

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Oren Soffer

### Personal

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### Higher Education

#### A. Undergraduate and Graduate Studies

Period of Study	Name of Institution and Department	Degree	Year of Approval of Degree
1999-2002	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Political Science (Political Communication)	Ph.D.	2002
1997-2001	Tel Aviv University, Faculty of Law	L.L.B	2001
1996-1998	Tel Aviv University, Department of Political Science (Political Communication)	M.A. <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	1998
1994-1995	Tel Aviv University, Department of Political Science (minor in sociology)	B.A. <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	1995

#### B. Post-Doctoral Studies

Period of Study	Name of Institution, Department and Host	Year of Completion
2004-2005	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Council for Higher Education Fellowship, Department of Communication Studies	

2003-2004	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Communication and Journalism, Prof. Tamar Liebes	
2002-2003	University of Toronto, Halbert Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Munk Center for International Studies, Prof. Derek Penslar	

### **Academic Ranks and Tenure in Institutions of Higher Education**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Name of Institution and Department</b>	<b>Rank/Position</b>
2019-	The Open University of Israel, Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication	Professor
2014-2018	The Open University of Israel, Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication	Associate Professor
2013-2014	Bar-Ilan University, School of Communication	Visiting Professor
2011-2012	MIT (US), Comparative Media Studies	Visiting Scholar
2009-2014	The Open University of Israel, Department of Sociology, Political science and Communication	Senior Lecturer
2007-2009	The Open University of Israel, Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication	Lecturer
2006-2007	The Open University of Israel, Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication	Visiting Lecturer
2005-2006	The University of Manchester (UK), School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures	Lecturer
2003	Rutgers University (US), the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life	Visiting Fellow

### **Offices in Academic Administration**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Offices in Academic Administration</b>	<b>Institution</b>

2018-	Dean, Development and Educational Technology	The Open University of Israel
2015	Head, The Committee for Examination of the Teaching Structure at the Open University	The Open University of Israel
2014-2017	Head, Department of Sociology, Political science and Communication	The Open University of Israel
2007-2014	Head of Communication Studies	The Open University of Israel
2010-2011	Head of the Senate's Sociology, Political Science and Communication Sub-committee	The Open University of Israel
2009-2011	Head of Disciplinary Appeals Boards	The Open University of Israel
2007-2008	Head of Disciplinary Committee	The Open University of Israel

## Scholarly Positions and Activities outside the Institution

- Head of the Communication Studies Subject Committee (*vaadat mikzoo*) at the Israeli Ministry of Education.
- Member of ISF Communication Committees.
- Reviewer for various communication studies journals, including:  
*Communication Theory, New Media & Society, Annals of the International Communication Association, Social Media and Society, European Journal of Communication.*
- Reviewer for various conferences, including: ICA, HICSS, AIS, ISCA
- Editorial board member: *Megamot* (Hebrew) and *Zotut*.
- Head and member of Tenure and Promotion committees.
- Reviewer of doctoral dissertations: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Ben-Gurion University.

## Participation in Scholarly Conferences

### A. Active Participation

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Conference, Place of Conference</b>	<b>Subject of Lecture/Discussion</b>	<b>Role</b>
May 2019	MIT Media in Transition	Algorithmic Personalization: Assessment through the Historical-Theoretical Lens of the Two-Step Flow of Communication	
March 2019	Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference, NYU	Computational Analysis of Historical Hebrew Newspapers: Affordances and Restrictions	With Zef Segal, Vered Silber-Varod, Nurit Greidinger
May 2017	ICA 2017, San Diego	Same News, Different Platforms: A Computational Approach for Characterizing User Comments across Platforms and Journalistic Genres	With Anat Ben-David
May 2017	Comments, Anyone? Multidisciplinary Approaches for Analyzing Online User Comments across News and Other Content Formats. ICA Preconference, San Diego	The Way the Wind Blows: User Comments and Public Opinion	
November-December 2016	GESIS Computational Social Science Winter Symposium, Cologne	User Comments across Platforms and Journalistic Genres: A Computational Analysis	With Anat Ben-David
October 2016	Freedom and Control of Digital Expression, Toulouse	Opinion Expression via User Comments on News Websites: Analysis through the Perspective of	With Galit Gordoni

