

## **The State and the Sex Industry – March 7-8, 2022**

### **Monday (morning session) March 7, 2022**

9.45 Gathering and Welcome

10.00 - 10.45 Opening lecture: **Prof. Shulamit Almog**, President's Advisor on Gender Equity, Haifa University

#### **MeToo and Prostitution?**

10.45 - 12.00 **The Role of Legislation in Combating the Sex Industry**, Moderator: Dr. Eti Boehm-Tabib

**MK Aida Touma-Suleiman, MK Michal Rozin, MK Merav Ben Ari**

Journalists: **Ms. Shahaf Shapira and Mr. Yehuda Shohat**

**Prof. Emerita Henriette Dahan Kalev**, Ben-Gurion University, founder of the Gender Studies Program

#### **Sex and Money – The Political and Social Status of Prostitution**

Prostitution is a phenomenon that connects sex and money. It has diverse historical and cultural aspects, however it is not the only phenomenon in which sex and money are connected. Arranged marriages also include a formal connection between sexuality and money. The lecture examines this connection, which reveals the role of the state in establishing this axis. The state's control of sex and sexuality is created in a process aimed at drawing boundaries and demarcation lines between "good", legitimate and moral sexuality, and "bad" sexuality which is considered immoral. "Good" sexuality will be accepted by the state when the sex-money relationship is conducted under state oversight and according to the legal arrangements which its subjects, its citizens, take upon themselves. "Bad" sexuality is that which is connected to money, but not in legal and legitimate frameworks, and which the state does not control. These constitute political aspects of the relationship between sex and money.

The political aspect of prostitution emerges from oversight and institutionalization of government institutions, as well as the law, the police and education institutions, among others. **Oversight and institutionalization** of the prostitution phenomenon, in its varied forms, have always existed, although they were at times contradictory. Oversight aims to place prostitution under the auspices of the law and to institutionalize it (Daor, 1990; Dean Jones, 2005; Ostinova, 2005). However, oversight sometimes entailed outlawing prostitution and prohibiting its institutionalization (Daor, 1990; Peleg, 2005). In contrast, the practice of women (and men) engaging in prostitution concerned law and order institutions and was overseen regardless of whether it was legal (Roberts, 2006). The oversight components include direct control or oversight and policing through legislation (Daor, 1990; Dean Jones, 2005; Ostinova, 2005; Peleg, 2005), medicine (Roberts, 2006), forced confinement in hospitals (ibid, ibid); punishment by the police and the legal system and a criminal record (Levenkorn & Dahan, 2003), persecution, restriction to a certain space (Daor, 1990; Ostinova, 2005), labeled by dress and other external features (Daor, 1990),

removing the children of a woman in prostitution and denying her the right to motherhood (Roberts, 2006). This in addition to the obvious physical and sexual violence on the part of the legal authorities (Braunmiller, 1980; Roberts, 2006) mainly the police, in addition to violence to which women in prostitution are exposed from customers and pimps (Braunmiller, 1980;(Zomer, 2000).

An historical perspective reveals covert aspects which establish the connection between sexuality and the political order. This is found in myths (Douglas, 2004) and in religious beliefs (Abarbanel, 1994; Ezrahi & Gafni, 2005; Feig-Vishnia, 2005; Gruber, 2005; Kristeva, 1997), and is used by the state to justify the phenomenon of prostitution, so much so that at times it would appear that the state functions as a pimp.

The lecture focuses on examining the role of the state in creating the sex-money connection, and the way in which the distinction between “good” sexuality and “bad” sexuality is sometimes clearly in view and at times blurred. This differentiation between “good” and “bad” sexuality plays a major role in the emergence of prostitution, and in effect contains one of the drivers of the prostitution economy. The study shows connections between sex and money as they are related to the sanctity of the family (Engels, 1884), as well as the dynamic of the sex-money axis in the twentieth century in light of the development of romanticism, and finally the weakening power of the state in light of globalization processes and the growing power of international forces in managing the relationship between sex and money. Israel will be presented as another illustration the arguments presented in the study.

**Shahaf Shapira**, journalist in the magazine Liberal, an activist for women’s and social welfare causes

My name is **Shahaf**, a 26-year-old journalist, post-traumatic after years of hell, from a childhood in an unprotected home to life on the street at the age of 13, who was transferred between social welfare institutions, I drifted in the state’s backyard. My pleas to recognize my father as a violent man and to take action in the family and protect my siblings instead of breaking me, nobody heard. I tried to fight but the system attacked me until I had no choice, 12 pills a day and downcast eyes were supposedly the victorious moment of the system in a closed institution to which I was exiled for year. However, there I also knew that I would never forget the painful look of helplessness in facing the system, and my knowledge that I would return in order to rescue. Two good female friends from that period fell to street prostitution, one of them, Mushka, whose story strongly impacted me, was my good friend in the social services institutions (youth care and supervision institutions). An amazing young woman who was sexually abused in the family and routed through the system for years until she reached street prostitution. During the years in which she engaged in street prostitution she did not speak to me and was very ashamed of her situation. She also did not let anyone help her. She suffered a brutal gang rape at the infamous Allenby 99 club and fell further down to the gates of hell, died of an overdose, and according to reports of women in the area, pedestrians walked by and it took almost one full day until the police were called. Her death was partially recognized in an article of the journalist Vered Levi in the newspaper Haaretz, but I felt that with her death a great cry was born in me that would never be silenced, and that I would help sisters in situations such as hers to receive from the state safety and the right to protection. Over the years this led me to write my investigative article in the magazine Liberal about the condition of prostitution in

Israel and the unbearable ease with which the situation could have been addressed if the system had wanted to do so. After the article I was invited by the Knesset to speak to the Committee on the Status of Women, as well to the Bank of Israel which initiated a new project to track the transfer of illegal money and allocate the money to rehabilitation. I also work with MK Ibtisam Mara'ana in order to extend the law regarding the elimination of prostitution.

