, conference presentations, the art of the elevator pitch, and scientific writing. She has published articles and reviews and has a book forthcoming in 2027 on English Renaissance poetry, sleep, and dreams. Her poetry has appeared in *Raritan* and online at *Plume Poetry*. She has taught in Haifa since 2016 where she also lives.

The Short Format Public Talk: Going from Nearly Dead to Ted (Workshop 2 sessions, 3 hours each)

Prof. Beverly N. Goodman-Tchernov, Department of Marine Geosciences

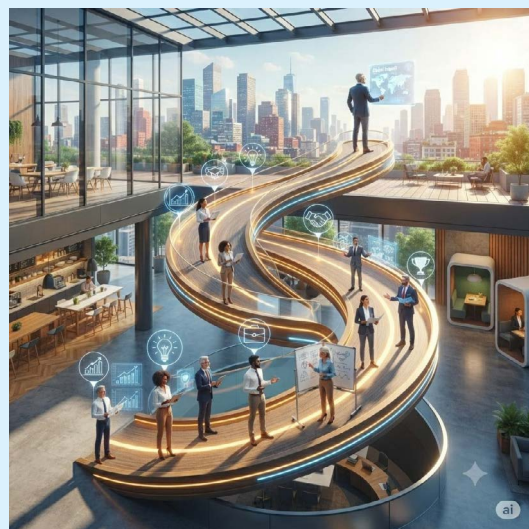
The introduction of "TED talks" by Ted Waitt has altered the world of bridging the gap between the worlds of experts to the public. Learning how to create a talk using this short format and audience friendly approach can improve a speaker's confidence, message clarity, and ability to communicate. During this lesson, students will learn some of the basic rules of creating a TED Talk-like presentation, and learn techniques that can add to the strength of their public speaking skills. The first session will include learning the techniques, and the second session will be an opportunity to practice.

4. Building Your Research Career

How Scientific is the Scientific Endeavour? A Few Thoughts on Meta-Science

Dr. Yaniv Reingewertz, School of Political Sciences

Science may be defined as the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the Physical, natural and social world through observation, experimentation, and the testing of theories against the evidence obtained. But does the actual practice of science meet the standards of the scientific method? This is a question in Metascience, which is the use of scientific methodology to study science itself. This workshop will present evidence to suggest that the practice of science is not always scientific. We will discuss normative bias, in-group bias, fraud and ethical issues, non-reproducibility of results, publication bias and sheer incompetence, among other things. We will discuss the implications of these miss-uses of science, as well as the solutions which would make the scientific world more scientific.



Bio: Yaniv is a senior lecturer at the division of public policy and administration (at the school of political sciences, the faculty of social sciences, University of Haifa – what a long affiliation :-)). He is an economist by training working on mostly empirical research in the fields of local public economics, political economy and environmental economics.

Why Your Research Needs a Story: Scientific Communication for Technical Disciplines (2 Sessions of 2 hours)

Prof. Anna Zamansky, Department of Information Systems

This lecture will be offered twice: once at the Carmel Campus and once at the Downtown (port) Campus

Carmel Campus:

We examine what storytelling means in science, drawing on real examples. In the first session we will discuss practical tools for communicating scientific research as a coherent story, to colleagues, reviewers, collaborators, and the broader public. In the second session, participants will put this into practice through a short presentation on their own work, followed by constructive feedback.

Downtown (port) Campus:

We examine what storytelling means in science, with a special focus on computational disciplines of CS and IS, drawing on real examples. In the first session we will discuss practical tools for communicating scientific research as a coherent story, to colleagues, reviewers, collaborators, and the broader public. In the second session, participants will put this into practice through a short presentation on their own work, followed by constructive feedback.

