

“Building bridges between multiply marginalized older adults and mainstream society”

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The Minerva Center on Intersectionality in Ageing (MCIA)
“Building Bridges Between Multiple Marginalized Older Adults
and Mainstream Society”

Annual Report: July 2023 to June 2024

MINERVA
STIFTUNG



Haifa and Frankfurt,

30 June 2024

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Executive Summary

Despite challenges posed by the October 7th War, which delayed the start of the academic year to December, the Center maintained its research momentum and adapted its programs accordingly.

During the past funding year, between July 2023-June 2024, the MCIA continued to actively study the challenges facing marginalized older adults. The Center comprises a robust research team of ten Principal Investigators (six from Israel and four from Germany), along with researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and doctoral candidates.

Key achievements during this period include:

- Organization of significant academic events, including a major conference on "Narrative Gerontology through an Intersectional Lens: Research and Practice", and an exhibition titled "Visual and Narrative Representation of Self Among Aging Women: An Intersectional Perspective"
- Successful research funding initiatives, with several grants secured including a 30,000€ European Research Area of Minerva Centers grant for the symposium "Older women in conflict situations"
- Journal special issues on topics like lifetime abuse and aging with disabilities and extensive publication output in top-tier academic journals, with research covering topics such as elder abuse, financial exploitation, caregiving, and aging with disabilities
- Conducting regular seminars for young researchers, including discussions on methodology, financial exploitation, and caregiving challenges
- Development of the new collaborations with German researchers, particularly strengthening ties with institutions such as the Munich Research Institute for the Economics of Aging and the German Centre of Gerontology
- Implementation of a seed money program supporting research on "Old age and marginalization during times of war," funding multiple innovative projects

The Center has also expanded its community collaborations, working with various organizations to address aging-related issues in different populations during wartime.

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The research team

In accordance with the contract between the Minerva Stiftung Gesellschaft für die Forschung m.b.H. and the University of Haifa, we submit this report covering the Center’s activities for the academic year between July 2023 and June 2024.

The Center is a home to a team of ten PIs (six from Israel and four from Germany).

The Administrative Coordinators were: Liakhovski Victoria (until 04/2024) & Zehavit Salman Meir (04/2024-07/2024), respectively.

The center’s current research team:

PIs:

- Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein, Chair of the Minerva Center on Intersectionality in Aging at the University of Haifa
- Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron, Dean Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences at the University of Haifa
- Prof. Emeritus Zvi Eisikovits, Social Welfare at the University of Haifa
- Prof. Yaacov Bachner, M.A. Program in Gerontology in the School of Public Health at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva
- Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai, Professor of Social Economics, Financial Gerontology and Health Economics, The Max Stern Yezreel Valley College, Israel (until February 2024); University of Haifa, Israel (from March 2024)
- Prof. Tzvi Dwolatzky, RIP; Director of Geriatrics at the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa
- Prof. Sabine Andersen, Social Pedagogy and Family Research at Goethe-University Frankfurt
- Prof. Axel Börsch-Supan, Director, Munich Research Institute for the Economics of Aging and SHARE Analyses (MEA) (<https://www.mpg.de/1040246/social-law-and-social-policy-boersch-supan>)
- Prof. Claudia Vogel, Professor of Sociology and Methods of Quantitative Social Research, Department of Social Work, Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany (<https://www.hs-nb.de/fachbereich-soziale-arbeit-bildung-und-erziehung/ppages/claudia-vogel/>)
- Dr. Laura Romeu Gordo, Scientist, Deputy Research Director in the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA) (<https://www.dza.de/en/about-us/staff/profilpage/romeu-gordo-laura>)

Researchers/research fellows:

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Prof. Sabine Andresen | Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai | Prof. Axel Börsch-Supan | Dr. Laura Romeu Gordo | Prof. Claudia Vogel

- Dr. Ksenya Shulyaev, Social psychologist and researcher at The Cheryl Spencer Institute of Nursing Research, Minerva Center on Intersectionality in Aging, Center of Research & Study of Aging, University of Haifa
- Dr. Offer Edelstein, Lecturer and researcher at the Spitzer Department of Social Work, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- Dr. Hilla Avieli, Senior Lecturer and researcher in the Department of Criminology at Ariel University
- Dr. Raphael Eppler-Hattab, Research fellow, The Minerva Center on Intersectionality in Aging, Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences
- Dr. Alon Zamir, Psychotherapy specialized program at Bar Ilan University
- Dr. Rabab Awad, Pharmacist in several geriatric institutions
- Dr. Rahma Mahamid, Member of the “Regional Research and Development Center – Triangle”, facilitated by the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology

Postdoctoral Fellows

- Dr. Abby King, Postdoctoral Fellow, The Minerva Center on Intersectionality in Ageing University of Haifa

Doctoral candidates:

- Yotam Tolub – "The intersectionality of older adults with disabilities", supervised by Prof. Israel Issi Doron
- Asmaa Msarwa - “Between commitment and abuse: Single women caring for older(?) parents in Arab families - An intergenerational perspective”, supervised by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein
- Nora Gnaim-Mwassi –“The experience of involvement in street prostitution and its meaning among Arab women across their lifespan: An intersectional perspective”, supervised by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein & Dr. Hila Aveli
- Jacob (Kobi) Rozin – “The interrelationship between financial capacity and financial exploitation among the elderly in an era of technological changes: Intersecting view”, supervised by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein, Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai
- Mona Asadi Khatib – “Abuse and neglect against elderly men in the Arab society in Israel: The perspective of the elderly men, their family members and professionals”, supervised by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein
- Reem Nashef-Hamuda – “The characteristics of couple post-retirement relationship as an explanation for personal well-being and couple satisfaction among couples in the Arab society”, supervised by Prof. Dikla Segel-Karpas, Dr. Roi Estline and Prof. Yuval Palgi

Graduate students:

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- Alexandra Halbani – “The experience of older people with lifelong CP with physiotherapeutic encounter and the meaning they contribute to it in this stage of their life”, supervised by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein
- Yohanan Kressel – “The experience of professionals in the Israeli Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority with aging ex-prisoners”, supervised by Prof. Yaacov Bachner & Dr. Hila Avieli
- Eshar Inbar – “The experience of professionals in the field of mental health during their encounter with older adults coping with lifelong mental disability”, supervised by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein

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Activities

1. Periodical seminars (due to the October 7th War – the University’s academic year started in December)

Date	Research Seminar	
	Name of the Lecture	Lecturer
28/12/2023	The Relationships Between Financial Exploitation Vulnerability and Digital Divide Among Older Adults: An Intersectional Perspective	Mr. Jacob (Kobi) Rozin
25/01/2024	1. Old age, poverty and agency: A reconceptualization of resistance to poverty in old age	Dr. Shlomit Weiss-Dagan
	2. Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)	Prof. Zvi Eisikovits
29/02/2024	1. Service for family members taking care of social services departments - "Masa Program"	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein Prof. Yaacov G. Bachner Dr. Offer Emanuel Edelstein Dr. Ksenya Shulyaev
	2. How to publish an article?	Prof. Yaacov G. Bachner
27/06/2024	The relationship between digital literacy, as an indicator of a stable society, and physical functioning among elderly women from ethnic minorities	Dr. Michal Elboim-Gabyzon

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2. Conferences - organization and participation

a. Conference organization

- **Conference “Narrative Gerontology through an intersectional lens: Research and Practice”** on May 29-30, 2024 (University of Haifa, Sephardic Home, Haifa).
The Minerva Center for the Study of Intersectionality in Aging, led by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein, together with the Sephardic Home and CEO Natali Ben, held a two-day conference on May 29-30, 2024. *The first day* opened with a keynote lecture by Prof. Shmotkin titled “There Are No Simple Stories: Life Story as a Decision-Making Arena and Dilemma Between Unity and Multiplicity in Old Age.” The sessions included: empirical studies that dealt with the narrative as a channel for amplifying the voices of marginalized populations in old age; the narrative method as a means of assessment; intervention in old age; and the use of life stories for narrative therapy through theater (US spelling) and drama therapy. *The second day* of the conference focused on narrative care as a means of coping with changing situations in old age, featuring Prof. Amia Lieblich and activities in parallel workshops.
- Exhibition of unique photo-project **“Visual and Narrative Representation of Self Among Aging Women: An Intersectional Perspective,”** On June 3rd, the Minerva Center on Intersectionality in Aging (MCIA) proudly opened an exhibition at the Haifa University Library. This exhibition is the culmination of many months of work on the project funded by the Minerva Foundation and aimed to gain an in-depth understanding of the experiences of older persons living in various forms of intersecting social marginalities, such as immigration, mental illness, poverty, lifelong disabilities, and more. Our research on these women illuminated the idea that their experiences cannot be fragmented. Illustrating such experiences through both oral and visual means - interviews and photographs - may help to make them more palpable. By doing so, we hope to contribute to bringing the insider’s view of intersectionality to public and scholarly attention and empower women who expressed themselves through oral and visual means.