**MK Aida Touma-Sleiman** (Hadash, the Joint List), is the Chairperson of the Knesset committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality. Before her election to the Knesset in 2015 she served as the Director General of the Women Against Violence organization which she founded, and established the first shelters for women in Arab society. Touma-Suleiman was the first woman to serve as a member of the High Follow-Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel.

**MK Michal Rozin** Chairperson of the Meretz party. In 2008 Rozin was appointed to serve as Executive Director of the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel. She was elected to the Knesset for the first time in the 19<sup>th</sup> Knesset, representing the Meretz party. During her various Knesset terms Rozin sponsored several laws regarding the rights of sexual assault victims. In the current Knesset she is sponsoring an amendment to the Physicians Ordinance to suspend the license of a physician convicted of a sexual offense immediately upon conviction, as well as the law for forfeiture of pimping money and a law to protect against the disclosure of mental health records to the prosecution, the offender and their lawyer in sex offense cases.

**MK Ibtisam Mara'ana** Chairperson of the Foreign Workers Committee, Labor Party. Ibtisam Mara'ana, born in 1975, is a Labor party Knesset member. She chairs the Special Committee on Foreign Workers and is a substitute member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Mara'ana advances human rights issues and acts to help the Arab-Israeli LGBT community and statusless Palestinian LGBT persons, women in prostitution, female victims of violence, foreign workers and their employers. She also promotes Israeli culture.

- Mara'ana was born in Fureidis to a Muslim family, and became a screenwriter, director, film and television producer and media figure. Her main cinematic work is comprised of documentary films in which she showcases the internal discourse in Arab society in Israel and presents the struggle of Israeli Arabs who live as a minority. Her most recent movie, "Write down, I Am an Arab", is a film about the national Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. Her movies have earned international recognition and were awarded prizes. She served as a judge in numerous film festivals and is an Open University honorary fellow.
- Mara'ana created the Arabic version of the documentary series "Excuse Me, I have a Question". The episode about the Arab LGBT community broke years of silence in Arab society. Additional episodes dealt in women whose daughters were murdered, organ donations and divorce. Mara'ana is the first MK to receive an award from the Israeli Academy of Television for her direction of this series.
- Alongside her career Mara'ana has been involved in a range of social activities over the years. In January 2021, after Merav Michaeli's election as Chairperson of the Labor Party, Mara'ana decided to participate in the party primaries. At the end of a

48-hour lightning speed race conducted mainly on social media she mobilized thousands of supporters and secured the 7<sup>th</sup> place in the party's list for the elections. She became a Knesset member after the party won seven mandates.

- As an MK Mara'ana brings a new voice: a Muslim, liberal, secular woman who expresses the diverse range of views and voices in Arab society, which up until now were not represented in the Knesset. Her main goal is to advance human rights and to act to further weakened populations. She fights against human trafficking in Israel, and the Knesset committee she chairs serves as a key forum for the fight against this phenomenon. The bill proposal she sponsored - an alternative to incarceration for pregnant women and mothers - was the first bill proposed by the Labor Party to be approved by the 24<sup>th</sup> Knesset. Since then she has proposed additional bills which have been legislated, most of them to benefit weakened women.
- Mara'ana's flagship project is the establishment of the first emergency overnight center for Arab LGBT youth and young people that will open soon in a mixed city in northern Israel. She is also promoting humanitarian solutions for Palestinian LGBTs who fled to Israel for fear of their life after being persecuted for their sexual orientation. She acts to enable them to earn a living respectfully until they find a safe haven country.
- Mara'ana is also advancing a series of additional initiatives, among them establishing a lobby for Israeli music, improving employment conditions in the Israeli film and television industry, transportation projects in Arab society, advancement of women in the public sector and improving social and health services.
- Mara'ana lives in Yafo with her spouse Boaz and their daughter. They conduct a binational and bilingual life and believe in love and not in religion.
  
- **MK Merav Ben Ari** is a Yesh Atid party Knesset member, and is the Chairperson of the Internal Security Committee.
  - Between the years 2015-2019 Ben Ari was a member of the 20<sup>th</sup> Knesset on behalf of the Kulanu party and in the elections to the 24<sup>th</sup> Knesset ran and was elected as a Yesh Atid candidate.
  - Served in the IDF in the Education Corps, and in her last position in the army was the Golani Brigade Education Officer.
  - Holds a bachelor's degree in Law and Government and an MBA, both with honors, from the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.
  - Served as Chairperson of the Student Union at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, and was the first women to fill this position.
  - In 2006 she founded the Derech Etgar Center in Netanya. In 2008 she established a parallel center in Herzliya, Derech HaGalim Center, on behalf of the Rashi Foundation Tafnit Association for Change in Education, managing both for ten years.
  - In 2013 she was elected to the Tel Aviv city council as a member of the Rov Ha'ir party, and was responsible for the "Echpat" program for the advancement of children and youth in the city.

- In 2015, towards the elections for the 20<sup>th</sup> Knesset she joined the Kulanu party headed by Moshe Kahlon, was 10<sup>th</sup> place on the party's list of candidates and was elected to the Knesset.
- During her two terms as a Knesset member she has legislated about 15 laws.

