

BIOS

Dr. Alice Gaya An anthropologist researching migration, Israel, nationalism, and family. Alice's doctoral dissertation examined identity construction processes among mixed families in conflictual societies: the case of Arab-Jewish families in Israel. In 2019, she received an award for her research from the Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research at Tel Aviv University. Alice founded Norma, a center for applied social research. She is a research fellow at the Institute for Immigration and Social Integration at Ruppin Academic Center and the Azrieli Center for Israel Studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Recently, she was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the ISEF Foundation to conduct research at the University of Oxford.

Prof. Carmit Katz Prof. Katz is a social worker and full professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Social Work and Social Welfare. She also serves as Deputy CEO at the Haruv Institute and specializes in child abuse and neglect. Prof. Katz founded and directed both The Israeli Independent Public Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and the International Consortium of Professionals Protecting Children from Maltreatment during COVID-19, recognized by ISPCAN as a leading group in children's rights protection. She is an Associate Editor of *Child Abuse and Neglect* and Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal on Child Maltreatment: Research, Policy, and Practice*. Following the October 7th, 2023, massacre, Prof. Katz has led efforts in collaboration with Israel's Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs to support children directly affected by the conflict, including those held in captivity, orphaned, or exposed to violence.

MSc. Ma'ayan Jacobson Ma'ayan Jacobson is a research assistant at the Haruv Institute with a background in neuroscience and psychology. Her research addresses challenges in the prevention, detection, and intervention of child maltreatment, focusing on the effects of societal responses and global crises on child abuse and neglect. Jacobson also coordinates research for the International Consortium of Professionals Protecting Children from Maltreatment during COVID-19, recognized by ISPCAN for its pioneering role in child rights protection. Additionally, she serves as Guest Editor for the special issue Children in Times of War for the International Journal on Child Maltreatment: Research, Policy, and Practice.

Dr. Yan Serdtse Dr. Yan Serdtse is a psychologist with a master's degree in clinical child psychology, specializing in educational psychology, and is based at Sha'ar Hanegev on the border of the Gaza Strip in Israel. Dr. Serdtse is also a Fellow Researcher and Lecturer at the Hebrew University and Sapir Academic College, and a Founding Director of the *Early Starters International Innovation*, Research and Development department. He was born and raised in the Crimean Peninsula, where he lived until the age of 7. Since 2022, he has participated in

over 10 training missions for professionals on child and adult trauma in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

MA Miriam Shapira Miriam Shapira is a clinical psychologist specializing in trauma and grief therapy, school and community resilience, team and rabbinical supervision, and group relations workshops. She serves as the head of Mahut Israel, an organization dedicated to emergency preparedness and resilience building. She was the founder and first chairperson of Besod Siach, an association promoting dialogue between conflicting groups. Since October 7, she has supported communities in the western Negev and provided consultation and assistance to therapists across Israel.

MA Yulie Khromchenko Yulie Khromchenko is a Vice President for Emergency Response, Development, and Operations in Eastern Europe at Early Starters International. She is an educator, facilitator, and change process leader with extensive experience implementing systemic changes in Israel's educational system and developing leadership skills. She has led teacher leadership programs in underserved communities, trained numerous educators, supervisors, and early childhood professionals, and used her background as a journalist and editor to teach storytelling and communication skills. At Early Starters International, she has developed and conducted training workshops in multiple countries. She leads courses on trauma-informed education, equipping professionals from various fields to become more effective responders to trauma for both children and adults.

Dr. Maya Wizel Maya Wizel, Ph.D. is an Educational Hacker, researcher, speaker, author, podcaster, and consultant specializing in Adult Learning, Teacher Education, Pedagogy, and Educational Change. Her latest research is encapsulated in her book, "The Neckerchief Revolution: How Tying Together Formal and Non-formal Pedagogy Makes for Better Education." Dr. Wizel hosts the Hebrew podcast "Lemida Al Lemida", which explores teaching and learning in higher education. She collaborates to drive impact and foster changes in the educational and social landscape. During the Swords of Iron War, she volunteered to establish educational frameworks for evacuees in the Dead Sea region. Subsequently, she participated in a comprehensive research project documenting the work of educators in evacuation centers across Israel.