		the Spiral of Silence	
June 2013	ICA Conference, London	Good News: The Carmel Newsreels and Their Place in the Emerging Hebrew Language Media	With Tamar Liebes
October 2011	Center for Global Communication Studies Seminar, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania	Sixty Years of Army Broadcasting: The Anomaly of <i>Galei Tzahal</i>	
November 2011	NCA Annual Conference	Liquid Language? On the Personalization of Discourse in the Digital Era	
June 2011	InSite 2011 Conference, Novi Sad	Cyclical Changes in Literacy Through History	With Yoram Eshet
April 2011	Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, Haifa	The Social Legitimacy for Oral Written Communication in New Media	
January 2011	Knowledge, Imagination, Democracy: Honoring Prof. Yaron Ezrahi's Work, Jerusalem	Liquid Language: On the Personalization of Discourse in the Digital Era	
March 2010	Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, Herzliya	Oral Influences on Digital Texts: Comparative-Theoretical Perspective	
April 2009	Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, Emek Israeel	Why Hebrew? A Comparative Analysis of Language Choice in the Early Hebrew Press	
May 2008	24 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Israeli Studies, New York	"The Nobel Pirate": The Voice of Peace Offshore Radio Station	
June 2007	23 <sup>RD</sup> Annual Conference of the	The Eraser and the Anti-eraser: The	

	Association for Israeli Studies, Raanana	Battle over Color Television in Israel	
March 2007	Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, Raanana	Objectivity and Dialogue as Two Competing Ideals in Mass Communication	
April 2005	Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, Beer Sheba	The Textual Pendulum	

## Research Grants

### A. Grants Awarded

Year	Role in Research	Co-Researchers	Topic	Funded by, Amount
2016-2019	Initiator, with <b>Anat Ben-David</b>	PI's: Dr. Anat Ben-David, Prof. Oren Soffer, Dr. Reut Tsarfaty, Prof. Yoram Kalman, Dr. Anat Lerner	Establishing a Research and Infrastructure Collaboration between the OUI and the National Library of Israel, developing tools and methodologies to study digital collections	Yad Hanadiv Grant #9432 1,694,000 INS, Awarded to the Information and Media Lab, The Open University
2015-2016	PI		The Spiral of Silence in the Talkback Era: Re-evaluation of Theory in the Context of Israeli Online Discourse	ISF, 152,000 ILS
2009	PI		The Imagined Audience: The Case Study of the IDF Radio Station	The Open University Research Authority Grant (following a "Very Good" grade for this proposal by the ISF), 93,000 INS

## Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

- 2016-2018 \*Flagship Course Award by the Council for Higher Education--  
*Introduction to Communication Studies* (with Dr. David Levin and Sigal Ravina). Budget of 300,000 ILS.
- 2002-2003 Post-Doctoral Grant, The Department of Communication and Journalism, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (20,000\$).

## Teaching

### A. Teaching Responsibility for Open University Courses

Year	Name of Course	Degree	Role (coordinator, instructor, Academic Supervisor)
2018-	<i>Political Communication in the Digital Era</i> (10716)	B.A. Communication	Developer (With Dr. David Levin and Oranit Klein)
2014-2017	<i>Introduction to Communication Studies</i> – Flagship Course (10408)	B.A. Communication	Development Academic Supervisor
2010-2013	<i>Media Discourse</i> (10578)	B.A. Communication	Developer (with Prof. Shoshana Blum-Kulka and Oren Livio)
2009-2012	<i>Introduction to Mass Communication</i> (10408)	B.A. Communication	Developer (With Prof. Tamar Liebes, Dr. David Levin and Sigal Ravina)
2008-2010	<i>Radio Workshop</i>	B.A. Communication	Developer (Prof. Motti Regev and Ziv Yonatan)
2007-2010	<i>Mass Communication in Israel</i> (10612)	B.A. Communication	Developer and writer
2012	Updating: <i>Culture, Communication and Leisure in Israel</i> (1053)	B.A. Communication	Development Academic Supervisor
2008-2010	Updating: <i>Workshop-Journalistic Editing</i> (10658)	B.A. Communication	Development Academic Supervisor
2008-2010	Updating: <i>Workshop-Journalism: Reporting</i>	B.A. Communication	Development Academic Supervisor

	<i>and Writing</i> (10618)		
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# PUBLICATIONS

## **Thesis and Dissertation**

1. *“HaTzfira” Paper—Modernization of the Political-Social Discourse in the Hebrew Language* (Hebrew). Doctorial Dissertation, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Under the supervision of Yaron Ezrahi.
2. *Yemen Children Affair in the Journalistic Discourse: Analysis through the Dialogical Philosophy Perspective*. M.A. Dissertation, Tel-Aviv University, Under the supervision of Michael Keren.

## **Scientific Books (Refereed)**

1. Soffer, O. (2011). *Mass Communication in Israel*, Ra'anana: The Open University of Israel (411 pp.). (Hebrew)  
**1a. English updated and shortened version:**  
Soffer, O. (2015). *Mass Communication in Israel: Nationalism, Globalization, and Segmentation*. Oxford NY: Berghahn Books (227 pp.). 21 citations.
2. Soffer, O. (2007). *There Is No Place for Pilpul! HaTzfira Journal and the Modernization of the Socio-political Discourse*, Mossad Bialik Press with The Center for Research on the History and Culture of Polish Jewry at the Hebrew University (240 pp.) (Hebrew).

