

KULTRANS International Seminar 'Homelands', 3-4 June, Oslo

Participant Biographies

Gish Amit (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)

Gish Amit is a PhD student and a lecturer in the Hebrew Literature Department at Ben-Gurion University. His work is an inquiry into the history of the Jewish National and University library, in the context of Israeli nation-building and the development of Israeli culture. The dissertation focuses on three affairs: the transfer to Israel of Holocaust victims' books, the collection of Palestinian libraries during the 1948 War and the appropriation by the state of books that had belonged to Jewish immigrants from Yemen.

Illa Ben Porat (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)

Illa Ben-Porat has a BA in General History from Tel Aviv University and an MA in Education from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). At present she is a PhD student at the Department of Education at BGU. Illa's doctorate deals with the construction of national identity among immigrants who arrived to Israel from the Former Soviet Union.

Annika Bøstein Myhr (University of Oslo, Norway)

Annika Bøstein Myhr is a Ph.D. student within the interdisciplinary research project Language, Culture and Identity in Migrant Narratives (SKI), University of Oslo (UiO). Myhr has a MA in Russian Studies and Comparative literature from UiO and the University of Bergen (UiB). She also studied Russian at the Irkutsk State University.

Anastasia Christou (University of Sussex, England)

Anastasia Christou is currently Tutorial Fellow in Cultural Geography and previously Research Fellow of the three year AHRC funded project "Cultural Geographies of Counter-Diasporic Migration: The Second Generation Returns 'Home'" under the Diasporas, Migration and Identities Programme affiliated with the Sussex Centre for Migration Research of the University of Sussex.

Sarah Gelbard (Carleton University, Canada)

Sarah Gelbard, M.Arch., MRAIC, is an independent architecture researcher and theorist and sessional instructor at the Azrieli School of Architecture + Urbanism at Carleton University. Her primary research interests are an interdisciplinary examination of Jewish philosophy, traditions, and history and their intersection with architectural theories of place-making. You can her work at her website, <http://gelbard.ca/>.

Marius Hjelle (University College of Finnmark, Norway)

Marius Hjelle holds a Cand. Phil. degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies from the University of Bergen (UiB) and has studied Spanish, Literature and Film Studies at universities in Madrid, Barcelona and California. Since 2006 he has spent much of his time in Cuba – two years of teaching there and frequent visits.

Sheila Khan (NTNU, Trondheim, Norway)

Sheila Khan is Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, Manchester University and the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra. She received her PhD from the University of Warwick, Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, did her MA degree at ISCTE, Lisbon, and finished her first degree at University of Minho, in Portugal. Her research interests include: postcolonialism (Mozambique and Portugal), African Mozambican immigrants in Portugal, history and literature of Mozambique, life and identity narratives, memory, exile, autobiography, documentary, and the sociology of literature applied to social sciences. She is the author of *Imigrantes Africanos Moçambicanos: Narrativa de Imigração e de Identidade e Estratégias de Aculturação em Portugal e na Inglaterra* (Lisboa: Edições Colibri, 2009).

Heather Levy (West Connecticut State University, United States)

Heather Levy teaches 20th Century British and American Literature in the graduate and undergraduate English departments at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut. She is an avid aviator and greyhound advocate.

Suren Manukyan (Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute, Armenia)

Suren Manukyan (PhD) is the Deputy Director of Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute in Yerevan, Armenia. He is also Lecturer of History and Oriental Studies at the Yerevan State University, Armenia and Lecturer in International Relations at Gladzor University, Armenia. He is the author of more than twenty scientific articles and his research interests include genocide; oriental studies; historical memory, migration, diaspora and Identity; and the Armenian Diaspora in the Middle East.

Aino Rinhaug (University of Oslo, Norway)

Aino Rinhaug is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Literature, Area Studies and European Languages (ILOS) at the University of Oslo (UiO) and is presently Visiting Fellow at the University of London. Her areas of research include comparative literature and cultural studies, including family theories and subjectivity theories; identity politics; bodies politic and aesthetics; diaspora and adoption studies; transnational cinema; food and literature; and cognitive poetics. She is currently writing a book on Fernando Pessoa and the “thinking body”.

Chris Rowland (University of Oslo, Norway)

Irishman Chris Rowland has an MA in Peace and Conflict Studies and a BA (Hons) in International Politics, both from the University of Ulster at Magee, Derry, Northern Ireland. Aside from his work at KULTRANS, Chris is completing a PhD in diaspora-homeland migration at the University of Ulster's Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages. His research interests focus on but are not limited to ethnicity, ethnic conflict, diaspora-homeland relations, citizenship law and nationality, ideals of belonging, and migration. At KULTRANS, Chris works on a Norwegian Research Council-funded project ('A Right of Return? Ethnic Return Migration Policy, Practice and Consequence in Contemporary Europe') – a first-of-its kind theoretical model of ethnic return migration, focusing on its political and social causes, conflicts and consequences.