The Long and Winding Road – Metaphors for the Mentor-Mentee Relationship

Prof. Bracha Nir, Department of Hebrew Language

Understanding the mentor-mentee relationship is essential for the mentees' personal development, and for the fruitful and enriching process of conducting a Ph.D. project, which culminates in writing a dissertation. Using the notion of cognitive metaphor as a device for conceptualization on the one hand and for reflective dialog on the other, the meeting will bring to the forefront the different conceptions that mentors and mentees have of this relationship. During the meeting the participants will explore their own experiences and attitudes with respect to the mentor-mentee relationship, discuss various social and ethical issues that emerge in the different phases of the Ph.D. project, and consider ways of overcoming hurdles related to the process.

An Ethical and Legal Framework for Research with Human Participants

Prof. Maya Peled-Raz, School of Public Health

This lecture will look at the Israeli regulatory scheme, and discuss the three main areas of concern in any research with human participants – Proportionality between possible harm and benefit, voluntary and informed consent and Privacy, confidentiality, and data security.

Bio: Maya Peled-Raz (LLB, MPH, PhD) is an Associate Professor at the University of Haifa's School of Public Health, where she heads the Bioethics Specialty Track. She chairs the university's Institutional Research Ethics Review Board and serves as an ethics expert for the Horizon Europe appraisal scheme. Prof. Peled-Raz also serves as a clinical ethicist and Chair of the Ethics Committee at Bnei Zion Medical Center.

Money, Money, Money: How to Write an Effective Grant Proposal

Prof. Shlomo Wagner, Sagol Department of Neurobiology

I will describe my experience with various proposal types, detail the distinct parts of a typical proposal and what they require, explain my writing strategy, and share tips for putting forward a focused and compelling proposal.

Net-Work in Progress: Conferencing and Networking as an Integral Component of Ph.D. Students' Education and Professionalization

Prof. Israel Waismel-Manor, School of Political Sciences

Attending academic conferences offers graduate students' crucial opportunities for feedback, exposure, professional development, and networking. Presenting their research allows students to receive valuable feedback, gain insights into the latest developments, and refine their work. Workshops and presentations teach effective research communication skills, while networking with peers and experts can spark new ideas and collaborations. This two-hour session covers essential topics such as conference types, proposal writing, funding sources, and networking strategies. The workshop aims to equip students with the knowledge to navigate academic conferences effectively and enhance their professional growth.

Bio: Israel Waismel-Manor is an Associate Professor at the School of Political Science (Ph.D. Cornell University) and is the head of the Political Behavior Lab. His research focuses political behavior and participation, democratic backsliding and the interconnectedness of physical and mental health and politics. His research was published in leading political science, communication and medical journals, and featured in various media outlets including the New York Times and Haaretz. He was 21 a visiting professor at Stanford University and Cornell University.

Planning an Academic Career in a Changing International Landscape

Prof. Tally Katz-Gerro, Department of Sociology and Vice President for Global Engagement

This lecture offers a practical and reflective guide to academic career planning, addressing the evolving expectations and challenges within higher education. Drawing on current trends, institutional dynamics, and personal development strategies, it explores key stages of the academic journey—from doctoral research to postdoctoral positions and beyond. Topics include building a research profile, navigating publication and funding landscapes, developing a teaching portfolio, and understanding institutional hiring practices. The session also considers alternative academic careers and the importance of work-life balance. Designed for early-career scholars and advanced graduate students, the lecture aims to equip attendees with tools for strategic decision-making and long-term career sustainability in academia.

Bio: Tally Katz-Gerro is Full Professor in Sociology, specializing in culture, consumption, environment, sustainability and inequality. She currently serves as Vice President for Global Engagement at the university. She is honorary Reader at the University of Manchester and Docent at the University of Turku. Between 2017-2023 she served as co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Poetics*. Recent funded projects: Equitable resilience to heat: Modeling the consequences of community coordination and heat policy in two coastal cities (with Asaf Levanon, Maya Negev, and Moira Zellner, US-Israel Binational Science Foundation 2023-2026); European inventory of societal values of culture as a basis for inclusive cultural policies in the globalizing world <https://inventculture.eu/> (with a consortium of 9 countries, Horizon 2020 2020-2023); Environmental sustainability in immigrant households <https://www.sci.manchester.ac.uk/research/projects/environmental-sustainability/> (with Sherilyn MacGregor and Catherine Walker, The Leverhulme Trust 2021-2024); The effects of culture and religion on food waste behavior in households (with Ofira Ayalon and Keren Kaplan-Mintz, Israel Science Foundation 2020-2023).

