



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



מכון ון ליר בירושלים  
THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE  
معهد فان لير في القدس

# Trauma Testimony Discourses

## Genre Patterns and Innovation

International Conference

February 21-24, 2011  
Tel Aviv University

### Conference Chairs

*Prof. Michèle Bokobza Kahan & Dr. Zohar Rubinstein  
(Tel Aviv University)*



Ministry of Health  
Mental Health Services



Israel Trauma Center For Victims of Terror and War



Ambassade de France  
en Israël



**Admission is free • Limited number of seats**

# Trauma Testimony Discourses

Program

Genre Patterns and Innovation

**Monday, 21 February**

Faculty of Medicine, Lola Hall

**09:30 – 10:30 Opening & greetings**

Aron Shai, Rector; Yoseph Mekori, Dean, Faculty of Medicine;  
Eyal Zisser, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University

**Keynote Lectures:**

10:30 – 11:15

**1. Death and Survival in Harlan County, Kentucky: A Methodological Approach in Oral History and a Case Study**

*Alessandro Portelli (University of Rome, Italy)*

11:15 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:15

**2. The Memory of Trauma – from Private Sphere to the Collective**

*Zahava Solomon (Tel Aviv University)*

12:15 – 13:00

**3. What to Do with “Traumatisme”?**

*Régine Robin (University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada)*

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch break

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

14:30 – 16:00

**Session 1: Social Impacts**

**Chair:** *Zohar Rubinstein (Tel Aviv University)*

**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 Tel Aviv University)*

**6. Collective Trauma, Collective Testimony: Can Wikipedia be Believed?**

*Arnon Keren (University of Haifa)*

16:00 – 17:00

**Session 2: Historical Impacts**

**Chair:** *Boaz Tadmor (Tel Aviv University; Beilinson Medical Center)*

## **7. Do Just Wars Cause Trauma?**

*Yuval Noah Harari (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*

## **8. Trauma Testimony in the Era of the Archive**

*Jeff Wallen (Hampshire College, USA)*

17:00 – 17:15 Coffee break

## **17:15 – 18:00 Keynote Lecture:**

### **Psychological Impacts**

## **9. Re-establishing the Internal “Thou” in Testimony of Trauma**

*Dori Laub (Yale University, USA)*

## **18:00 – 18:30 Round-Table Summary: Chairs of the 2 sessions**

## **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 University, USA)*

### **10. The Attack of the Internal Exchange of the Survival Witness**

*Jean-François Chiantaretto (University 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 (Bar-Ilan University)*

### **12. The Inner Witness**

*Dana Amir (University of Haifa)*

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break

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

**Chair:** *Zahava Solomon (Tel Aviv University)*

### **13. Testifying to the Distant Past: A Comparative Study of Cambodian Canadian and Israeli Holocaust Trauma Descendant Memory**

*Carol A. Kidron (University of Haifa)*

### **14. Contradicting Narratives of Therapists in Yom Kippur War as**

## **Emerged from Their Testimonies**

*Zohar Rubinstein (Tel Aviv University)*

12:00 – 13:00

### **Session 5: Absence and Presence in Traumatic Experiences**

**Chair:** *Moshe Sluhovsky (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*

#### **15. Hindsight on Latency:**

#### **Representation of the End of World War II in Varlam Shalamov's *Kolyma Tales***

*Leona Toker (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*

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

*Liran Razinsky (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 15:15

### **17. Round Table:**

#### **Literature, Trauma, Testimony**

**Chair:** *Shirley Sharon-Zisser (Tel Aviv University)*

**Panelists:** Ron Ben Tovim, Li Shir, Roi Tartakovsky (*Tel Aviv University*)

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 Consoni (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*

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

*Shirley Sharon-Zisser (Tel Aviv University)*

#### **20. The Addressee's Viewpoint on**

**Testimony: Irene Kacandes's *Daddy's War***  
*Tamar Yacobi (Tel Aviv University)*

16:45 – 17:15

Coffee break

17:15 – 18:15

### **Round-Table Summary: Chairs of the 4 sessions**

## 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* (University of Caen -  
Basse Normandie, France)

**21. Trauma in the Future Anterior**

*Ruth Ronen* (Tel Aviv University)

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

*Sibylle Schmidt* (Freie Universität Berlin,  
Germany)

10:00 – 10:15

Coffee break

10:15 – 11:45

#### Session 8: Political Issues

**Chair:** *Nathaniel Laor* (Tel Aviv University)

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

*Louise Bethlehem* (The Hebrew University of  
Jerusalem)

**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* (Tel Aviv University)

11:45 – 12:00

Coffee break

### Fiction and TTD: Reality vs Imagination I

12:00 – 13:00

#### Session 9: Fictionalizing Traumatic Experiences – Credibility?

**Chair:** *Régine Mihal Friedman* (Tel Aviv  
University)

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

*Raya Morag* (The Hebrew University of  
Jerusalem)

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

*Raz Yosef* (Tel Aviv University)

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

## Fiction and TTD: Reality vs Imagination II

14:30 – 15:30

### **Session 10: Testifying Narratives – Reliability?**

**Chair:** *Andreas Kraft* (Konstanz University, Germany)

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

*Carole Dornier* (University of Caen - Basse Normandie, France)

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

*Stevan Weine* (University of Illinois, Chicago, USA)

15:30 – 16:30

### **Session 11: Visual Reconfigurations**

**Chair:** *Judd Ne'eman* (Tel Aviv University)

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

*Régine Mihal Friedman* (Tel Aviv University)

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

*Libby Saxton* (University of London, UK)

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee break

17:00 – 17:30

### **Round-Table Summary: Chairs of the 5 sessions**

## **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 Toval-Mashiach (Bar-Ilan University; NATAL)*

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

*Keren Friedman-Peleg (Tel Aviv University; 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 (University of Haifa; NATAL)  
(Study conducted with Yudith Dor, Saar Uzieli, Itamar Barnea and Avi Bleich)*

10:45 – 11:00

Coffee break

**Transmission Procedures of TTD**

11:00 – 12:30

**Session 12: Writing Practices**

**Chair:** *Stevan Weine (University of Illinois, Chicago, USA)*

**36. Shaping the Amorphous: Eyewitness of the Plague in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century**

*Françoise Lavocat (University 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 (Tel Aviv University, Sheba Hospital) & Aviv Livnat (Tel Aviv University; 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 (Bar-Ilan University)*

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

- 14:00 – 15:30 **Session 13: Telling Practices**  
**Chair:** *Leona Toker (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*
- 39. Testifying on the Scene of the Crime: Jews in Contemporary Lithuania Remember the Holocaust**  
*Hannah Pollin Galay (Tel Aviv University)*
- 40. Do you Really Think It Was a Defeat?**  
*Gerardo Leibner (Tel Aviv University)*
- 41. In Treatment: A Glimpse into the Experience of the Therapist in Engaging Traumatic Testimony**  
*Bella Ben-Gershon (Mental Health Services, Ministry of Health)*
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00 – 16:45 **Keynote Lecture:**  
**42. Questioning Catharsis**  
*Catherine Coquio (University of Paris VIII, France)*
- 16:45 – 17:45 **Closing Session:**  
**Interdisciplinary Crossing Glances**  
**Moderator:** *José Brunner (Tel Aviv University)*



### **The Scientific Committee**

(in alphabetical order)

*Carole Dornier, University of Caen-Normandie, France*  
*Michèle B. Kahan, Tel Aviv University*  
*Judd Neeman, Tel Aviv University*  
*Zohar Rubinstein, Tel Aviv University*  
*Meir Sternberg, Tel Aviv University*  
*Leona Toker, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*