

Representations of masculinity in Israeli culture

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Among its many pivotal tasks the Zionist movement assumed also the creation of a "new Jew." Unlike the "old Jew," who was perceived as 'feminine,' "weak" and "rootless," the new Jew was to be "strong," "rooted" and "physical." Hebrew culture had a hefty share in the many attempts to create this "new Jewish" type.

This perception of "hegemonic Zionist masculinity" has been gradually subverted in the past few years, and the cultural discourse in Israel has taken on a critical position, with focus on the price the new type of Jew has exacted, on other possible masculinities, and on the various forms of oppression embedded in that monolithic view.

The course will address representations of hegemonic masculinity in Hebrew literature and Israeli cinema, and possibilities of forming "other masculinities." As we delve into theoretical works on masculinity in general, and Jewish and Israeli masculinities in particular, we will examine texts from different periods that deal with various issues related to the formation of New Hebrew masculinity. We will examine the tension between the "old Jew"--the "feminine man"--and the "new Jew," the masculine options this tension generated, and the attempts to undermine them.

Course requirements

- Attendance and participation (10%)
- Written commentary on the weekly readings (20%)
- Two five-page papers (35% each)

Students should bring to class their own area and theoretical interests and are strongly encouraged to write the final paper on cases other than that of Modern Hebrew culture.

Course program

Introduction: theoretical research on masculinity, its developments and trends

Elisabeth Badinter, **XY ON MASCULINE IDENTITY**, (Translated by Lydia Davis), Columbia University Press, New York 1995

R. W. Connel, **Masculinities**, Polity Press, Cambridge 1995.

George L. Mosse, **The Image of Man: The Creation of Modern Masculinity**, Oxford University Press, New York Oxford 1996.

David D. Gilmore **Manhood in the Making**, Yale University Press, New Haven & London 1990.

Gender reversals and criticism of Jewish society

Weininger, Otto, Sex & character, New York : AMS Press, 1975

S.Y. Abramovitsch (Mendele Moykher Sforim), Benjamin the Third, ***Tales of Mendele*** the Book Peddler; introduction by Dan Miron, New York : Schocken Books, 1996

Biale, David. Eros and the Jews, Basic Books, 1992. pp 149-203

Navigating masculinity, Judaism and Zionism

Boyarin Daniel, Unheroic Conduct: The Rise of Heterosexuality and the Invention of the Jewish Man, (University of California Press, 1997)

Weiss, Meira, The chosen body : the politics of the body in Israeli society, Stanford University Press, 2002

A Zionist revolution and a masculine revolution

Theodor Herzl, Altneuland

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Zionism/altneulandtoc.html>

Brenner Yosef Chaim, *nerves*, in: Alan Lelchuk and Gershon Shaked (editors) ***Eight great Hebrew short novels***, New York : New American Library, c1983.

The Tashach (1948) generation: being born or becoming a man; the new Zionist masculinity

Larski Helmar, *Tomorrow is a wonderful day*, 1948 (film)

Yosef milo, *He Walked through the Fields*, 1967 (film)

Oz Almog, *The Sabra: The Creation of the New Jew*, University of California 2000

Levi Ram, *Khirbet Khizeh*, 1978 (film)

Mikhal Dekel, *Citizenship and Sacrifice: The Tragic Scheme of Moshe Shamir's He Walked through the Fields*, *Jewish Social Studies* Vol. 18, No. 3, (Spring/Summer 2012), pp. 197-211

Horak, Jan-Christopher, *Helmar Lerski in Israel, Israeli Cinema; Identities in Motion*. Edited by Miri Talmon and Yaron Peleg. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2011. 16-29

Soldier and poet: masculinity, nationalism and soldiers

George L. Mosse , *Fallen Soldiers: Reshaping the Memory of the World Wars*, oxford 1990

Kaplan, Danny, *Commemorating a suspended death : missing soldiers and national solidarity in Israel*, *American Ethnologist* 35,3 (2008) 413-427

Renen shor, *late summer blues*, 1987 (film)

Dayan Assi, *Life According to Agfa*, 1993 (film)

Folman Ari, *Waltz with Bashir* (2008)(film)

Queer Masculinities and nationality

The Men We Loved: Male Friendship and Nationalism in Israeli Culture, by Danny Kaplan. New York: Berghahn Books, 2006

Raz Yosef, *Beyond Flesh: Queer Masculinities and Nationalism in Israeli Cinema*

Fox Eitan, *After* (1990) (film)

Guttman Amos *Amazing Grace* (1992)(film)

Mizrahi (Sephardi) masculinity

Chetrit, Sami Shalom, Intra-Jewish conflict in Israel : white Jews, black Jews, London ; New York : Routledge, 2010.

Menahem Golan, Kazablan, 1974 (film)

Israeli Arab masculinity

Arab Labor, TV series, 2007

Monterescu Daniel, Masculinity as a Relational Mode: Palestinian Gender Ideologies and Working Class Boundaries, in: Sandy Sufian and Mark LeVine (ed) "Reapproaching Borders" Rowman and Littlefield 2007

Masculinity and immigration

Moshe yohananov, Labor (film)

Bazi Gete, **Red Leaves** 2014 (film)

Bui, Hoan; Morash, Merry, Immigration, Masculinity, and Intimate Partner Violence From the Standpoint of Domestic Violence Service Providers and Vietnamese-Origin Women, Feminist Criminology, 07/2008, Volume 3, Issue 3

Religion and masculinity

Yehonatan Indurski, Ponivitz time 2012 (film)

Shtisel (TV series)

David Volach, My father my lord, 2007 (film)

Hakak, Yohai, Young men in Israeli Haredi yeshiva education : the scholars' enclave in unrest
Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2012

Other Alternatives: The Jewish American option

Biale, David, The body and sexuality in American Jewish culture, The Cambridge Companion to American Judaism (2005) 253-27