## **Open University Books**

1. Blum-Kulka S., Livio O. & Soffer, O. (eds.) (2015). *Media Discourse: A Reader* (Hebrew). Raanana: The Open University of Israel.

## **Scientific Editor of Hebrew Translations (with David Levin):**

2. Denis McQuail (2010). *McQuail's Mass Communication Theory*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Published in Hebrew by the Open University of Israel (2014).
3. Dan Laughey (2007). *Key Themes in Media Theory*, Maidenhead: Open University Press. Published in Hebrew by the Open University of Israel (2011).

## **Other Scientific Publications**

1. \*Soffer, O. (2015). *Galei Tzahal*. Jerusalem: Carmel (200 pp.). (Hebrew)

## Edited Volumes

1. Eshet-Alkalai, Y. & Soffer, O. (eds.) (2012). *Journal of Educational Technology & Society* 15(2). Special Issue on: "Digital Literacy: Socio-cultural and Educational Aspects."
2. Liebes, T. & Soffer, O. (eds.) (2010). Section on Broadcast Media in Modern Israel. *The Journal of Israeli History* 29(2).

## Articles in Refereed Journals

### A. Published/Accepted

Authors are listed according to their relative contribution. Journal ranking—according to Scimago Journal & Country Rank, 2018 (<https://www.scimagojr.com>). Citations: according to Google Scholar (self-citations are excluded).

1. Soffer, O. & Gordoni, G. The Role of User Comments in Estimating the Public Opinion Climate and Self-Perceived Support of One's Opinion by the Majority. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* (accepted).  
SJR Q1, 148/1137 in Sociology and Political Science.
2. Soffer, O. (2019). Algorithmic Personalization and the Two-Step Flow of Communication. *Communication Theory*. Published online: 30 April 2019.  
SJR Q1, 3/411 in Communication.
3. Soffer, O. (2019). From textual orality to oral textuality: The case of voice queries. *Convergence*. Published online: 06 February.  
SJR Q1, 74/411 in Communication.
4. Ben-David, A. & Soffer, O. (2018). User Comments across Platforms and Journalistic Genres. *Information, Communication & Society*. Published online: 03 May.  
SJR Q1, 1/411 in Communication.  
2 citations.
5. Soffer, O. (2018). Decrepitude as a Source of Symbolic Capital: The Case of the Israeli Army Radio Stations. *Israel Affairs* 24(2), 285-303. SJR Q1, 184/943 in Cultural Studies.
6. Soffer, O. & Gordoni, G. (2018). To Post or Not to Post? Anonymous User Comments in the Israeli Journalistic Sphere. *Journalism Studies* 19(10), 1390-1408.  
SJR Q1, 20/411 in Communication.  
4 citations.

7. Soffer, O. (2017). Assessing the Climate of Public Opinion in the User Comments Era: A New Epistemology. *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism*. Published online: June 27.  
SJR Q1, 19/411 in Communication.
8. Soffer, O. & Gordoni, G. (2017). Opinion Expression via User Comments on News Websites: Analysis through the Perspective of the Spiral of Silence. *Information, Communication & Society 21*, 388-403. SJR Q1, 1/411 in Communication.  
12 citations.
9. Soffer, O. (2016). The Oral Paradigm and Snapchat. *Social Media + Society*, 2(3).  
SJR Q1, 3/943 in Cultural studies.  
16 citations.
10. Soffer, O. & Liebes, T. (2015). Good News: The *Carmel Newsreels* and Their Place in the Emerging Israeli Language Media. *Israel Affairs 21*(1), 98-111.  
SJR Q1, 184/943 in Cultural Studies.
11. Soffer, O. (2014). Galei Tzahal: The Early Years of Army Radio in Israel. *Journal of Radio and Audio Media 21*(1), 96-114.  
SJR Q2, 157/411 in Communication.  
1 citation.
12. Soffer, O. (2013). The Internet and National Solidarity: A Theoretical Analysis. *Communication Theory 23*(1), 48-66.  
SJR Q1, 3/411 in Communication.  
28 citations.
13. Soffer, O. (2013). The Imagined Audience of the Israeli Army Radio. *Israeli Studies 18*(3), 69-94.  
3 citations.
14. Soffer, O. (2012). Liquid Language? On the Personalization of Discourse in the Digital Era. *New Media and Society 14*(7), 1092-1110.  
SJR Q1, 5/411 in Communication.  
42 citations.
15. Soffer, O. (2012). The Anomaly of Galei Tzahal: Israel's Army Radio as a Cultural Vanguard and a Force for Pluralism. *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*, 32(2), 224-243.  
SJR Q2, 180/466 in Visual Arts and Performing Arts.  
8 citations.
16. Soffer, O. (2010). 'Silent Orality': Towards Conceptualization of the Digital Oral Features in CMC and SMS Texts. *Communication Theory 20*(4), 387-404.  
SJR Q1, 3/411 in Communication.  
45 citations.