12.00 - 12.15 **Coffee Break**

12.15 - 13.30 **Social Mission and Insights of Prostitution Survivors**, Moderator: Ms. Luba Fein

**Ms. Tami Aviguy**, lecturer, artist and prostitution survivor

**They Save Lives that Everyone Gave Up On: Why a Help Organization Network is Vital for Combatting Prostitution**

**Ms. Yelena Devine**, lecturer and survivor of striptease clubs

**The Truth about Striptease Clubs, or Why Israel is not Content with Closing Prostitution Venues?**

**Ms. Naama Goldberg**, Director of the Lo Omdot Me'negged NGO (Assisting Women in the Cycle of Prostitution)

13.30 - 13.45 **Lunch Break**

13:45 - 14:30 **The Sex Industry in the Media**, Moderator: Dr. Ibtisam Barakat

**Dr. Odelia Dayan-Gabay**, Sapir Academic College

Dr. Odelia Dayan-Gabay is a researcher and lecturer in the Communication Department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and in the Communication Department at Sapir Academic College. Her studies examine aspects of gender, prostitution, violence against women and marginal groups. Odelia is the founder of the Israeli Center for Gender Consulting, and is a publicist and social activist.

**The Change Triangle – Media, Field and the Establishment: Charting the Historical Path of the Prohibition of Consumption of Prostitution Services Act**

The lecture is based on a comprehensive analysis of 1,471 media texts about prostitution over an extensive period of eleven years (2008 to 2018), which aimed to examine how the prostitution phenomenon, a social phenomenon with a distinct gender dimension on the margins of society, along with morality and the public, media and government debate, shifted from the margins to the center through coherent activity on three different fronts, with the media arena serving as its mainstay.

Observing social phenomena through the media lens is significant in identifying language as a medium of power. As such, the lecture focuses on the changing language of the media over time, demonstrating the existence of a mutual relationship between media, the field and the establishment. The analysis shows how they develop together while influencing each other. However, within this dynamic, language, which by nature shapes thinking and is

the quintessence of the media, drives public consciousness. In other words, the language which the media chooses to describe the prostitution phenomenon and its figures in effect offers one interpretation, among others, in understanding the phenomenon of prostitution.

The lecture proceeds to reveal fascinating and innovative data as it maps the media discourse on the topic. Among the data we will address is the 170% increase in coverage of this topic over the years in traditional online media (Haaretz, ynet, Walla). A more focused examination identifies a constant and moderate increasing trend, up until the shift that occurred in 2016, reflected in the significant 64% growth in coverage between 2016 and 2017 in the traditional media. There was also a 417% growth in the number of women covering the topic. How can these data be explained? In this lecture we will examine and present this and other data.

**Dr. Yael Munk**, The Open University.

Dr. Yael Munk is a senior lecturer in cinema at the Open University. Her areas of specialization are film and gender, with an emphasis on Israeli cinema. She has published numerous articles on the topic in Hebrew, English, French and German. She also published two books on the topic through the Open University of Israel Press – *Exiled in Their Borders: Israeli Cinema at the Turn of the Century* (2012) and *Looking Back: A Reviewed History of Israeli Cinema* (2015). An anthology she edited together with Dr. Itay Harlap and Dr. Orna Lavi-Flint will be published shortly by the Tel Aviv University Press – *Fabrication: The Drama of Israeli Television*. Dr. Munk has also published numerous articles on these topics in Israel and abroad and is currently completing a book in English titled *On the Margins of History: Israeli Women Filmmakers in Contemporary Israeli Cinema*, about the contribution of Israeli women directors to the changed image of women in Israeli cinema.

### **Inventing a Feminine Cinematic View of Women in Prostitution**

The lecture will examine the ways in which Israeli cinema chose to deal with women in prostitution over the past fifty years, from the romantic and voyeuristic image adopted from Hollywood's dream industry to the realistic and painful image inspired by the film of the Belgian director Chantal Akerman: *Jeanne Dielman, 23, quai du commerce, 1080 Bruxelles* (1975). The lecture will survey the various stages of the cinematic image of women in prostitution in Israel over the years, until reaching the evenhanded and compassionate view reflected in the Keren Yedaya's award winning film *Or* (2004).

14.30 -15.45 **Commercialization of Sexuality in the Digital Age**, Moderator: Dr. Michal Dolev-Cohen

**Ms. Hadar Lahav**, researcher of sex offenses and an expert on online protection  
**Inside the Minds of Sex Offenders on Social Media**

Social media makes up a huge share of the interactions of young people with their friends in school, the neighborhood and the youth movement. However, it also plays a significant role in forging new relationships through shared online groups, which young people perceive as authentic social relationships which can lead to personal, intimate and even sexual conversations.

Virtual rape can occur when an offender pressures the victim to perform the sexual act on themselves. In most cases the cooperation is not the result of blackmail threats or authority relations, but rather the relationship which the perpetrator established with their victim as part of a meticulous and calculated process called grooming. Academic literature found the thought, pre-planning and ability to delay gratification to be typical of online sex offenders. In general, these offenders are characterized by motives, typologies, thinking schemes and unique modus operandi which distinguish them from other sex offenders.

What are the unique characteristics of online sex offenders? What are the life circumstances and typical personality characteristics which lead them to use the internet as an arena for perpetrating their offense? Studies examining the typology and distorted perceptions of online sex offenders found that they have a lesser tendency to exhibit an antisocial personality disorder and even view pedophile acts as serious offenses. If so, how do they justify their own behavior and consistently continue to perpetrate the offense? And how in fact do they succeed in creating a relationship of trust, cooperation and love on the part of their victims?

Considering the overall traits and characteristics of sex offenders in the online space, which to a large extent differ from those of sex offenders in the physical space, what role does the internet play in their offenses? Does access to an unlimited arsenal of victims serve as a risk factor/trigger for perpetrating these offenses among “normative” individuals? Or perhaps the ease of making contact with young people and bringing them to realize the offender’s sexual fantasies serves as a catalyst for the inevitable perpetration among those disposed to sexual delinquency?