5. Developing Yourself as a Researcher

Life and Death are in the Power of the Tongue – Let's Talk About It

Prof. Bracha Nir, Department of Hebrew Language

How is social power expressed through language? How does language shape identity? How can talking about language be used to do good – and to hurt? The participants in the meeting will consider the construction and negotiation of power and power asymmetries in different environments (academic, professional, political, mundane) and in different situations (public, personal) through discourse, will explore ways in which language speakers – of different languages – express their social solidarity and deference, and will learn about studies and theoretical models that can promote our understanding of language and power.

An Abridged Assertiveness Workshop:

Adapting Clinical Communication Principles for the General Public and Personal Growth

Dr. Hilla Sarig Bahat, Department of Physical Therapy

An adaptation of clinical communication principles for the general public and personal development. Together, we will explore and practice tools for active listening, identifying emotions and needs, and recognizing stress triggers. We will also practice more versus less effective behavioral patterns in stress-inducing situations. Attendees will learn how to set healthy boundaries without guilt. This session provides actionable frameworks to transform high-tension interactions into constructive dialogues, whether at work or home.

Managing Work-Life Balance During Ph.D. Studies

Prof. Michal Biron, School of Business Administration

This session discusses the challenges associated with accomplishing a meaningful Ph.D. while sustaining a fulfilling personal life. Demands related to the individual's diverse roles and tasks, as well as resources available both short-term and long-term, will be discussed. Different boundary management strategies (integration, separation) that could help reduce stress and burnout and enhance resilience will be considered.

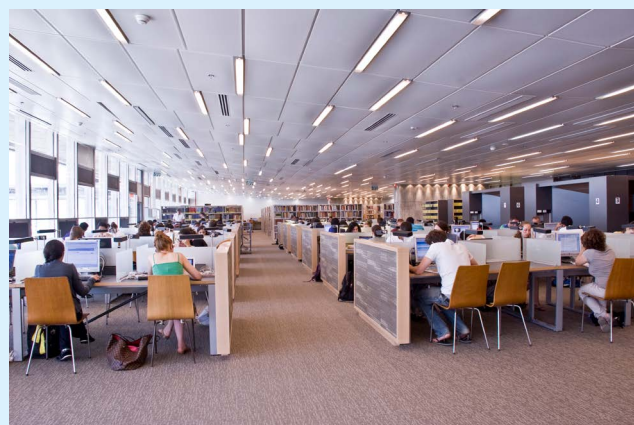
Bio: Michal Biron is a Professor and Head of School of Business Administration. Prof. Biron's research is connected to three main topics, namely employee well-being (burnout, employee-supervisor relations, and teamwork), employee development (job crafting, knowledge transfer, and talent management), and work-nonwork interface (work from home and work-life balance). Her articles have appeared in top-tier journals like Human Resource Management Review, Journal of Organizational Behavior, and International Journal of Human Resource Management, among others. A former associate editor of the International Journal of Human Resource Management, Prof. Biron is currently on the editorial boards of several academic journals as well as local and international professional committees in the field of management.

6. Library

Journal Evaluation Tools

Ms. Ronit Marco, Library staff

This workshop will introduce tools and indices that are used to evaluate the impact and reliability of scientific journals. These tools will help you examine resources you wish to cite, or select journals to publish in. If you intend to publish, this workshop will demonstrate how to find the most suitable journal for your article. We will cover the Open Access publication model and the various options it entails. You will also learn about the new threat to academic publishing: "predatory" journals. You will learn how to identify and avoid these fake publishers.



credit: Jenny Carmel

Introduction to Reference Management Tools with an Emphasis on EndNote

Ms. Ariane Cukierkorn, Library staff

Reference management software helps researchers organize PDFs and notes and generate citations and bibliographies in a variety of publishing styles. This workshop previews EndNote as our major reference manager tool. You will learn how to install, set up, and use these tools for your research projects.

