

HTST 493.21 *Gender Issues in the Middle East:*
Women & Political Power in Israeli History.

August - September 2009

Dr. Bat-Sheva Margalit-Stern

Course Description

This course analyzes the historical process that gave birth to the bond between the Zionist movement, the nation-state, and its women citizens. It focuses on the nation-building process in which women managed to form alliances with the ruling political power, establish new organizations and create a multifaceted infrastructure to benefit women. This process took place from the late 1880s- the time before statehood, to the 1950s- when the state was already established. What were the mechanisms chosen to achieve these goals? And to what cost? Which ideals and perceptions guided the Zionist women and what were their points of reference? These are few of the questions we will tackle. We will use sources of diverse disciplines, as well as visual sources, that will help us examine these fundamental questions in the history of modern Israel.

Course Requirements

1. Students participation 20%
2. Presentation 30%
3. Final paper 50%

The paper's requirements, nature of the paper and topics, will be discussed in class.

Readings

1. Introduction: Dilemmas of Nation, Class and Gender

Joan Wallach Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*, pp. 15-27

Ida Bloom, 'Gender and Nation in International Comparison', in I. Bloom, K. Hagemann and C. Hall (eds.), *Gendered Nations: Nationalism and Gender Order in the Long Nineteenth Century*, pp. 3-26

Nira Yuval Davis, *Gender and Nation*, pp. 3-25

Laura L. Frader, Sonya O. Ross, 'Introduction: Gender and the Reconstruction of European Working-Class History', in L. L. Frader, S. O. Ross (eds.), *Gender and Class in Modern Europe*, pp. 1-33

2. Engendering Zionism: Analyzing the Bond between Women and the Zionist Movement

Ruth Halpernn-Kaddari, *Women in Israel; A State of Their Own*, pp. 9-19

Hanna Herzog, 'Redefining Political Spaces: A Gender Perspective on the Yishuv Historiography', *The Journal of Israeli History: Politics, society, Culture*, 21, 1-2 (2002), pp. 1-26

Yossi Ben Artzi, 'Have Gender Studies Changed Our Attitude toward the Historiography of the *Aliyah* and Settlement Process?', in R. Kark, M. Shilo and G. Hasan-Rokem (eds.), *Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel*, pp. 18-32

Billie Melman, 'The Legend of Sarah: Gender, Memory and National Identities (Eretz Yisrael/Israel 1917-90)', *ibid.* pp. 55-92

Recommended:

David Vital, *The Origins of Zionism*, Oxford 1975, pp. 3-20

Ruth Kark and Joseph B. Glass, "The Jews in Eretz Israel/Palestine: From Traditional Peripherality to Modern Centrality," in E. Karsh, (ed.), *Israel: The First Hundred Years, Israel's Transition from Community to State*, Vol. 1, pp. 73-107.

Naomi Sheperd, *Ploughing Sand: British Rule in Palestine, 1914-1948*, pp.5-19

3. Public Arena, Private Sphere: The Women's View

Ruth Halpernn-Kaddari, *Women in Israel; A State of Their Own*, pp.55-60

Eyal Kafkafi, 'The Psycho-Intellectual Aspect of Gender Inequality in Israel's Labor Movement', *Israel Studies*, 4. 1 (1999), pp. 188-211

Hanna Herzog, 'The Fringes of the Margin: Women's Organizations in the Civic Sector of the Yishuv,' in D. S. Bernstein, (ed.), *Pioneers and Homemakers: Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel*, pp. 283-304

Ran Aaronsohn, "Through the Eyes of a Settler's Wife: Letters from the *Moshava*," in D. S. Bernstein, (ed.), *Pioneers and Homemakers: Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel*, pp. 29-47.

Margalit Shilo, "The Women's Farm at Kinneret, 1911-1917: A Solution to the Problem of the Working Woman in the Second *Aliyah*," in D. S. Bernstein, (ed.), *Pioneers and Homemakers: Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel*, pp. 119-143.

4. Labor Women: Between Men's Dominance and Women's Control

Dafna N. Israeli, 'The Zionist Women's Movement in Palestine, 1911-1927: A Sociological Analysis', in E. Fuchs (ed.), *Israeli Women's Studies: A Reader*, pp. 33-59

Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern, 'They Have Wings, But No Strength To Fly: The Women Workers' Movement between "Feminine" Control and "Masculine" Dominance', in R. Kark, M. Shilo and G. Hasan-Rokem (eds.), *Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel*, pp. 202-216

Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern, 'Rebels of Unimportance: The 1930s Textile Strike in Tel Aviv and the Boundaries of Women's Self-Reliance', *Middle Eastern Studies*, 38, 3 (2002), pp. 171-194

Sylvie Fogiel Bijaoui, 'From Revolution to Motherhood: The Case of Women in the Kibbutz, 1910-1948', in D. S. Bernstein, (ed.), *Pioneers and Homemakers: Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel*, pp.211-233

Recommended:

Israel Kolatt, "The Concept of the Histadrut: Emergence and Change, 1920-1948," in Isaiah Avrech and Dom Giladi, (eds.), *Labor and Society in Israel*, p. 204-227.

Amia Lieblich, 'Women and the Changing Israeli Kibbutz: a Preliminary Three-Stage Theory', *The Journal of Israeli History: Politics, society, Culture*, 21, 1-2 (2002), pp. 63-84

5. Middle-Class Women: Contesting Male Hegemony?

Sylvie Fogiel Bijaoui, 'On the Way to Equality? The Struggle for Women's Suffrage in the Jewish Yishuv, 1917-1926', in D. S. Bernstein, (ed.), *Pioneers and Homemakers: Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel*, pp. 261-282

Nitza Druyan, 'Yemenite Jewish Women-Between Tradition and Change', *ibid*, pp. 75-87

Recommended:

Nadav Davidovich and Shifra Shvarts, "Health and Hegemony: Preventive Medicine, Immigrants and the Israeli Melting Pot," *Israel Studies*, vol. 9, 2, pp. 150-179.

6. Zionist Amazons? Women and the Military Forces

Tamar Mayer, 'From Zero to Hero: Masculinity in Jewish Nationalism', in E. Fuchs (ed.), *Israeli Women's Studies: A Reader*, p. 97-177

Leslie Hazleton, *Israeli Women*, pp. 91-111

Recommended:

Theodore H. Freidgut, 'Jews, Violence, and the Russian Revolutionary Movement', in P. Y. Medding (ed.), *Jews and Violence: Images, Ideologies, Realities*, *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, 18 (2002), pp. 43-58

Anthony D. Smith, "Sacred Territories and National Conflict," in E. Karsh, (ed.), *Israel: The First Hundred Years, Israel's Transition from Community to State*, Vol. 1, p. 13-31.

Yael Zrubavel, "The Mythological Sabra and Jewish Past: Trauma, Memory and Contested Identities," *Israel Studies* 7, 2, p. 115-144.

7. Time to Conclude? (Partial) Summary

Emergency Evacuation

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. Should an emergency occur, our class would assemble at the Social Sciences Food Court. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>