**Mr. Moshe Bar-Natan Hajaj**, expert consultant on LGBT issues.

Moshe is a professional gay man, and has filled several key positions in LGBT community organizations, among them Acting Director of Hoshen – the LGBT community education and information organization, establishing and managing the cyberbullying program in the Aguda – the Israeli National LGBT Task Force and a counselor at Beit-Dror – a hostel for LGBT at-risk youth. Moshe holds a B.A. in Criminology and Judaism and an M.A. in Gender Studies from Bar-Ilan University. His master’s thesis was about recreational spaces as community creators in homosexual culture. Moshe is the founder and owner of DNI360 and is involved in multi-sector diversity and inclusion of the LGBT community.

## **Shame and Harm on the Internet among the LGBT Community**

The LGBT community has undergone numerous changes in recent years. We are witnessing advancement of the community, with budgets allocated to the community and an extensive social discourse regarding LGBT parenthood. Nonetheless, Israel is a traditional society with conservative forces acting to normalize the family unit as a heteronormative family unit.

In the social discourse, and despite community organizations, LGBT youth find themselves in the eye of this social storm. They receive double messages - messages of liberal freedom on the one hand - the ability of every individual to realize themselves as they choose, while on the other hand the discourse about gender and sexual attraction forces them to address their difference should they choose to come out of the closet, thus making them targets of violence and unacceptance.

This leaves them to search for answers online. Some of this search for answers is conducted using relatively supervised means, among them IGY (Israel Gay Youth), youth forums, Instagram and TikTok. At the same time, the search for answers in an unmediated arena - stemming from the fear of “coming out of the closet” – leads the same youth to search for answers through dubious means, which may expose them to dangers such as prostitution or support, and even victims of blackmail based on sexual or gender identity. Additional dangers include violence and actual mortal danger on social media by “gatekeepers” hailing from borderline populations of the LGBT individual.

Through case studies we will learn about this complexity and about the tangible danger facing LGBT youth and young people in a world that conveys double messages, as well as the internet which enables “anonymous” exposure without the individual understanding the entailed dangers.

### **Ms. Yahav Erez, Task Force on Human Trafficking & Prostitution**

Yahav Erez is the spokesperson and media manager of the Task Force on Human Trafficking & Prostitution. She holds a B.A. in Communication and Media Studies from Sapir Academic College and an M.A. in Science, Technology and Society (STS) from Bar-Ilan University.

## **Sex Abuse Industries on Social Media**

### **"OnlyFans": The Quiet Pimp**

OnlyFans: OnlyFans is an internet content subscription service in which content creators can earn money from users who subscribe to their content - the "fans". The website is popular in the pornography field, but also hosts content creators that are not of a sexual nature. The platform enables content creators to receive direct funding from their fans based on a fixed monthly payment, as well as from tips or personal requests. “OnlyFans” was launched in 2016 as a website for social media artists that will enable their followers to register to see clips and photos for a monthly fee. Very quickly it became a website that mainly serves pornography content creators, and attracted many young women to open an account due to the high demand created and the potential profit which could be earned without having to leave the house. Among the website features, such as an automatic monthly payment deposited directly into the bank account, its legality and verification of the users’ age, and the fact that the quantity and nature of the content are at the exclusive discretion of the creator - normalized and legitimized it among young people more than any other sex industry platform to date. Contrary to classic pornography on porno websites, OnlyFans shook off the shame element, and the discourse around it is saturated with its perception as legitimate and “clean” of the dangers of the sex industry. The normalizing discourse about the website is maintained by networks such as TikTok, in which clips with millions of views can be found, accompanied by reactions which exalt the website and encourage young women to open an account of their own on the platform. The lecture will focus on cracking the normalized perception of the website and introducing into the conversation among young people both critical thinking and casting doubt about the platform. The Task Force on Human Trafficking & Prostitution maintains that the changing normalizing discourse towards the sex industry in Israel must be stepped up. Arguments regarding such phenomena as a gateway drug are unconvincing, and there is a need to further uncover the true nature of the platform so that the public understands that this is pornography for all intents and purposes, with all its ramifications.

15.45 - 16.00 **Coffee Break**

**Monday (afternoon session)**

16.00 -18.15 **The Impact and Implications of Pornography**

16.00 -16.45 Keynote Speaker: **Gail Dines**, Professor Emerita of Sociology and Women's Studies, Founder & President of Culture Reframed

**Growing Up in a Porn Culture: How Porn Undermines Healthy Social, Emotional, and Cognitive Development in Young People**

16.45-18.15 Moderator: **Prof. Gail Dines**

In light of contemporary research on the harms of porn, it is crucial that experts and professionals tasked with developing healthy and resilient youth both understand the multiple social, emotional, and cognitive harms of pornography, and work to develop strategies to counter the misogynist messages, ideologies, and tropes that are encoded in the images. Towards this end this workshop will provide: (1) content analysis and deconstruction of mainstream pornography and hypersexualized images; (2) a detailed account of peer-reviewed literature on the harms of pornography on young people, and (3) a nuanced discussion of the way women are harmed in the production, distribution, and consumption of pornography.

The workshop will further explore the ways in which social media platforms targeted to youth intersect with the porn industry, and how these platforms drive children to mainstream porn sites. The porn industry, always hunting for new markets, looks to cash in on the popularity of Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok. To keep porn under wraps it is often hidden under hashtags and emojis that appear innocuous to the untrained eye, but are used as secret code to tag and search for particular types of porn.

