

## **Dr. Sigal Oppenheim Shachar**

Sociologist | Gender Researcher | Lecturer | Group Facilitator

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### **RESEARCH PROFILE**

Dr. Sigal Oppenheim Shachar is a sociologist and gender scholar whose work focuses on the intersections of gender, embodiment, education, and political subjectivity. Her research explores how girls and young women negotiate power, agency, and identity within highly stratified and conflictual social contexts.

Her work develops a conceptualization of leadership as practice rather than position emphasizing everyday "leadership acts" through which individuals mobilize relationships, resources, and meaning. Drawing on feminist theory, qualitative methodologies, and critical pedagogy, she examines how embodied experiences particularly among adolescent girls become sites of resistance, negotiation, and political expression.

Empirically, her research engages with marginalized and "labeled" populations, including Jewish Israeli adolescent girls, ultra-Orthodox women, and young women from stigmatized communities. Her current work focuses on embodied activism, protest participation, and the shifting meanings of agency under conditions of social and political crisis.

### **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Gender and feminist theory

Girls and young women\ girlhood studies

Embodiment and political subjectivity

Leadership as practice

Feminist pedagogy and critical education

Qualitative and phenomenological methodologies

Social inequality and marginalized populations  
Toxic masculinity and gendered power relations

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

### **Bar-Ilan University**

Gender Studies Program; Faculty of Education; Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Lecturer (2010–present)

### **Ono Academic College**

School of Education and Business Administration

Lecturer (2017–present)

### **Tel Aviv–Jaffa Academic College**

M.A. Program in Youth Studies

Lecturer (2025–present)

### **Levinsky College of Education**

Lecturer and Pedagogical Instructor (2014–2018)

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Gender Studies, Bar-Ilan University, 2012

M.A., Gender Studies, Bar-Ilan University, 2008

M.A., Group Facilitation and Expressive Arts, Lesley College, 2002

Teaching Certificate, Philosophy, Ben-Gurion University, 2000

B.A., Philosophy and Literature, Tel Aviv University, 1988

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2025). *Pushing the Boundaries: Women, Girls, and Leadership in Times of Crisis and Opportunities*. Tel Aviv: Mofet Institute.

Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2019). *Bet You Could Make It: Second Look at an Intervention for Girls from Stigmatizes Communities*. Tel Aviv: Mofet Institute.

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (Selected)**

Oppenheim Shachar, S., & Amram Asherov, E. (2025). Political education in Israel: From silencing and delegitimization to resistance and activism among Generation Z youth. *Dvarim*, 17(2), 28–52. (Hebrew)

Oppenheim Shachar, S., & Amram Asherov, E. (2025). “We are not only fighting for the future—we are the future”: Generation Z and the formation of socio-political agendas in Israel. *Social Issues in Israel*, 34(2), 255–287. (Hebrew)

Heishrik, M., & Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2022). Multi-faceted resistance: Ultra-Orthodox women negotiating between conservatism and modernity. *Israeli Society Issues*, 31(2), 5–28. (Hebrew)

Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2020). Shaping a pedagogical voice using feminist pedagogical principles. *Gender & Education*, 33(6), 773–789.

Oppenheim Shachar, S., & Heishrik, M. (2022). From multi-faceted resistance to multi-dimensional identities: Ultra-Orthodox women studying in a secular teacher training college. *Israel Studies Review*, 37(1), 58–80.

Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2017). How pickup discourse constructs and legitimizes rape culture. *Language and Society*, 10(2), 53–71. (Hebrew)

Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2016). “You cannot understand—you may be Black, but not like us”: Ethnic identity construction among marginalized girls. *Israeli Sociology*, 17(2), 7–28. (Hebrew)

Oppenheim Shachar, S., & Benjamin, O. (2016). Adolescent girls’ connectivity in an occupational-efficacy workshop: Understanding avoidance. *Women’s Studies International Forum*, 57, 38–47.

### **Book Chapters (Selected)**

Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2022).

Developing leadership acts: Reclaiming “power which can harness” through everyday practices.

In V. Showunmi et al. (Eds.), *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Gender and Educational Leadership and Management* (pp. 125–139). Bloomsbury.

Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2021).

“Good girl”: Ethiopian-Israeli girls negotiating blackness and belonging.

In M. A. Vogel & L. Arnell (Eds.), *Living Like a Girl: Agency, Social Vulnerability and Welfare Measures in a European Context* (pp. 65–82). Berghahn.

Oppenheim Shachar, S. (2017).

Becoming a “good man” as a feminist issue.

In G. Bonifacio (Ed.), *Global Currents in Gender and Feminisms* (pp. 237–250). Emerald.

### **Work in Progress / Under Review**

“My Body Speaks My Ideology”: Embodied activism among adolescent girls (under review, *Girlhood Studies*)

Bodies in the Square: Protest, modesty, and vulnerability (under review, *Israel Studies Review*)

Education for (Non) Political Engagement (with Amram Asherov) (*Pedagogy, Culture & Society*)

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

European Sociological Association Conference, Porto (2024)

“My body speaks my ideology”: Girls’ leadership and protest participation

EDI International Conference, Seville (2024)

Harnessing power vs. dominating power in educational leadership

European Feminist Research Conference, Milan (2022)

ICQM Conference, Ben-Gurion University

Israeli Sociological Society Annual Conference

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Visiting Lecturer, University College London (2022)

Academic advisor and research consultant, Israeli Ministry of Education

Academic consultant, “Ir Lekulan” (urban gender equity initiative)

Advisor for the establishment of democratic and alternative educational institutions

## **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Director, Dafna Center for Gender Training Programs, Bar-Ilan University (2010–2014)

School principal, “HaShita” School (2008–2010)

Educational program developer and coordinator, Rashi Foundation (2003–2008)

Founder, democratic school (Palmachim)

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Public writing: *Haokets*, *Onlife*

Podcasts and public lectures on gender, education, leadership, and activism