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b. Conference participation (selected):

Date (month/year)	Name of Conference	Place of Conference	Subject of Lecture/Poster	Researchers
July 2023	iHEA World Congress on Health Economics	South Africa	Understanding out-of-pocket spending and financial hardship among patients who succumb to cancer and their caregivers	Prof. Aviad Tur Sinai
July 2023	10th Conference of the European Survey Research Association	Italy	The effect of past and current financial vulnerability on older adults' financial planning horizon & What motivates people to continue working after retirement age?	Prof. Aviad Tur Sinai
September 2023	Congress 2023: "The Major Transformations of Society"	Germany	Elder abuse: An Israeli perspective	Prof. Zvi Eisikovits
September 2023	Age and Care: Aging in a Caring Society? Theories in Conversation	Austria	Later life as a daring experience: Factors associated with older adults' risk perception and care practices	Prof. Yaacov Bachner, Lifshitz R., Nimrod G.
October 2023	Policies and Practices to Keep Older Workers in the Labor Market	Belgium	Drivers of working after official retirement	Prof. Aviad Tur Sinai
October 2023	79th Scientific Congress of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM)	USA	Structural and interpersonal influences on reproductive health behaviors among men who have sex with men in Israel	Prof. Yaacov Bachner, Reckhow J., Rosenthal A.
November 2023	The 16th European Public Health Conference	Ireland	Out-of-pocket expenditure at end-of-life among decedents from cardiovascular disease	Prof. Aviad Tur Sinai
November 2023	Gerontological Society of America Conference (GSA-2023)	USA	Is lifetime abuse forgivable in old age?	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein, Dr. Ksenya Shulyaev, Prof. Zvi Eisikovits
November 2023	International Conference on Social Work and Social Research: Financial Capability and Asset Building for All	Azerbaijan	Israeli's CDAs – Uniqueness, Successes and Challenges	Prof. Aviad Tur Sinai
January 2024	8th World Conference on Qualitative Research	Portugal	Healthcare professionals' reflections on the encounter with sexual assault against older	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein

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			women: A phenomenological perspective	
March 2024	“We Are the Future” Conference of the Association for LGBTQ in Israel	Israel	Social contacts and relationships of older LGBT in Israel	Prof. Yaacov Bachner, Goldin S., Cohn- Schwartz E.
May 2024	Global Conference on Aging and Gerontology	Germany	Attitudes of older adults towards using euthanasia at the end of life for / in the context of different terminal illnesses	Prof. Yaacov Bachner, Carmel S., Lifshitz R.
June 2024	The 27th Nordic Congress of Gerontology: Ageing in a Transforming World	Sweden	The effect of past and current financial vulnerability on older adults’ financial planning horizon & How generous are societies toward their elderly?	Prof. Aviad Tur Sinai
June 2024	Conference on Personalized Medicine for the LGBT Community	Israel	Relationships and internalized homophobia of gay men and women	Prof. Yaacov Bachner, Cohn- Schwartz E., Goldin S.

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3. Research proposals, grants and awards

The following research proposals were submitted to competitive sources within the framework of the Center’s

a. Research proposals submitted and funded:

Grant Sources	Project Title	PIs	Amount
“European Research Area” of Minerva Centers	Older women living in conflictual and war-ridden situations: An intersectional project	Prof. Band-Winterstein T., Prof. Eisikovits Z., Prof. Tur-Sinai A., Prof. Doron I., Dr. Shulyaev K., Dr. King A.	30,000 €
The Israel National Institute for Health Policy Research (NIH)	Inequalities in older adults’ health: Mixed methods research based on intersectionality	Prof. Perla Werne, Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai	\$37,000
Faculty Call for Applied Research on the Iron Swords War	The experience of loss and bereavement of Bedouin grandparents who mourned the loss of their grandson in the Iron Swords war	Prof. Goldblatt H., Nashef – Hamuda R.	₪5,000
Faculty Call for Applied Research on the Iron Swords War	Older immigrants displaced from the Gaza envelope during the war: Resilience and vulnerability	Prof. Band-Winterstein T., Dr. Spector-Mersel G., Dr. Dolberg P.	₪5,000
Samueli Initiative for Responsible AI in Medicine, Tel Aviv University	Understanding and addressing elderly mental health: The role of culturally sensitive AI (discussion group)	Prof. Michal Itzhaki, Nashef – Hamuda R.	\$2,000