**Dr. Matthew Ezzell**, Professor of Sociology, James Madison University

**Getting our Bearings: Reviewing the Reach, Realities, and Ramifications of Pornography**

Drawing on his research team's work over the last decade, Dr. Ezzell will highlight the patterns they uncovered surrounding young men and women's pornography exposure and consumption in the United States. He will discuss the significant associations and possible implications these patterns have for sexual health, sexual enjoyment and sexual violence.

**Dr. Jennifer Johnson**, Professor and Chair of Sociology, Virginia Tech

**Digital Pornography and Everyday Life**

We no longer face a pornographic landscape that is restrictive, hidden and controllable by conventional moral and regulatory frameworks. Instead, digital pornography is both hyper accessible and hyper sexualized, comprising an estimated 4-20% of all digital media. The digital data generated through online interactions with this massive amount of content has opened new windows into an industry that has radically reshaped sexual practices and sexual health, yet itself operates in the shadows of algorithms and bots. Sociology as a critical social science has little to say about the material realities of this ubiquitous sexual script, ceding important intellectual ground to medical/psychological sciences and cultural studies. Understanding the techno-economic structure of the digital pornography industry and its impact on sexuality in our everyday lives requires a rethinking of conventional

theoretical and empirical approaches, which I argue should be led by digital sociology. Digital sociology is a critical approach to studying the digital environment that focuses on ways in which digital media (re)produce institutions, structures, and systems of inequality as well as (re)shapes human relationships and personal identities. By focusing on the production, distribution, and consumption of digital pornography using new forms of digital data would represent a paradigm adjustment to typical approaches to questions of the who, what, when, and where of pornography as well as the impact of types of content across particularized groups. Given that digital pornography is now the dominant normative framework for sexuality for adolescents and adults alike, it is essential that sociology, a discipline grounded in critical theory and diverse methodologies, reengage with the material and structural realities of this powerful form of sexual education.

**Dr. Amanda Sanchez:** Program Coordinator - Culture Reframed  
**The Public Health Response to the Harms of Pornography: The Culture Reframed Approach**

18.15 - 18.30 **Coffee Break**

18.30 -20.00 **“A Whore Like Me”**, screening of the film and a discussion with the director, **Ms. Yael Shachar**

**Yael Shachar**, an award winning artist, engages in photography and in documentary cinema. Graduated with honors from the Musrara School of Photography in Jerusalem (2001). Shachar, exhibited in solo exhibitions in Israel as well as in group exhibitions in Israel and abroad. Her second film, “A Whore Like Me” won the Ophir Prize and additional awards. In 2010 she showcased her documentary film “Melissa MOM and Me” which won numerous international awards. She is currently working on several new photography projects as well as on an additional documentary film.

**Tuesday (morning session) March 8, 2022**

9.30 -11.00 **The Effect of Pornography on Youth**, Moderator: Prof. Esther Herzog

**Dr. Chen Katchevich Presler**, Bar-Ilan University

Dr. Chen Katchevich Presler studies sexuality in adolescence, Levinsky College of Education and Achva Academic College. She is active in promoting education for beneficial sexuality and the prevention of sexual violence and writes a column on beneficial sexuality in Haaretz Online.

**“What Do I Care About Her, She’s an Actress – Thoughts About the Woman on the Screen as a Dimension of the Adolescent Boy’s Positioning on the Continuum between Adoption and Rejection of the Pornography Discourse**

Alongside the dominant research stream about the negative effects of pornography on youth, an additional research stream has developed in recent years examining the interpretation and meaning youth give to pornography and to themselves as its consumers. By listening and developing a rapport with the world of the adolescent boy we find a group that is not homogeneous in its attitude towards pornography consumption. Examining the

double negotiation, the youth conduct – with the dominant pornography discourse on the one hand, and with the anti-pornography discourses which have also penetrated the central stream on the other hand, their positioning on a continuum between adoption and rejection of the pornography messages can be delineated. The lecture will present the findings of a qualitative study conducted among Israeli, Jewish heterosexual 15-17.5 year old adolescent boys in the secular national school system. Analysis of the findings found three categories of adolescent boys with respect to their dominant positioning on the pornography adoption-rejection continuum – adopter, ambivalent and rejecter. In each of the three categories the study identified the adolescent boys' negotiation with the pornography discourse and with opposing discourses, at varying intensities on various issues, mainly regarding the tension between the instrumental value of pornography as a means of learning and stimulation and its moral aspects. In the lecture I will address the difference between the three groups of adolescent boys with respect to the thought they give to the woman on the screen, as a dimension of their positioning regarding pornography, and I will argue that, alongside the adopting boys who do not attribute any value to the woman on the screen, and even dismiss her humanity, there are boys who express ambivalence about their relationship to her, such that concomitant with their feelings of guilt they find justifications for continuing to watch without thinking about her. There is also the rejecting group, which negotiates with the dominant moral discourse that hampers their consumption of this format.

**Dr. Liat Franco, School of Law, Zefat Academic College**

Dr. Liat Franco (B.A., J.D., L.L.M., Ph.D.) is a member of the School of Law at Zefat Academic College and is a lecturer in the M.A. in law program for non-lawyers at Haifa University. The topic of her PhD dissertation was "Cyberbullying, an Evolving and Changing Phenomenon Among Children and Youth Requiring the Examination of Local and International Laws and their Suitability to Contend with this Phenomenon". Dr. Franco holds a B.A. in Communication and an LL.M degree from UCLA in California, USA. Upon her return to Israel she was employed at the Carmel Academic Center where she coordinated the mentoring course and the databases. In 2013 Dr. Franco was awarded a cyber scholarship from the Ministry of Science and Technology. In 2019 she joined the School of Law at Zefat Academic College where she teaches internet law, education law, and children and youth in the law.

