

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

Name: Oren Soffer
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Education

1999-2002 Ph.D., The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Under the supervision of Professor Yaron Ezrahi (dissertation title: “*HaTzfira*” Paper—*Modernization of the Political-Social Discourse in the Hebrew Language*”). Awarded June 2002.

1997-2001 L.L.B., Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University — accepted as a member of the Israeli Bar Association June 2002 (Lawyer’s license number 33368).

1996-1998 M.A., Tel Aviv University, Political Communication, *Magna Cum Laude* (final grade: 94). M.A. dissertation analyzed journalistic discourse concerning the “Yemen Children” (*parashat yaldi teiman*).

1994-1995 B.A., Tel Aviv University, Department of Political Science (minor in sociology), *Magna Cum Laude*.

Academic Positions and Fellowships

2014- Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Political science and Communication, The Open University of Israel (head of department).

2013-2014 Visiting Scholar, School of Communication, Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

2011-2012 Visiting Scholar, Comparative Media Studies, MIT, Boston.

2009- Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Political science and Communication, The Open University of Israel (head of Communication Studies).

- 2007-2009 Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Political science and Communication, The Open University of Israel (head of Communication Studies).
- 2006-2007 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Political science and Communication, The Open University of Israel.
- 2005-2006 Lecturer, School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures, The University of Manchester, England.
- 2004-2005 Postdoctoral Fellowship (*vatat*), the Communication Department, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- 2003-2004 Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Communication and Journalism Department, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2003 Visiting Fellow at the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Rutgers University, New Jersey, U.S.A. (Fall semester).
- 2002-2003 Halbert Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Munk Center for International Studies, University of Toronto.

Prizes and Awards

- 2015-2016 The Israel Science Foundation (ISF) Grant (898/14) for a study entitled: "The Spiral of Silence in the Talkback Era: Re-evaluation of Theory in the Context of Israeli Online Discourse" (152,000 INS).
- 2009 The Open University Research Authority Grant for a study entitled "*The Imagined Audience: The Case Study of the IDF Radio Station*" (following a "Very Good" grade that was given to this proposal in 2009 by the Israel Science Foundation) (93,990 INS).
- 2005 Fulbright Visiting Fellow, Earlham Collage, U.S.A.—**declined award.**
- 2002-2003 Post-Doctoral grant on behalf of the Communication and Journalism Department, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (20,000\$).
- 1997 Award for excellence from the dean of students at Tel Aviv University, for achievement in M.A studies.
- 1996 Certification of excellence from the dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as award for excellence.

List of Publications

Books

- *Galei Tzahal* (in Heb). Jerusalem: Carmel, 2015 (200 pp.).
- *Mass Communication in Israel - Nationalism, Globalization, and Segmentation*. Oxford NY: Berghahn Books, 2015 (227 pp.).
- *Mass Communication in Israel* (in Heb.), Raanana: The Open University of Israel, 2011 (411 pp.).
- *There Is No Place for Pilpul! HaTzifira Journal and the Modernization of the Socio-political Discourse* (in Heb.), Mossad Bialik Press with The Center for Research on the History and Culture of Polish Jewry at the Hebrew University, 2007 (240 pp.).

Published/accepted Articles

- Opinion Expression via User Comments on News Websites: Analysis through the Perspective of the Spiral of Silence. *Information, Communication and Society* (forthcoming). First author, with **Galit Gordoni**.
- To Post or Not to Post? Anonymous User Comments in the Israeli Journalistic Sphere. *Journalism Studies* (forthcoming). First author, with **Galit Gordoni**.
- Decrepitude as a Source of Symbolic Capital: The Case of the Israeli Army Radio Stations. *Israel Affairs* (forthcoming).
- The Oral Paradigm and Snapchat. *Social Media + Society* July-September (2016).
- Good news: the *Carmel Newsreels* and their place in the emerging Israeli language media. *Israel Affairs* 21(1), (2015), 98-111. First author, with **Tamar Liebes**.
- Galei Tzahal – the Early Years of Army Radio in Israel. *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* 21(1), (2014), 96-114.