Prof. Nathaniel Kratz, MD Nathaniel Kratz, MD, is Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. He serves as Medical Lead for the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Targeted Outreach Team and as Medical Director of Adult Community Health at the NewYork-Presbyterian Division of Community and Population Health.

MA Jhon Valencia Jhon Valencia is Director of Community Health at the NewYork-Presbyterian Division of Community and Population Health. He also directs the NewYork-Presbyterian Outreach Program's Asylum Seekers Initiative, which addresses the immediate needs of recent arrivals and immigrant communities in New York.

Prof. Tenesia Richards Tenesia Richards EMPA, RNC-OB, C-ONQS, C-EFM, is Community Outreach Clinical Coordinator at the NewYork-Presbyterian Division of Community and Population Health and a Registered Professional Nurse at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Prof. Dodi Meyer, MD Prof. Dodi Meyer, MD, is Professor of Pediatrics and Vice Chair for Community Health in the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. She also serves as Medical Director of Community Health at the NewYork-Presbyterian Division of Community and Population Health.

Prof. Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin Prof. Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin is the Head of the Institute for Immigration and Social Integration (IISI) at the Ruppin Academic Center in Israel. Her research combines theoretical and empirical approaches to examine how migration processes intersect with structural inequality, with a particular focus on education, labor market participation, digital capital, and the impacts of war and conflict on migrant identities. Among her recent contributions is the development of the Aliyah Index, a tool measuring public attitudes toward immigration in Israel. She has also written policy briefs on the social implications of the Russia-Ukraine War and the October 7 Hamas attack, focusing on immigrant communities from the post-Soviet countries and displaced populations in Israel. In 2023, she launched a Russian-language Telegram channel to document civilian experiences during the Iron Swords War. As a migrant herself, she brings both analytical precision and deep contextual sensitivity to the study of migration in times of conflict.

Dr. Ravit Talmi-Cohn Dr. Ravit Talmi-Cohn is the President of the Israeli Anthropological Association, a lecturer and researcher at Ono Academic College and Tel Aviv University, and a senior researcher at the Institute for Immigration and Social Integration. She is a cultural and applied anthropologist specializing in migration, mobility, and immigrant absorption, with particular emphasis on the aliyah (Jewish immigration) from Ethiopia to Israel.

Her research is grounded in long-term, multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork conducted over seven years, including extended stays in villages in northern Ethiopia, in transit camps (notably in Gondar and Addis Ababa), in absorption centers, and in Israeli neighborhoods home to large immigrant populations. This longitudinal study formed the basis for her theoretical

contributions to migration studies, including the concepts of waiting, existential time, meta-time, and limited hybridity—offering new perspectives on the temporal and spatial dimensions of migratory experiences.

Talmi-Cohn also explores questions of home and the creation of belonging in contexts of movement. Over the years, she has researched asylum seekers who arrived from the African continent to Israel, as well as immigrants from France. In recent years, her work has focused on migrants and olim (Jewish immigrants) experiencing what she terms a “double war”—facing conflict both in their country of origin and in their country of destination—while examining states of displacement, transnational movement, and life under conditions of instability and uncertainty.

Alongside her academic work, Dr. Talmi-Cohn has been actively engaged for many years in the applied field. She collaborates with social organizations, government ministries, and community initiatives focused on migration, integration, and multiculturalism. She has authored policy papers, lectured before decision-makers, and participated in strategic discussions concerning the inclusion of migrants and mobile populations. Her approach combines in-depth academic knowledge with close familiarity with fieldwork, emphasizing the need for nuanced and multi-layered understandings of migration, identity, belonging, and time.