**Childhood in the Internet Space, Part of the Sex Industry**

Even though an amendment to the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law, known as the "Video Law" was passed in 2014, which provides that "publishing a photograph, film or recording of an individual focusing on their sexuality" without their consent constitutes sexual harassment punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment;<sup>1</sup> Even though the main purpose of the Video Law was to deal with youth engagement in the digital space<sup>2</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> See also explanations to the proposed bill for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment, 5772-2013, bill 516.

<sup>2</sup> In the words of Adv. Gael Azriel, who worked at the time in the Ministry of Justice Legal Counsel and Legislation Department and was the coordinator of the Public Committee for Formulation of the Means for

and despite the guidelines of the Office of the State Attorney which states that “there is a real public interest to enforce the video law..., in light of the serious harm of the offense and its far reaching ramifications for the offense victims, and owing to the need to inculcate the criminal prohibition, also among the youth”<sup>3</sup> - according to data of the Child Online Protection Bureau 105 Hotline, 926 inquiries were received by the hotline in June 2021, with the leading category being online sex offenses, and young girls and adolescent girls ages 12-14 comprising 63% of the victims.<sup>4</sup>

A review submitted to the Knesset in August 2021 indicated that 37 indictments for online violence were filed in 2019. Among these indictments, 17 included more than 170 counts of sex offenses perpetrated against 243 female (91%) and male (%) victims<sup>5</sup>.

Thus in effect, sexual offenses against minor girls and adolescent girls are distinctively gender offenses - both at the initial reporting level to the 105 Hotline and at the enforcement level - and as a society we must take it upon ourselves to address this.

### **Ms. Orna Yonai, Bar Ilan University**

Orna Yonai is an educational, marriage and family counsellor, a cognitive-behavioral therapist and a doctoral student in the Gender department at Bar-Ilan University

### **Communication About Sexuality between Parents and their Adolescent Sons and Daughters**

My lecture will present the findings of a study I am conducting under the supervision of Prof. Orly Benjamin regarding parental positioning postures with respect to sexuality silencing: parents that silence sexuality or hardly discuss the topic; parents who break the silence, but do not create a dialogue - what are the barriers of these parents; and the group of parents who violate the silencing and create a dialog with the adolescent.

- I will present the resources which enable the family discourse about sexuality.
- What are the resources of parents who violate sexuality silencing and create an intergenerational discourse about sexuality?
- What are the barriers the hinder parents from violating the silencing of this issue with their children?

### **Adv. Roni Aloni Sadovnik**

### **From the Playboy Verdict to Pornography Overtaking the Lives of Adolescents**

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Protecting the Public from Harmful Publications, Ministry of Justice; See Meeting Protocol No. 33 of the State Control Committee, “Request for the State Comptroller’s Opinion on the Elimination of the Violent Discourse in the Virtual Space as Part of the Special Day Marking this Issue in the Knesset”, 20<sup>th</sup> Knesset, p. 15 (October 13, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> “Investigation and prosecution for offenses of publishing photographs, recordings or films of an individual, of a sexual nature, without their agreement”, **State Attorney Guidelines** 2.29, 7 (2017).  
<https://www.justice.gov.il/Units/StateAttorney/Guidelines/02.29.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Concentration of 105 Hotline data for July 2021.  
[https://www.gov.il/he/departments/publications/reports/105\\_report\\_july\\_2021](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/publications/reports/105_report_july_2021)

<sup>5</sup> Yiska Manikandam-Givon, Online Violence Against Minors during the Coronavirus Crisis, Research and Information Center, Israel Knesset, August 3, 2021  
[https://fs.knesset.gov.il/globaldocs/MMM/846f20ae-294f-eb11-811a-00155d0af32a/2\\_846f20ae-294f-eb11-811a-00155d0af32a\\_11\\_18145.pdf](https://fs.knesset.gov.il/globaldocs/MMM/846f20ae-294f-eb11-811a-00155d0af32a/2_846f20ae-294f-eb11-811a-00155d0af32a_11_18145.pdf)

For years, pornography was a product that every adult could consume, whether in movie theaters, kiosks or video stores and the like, with the sale of these products or entrance to these places limited in advance to age 18 and above.

Indeed, we all grew up on movies such as "Eskimo Limon" or 'Dizengoff 99', and the exposure to pornographic content was possible, but entailed a difficult journey to obtain access to this content, a real adventure.

This Garden of Eden of adolescent and child innocence in Israel went up in the flames of purgatory and collapsed when the Supreme Court of Israel sitting as the High Court of Justice issued its ruling in case 5432-03, S.H.I.N - The Israeli Movement for Equal Representation of Women and Others v. The Council for Cable and Satellite Broadcasting.

An expanded panel of Supreme Court judges in Israel deliberated and split hairs regarding the required balance between freedom of expression and harm to women in constructing their objectified image in broadcasts that were to be broadcast in every home, on television - and this without even a word in the ruling about the "best interest of the child principle" not to growing up in an environment saturated with pornography, the right of children to grow up without being exposed at an early age to hard pornography at all hours of the day and on every screen.

Why does the right of children to an innocent childhood undefiled by sexual violence, women's objectification and pornography, bow to "freedom of expression"?

The women's organizations petitioned against the approval granted by the Authority for Television and Radio to broadcast erotica and pornography channels on cable television and satellite television.