- The Internet and National Solidarity: A Theoretical Analysis. *Communication Theory* 23(1), (2013), 48-66.
- The Imagined Audience of the Israeli Army Radio. *Israeli Studies* 18(3), (2013), 69-94.
- Liquid Language? On the Personalization of Discourse in the Digital Era. *New Media and Society* 14(7), (2012), 1092-1110.
- 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), (2012) 224-243.
- 'Silent Orality': Towards Conceptualization of the Digital Oral Features in CMC and SMS Texts. *Communication Theory* 20(4), (2010), 387-404.
- 'The Noble Pirate': The Voice of Peace Offshore Radio Station. *Journal of Israeli History* 29(2), (2010), 159-174.
- The Competing Ideals of Objectivity and Dialogue in American Journalism. *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* 10(4), (2009), 473-491.
- Why Hebrew? A Comparative Analysis of Language Choice in the Early Hebrew Press. *Media History* 15(3), (2009), 253-269 **Leading article.**
- 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, (2009), 47-59. With **Yoram Eshet.**
- The Eraser and the Anti-eraser: The Battle over Color Television in Israel. *Media, Culture and Society* 30(6), (2008), 759-775. **Leading article.**
- Judicial Review of Legislation in Israel: Problems and Implications of Possible Reform. *Israel Affairs* 12 (2), (2006), 307-329.
- The Textual Pendulum. *Communication Theory*, 15(3), (2005), 266-291.
- 'Paper Territory' — Early Hebrew Journalism and its Political Roles. *Journalism History* 30 (1), (2004), 31-39.
- The Case of the Hebrew Press: From the Traditional Model of Discourse to the Modern Model. *Written Communication — An International Quarterly Research, Theory and Applications* 21(2), (2004), 141-170.
- Anti-Semitism, Statistics, and Scientization of Hebrew Political Discourse: The Case Study of Ha-Tsifira. *Jewish Social Studies: History, Culture and Society* 10(2), (2004), 55-79.

- Zionist Discourse and the Rabbinic Genre. *Jewish Culture and History*, 7 (3), (2004), p. 53-76.
- Convergence and Distance in the Relationship Between the Center and the Periphery in the Journalistic Discourse. *Qesher* (Heb.) 27, 2000, 68-77.
- Judicial Review in a Polarized Society. *Law Review* (Heb.) 3, (2001), 663-694. First author, with **Fisman G.**

Article under Review

- The Quasi-statistical assessment of the public climate in the user comments era – new epistemology? *Journalism*. **Under revisions following a review process.**
- User Comments across Platforms and Journalistic Genres. *New Media & society*. Second author with Anat Ben-David.

Editor

Guest Editor

- Eshet-Alkalai Yoram, Soffer Oren, *Journal of Educational Technology & Society* 15(2), (2012), Special Issue on: "Digital Literacy: Socio-cultural and Educational Aspects."
Guest Editorial – Navigating in the Digital Era: Digital Literacy: Socio-Cultural and Educational Aspects (1 p.).
- Tamar Liebes and Soffer Oren, Section on Broadcast media in modern Israel, in *The Journal of Israeli History* 29(2), (2010).
Tamar Liebes and Soffer Oren, Introduction, (pp. 135-136).

Textbook Editor

- *Media Discourse: A Reader* (in Heb.). Raanana: The Open University of Israel (2015). With: Shoshana Blum-Kulka and Oren Livio.

Encyclopedia Entries:

- "Orality", in *International Encyclopedia of Communication Theory and Philosophy* (forthcoming).
- "Haaretz", in: Dan Diner (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture* (Vol. 2) (in German), (2011), Stuttgart: Verlag J. B. Metzler, 488-490.
- "Davar", in: Dan Diner (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture* (Vol. 2) (in German), (2011), Stuttgart: Verlag J. B. Metzler, 66-67.

Chapter in edited book:

- Putting the World on Paper in Hebrew—Early Journalism and the Modernization of Socio-Political Discourse. In: Menahem Blondheim, Elihu Katz, Tamar Liebes, and Doron Mendels (eds.), *Jewish Diasporic communication* (article submitted to the editors).
- Symbolic Self-annihilation? Arab Israeli Citizens in the Hebrew Journalistic User Comment Sphere. In: Anthony Bak Buccitelli, *Race and Ethnicity in the Virtual World*, Praeger Books (forthcoming).

