

Ofir Sheffer

Personal Details

Phone: +972-52-864-0000

Email: ofirsheffer@gmail.com

Education

2022- Post-doc fellowship at Mofet Institute. Advisor prof. Gad Yair, Hebrew university.

2015-2021: PhD in Education from the Department of Leadership and Policy in Education, Haifa University. Dissertation: "The Way She Leads: Girls in Israeli Youth Movements," supervised by Prof. Clara Sabbagh and Dr. Oren Golan.

2012-2014: MA in Gender Studies from Bar-Ilan University. Thesis: "On My Honor: Work Experience of Woman in Youth Movements," supervised by Prof. Orly Benjamin.

2006-2010: B.Ed. (*magna cum laude*) from the Department of Inclusive Education and Community Studies, Oranim Academic College of Education, Galilee.

Professional Experience and Appointments

2020-present: Head of the Non-Formal Education Program at Kaye College, Be'er Sheva.

2016-present: Undergraduate and graduate lecturer, student mentor, and professional development counselor at Oranim College.

Teaching

Undergraduate courses:

The Pedagogy of Non-Formal Education

Youth Development and Youth Leadership

Education Policy in Israel

Careers and Employment in the Third Sector

Gender and Ethnicity in Education (advanced seminar)

From Youth to Emerging adulthood (advanced seminar)

MA courses:

Education, Society, and Social Change

Leadership, Social Change, and Community Building

Emerging adulthood in Israeli society

Honors, Research Grants and Awards:

2020: As part of a 70,000 NIS grant from the Unit for the Research of Education in the Kibbutz and the Rural Expanse at Oranim College, I coordinated a research team that is reevaluating non-formal education from an innovative perspective.

2018: The Zalman Aran Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Students in Education, courtesy of the Ministry of Education. Within this framework, I was awarded 250,000 NIS for the duration of my PhD work.

2017: Received a 10,000 NIS grant from Na'amat (Movement of Working Women and Volunteers) to advance gender equality and gender studies.

Membership in Professional Societies

2022- Head of Youth Studies Community, Israeli Sociological Association.

2020- The European Educational Research Association (EERA), Sociologies of Education network.

2017-present: Founder and director of the National Research Group in Non-Formal Education at the Mofet Institute.

Publications

Refereed articles in scientific journals

Sheffer, O. (2022). "Wearing Leadership: Girl Scouts' Uniforms as Symbolic Signifiers,"

Journal of Youth Studies. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2022.2065908>

Sheffer, O. (2023). "Leading at 17: Girls leadership in the scouts". Accepted for publication in

Journal of Adolescent Research.

Pending:

Sheffer, O., "Shaping Girls Leadership: The Organizational Component," *Journal of*

Youth and Leadership.

Sheffer, O. "patterns of participation- gender perspective on youth involvement in after-school

programs", *Youth & Society*.

Refereed chapters in collective volumes

Sheffer, O. (2021), "On My Honor: Work Experience of Woman in Youth Movements," in D.

Peled (ed.), *Towards a New Era of Non-Formal Education*, Tel Aviv University, pp. 96-114 [Hebrew].

Sheffer, O. (2020), "Girls Leading the Scouts Youth Movement," in N. Michaeli and G. Gertel

(eds.), *Youth Movement Research*, Tel Aviv: the Mofet Institute, pp. 142-161 [Hebrew].

Forthcoming:

Klibanski, H., Sheffer, O., and Haisraeli, A. (eds.), *A New Look at Non-Formal Education*, Tel

Aviv: The Mofet Institute [Hebrew].

Sheffer, O. "Mentoring Relationships between Young Woman and Teen Girls in the Scouts

Youth Movement," in *A New Look at Non-Formal Education*.

Unrefereed professional publications

- Sheffer, O. (2021), *Matriculation Exams in a Comparative Perspective*, policy review commissioned by the Israel Education Ministry's Chief Scientist [Hebrew].
- Sheffer, O. (2020), *Developing Youth Leadership – a Comparative Perspective*, policy review commissioned by the Education Ministry's Office of the Chief Scientist [Hebrew].
- Sheffer, O., Klibanski, H. (2022). *The social education system in the changing kibbutz: an up-dated look at activity, participation, and connections between youth and community*. The Institute for the Study of Education in Rural Areas and Kibbutzim, Oranim College [Hebrew].
- Goldrat, M., Sheffer, O. (2022). *The social education system in the changing kibbutz: an up-dated look at goals and values*. The Institute for the Study of Education in Rural Areas and Kibbutzim, Oranim College [Hebrew].

Occasional Journal Reviewer

Journal of Youth Studies, Children and youth services review, journal of adolescent research

Conferences

- 2022 "youth participation and civic commitment in Israeli youth movements (Presentation). *ECER 2022 The European Conference on Educational Research, Network: Vocational Education and Training*. Yerevan.
- 2021 "Shaping Teenage Girls leadership - The Organizational Structure Component". (Presentation). *ECER 2021 The European Conference on Educational Research, Network: Educational Leadership*. Geneva (Online Virtual Conference)
- 2021 "Girls Leadership Development in Non-Formal settings". (Presentation). *ECER, Emerging Researchers' Conference*. Geneva (Online Virtual Conference)
- 2021 "Gender Participations Gap in the Non-Formal Education". (Session Chair). *Non-formal education at Corona Junction: The 1st Annual Conference of Non-formal education, Ono Academic College*, Israel. (Online Virtual Conference)
- 2020 "The Israeli Scouts movement- Shaping Teenage Girls leadership". (Presentation). *Leading at the Edge, ILA 2020 Global*. San Francisco, USA. (Online Virtual Conference).

- 2020 "Girls leadership- Where do we go from here". (Presentation). *Emerging Scholars Research Consortium (ESRC). Leading at the Edge, ILA 2020 Global*. San Francisco, USA. (Online Virtual Conference).
- 2020 "Like a Glove to a Hand: The Organizational Component nurturing girls' leadership". (Presentation). *Culture, power and the power of culture, The 52nd Conference of Israeli Sociological Society*, Tel Aviv.

Other Noteworthy Activities and Skills

As Head of the Non-Formal Education Program at Kaye College, the department's entire curriculum falls under my purview. Moreover, I oversee a mentoring program involving faculty members and lecturers. Within this same framework, I organized a national conference on "Non-Formal Education amidst the Corona Crisis" and launched collaborations between the academe and education policy makers aimed at rendering scholarly knowledge more accessible to the field.