

# Trauma Testimony Discourses

## Genre Patterns and Innovation



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
Sackler Faculty of Medicine  
The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

International Conference February 21–24, 2011, Tel Aviv University

Conference Chairs: Prof. Michèle Bokobza Kahan & Dr. Zohar Rubinstein (Tel Aviv University)

### Monday, 21 February

Faculty of Medicine, Lola Hall

#### 09:30 – 10:30 Opening & greetings

Aron Shai, Rector; His Excellency Mr. Christophe Bigot, French Ambassador in Israel; Yoseph Mekori, Dean, Faculty of Medicine; Eyal Zisser, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, TAU

#### 10:30 – 13:00 Keynote Lectures:

1. **Death and Survival in Harlan County, Kentucky: A Methodological Approach in Oral History and a Case Study**  
Alessandro Portelli (U. of Rome, Italy)
2. **The Memory of Trauma – from Private Sphere to the Collective**  
Zahava Solomon (TAU)
3. **What to Do with "Traumatisme"?**  
Régine Robin (U. of Quebec at Montreal, Canada)

#### The Specificity of TTD – From the Common to the Unique

##### 14:30 – 16:00 Session 1: Social Impacts

Chair: Zohar Rubinstein (TAU)

4. **Trauma Testimony Discourse over Time**  
Amia Lieblich (Tel Aviv Academic College)
5. **Traumatized Multiple Selves: Society and the Curative Potention of TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission)**  
Shlomo Mendlovic (Shalvata Mental Health Center and TAU)
6. **Collective Trauma, Collective Testimony: Can Wikipedia be Believed?**  
Arnon Keren (U. of Haifa)

##### 16:00 – 17:00 Session 2: Historical Impacts

Chair: Boaz Tadmor (TAU; Beilinson Medical Center)

7. **Do Just Wars Cause Trauma?**  
Yuval Noah Harari (HUJI)
8. **Trauma Testimony in the Era of the Archive**  
Jeff Wallen (Hampshire College, USA)

##### 17:15 – 18:00 Keynote Lecture: Psychological Impacts

9. **Re-establishing the Internal "Thou" in Testimony of Trauma**  
Dori Laub (Yale U., USA)

##### 18:00 – 18:30 Round-Table Summary

### Tuesday, 22 February

Faculty of Humanities, Drachlis Conference Hall, Room 496, Gilman Building

#### Consciousness vs Unconsciousness in TTD

##### 09:00 – 10:45 Session 3: Inner Confrontations

Chair: Dori Laub (Yale U., USA)

10. **The Attack of the Internal Exchange of the Survival Witness**  
Jean-François Chiantaretto (U. of Paris 13, France)
11. **The Necessity and the Impossibility of Testimony: Testifying on Trauma as the Missed Encounter with the Real and as a Potential of Conscious Evolution**  
Ruth Golan (BIU)
12. **The Inner Witness**  
Dana Amir (U. of Haifa)

##### 11:00 – 12:00 Session 4: Memory Processes

Chair: Zahava Solomon (TAU)

13. **Testifying to the Distant Past: A Comparative Study of Cambodian Canadian and Israeli Holocaust Trauma Descendant Memory**  
Carol A. Kidron (U. of Haifa)
14. **Contradicting Narratives of Therapists in Yom Kippur War as Emerged from Their Testimonies**  
Zohar Rubinstein (TAU)

##### 12:00 – 13:00 Session 5: Absence and Presence in Traumatic Experiences

Chair: Moshe Sluhovsky (HUJI)

##### 15. **Hindsight on Latency: Representation of the End of World War II in Varlam Shalamov's *Kolyma Tales***

Leona Toker (HUJI)

##### 16. **Death and the Missing Experience**

Liran Razinsky (HUJI)

##### 14:30 – 15:15 Round Table:

##### 17. **Literature, Trauma, Testimony**

Chair: Shirley Sharon-Zisser (TAU)

Panelists: Ron Ben Tovim, Li Shir, Roi Tartakovsky (TAU)

##### 15:15 – 16:45 Session 6: Subjectivity and Authenticity in Literary Representations

Chair: Marcus Coelen (Universität München, Germany)

##### 18. **The Survivor, the Witness and the Authenticity of Language**

Manuela Consonni (HUJI)

##### 19. **The Literary Sinthome as Testimonial of Trauma: The Case of Georges-Arthur Goldschmidt**

Shirley Sharon-Zisser (TAU)

##### 20. **The Addressee's Viewpoint on Testimony: Irene Kacandes's *Daddy's War***

Tamar Yacobi (TAU)

##### 17:15 – 18:15 Round-Table Summary

### Wednesday, 23 February

Faculty of Humanities, Drachlis Conference Hall, Room 496, Gilman Building

#### Aesthetic Codes in TTD Construction

##### 09:00 – 10:00 Session 7: Philosophical Issues

Chair: Carole Dornier (U. of Caen - Basse Normandie, France)

##### 21. **Trauma in the Future Anterior**

Ruth Ronen (TAU)