Bio: Ms. Ariane Cukierkorn, Specialist Librarian and Research Assistant, B.A. in Hebrew Language and General Studies.

Mastering the Literature Search: Traditional and AI-Driven Strategies

Ms. Amy Luran Shapira, Library staff

Effective literature searching is an essential skill for graduate students. This workshop bridges traditional and modern search methodologies. You will learn to develop solid search strategies using keyword and thesaurus-based techniques for major subject databases, Ebsco Discovery Service, and Google Scholar. Additionally, the session introduces natural language search strategies using emerging AI tools to efficiently discover journal articles.

Bio: Ms. Amy Luran Shapira BPT MA is an expert reference librarian at the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library and the library liaison for the following university departments: School of Medicine, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Community Mental Health, and Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Cluster Three: Research Paradigms and Methodologies

1. Qualitative Research: Approaches, Methods, and Practice



A Practical Tool for Achieving Quality in Qualitative Research: Good Listening

Dr. Einat Lavee, Department of Human Services

This lecture addresses a challenge in qualitative research: how to establish and demonstrate research quality. It argues that quality depends fundamentally on generating rich data and that good listening is a key means of achieving this. The lecture first briefly discusses why rigor in qualitative research can be difficult to demonstrate and why doing so matters, particularly for publication and research proposals. Its main focus is practical: participants will be introduced to evidence-based listening practices developed by the lecturer and colleagues that can be applied directly in qualitative interviews to generate richer data and strengthen the quality of qualitative research.

Institutional Ethnography:

A Practical Approach to Investigating Social Processes

(2 Sessions of 4 hours each)

Dr. Einat Lavee, Department of Human Services

The proposed two-day workshop introduces institutional ethnography as a powerful approach for in-depth investigation of social life. The first day presents its theoretical foundations, including its starting point in people's everyday experiences and its focus on tracing "ruling relations" across institutional settings. The second day focuses on practical application, including interviews, observations, and especially the analysis of texts and documents as organizers of social action. Participants will also discuss their own research projects and explore how institutional ethnography can be adopted or adapted. The workshop combines conceptual understanding with practical tools for designing rigorous, empirically grounded qualitative research projects effectively.



Bio: Einat Lavee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Services at the University of Haifa. Her research focuses on social policy, street-level public service provision, gender, social inequality, and informal practices. She has extensive expertise in qualitative research methods and has led large-scale qualitative and comparative studies, including research based on over 300 in-depth interviews. Her work has been supported by the ISF, GIF, and National Insurance Institute of Israel, among other funders.

Dyadic Analysis in Qualitative Interview Research

Prof. Chaya Koren, School of Social Work

Qualitative research has increasingly evolved from individual toward dyadic and multi-perspective analysis to capture the complexity of social reality. This presentation introduces the theoretical foundations and practical process of conducting dyadic analysis in qualitative interview research, and discusses its methodological strengths, limitations, and ethical considerations. In individual-level qualitative analysis, each study unit consists of a single participant. Thus, a study with 15 units includes 15 participants. This approach, common in qualitative research, explores a phenomenon through separate interviews with individuals experiencing it. Interviews are analyzed both idiographic and across participants to provide an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon. In dyadic analysis, each study unit consists of two related individuals, so that 15 units include 30 participants. Dyads may involve intimate relationships (e.g., spouses, family members, friends), collegial relationships, or client-service provider relationships across settings such as healthcare, social work, education, or advocacy. Depending on the research aim, dyadic members may be interviewed together or separately. When interviewed separately, analysis is conducted at both the individual and dyadic levels, examining overlaps, contrasts, agreements, and contradictions between members' accounts. Dyadic analysis enables a more nuanced understanding of relationship dynamics, decision-making processes, and the ways shared and divergent meanings shape lived experiences.

