Sexual Minorities and Social Work – LGBT* People as Clients of Social Work in Israel and Palestine

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30 Interviews with experts* concerning...

- ...the general situation of sexual minorities in Israel and Palestine
- ...fields and activities of LGBT organisations
- ...LGBT issues in Social Work education and teaching
- ...LGBT issues and clients in Social Work practice and institutions
- ...LGBT issues in research
- ... the impact of the political conflict between Israel and Palestine on the situation of sexual minorities

^{*}experts: persons who are defined as such by the researcher



- Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Heterosexual people
 - different generations, women and men, jews and palestinians, religious and secular positions, different cities and areas*
- Members of LGBT organisations and projekts
 - founders, professionals, volunteers
- Teachers and students of Social Work
- Social Workers and (former) Clients of Social Work
- Social scientists doing research on LGBT issues
 - Social Work, Sociology, Gender Studies, Anthropology...

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- Schools of Social Work at Tel Aviv University, University Haifa, Ben Gurion University Beer Sheva, Sapir College/Sderot
- LGBT Institutions / Community Centers: Gay Center Tel Aviv, Jerusalem Open House, HIV-Clinic, Bet Dror
- LGBT Organisations:
 - Agudah CLaF Aswat Bat Kol
 - IGY Women in Black Al Quds Pride Minyan
 - Hoshen Black Laundry
 - Tehila
- Individuals, for example:
 - Postwoman, IT-manager, family therapist, unemployed, head of a NGO, coach for women, founder of Women's Peace movement, social workers in counceling, school etc., professors of social work, former member of TA council etc.

Aspects of the General Situation of LGBT people

- Contradictions:
 - Rights of LGBT people in Israel: a success story an open, liberal climate in jewish, secular and urban contexts (especially in the "bubble Tel Aviv")
 - But: The Tel Aviv gay center shooting in 2009
 - Taboo, homophobia and oppression in jewish-religious context; lesbians, gay and Transgender people in closet and double life
 - But: Bat Kol, Pride Minyan
 - Palestinian LGBT people (arab Israelis, Palestinians in the occupied territories): culturally not accepted, coming out not possible, closeted life, sometimes persecution and violence.
 - · But: Samira, Aswat





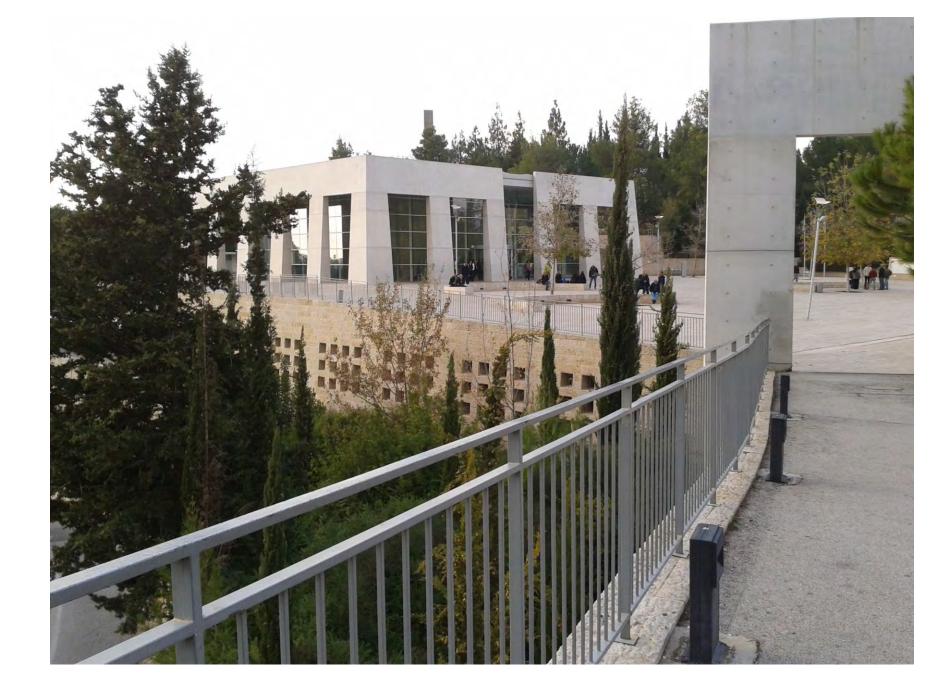
Interesting Results:

- Lesbian and Gay Baby-boom in the Israeli LGBT community
- Lesbians: free access to insemination; lesbian parenthood: normal, "natural", expected
- Queer patchwork families: experimenting with various forms
- Gay parenthood via surrogacy ("googlebabies")
- Specific Israeli positions:
 - Strong wish for children, a strong importance of familiy buildung
 - High acceptance for reproductive technology
 - Improved acceptance of homosexuality











Thank you!