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b. Research proposals submitted – pending (30/06/2026):

- Minerva - German-Israeli Minerva-Gertner Symposia 2025 **"Between vulnerability and resilience: Coping of older women with threatening situations through narrative and artistic means"** Band-Winterstein, T., Tur-Sinai A., Eisikovits, Z. Prof Shoshi Keisari; Dr. Dovrat Harel; Prof. Frieder Lang; Dr. Yaeji Kim-Knauss; Professor Sabin Kouch; Ingrid Lutz; Anke Schafer & Shulyaev K.

c. Research proposals submitted but not funded:

Grant Source	Project Title	PIs
The Israeli Society for Autistic Children (ALUT)	Coping of families aging alongside a person with a disability who needs home hospitalization: Towards the development of a guide for the extraction and accessibility of rights	Dr. Zamir A., Dr. Avieli H., Prof. Band Winterstein T.
Minerva - German-Israeli Minerva-Gertner Symposia 2025	“Fifty ways” to experience aging: Insider perspectives to advance research and practice in old age	Prof. Band-Winterstein T., Prof. Tur-Sinai A., Prof. Eisikovits Z., Dr. Shulyaev K.
Israeli Science Foundation (ISF)	Re-examining lifetime abuse in old age: A life course perspective	Prof. Band-Winterstein T., Prof. Eisikovits Z., Prof. Tur-Sinai A., Dr. Shulyaev K.
The Open University of Israel Environmental and Sustainability Research Center	The built environment, urban density and spatial cognition across the lifespan: A pioneering use of aging simulation suits	Prof. Band-Winterstein T., Dr. M. Moran, Prof. I. Omer

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d. Special awards

Two doctoral students from the MCIA were awarded the State of Israel’s Presidential Scholarship for Excellence and Scientific Innovation for 2023, in the amount of ₪150,000, for their research addressing: factors, processes, and mechanisms affecting the lives of older adults, including Holocaust survivors.

- **Rim Nashaf-Hamouda**, a social worker, whose research explores the characteristics of post-retirement relationships as a determinant of personal well-being and marital satisfaction in Arab society
- **Asmaa Masarwa**, a social worker, whose research focuses on the care provided to aging parents in Arab society by unmarried daughters, through a multi-generational perspective

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4. Ongoing research and educational projects funded and supported by the MCIA

Research and Educational Projects	PIs	Progress in 2023-2024
Intimate care of an aging family member with a long-standing disability by elderly parents in Arab and ultra-Orthodox society - an exploratory study	Dr. A. Zamir, Dr. R. Abu Elhija	Finalized Data Collection and analysis, one article, based on the study's findings, has been submitted to the <i>Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research</i> (SJDR). The article has undergone an initial review, and was recently resubmitted.
Patterns of social media usage and effects on mood and well-being among older adults with recurrent depression: A pilot study	Prof. N. O'Rourke	Ongoing data collection and preliminary analyses, participating in International Psychogeriatric Association conference (IPA-2023) O'Rourke, N., & Star, A. P. (2023). P150: Social media use and well-being with bipolar disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic. <i>International Psychogeriatrics</i> , 35(S1), 255-256.
Financial Exploitation and Mental Health among Holocaust Survivors: A Mixed Method Design	Dr. G. Weisberger, Prof. A. Shira, Prof. M. Ben Simon	Finalized data collection and analysis, publication in peer-review journals: Weissberger, G. H., Bensimon, M., & Shira, A. (2024). Financial exploitation and mental health among Holocaust survivors: The moderating role of posttraumatic symptoms. <i>International Psychogeriatrics</i> , 36(9), 772-784. Bensimon, M., Weissberger, G. H., & Shira, A. (2024). A Qualitative Inquiry of Holocaust Survivors in the Face of Financial Exploitation. <i>Journal of Loss and Trauma</i> , 1-23.
The aging experiences of older female immigrants from Ethiopia to Israel	Dr. P. Dolberg, Dr. R. Ptolemy-Cohen	Ongoing data collection and preliminary analyses, publication in peer-review journal Amit, K., & Dolberg, P. (2023). Who do you think I am? Immigrant's first name and their perceived identity. <i>Comparative Migration Studies</i> , 11(1), 6.
Aging Simulation Suits as a part of the education of Faculty of Health and Welfare students	Dr. M. Elboim	Several workshops using the Aging Simulation Suits provided by the MCIA, research data collection and publication [in Hebrew] Elbaum-Gavizon, M., Droezen, E., Avitov, Y., & Meir, T. (2024). The use of an aging suit among physiotherapy students as a tool to improve their attitudes towards the elderly and their willingness to work with them after graduation. [Hebrew] <i>Journal of the Israeli Physical Therapy Society (JIPTS)</i> , 26(1).