Bio: Chaya Koren is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Haifa, Israel. She is the recipient of several research grants from the prestige Israeli Science Foundation (ISF). She is an expert in qualitative research methods, has led the development of new qualitative methodology, including dyadic analysis for qualitative interviews conducted separately with dyad members and a complex unit interview analysis approach for qualitative social work research. Her research interests focus on older adults' partner/marital relationships and their dissolution, and on intergenerational relationships in the family and society among older adults, their adult children and adult grandchildren.

Theoretical, Methodological, and Practical Problems in Qualitative Research (3 hours)

Prof. Daniel Sperling, Department of Nursing

What is qualitative research? how is it related to reality? To knowledge? And to science? How do the answers to each of the previous questions dictate its approaches, design and data analysis? The workshop will include two sessions. In the first session, we will seek to address these questions by broadening our perspective on the qualitative investigation and our standing as qualitative researchers. We will discuss key concepts in philosophy, such as ontology, epistemology, truth, value and personhood to allow us a thorough introduction to qualitative research and to this series of talks. In the second session, we will justify the use of thematic analysis, which is the common method of data analysis in qualitative research, and discuss the rules as well as the choice that are imbedded in doing it. We will learn and practice helpful techniques how to identify themes in text, discussing some examples and mistakes. We will finish this session by examining whether the common strategies for rigor and trustworthiness are "valid" in qualitative research and to what extent they successfully manage potential bias or strong subjectivity of the researcher. We will then inquire whether there could be other ways to do good qualitative research.

Bio: Prof. Daniel Sperling is an Associate Professor of bioethics and Head of the Doctoral Program in Nursing in the Department of Nursing at the University of Haifa. He holds an LL.B and B.A.(Philosophy) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and LL.M (Collaborative program in bioethics) and S.J.D. from the University of Toronto. He teaches the core and advanced Qualitative Research Methods courses for Master's and Ph.D. students in Nursing and has been teaching a workshop on theoretical, methodological and practical problems in qualitative research in Bloom School for Graduate Studies since 2024. Prof. Sperling is the author of three books: *Suicide Tourism: Understanding the Legal, Philosophical and Socio-Political Dimensions* (Oxford University Press: 2019); *Posthumous Interests: Legal and Ethical Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press: 2008), and *Management of Post-Mortem Pregnancy: Legal and Philosophical Aspects* (Ashgate: 2006) as well as other numerous articles and book chapters in the area of bioethics and end-of-life care.

2. Data Science, Digital Methods, and Research Analytics



Introduction to Basic R (4 hours)

Note: No previous experience in programming is required

Dr. Yuval Nov, School of Public Health

The R programming language is today's unofficial computational language of the academic statistical world. It is a free, open-source language, and enjoys over 20,000 packages in a huge variety of research disciplines (finance, genetics, archaeology, and astronomy, to name a few). The workshop is intended for researchers who have no background in programming, and wish to make their first steps in R. It will cover the basic elements of R programming, but will not cover R's statistical and data-analysis capabilities.

Introduction to Data Analysis Using R (2 sessions, 4 hours each)

Note: Basic Knowledge in programming is required

Dr. Yuval Nov, School of Public Health

The R programming language is today's unofficial computational language of the academic statistical world. It is a free, opensource language, and enjoys over 20,000 packages in a huge variety of research disciplines (finance, genetics, archaeology, and astronomy, to name a few). The workshop is intended for researchers who wish to make their first steps in R. The participants are assumed to have some background in programming (e.g., in Python, C/C++, Java, or Matlab) and to be familiar with basic statistics.

Bio: Dr. Yuval Nov is a biostatistician, and a faculty member at the School of Public Health. He has been teaching R courses and workshops for over 15 years.

