

# 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



Ambassade de France  
en Israël



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FRANÇAIS

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)**

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**

12:00 – 13:00

**Emerged from Their Testimonies**  
*Zohar Rubinstein (Tel Aviv University)*

**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 Yudit 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