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5. Special issues and publications

a. Special issues

- Special issue in the *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect* (Vol.36, Iss.2, 2024), April 2024 **“Exploring older women’s perspectives on lifetime abuse”** edited by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein, Prof. Zvi Eisikovits, Prof. Patricia Brownell & Dr. Abby King.

The current special issue is a result of an international study group on “Lifetime abuse: Emergent issues”, which was organized and provided by the MCIA at the University of Haifa, in September 2022, and funded by the Minerva Foundation.

The articles included in this issue were written by a group of international scholars who participated in the study group. These experts from different disciplinary fields of violence research provide comprehensive theoretical and methodological insights into the studies of lifetime abuse and its impact.

- During 2023-2024, our team worked on two others special issues (planned to be published in 2024-2025):
 - Special issue on **“Lifetime abuse: Theoretical and empirical research”** in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. The issue is also a result of the international study group on “Lifetime Abuse: Emergent Issues”. The special issue was edited by Prof. Jooyoung Kong & Prof. Sabine Andresen.
 - Special issue on **“Aging with long-term disabilities: Challenges and opportunities”** in the journal of *Gerontology and Geriatrics* (in Hebrew). The issue will focus on the elderly living with some kind of long-term disability (for example: mental-developmental, physical), edited by Prof. Yaacov Bachner, Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein.

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b. Peer-review publication of MCIA PIs and Research Fellows in top Scientific Journals (selected)

1. Albertini, M., Lewin-Epstein, N., Silverstein, M., & **Tur-Sinai, A.** (2024). Becoming sandwiched in later life: Consequences for individuals' wellbeing and variation across welfare regimes. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B (Social Sciences)*, 79(1), gbad154. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbad154>
2. **Aveli, H., & Band-Winterstein, T.** (2024). The multiple punishment of being an older adult coping with health problems in prison. *The Gerontologist*, 64(1), Article gnad030. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnad030>
3. Axelrad, H., & **Tur-Sinai, A.** (2024). Who chooses to switch patterns of employment after retirement age? In P. Taylor & C. Earl (Eds.), *Research Handbook on Inequalities in Later Life* (pp. 280–296). Edward Elgar Press. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781789907247.00026>
4. **Band-Winterstein, T., Shulyaev, K., & Eisikovits, Z.** (2024). Is lifetime abuse forgivable in old age? *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 36(2), 198–225. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2024.2319785>
5. Batcir, S., Berdichevsky, Y., **Bachner, Y. G.**, Lubovsky, O., Debi, R., & Melzer, I. (2024). Characteristics of unsuccessful balance reactive responses to lateral loss of balance in older adults. *Gerontology*, 70(7), 689–700. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000535968>
6. Boker Gonen, T., **Bachner, Y. G.**, & Slonim-Nevo, V. (2024). The way older childless women value their life: A qualitative study. *Behavioral Sciences (Basel, Switzerland)*, 14(5), 418. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs14050418>
7. **Eppler-Hattab, R., Doron, I., & Meshoulam, I.** (2024). The role of organizational ageism, inter-age contact, and organizational values in the formation of workplace age-friendliness: A multilevel cross-organizational study. *Population Ageing*, 17, 449–473. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12062-023-09424-7>
8. **Gnaim-Mwassi, N., Avieli, H., & Band-Winterstein, T.** (2024). I'm a forty-five-year-old woman in the body of an eighty-year-old: The multiple losses of living and aging in the shadow of prostitution. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jnu.12899>
9. Lifshitz, R., **Bachner, Y. G.**, & Carmel, S. (2024). Older adults' attitudes toward using euthanasia at the end-of-life: Cancer vs. Parkinson's disease. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 12, 1393535. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1393535>
10. Lifshitz, R., **Bachner, Y. G.**, & Nimrod, G. (2023). Later life as a daring experience: Factors associated with older adults' risk perception. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 66(6), 793–810. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2023.2177920>
11. **Mahamid, R., & Band-Winterstein, T.** (2024). From a humble identity to an identity of respect: Lifetime abuse among Arab-Israeli older women. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2024.2324324>
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6. Awarding seed money for initiating research and proposals