One (good) Figure is Worth a Thousand Words (Note: No knowledge of R is required)

Prof. Karen Banai, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Research involves data! Both data analysis and effective presentation of data in manuscripts, talks, and posters require visualization. Therefore, as researchers we are spending a lot of time creating figures from our data. In this session we will discuss the different elements of the figure generation process – selecting the 'proper' figure for the job, and creating clear, accurate and ethical figures. We will also discuss if, when and how to use AI for visualizations. As part of the session, participants will spot issues in existing visualizations and determine how to avoid or correct them.

Let's Plot (Note: Basic knowledge of R is required)

Prof. Karen Banai, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

This session is a 'hands on' tutorial devoted to generating visualizations in R using ggplots2 with AI support. It is intended for those with basic familiarity with R. Please bring (1) your own laptop with R and RSdudio installed; (2) a 'ready-to-go' data file that you can read into a data frame. If you don't have your own file, it is possible to use one of the default datasets from R. Attending the session "One (good) Figure is Worth a Thousand Words " first would be beneficial.

Bio: Karen Banai is a Professor at the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She completed her Ph.D. studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a Postdoc fellowship at Northwestern University. Her research focuses on auditory perception, learning and cognition. She is particularly interested in individual differences and how they impact speech recognition and learning in people with communication disorders. Karen has published more than 80 papers and chapters, mentored over 40 graduate students, has reviewed for multiple journals and funding agencies, serves as an Associate Editor of two journals and has created hundreds of figures throughout her career.

Mastering Data Analysis: Strategies for Ph.D. Success

Prof. Pavel Goldstein, School of Public Health

Strategic planning is the cornerstone of successful data analysis, and for Ph.D. students, it's a vital skill to acquire. However, the fear of statistics can be a formidable hurdle. This workshop is tailored to empower doctoral students with essential strategies for effective planning while addressing the common anxiety associated with statistical analysis. By the end of this workshop, participants will possess the skills and confidence necessary to strategically plan their data analysis processes, conquer the fear of statistics, and embark on successful research projects. Whether you're just beginning your Ph.D. journey or navigating the complexities of research, this workshop will equip you with the tools and mindset to approach data analysis with purpose and resilience.

Tailoring Digital Humanities Solutions for Ph.D. Research

Prof. Moshe Lavee, Department of Jewish History

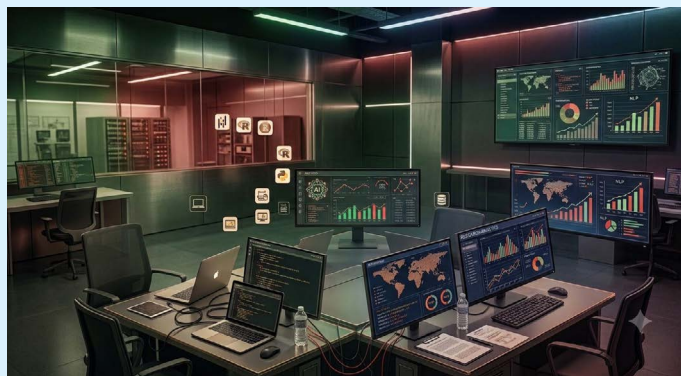
Digital Humanities is a vast field applying computational methods for the Humanities, from extensive initiatives for digital preservation and accessibility of cultural heritage to the tailoring and using of designated tools and pipelines for specific researchers. Many studies in the humanities and the social sciences may benefit from applying DH. DH methods and tools enable researchers and the research students to conceptualize and plan their research in a dialogue with digital processes: to identify elements in their research that may benefit from digital framing and tools; to analyze and model data and information flows involved in the research, to choose research tools or digital literacy needed for the research and to utilize them. The goal of the lecture/workshop on Digital Humanities is to present the field to the students, to familiarize the students with key concepts and types of tools that may be relevant to their research, and to open the gate for considering the methodological pros and cons for using DH in their research journey. It will also function as an opportunity to present the hands-on workshop that we plan to offer during the second semester and the DH services they can use in the eLijah-Lab. The lecture/workshop is mainly designed to the needs of students in the humanities, law and the social science but also students in exact sciences will benefit from it, and might help create an interdisciplinary discussion about the fruitful tension between quantitative and qualitative methods.