Scientific Editor of Hebrew Translations

- Denis McQuail, *McQuail's mass communication theory*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2010 (with David Levin. Published by the Open University 2014).
- Dan Laughey, *Key themes in media theory*, Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2007 (Published by the Open University, 2011).

Other Publications

1. "The Politics of Titles' Translation," *7 Eye* (Heb.), September 2003, Vol. 46, p. 35.

Papers in Conferences and Symposiums (selected list)

- "Opinion Expression via User Comments on News Websites: Analysis through the Perspective of the Spiral of Silence". Conference: Freedom and Control of Digital Expression, October 13-14, 2016, Toulouse, France.

- "Good News: The Carmel Newsreels and Their Place in the Emerging Hebrew Language Media", presented at the ICA Conference, June 2013, London. With Tamar Liebes
- "Sixty Years of Army Broadcasting: The Anomaly of *Galei Tzahal*", Center for Global Communication Studies Seminar, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 23.10.11.
- "Liquid Language? On the Personalization of Discourse in the Digital Era", the NCA annual conference, New Orleans, 18.11.11.
- Cyclical Changes in Literacy Through History. InSite 2011 Conference, Novi Sad, Serbia, 18-23 June 2011 (with, and presented by Yoram Eshet).
- The Social Legitimacy for Oral Written Communication in New Media, The Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, Haifa University, 14 April, 2011 (Hebrew).
- "Liquid Language: On the Personalization of Discourse in the Digital Era," in: *Knowledge, Imagination, Democracy: Honoring Prof. Yaron Ezrahi's Work*, January 5--6, 2011, Jerusalem.
- "Oral Influences on Digital Texts: Comparative-Theoretical Perspective," in the Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, March 25 2010, the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya.
- "Why Hebrew? A Comparative Analysis of Language Choice in the Early Hebrew Press," in the Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, April 5 2009, the Emek Israel College.
- "The Nobel Pirate': The Voice of Peace Offshore Radio Station," 24th Annual Conference of the Association for Israeli Studies, May 19-21, 2008, New York University.
- "The Eraser and the Anti-eraser: The Battle over Color Television in Israel," 23RD Annual Conference of the Association for Israeli Studies, June 11-13, 2007, the Open University, Raanana; Faculty Seminar of the Communication and Journalism Department, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1.01.2008)
- "Objectivity and Dialogue as Two Competing Ideals in Mass Communication," in the Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association, March 29 2007, the Open University, Raanana.
- "The Textual Pendulum" (Heb.), in the Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association at Ben-Gurion University (20.4.2005).

- "The Early Hebrew Press and the Epistemology of the Socio-Political Argumentation." Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar, Tulane University, New Orleans, November 15, 2004.
- Organizer and chair of the panel "Mass Communication: Between Renovation and Degeneration," in the 20th Annual Conference of the Association for Israeli Studies, June 14, 2004, Jerusalem. Presenting the paper: " 'Paper Territory' — Early Hebrew Journalism and its National Roles."
- "From Traditional Model of Discourse to the Modern Model: The Case of the Early Hebrew Press" (Heb.), Communication Faculty Seminar, Haifa University, January 13, 2004.
- "From Traditional Model of Discourse to the Modern Model: The Case of the Early Hebrew Press," Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar, Rutgers University, New Jersey, December 9, 2003.
- "The Challenge of Democracy in Israel," Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Rutgers University, November 19, 2003.
- "Anti-Semitism and the Modernization of Hebrew Political Discourse," Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar, University of Toronto, November 20, 2002.
- "The Modernization of the Discourse of the Hebrew Press: A dialectic of Old and New," International Conference, "Israel, the Diaspora and the Jewish Past—Continuity or Rupture?" University of Toronto, October 7-8, 2002.
- "Zionistic Pilpul" (Heb.), Annual convention of the Israeli Sociology Association, Haifa University, February 12, 2002.
- "The Hebrew Press in its early days—New Channel for New Contents" (Heb.), Annual Convention of the Israeli Sociology Association, Haifa University, February 11, 2002.
- "Hazefira Paper—Modernization of the Political-Social Hebrew Discourse" (Heb.), Faculty Seminar of the Communication and Journalism Department, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (7.11.2001); Politics and Government Department, Ben Gurion University (26.11.2001); Communication Department, Tel Aviv University (21.3.2002).