

**Galili, Ziva**

**Inter-generational Reflections on Subject, Collective, and Memory**

This presentation explores the workings of inter-generational memory in the context of historicizing the lives of one's parents. It looks into the mnemonic dynamics that result when a daughter-historian applies the tools of the trade—archival and analytical—to her parents' contemporary utterances and retrospective reflections. The dynamics, I argue, are doubly dialogical. The author must negotiate the often conflicting impulses of filial intimacy and the creative act of historicizing. And the very process renders the memory of both generations mutually malleable.

These questions are elaborated through my exploration of the lives of Klara and Elazar (Lasia) Galili during their first three years as members of a kibbutz in Palestine (1925-1927). A previous paper presented to the Seminar on Contested Memories explored the origins of the kibbutz in a Zionist socialist youth movement in Soviet Russia, its formative early years in Palestine, and the divergent lenses through which the collective and its members remembered and commemorated the kibbutz' beginnings. The current presentation places my parents within the collective historical context as constructed in my work. Their contemporary statements, both spoken and written, are refracted through the voices of other kibbutz members and the memory of the collective. Of particular concern are the demands of personal and collective ideals, the work of building an ideal collectivist self, and the exchange between self and memory.

**Ziva Galili** is a Distinguished Professor of Russian History at Rutgers University, where she has served as Chair of the History Department and Dean of the Graduate School and of the School of Arts and Sciences. She is currently a fellow at the Remarque Institute at NYU. She has previously held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Harriman Institute for the Study of Russia and Eastern Europe (at Columbia University), and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem.

Dr. Galili was trained as a social and political historian and many of her publications were dedicated to the history of the social-democratic Menshevik Party during the Russian revolution of 1917, the Civil War, and the early years of Soviet rule. In later years, she has turned her attention to the hidden history of about one dozen Zionist organizations which operated in the Soviet Union in the 1920s. Among the many

publications to come out of this research project are an article, "The Soviet Experience of Zionism: Importing Soviet Political Culture to Palestine," *Journal of Israeli History*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (March 2005), and the co-authored book, *Exiled to Palestine: The Emigration of Zionist Convicts from Soviet Russia, 1924-1937*. Dr. Galili is currently working on a study of individual and collective memory in *Kibbutz Afikim*, founded by members of a Soviet-based Zionist socialist youth movement. The study is linked to a book-in-writing in which she explores the ideological, communal, and generational contexts for the lives of her parents, and seeks to develop a new mode for associating the personal and the historical.