Bio: Prof. Moshe Lavee is a scholar of classical rabbinic literature, working on issues of gender and identity in the Talmud and Midrash in Late Antiquity and the reception of Midrash and Talmud in the shaping of the Jewish cultural horizon in later periods. In the Last two decades he expanded his work to the field of Digital Humanities, establishing a tuition program and the eLijah-Lab in the University of Haifa. The lab invests in a multifaceted pipeline for digitization of cultural heritage assets, utilizing image processing, data modeling, textual analysis, and geo-temporal mapping for Hebrew manuscripts and other Jewish cultural heritage artifacts. Since 2022 the lab also works as an incubator, supporting and collaborating with dozens of other researchers and heritage institutions in designing and applying DH solutions and initiatives, making the know-how of the first Israeli lab in the field available to others.

Best Practices of Spatial Data Science: From Theory to Implementation

Prof. Motti Zohar, School of Environmental Sciences

The lecture will present the main conceptual and practical foundations of Spatial Data Science. It will address core themes including spatial thinking, the nature of spatial data, geographic scales and reference systems, uncertainty as well as the relationship between theory, data and implementation. It will introduce methodological approaches for spatial data acquisition, management, visualization, analysis and spatial modelling. The lecture will include examples of how Spatial Data Science enhances the study of human–environment interactions across contemporary and historical scenarios. The lecture will discuss best practices and workflow for planning research from design and methodology to spatial analysis.



Bio: Motti Zohar is an Associate Professor at the School of Environmental Sciences, University of Haifa, specializing in Environmental Sciences and Geospatial Information Sciences. His research applies GIScience, GeoAI, and Earth Observation to the study of human–environment interactions. He is a member of several organizations and research groups including the IGU Steering Committee on Geographical Information Science; Climate and Environmental Sustainability Center; the National Knowledge & Research Center for Emergency Readiness; and the Chaikin Chair for Geostrategy, contributing to research on

environmental processes, societal change, and historical contexts. Since 2021, he has led the GIScience Environmental Lab, advancing interdisciplinary research on past environmental scenarios through innovative geospatial methodologies. He also serves as Head of the Spatial Data Science Program at the School of Environmental Sciences and supervises MA, PhD students and postdoctoral fellows.

Cluster Four: Outward-facing Research in a Collaborative Learning Space

Within this cluster, the Bloom Graduate School, in collaboration with the UHaifa Bloom Grad Team, offers a range of formal and informal opportunities for students to co-construct knowledge within the community, present their research, increase its visibility to both academic and non-academic audiences, and foster cross-disciplinary, social, and academic interactions.

The Activities in this cluster will be published by the Bloom Graduate School throughout the 2026-2027 academic year.



Meeting with journalist **Berhanu Tegeegna** on July 20, 2026
marking the awarding of scholarship to students of Ethiopian descent



Meeting with journalist and Arab affairs commentator
Ohad Hemo on February 18, 2026
marking a transition event for the Bloom School doctoral cohort



Guest lectures from abroad held in the 2025/2026 academic year







Monday 12 January 2026

14:15 - 15:45

Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE) for
posttraumatic stress disorder:
Theory and Practice

Prof. Edna B. Foa, Perelman
School of Medicine, Pennsylvania







Sunday, January, 18, 2026

from 16:00 to 17:30

**The Emotional Toll of Trauma:
Clinical and Neural Features**

Prof. Yuval Neria, Columbia University



For details and registration please contact:
Ms. Anat Davidi via e-mail: a.david@univ.haifa.ac.il
<https://graduate.haifa.ac.il/> |  [linkedin](#)