The petitioners argued, and rightfully so, that the approval violates Section 6y (2) of the Communications Law (Bezeq and Broadcasts), 5742-1982 (hereinafter – the Law), which prohibits broadcasts which have obscenities as is its meaning in the Penal Code, 5737-1977, and particularly broadcasts that "present a person or any of their organs as a readily available object for sexual use". The Authority argued on the other hand that invalidating the channels violates fundamental rights and personal autonomy.

The State and the Authority maintained the approach that these channels are not prohibited under the law, which applies to situations in which a human being is treated as an object or as a tool that lacks personality and a will of their own, and is not intended to prohibit any display of nudity or eroticism in television broadcasts.

Is this indeed the case?

**11.00 - 11.15 Coffee Break**

**11.15 -12.45 Support Organizations for Women in Prostitution and Prostitution Survivors**, moderator: Ms. Michal Zeevi

**Ms. Naama Zeevi-Rivlin**, Saleet,

**The Challenge in Providing a Continuum of Responses Tailored for Women in Prostitution**

**Ms. Naama Zeevi Rivlin** founded Saleet in 2008 and has served as its Director for 13 years. Saleet is an assistance program for women in prostitution operated by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services and the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality. Over the 13 years since its founding about 3,000 women have received assistance through the range of responses offered by Saleet.

**Saleet** is a pioneering program for women in prostitution established about 13 years ago by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services and operated by the Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality. The range of responses offered by Saleet enables it to reach every woman on the prostitution continuum, and includes tours in prostitution arenas, emergency apartments, an assistance and detection hotline and a day and evening center.

We maintain contact with about 400 women annually, and about 3,000 women have received assistance through the various services offered by Saleet since it was founded.

**Ms. Yael Gur**, Levinsky Clinic, Tel Aviv District Health Office,

### **Barriers to Exiting Prostitution**

**Ms. Yael Gur** is a social worker, group facilitator and women's empowerment social activist. Over the past 19 years Yael has served as the director of the Tel Aviv District Health Office Levinsky Clinic. The clinic treats HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STD), and operates within the framework of the Health Ministry. The clinic is dedicated to promoting health and social services to weakened and at-risk populations, among them men, women and transgender persons in prostitution, drug addicts, homeless persons, sexual assault victims, adolescents, refugees, asylum seekers and persons from the LGBT community. As the clinic director Yael is involved in social and individual processes in realizing the right to respect, health and life. Under her direction the clinic won the Recanati Foundation Award for the Entrepreneur Social Worker in 2006, and the National Medal for Combatting Human Trafficking in 2013. In addition to managing the Levinsky Clinic, over the past three years Yael also serves as the Coordinator in the Health Ministry for implementation of Government Resolution 4462 attached to the Prohibition of the Consumption of Prostitution Act.

**Ms. Lilach Tzur Ben-Moshe**, Turning the Tables,

### **Multi-Disciplinary Assistance to Women on the Prostitution Continuum**

**Ms. Lilach Tzur Ben-Moshe** is the Executive Director and founder of Turning the Tables association, the first organization established to address the vocational rehabilitation and the economic and personal horizon of women on the prostitution continuum. Lilach founded the organization as a personal initiative, when she was a journalist in Maariv and encountered women in prostitution every day on her way to work, at a time when responses in the field were few and limited.

**Ms. Anat Koren**, Hope Center,

### **Hope in the Margins at Hope Center**

**Ms. Anat Koren** is a mother of two, kibbutz member, occupational therapist with a master's degree and a CBT therapist. She initially worked for many years in various departments at the Beer Yaakov Mental Health Center. She was then involved in vocational and social rehabilitation and managed mental health vocational and recreational frameworks. In the past year and half Anat manages the psychosocial field at the Hope Center association,

which operates vocational rehabilitation programs for prostitution survivors, including the KitePride and the Beneficial Employment programs.

Our organization has two programs aimed at integrating prostitution survivors into the workforce.

The first program is KitePride, a brand of bags that is sewed by survivors from parachutes, and the second program is the Beneficial Employment course.

Beneficial Employment is a rehabilitation program for prostitution survivors in need of assistance in integrating into the work world.

The program provides social tools, vocational skills and employment stability for healthy and beneficial integration into society. It operates through small learning groups of up to 11 participants, in addition to individual and group accompaniment by professionals, rehabilitation instructors and employment counselors, in a warm, supportive and non-judgmental atmosphere, enabling the participants to contend with the challenges they face in a safe environment.

The initial learning stage spans 13 weeks and includes daily sessions (5 hours a day, 5 days a week).

The second part of the program, which comprises the main component, includes continued occupational accompaniment for a two year period.

During these two years we continue to meet with the program participants on a weekly basis, accompany them to job interviews, help them with rights realization, and are mainly there for them during the rehabilitation process in order to support and strengthen, and to remind them that they are not alone.

In addition to acquaintance with the association itself, I will discuss the challenges entailed in vocational rehabilitation with persons suffering from post-trauma, addictions, and life on the margins of society out of necessity.

#### **12.45 - 13.15 Lunch Break**

13.15 -14.15 View excerpts from the television series “Female Inmates”, about women with a prostitution past serving time in Neve Tirtza Prison, and a discussion with the creator, **Ms. Oshrit Navarra**.

14.15 - 15.30 **Commercialized Sex in the Visual Arts**, Moderator: Dr. Shahar Marnin-Distenfeld

**Ms. Dana Shalmon**, art therapist

#### **Controlling my Gaze - Photographing an Emotional Experience of Women in the Sex Industry**

In this lecture I present an exhibition shown at the International Photography Festival, PHOTO IS:RAEL, in November 2021 that focused on group work based on the PHOTO:VOICE method. Its outputs constitute a personal and social representation of an experience which the media usually depicts through illustration photographs of women in prostitution. The exhibition’s uniqueness lies in giving an experiential and photographic

voice to women prostitution survivors diagnosed as suffering from complex PTSD, as they photograph their life in prostitution.