##### 22. **The Philosophy of Testimony: Between Epistemology and Ethics**

Sibylle Schmidt (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

##### 10:15 – 11:45 Session 8: Political Issues

Chair: Nathaniel Laor (TAU)

##### 23. **Anxieties of Influence: Holocaust Testimony and the Genres of Postcolonial Witness**

Louise Bethlehem (HUJI)

##### 24. **Changes in the Representations of TTD in Israeli Cinema – from Mental Pathology to Political Discourse**

Michal Pick Hamou (Bezalel Academy)

##### 25. **Suffering Saints' Testimonies: A Political Tribune in the Kingdom of France in the Early 18th Century**

Michèle Bokobza Kahan (TAU)

#### Fiction and TTD: Reality vs Imagination I

##### 12:00 – 13:00 Session 9: Fictionalizing Traumatic Experiences – Credibility?

Chair: Régine Mihal Friedman (TAU)

##### 26. **Current Israeli Documentary Cinema and the Trauma of the Israeli Soldiers**

Raya Morag (HUJI)

##### 27. **War Fantasies: Memory, Trauma and Ethics in Aris Folman's *Waltz with Bashir***

Raz Yosef (TAU)

#### Fiction and TTD: Reality vs Imagination II

##### 14:30 – 15:30 Session 10: Testifying Narratives – Reliability?

Chair: Andreas Kraft (Konstanz U., Germany)

##### 28. **Poetic of the Contingent Detail in Witness Narrative about the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution**

Carole Dornier (U. of Caen - Basse Normandie, France)

##### 29. **Terrorism Testimonies**

Stevan Weine (U. of Illinois, Chicago, USA)

##### 15:30 – 16:30 Session 11: Visual Reconfigurations

Chair: Judd Ne'eman (TAU)

##### 30. **Traumas within and without: The Personal Testimonial Film**

Régine Mihal Friedman (TAU)

##### 31. **Reading Holocaust Testimony in Contemporary French Cinema**

Libby Saxton (U. of London, UK)

##### 17:00 – 17:30 Round-Table Summary

### Thursday, 24 February

Faculty of Humanities, Drachlis Conference Hall, Room 496, Gilman Building

#### The Therapeutic and Cathartic Aspects of Testimony Giving

##### 09:00 – 10:45 Panel: The Psycho-Historic Testimony of War and Terrorism-Related Trauma Victims at NATAL (Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War)

Chair: Itamar Barnea (NATAL)

##### 32. **Who Is the Witness? - Goals, Process and Psychological Positions of Narrator and Listener at Natal's Video Testimony**

Judith Dor (NATAL)

##### 33. **The Telling of Trauma: What Can Testimonies Tell Us about Coping and Adaptation Following Trauma?**

Rivka Tuval-Mashiach (BIU; NATAL)

##### 34. **Between the Clinical and the Cultural, the Private and the Collective: "The Testimony Act" in the Israeli Context**

Keren Friedman-Peleg (TAU; The College of Management, Academic Studies)

##### 35. **A Study of Video Testimonials of Individuals Having Undergone Traumatic War and Terror-Related Experiences (a quantitative evaluation)**

Marc Gelkopf (U. of Haifa; NATAL) (Study conducted with Judith Dor, Saar Uzieli, Itamar Barnea and Avi Bleich)

#### Transmission Procedures of TTD

##### 11:00 – 12:30 Session 12: Writing Practices

Chair: Stevan Weine (U. of Illinois, Chicago, USA)

##### 36. **Shaping the Amorphous: Eyewitness of the Plague in the 17th Century**

Françoise Lavocat (U. of Paris VII – Denis Diderot, France)

##### 37. **"Non Omnis Moriar" – I Shall Not Wholly Die: A Study on Hunger by Jewish Physicians in the Warsaw Ghetto**

Arnon Afek (TAU, Sheba Hospital) & Aviv Livnat (TAU; Bezalel Academy)

##### 38. **"In the Aftermath of Personal Apocalypse": From Traumatic 'Acting Out' to Curative Acting Into-the-World in Lionel Shriver's *We Need to Talk About Kevin***

Naomi Rokotnitz (BIU)

##### 14:00 – 15:30 Session 13: Telling Practices

Chair: Leona Toker (HUJI)

##### 39. **Testifying on the Scene of the Crime: Jews in Contemporary Lithuania Remember the Holocaust**

Hannah Pollin-Galay (TAU)

##### 40. **Do you Really Think It Was a Defeat?**

Gerardo Leibner (TAU)

##### 41. **In Treatment: A Glimpse into the Experience of the Therapist in Engaging Traumatic Testimony**

Bella Ben-Gershon (Mental Health Services, Ministry of Health)

##### 16:00 – 16:45 Keynote Lecture:

##### 42. **Questioning Catharsis**

Catherine Coquio (U. of Paris VIII, France)

##### 16:45 – 17:45 Closing Session: Interdisciplinary Crossing Glances

Moderator: José Brunner (TAU)



Ministry of Health  
Mental Health Services



Admission is free • Limited number of seats