17. Soffer, O. (2010). 'The Noble Pirate': The Voice of Peace Offshore Radio Station. *Journal of Israeli History* 29(2), 159-174.  
SJR Q2, 464/943 in Cultural studies.  
10 citations.
18. Soffer, O. (2009). The Competing Ideals of Objectivity and Dialogue in American Journalism. *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* 10(4), 473-491.  
SJR Q1, 19/411 in Communication.  
78 citations.
19. Soffer, O. (2009). Why Hebrew? A Comparative Analysis of Language Choice in the Early Hebrew Press. *Media History* 15(3), 253-269 **Leading article**.  
SJR Q1, 221/943 in Cultural studies.  
4 citations.
20. Soffer, O. & Eshet Y. (2009). Back to the Future: An Historical Perspective on the Pendulum-like Changes in Literacy. *Minds and Machines: Journal for Artificial Intelligence, Philosophy and Cognitive Science* 19, 47-59.  
SJR Q1, 87/568 in Philosophy.  
26 citations.
21. Soffer, O. (2008). The Eraser and the Anti-eraser: The Battle over Color Television in Israel. *Media, Culture and Society* 30(6), 759-775. **Leading article**.  
SJR Q1, 34/411 in Communication.  
8 citations.
22. Soffer, O. (2006). Judicial Review of Legislation in Israel: Problems and Implications of Possible Reform. *Israel Affairs* 12(2), 307-329.  
SJR Q1, 184/943 in Cultural Studies.  
1 citation.
23. Soffer, O. (2005). The Textual Pendulum. *Communication Theory* 15(3), 266-291.  
SJR Q1, 3/411 in Communication.  
4 citations.
24. Soffer, O. (2004). 'Paper Territory': Early Hebrew Journalism and its Political Roles. *Journalism History* 30(1), 31-39.  
5 citations.
25. Soffer, O. (2004). The Case of the Hebrew Press: From the Traditional Model of Discourse to the Modern Model. *Written Communication*, 21(2), 141-170.  
SJR Q1, 70/411 in Communication.  
3 citations.

26. Soffer, O. (2004). Anti-Semitism, Statistics, and Scientization of Hebrew Political Discourse: The Case Study of Ha-Tsifira. *Jewish Social Studies: History, Culture and Society* 10(2), 55-79.

6 citations.

27. Soffer, O. (2004). Zionist Discourse and the Rabbinic Genre. *Jewish Culture and History*, 7(3), p. 53-76.

2 citations.

28. Soffer, O. & Fisman, G. (2001). Judicial Review in a Polarized Society (Hebrew). *Law Review* 3, 663-694.

29. Soffer, O. (2000). Convergence and Distance in the Relationship Between the Center and the Periphery in the Journalistic Discourse (Hebrew). *Qesher* 27, 68-77.

## **B. Submitted for Publication**

1. Soffer O. & Geifman D. Comparing Research Topics in European and ICA Journals: Computational Analysis. *International Communication Gazette*.

2. \*Soffer O., Segal Z., Greidinger N., Rusinek S., Silber-Varod V. Computational Analysis of Historical Hebrew Newspapers: Proof of Concept. *Zutot - Perspectives on Jewish Culture*.

3. \*Gordoni G. & Soffer O. Understanding Intent, Behavior and Emotion in User Comments: Assessing the Spiral of Silence Theory. *Communication and the Public*.

## **Chapters in Books**

### **A. Published**

1. Soffer, O. (2018). Arab Israeli Citizens in the Hebrew Journalistic User Comment Sphere. In: A.B. Buccitelli (ed.), *Race and Ethnicity in Digital Culture*, Praeger Books, (2018), 231-246.

### **B. Accepted for Publication**

2. Soffer, O. , Putting the World on Paper in Hebrew: Early Journalism and the Modernization of Socio-Political Discourse. In: M. Blondheim and Rosenberg H. (eds.), *Jewish Diasporic Communication*.

## **Entries in Encyclopedias**

1. \*"Orality", in *International Encyclopedia of Communication Theory and Philosophy* (2016), Wiley & Sons, 1-6.
2. "Haaretz", in: Dan Diner (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture* (Vol. 2), (2011), Stuttgart: Vrelag J. B. Metzler, 488-490. (German)
3. "Davar", in: Dan Diner (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture* (Vol. 2), (2011), Stuttgart: Vrelag J. B. Metzler, 66-67. (German)