Call for proposal for 2024 **“Old age and marginalization during times of war”**

Researcher	Research project	Amount
Dr. Gabriela Spector-Mersel , Sapir College; Dr Ksenya Shulyaev , University of Haifa; Dr. Pnina Dolberg , Ruppin Academic Center	Older immigrants displaced from the Gaza envelope during the war	3000 €
Dr. Lee Greenblatt-Kimron , Ariel University; Prof. Yuval Palgi , University of Haifa; Prof. Yaakov Hoffman & Prof. Amit Shrira , Bar-Ilan University	Vulnerability and resilience among older adults of immigrant and ethnic minorities during the 2023 Israel-Hamas war: The role of discrimination	3000 €
Prof. Ehud Bodner , Dr. Sharon Avidor , Dr. Tamar Gitliz , Arye Rotenstien , Robert Arnold , Bar-Ilan University	Mutual caregiving between soldiers with PTSD and older adults in assisted living: A suggested intergenerational intervention	4000 €
Dr. Julia Hadad , Bar-Ilan University	Old age, migration, and integration during wartime: Older(?) immigrants from France during the Iron Swords war	3000 €
Dr. Sharon Barak , Ariel University	The influence of conflict on health behavior, health, and frailty status among older adults with borderline intellectual functioning and disabilities residing in supported housing	4000 €
Reem Nashef-Hamuda, PhD. Candidate ; Prof. (Emerita) Hadass Goldblatt , University of Haifa	The intersectionality of aging, minority status, and bereavement: Understanding the impact of grandchild loss on Bedouin grandparents in Israel in the context of the Iron Swords war	3000 €
Dr. Sharon Avidor , Ruppin Academic Center; Dr. Gloria Gutman , Simon Fraser University, Canada	Impact of Israel-Hamas war on Jewish older adults living in the diaspora and belonging to the LGBT community	3000 €
Dr. Neveen Ali-Saleh Darawshy Dr. Sagit Lev , Bar-Ilan University	Exploring vulnerability and resilience among Arab older adult Israeli citizens in post-Iron Swords war and northern tensions evacuation context	4000 €
Dr Ksenya Shulyaev , Reem Nashef-Hamuda, PhD. Candidate , University of Haifa	Between conflict and compassion: Palestinian health workers' experiences at Beit Avraham: the Sephardic home for the aged during the Iron Swords war	3000 €

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7. Collaboration with organizations

During 2023-24, we continued our collaboration with organizations and institutions such as:

Organization	Leading Researcher	Research Project	Status
Enosh - largest mental health organization in Israel	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein	"Aging individuals with mental illness at "Enosh", during and after COVID19 from the therapists' point of view: Needs versus responses and resources"	MA Student Data Collection
ICA - The Israel Center on Addiction	Dr. Hila Avieli	"The experience of older drug users, and therapists who treat this population"	Data Collection
Kfar-Ofarim - A daycare and employment center for older people with autism	Prof. Yaacov Bachner, Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein	"Older adults with autism, their family caregivers and the professional staff: Attitudes and quality of life"	PhD Candidate Research, Initial stage
The Israel Prison Service	Dr. Hila Avieli	"Older Prisoners in Israel"	Articles Publishing
Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority	Dr. Hila Avieli, Prof. Yaacov Bachner	"The encounter between professionals in the Israeli Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority and aging ex-prisoners: The experience and its meaning"	MA Student – Writing Research results and Discussion
The Ministry of Social Equality	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai	"Older adults' financial exploitation and consumer fraud"	PhD Candidate Research
The National Social Security Institute	Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron	Committee on community-based nursing care law	Chair of an advisory committee
The Ministry of Health	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein	"Campus program on sexual assault"	Consulting on the Research Program
Joint Israel (JDC) – Behind Disabilities Project	Yotam Tolub	"Aging people with disabilities in Israel"	Articles Publishing

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During 2023-24, we established new collaborations with organizations and institutions such as:

Organization	Leading Researcher	Research Project	Status
The Sephardic Home	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein Prof. Zvi Eisikovits Dr. Ksenya Shulyaev Dr. Tal Dekel Reem Nashef-Hamuda, PhD Candidate	“Visual Representation of Self Among Aging Women: An Intersectional Perspective”	In-depth collecting intersectional data
Kishorit	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein Prof. Zvi Eisikovits Dr. Ksenya Shulyaev Dr. Tal Dekel Reem Nashef-Hamuda, PhD Candidate	“Visual Representation of Self Among Aging Women: An Intersectional Perspective”	In-depth collecting intersectional data
LGBT Gold Forum	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein Prof. Zvi Eisikovits Dr. Ksenya Shulyaev Dr. Tal Dekel Reem Nashef-Hamuda, PhD Candidate	“Visual Representation of Self Among Aging Women: An Intersectional Perspective”	In-depth collecting intersectional data
Clalit Health Services	Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein Prof. Zvi Eisikovits	"AI system for preventing older adults' abuse"	Collaborative research program

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8. Developing of new collaborations with German researchers

- **Prof. Axel Börsch-Supan** (Director, Munich Research Institute for the Economics of Aging and SHARE Analyses (MEA) (<https://www.mpg.de/1040246/social-law-and-social-policy-boersch-supan>).

The research is initiating new collaborations between Prof. Axel Boresch-Supan and Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai, to leverage the rich, harmonized data from SHARE and ESS for comprehensive cross-country analysis. These collaborations will focus on understanding how different economic, social, and political circumstances have shaped pension reforms in both countries, leading to contrasting outcomes in terms of financial sustainability and social adequacy.

- **Dr. Laura Romeu Gordo** Scientist, Deputy Research Director in the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA) (<https://www.dza.de/en/about-us/staff/profilpage/romeu-gordo-laura>).

The research is initiating new collaborations between German researchers (Dr. Laura Romeu Gordo and Prof. Claudia Vogel) and Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai to examine how different approaches to homeownership and housing policies affect old-age well-being in Germany and Israel. This collaborative effort will analyze how these contrasting models - Germany's strong welfare state with a tenant-friendly rental market versus Israel's high homeownership rates and market-oriented approach - impact the quality of life and financial security of older adults in both countries.

- **Prof. Claudia Vogel** Professor of Sociology and Methods of Quantitative Social Research, Department of Social Work, Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany (<https://www.hs-nb.de/fachbereich-soziale-arbeit-bildung-und-erziehung/ppages/claudia-vogel/>)

The research is initiating new collaborations between Israeli researchers (Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein, Prof. Yaacov Bachner, and Dr. Offer Edelstein) and Prof. Claudia Vogel to examine caregiving outcomes among older adult caregivers from minority groups in Germany and Israel. This collaborative effort will focus on both the physical and mental outcomes of caregiving, as well as the subjective experiences of older adults from the Muslim minority who care for a family member with a chronic or terminal illness. A comparison will be made between the Turkish minority in Germany and the Arab Muslim minority in Israel. We will employ both qualitative and quantitative research methods to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

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9. Forthcoming activities (tentatively):

- In July 2024, the MCIA will organize a special photography exhibition titled “Invisible Women” at the Sephardic Home for the Aged in Haifa.
- In September 2024, MCIA members (young researchers and doctoral students) will attend the 25th Biennial Conference of the Israel Gerontological Society in Jerusalem and organize two sessions:
 - The Aging Self Experience Among Marginalized Populations and Its Social Context
 - Edge Populations in Unique Extreme Situations in Old Age
- In October 2024, planned publication of the second special issue from the international study group.
- In November 2024, Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein and Dr. Ksenya Shulyaev will present their research results in the Gerontological Society of America (GSA, 2024) conference in Seattle, USA.
- In December 2024, the MCIA together with the University of Frankfurt will organize and provide an international study group on older women during war conflict: An intersectional perspective in Frankfurt and will discuss the topic “Older women during war conflicts”.
- In January 2025, the MCIA plans to seed money to young scientists for research focused on older women during war conflicts.
- In April 2025, the MCIA plans to organize a two-day conference - "Older adults and war: Between knowledge and research, civil organizations and professional interventions".

10. Website, Publications, and Social Media

The MCIA is active on various social media and has a significant growing digital presence. These include the following:

- The Center’s website: <https://www.mcia.haifa.ac.il>
- A Facebook Profile: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=mcia>

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Research plan – year 6 (depending on the military situation)