We came together on social media and met for a weekly zoom session of photography over a period of 3 months.

The prostitution experience creates a vacuum in the visual narrative, a disruption of the flow of life, a self that is riddled with holes, memory lapses and feelings of helplessness and lack of control. The women's photographs documented moments of dissociation. The camera served as a presence within the dissociation, a phenomenon I call "creative dissociation".

**The emotional processing of the harm suffered is part of the photograph editing process.**

Taking and editing the photographs creates a visual connection to the reality which froze, actively facing a frozen experience, sleepless hours, hyperarousal and regulation difficulty.

Connecting to a reality from the past, which still exists, that harmed and destroyed, together with a developing reality and taking back control of their life, shattering the photographs into fragments of the experience, and mainly a digital change of the atmosphere in the photograph, similar to a change of climate in the home when they feel contained.



Editing the photographs enabled the group to strengthen and support, a group flow, a difficult and painful feeling together with conversation and creativity. The photograph was present in the mental space which dissociated. This created a presence to feel what they did not want to validate, to know, to remember, to recount in words, and to experience empowering pride in photographing the experience.

The result of the many hours of editing reduced self-harm among the women (cutting themselves, alcohol and drugs) and generated a process of regulation and self-calming, through the mobile phone.

We gently touched on the prostitution experience, together.



**Ms. Shira Geffen, playwright, director and screenwriter  
Performance Art and a Book Documenting Prostitution Survivors**

Shira is a children's writer, screenwriter, director and actress. She has written eight children's books, among them "The Heart-Shaped Leaf" which won the Hadassah Prize, and her books have been translated into English, Arabic, Spanish and Italian. She wrote the screenplay for the film "Meduzot" (Jellyfish), which she directed together with Etgar Keret and which won the Golden Camera award at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. It also won two prizes in the Critic's Week – one of the competitions accompanying the main competition: The French Artists' and Writers' Guild "Best Director Award" and the "Young Critics Award". In 2014 Shira wrote and directed the movie Boreg (Self Made) which was shown at the Cannes Film Festival and won the award for Best Screenplay and the award for Best Editing, as well as the AFI Fest's New Auteurs jury prize

15.30 - 16.00 **Break**

**Tuesday (afternoon session) March 8, 2022**

16.00-16.45 **A Dialogue : Prostitution is Violence: A Discussion About the Harmful Nature of the Sex Trade**

**Ms. Rachel Moran** (Ireland), founding member of SPACE International

**Ms. Luba Fein** (Israel), abolitionist, among the leading campaigners for adoption of the Nordic Model in Israel

16.45-17.30 **Dr. Taina Bien-Aimé**: Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW),

**A Plane Ticket for Prostitution: How "Sex Tourists" Fuel the Billion-Dollar Sex Trade**

**Taina Bien-Aimé (Ph.D)**

Taina Bien-Aimé has almost three decades of experience defending the rights of women and girls at the national and global level. She is currently the Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), one of the oldest international organizations dedicated to ending trafficking in women and girls and commercial sexual exploitation as practices of gender-based violence. Prior to this, and for twenty years, Taina was involved with Equality Now, an international human rights organization working to promote the human rights of women and girls, first as a founding Board member and subsequently as its Executive Director for ten years. She also served as Director of Business Affairs/Film Acquisitions at Home Box Office and practiced international corporate law at the Wall Street law firm, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. Taina holds a *Juris Doctor* from New York University School of Law and a degree in Political Science from the University of Geneva/Graduate School of International Studies in Switzerland. She has received several awards for her work and campaigns to uphold the human rights of women and girls globally. She is on the 2021 Forbes' list of '50 over 50' Women Who Have Made a Social Impact.

17.30 -18.15 **Dr. Orit Kamir**, The Israeli Center for Human Dignity

Dr. Orit Kamir is a feminist activist, lecturer on law and gender, proposed the law for the prevention of sexual harassment, and the Director of the Israeli Center for Human Dignity.

**Prostitution and the Fragmentation of Feminism**

18.15 - 20.00 **The Backlash Against the Nordic Model**

**Ms. Luba Fein**

**Who is Afraid of the Nordic Model? A Chronicle of the Backlash Against the Nordic Model in Israel**

**Dr. Melissa Farley**, Executive Director of Prostitution Research & Education

**Sexism, Gender Identity, and Prostitution: 'Trans' Advocacy and 'Sexwork' Advocacy are Political Movements Rooted in Sexual Objectification**

Melissa Farley, Ph.D. is a research and clinical psychologist who has published 50 peer-reviewed articles and two books: *Prostitution, Trafficking & Traumatic Stress* (2004), and *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections* (2007). She co-authored research on prostitution and PTSD in nine countries; research comparing sex buyers to non-sex buyers; and research on the lives of trafficked Native American women. Dr. Farley founded Prostitution Research & Education (PRE) in 1995. PRE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to producing original research, public education and policy consultation on prostitution, pornography, and trafficking. PRE provides a free library of resources at [www.prostitutionresearch.com](http://www.prostitutionresearch.com) and posts regular updates and a survivors' blog. PRE's goal is to abolish prostitution and to offer alternatives to those engaging in it.

**Abstract:** Focusing on women's experiences, Farley discusses the overlap between the gender identity political movement and the prostitution/sexwork advocacy movement. Sexual objectification is at the core of both movements, and both movements harm all women. The definitions of sex and gender have been deliberately blurred. The *possession* of women in pornography, in the sex trade, and in the gender identity movement is discussed.