- Our vision for the next year focuses on investigating the complex impact of war on vulnerable populations, with particular emphasis on forcibly displaced older adults. The goal of the MCIA activities is to develop a comprehensive understanding of how multiple vulnerability factors intersect with age and compound during wartime situations. We will analyze the unique challenges faced by older adults during wartime, while examining the intersectionality of various risk factors such as migration experience, life-long disabilities and preexisting medical conditions, socioeconomic status and access to resources, geographic location and proximity to conflict zones, cultural and linguistic barriers, and gender-specific challenges.
- A significant component of our research plan involves establishing a cross-cultural collaboration with German colleagues, including research about war-related impacts on older adults in Germany (Ukrainian Refugees) and Israel.
- We plan to organize and participate in conferences and sessions focused on older adults during the war both in Israel and abroad, and the publication of special issues creating platforms for gathering and sharing critical research findings.
- The monthly Young Researcher Seminar will continue to serve as a vital platform for developing expertise in qualitative methodology and intersectionality approaches.
- We are committed to further strengthening our community collaborations, recognizing that meaningful partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders are crucial for conducting impactful research and implementing effective interventions.
- We plan the submission of research *grants* such as:
 - **Keren Shalem Foundation** - Evil and cruelty in the lives of people with intellectual developmental disabilities: Building a narrative anchored in reality and mediating it towards resilience. Band-Winterstein T., Eisikovits Z., Zamir A.
 - **Israeli Science Foundation (ISF)** - Re-examining lifetime abuse in old age: Myth or reality? Band-Winterstein T., Tur-Sinai A. & Shulyaev K.
- We will continue to utilize innovative research tools, particularly the age simulation suits, in our research and educational programs.
- A core component of our academic mission is the recruitment and supervision of exceptional graduate students, including doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers, who are focusing on intersectionality and aging studies.

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Financial report

Funds from Minerva	64,267 €
Matching by University	64,267 €
Total for the year	128,534 €

Sincerely,

Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein



Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron



Zvi Eisikovits



Prof. Yaacov G. Bachner



Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai



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Appendix 1

Visual and narrative representation of self among aging women: An intersectional perspective

Our project aimed to gain an in-depth understanding of the experience of older persons who live in various forms of intersecting social marginality such as immigration, mental illness, poverty, lifelong disabilities, and more.

Our research on these women illuminated the idea that their experience cannot be fragmented.

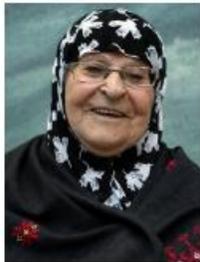
Illustrating such experiences by both oral and visual means (such as interviews and photographs) may help to make them more palpable. By so doing, we hope to contribute to bringing the insider’s view of intersectionality to public and scholarly attention and empower women who dared to express themselves through oral and visual means.

Researchers:

Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein
 Prof. Zvi Eisikovits
 Dr. Ksenya Shulyaev
 Dr. Tal Dekel
 Reem Nashef-Hamuda, PhD Candidate



Rachma



Saphia



Edna



Robin



Nagusa



Michale



Chana



Hilo



Galit



Aqua



Efrat



Alla



Larisa

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Appendix 2

Conference "Narrative Gerontology through an Intersectional Lens: Research and Practice"

On May 29-30, 2024, the conference "Narrative Gerontology through an Intersectional Lens: Research and Practice" took place, organized by the MCIA in collaboration with the Sephardic Home, Haifa.

Over the last two decades, narrative gerontology has been developing, gradually becoming a unique branch of the science of aging that seeks to examine the aging process "from within" by systematically listening to the stories that older adults tell - about themselves, others, and the world. By focusing on the biographical aspect of aging, narrative gerontology aims to respect the uniqueness and agency of older adults, and highlight the possibilities for growth and development inherent in old age, thereby promoting their quality of life.

The Minerva Center for the Study of Intersectionality in Aging, led by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein, together with the Sephardic Home and CEO Natali Ben, held a two-day conference on May 29-30, 2024. The conference was initiated by Dr. Gabriela Spector-Mersel from the School of Social Work, Sapir College, an outstanding Israeli researcher in Narrative Gerontology, who also served as a member of the organizing committee.

The first day opened with a keynote lecture by Prof. Shmotkin titled "There Are No Simple Stories: Life Story as a Decision-Making Arena and Dilemma Between Unity and Multiplicity in Old Age." The sessions focused on empirical studies that dealt with the narrative as a channel for amplifying the voices of marginalized populations in old age, the narrative method as a means of assessment and intervention in old age, and the use of life stories for narrative therapy through theater and drama therapy. Concurrently, an exhibition of visual-narrative representation of women in old age experiencing multiple marginalities was presented.

The second day of the conference focused on narrative care as a means of coping with changing situations in old age, featuring Prof. Amia Lieblich and activities in parallel workshops.

