

Michal Pagis Curriculum Vitae

Department of Sociology and Anthropology
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POSITIONS

2018-present	Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Bar Ilan University
2013-2018	Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Bar Ilan University
2011-2013	Research fellow, The Martin Buber Society, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
2009-10	Research fellow and Instructor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

EDUCATION

2008	Ph.D., University of Chicago, Department of Sociology.
2002-2005	M.A., University of Chicago, Department of Sociology
1997-2000	B.Sc. <i>Magna Cum laude</i> , The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Life Sciences, Sociology and Anthropology. <i>Amirim</i> program, Faculty of Science.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Pagis, Michal. (2019). *Inward: Vipassana Meditation and the Embodiment of the Self*. University of Chicago Press. (Honorable Mention, Theory Prize 2020, ASA).

ARTICLES in REFEREED JOURNALS

Pagis, Michal and Winchester, Daniel (2022) "Sensing the Sacred: Religious Experience, Somatic Inversions, and the Religious Education of Attention." *Sociology of Religion* 83:12-35.

Pagis, Michal, and Orly Tal. (2022). "Collective mindfulness: Somatic attention to group and self in meditation practice in Israel." *Anthropology Today* 38: 13-16.

Pagis, Michal and Erika Summers-Effler (2021). "Aesthetic Engagement." *Sociological Forum* 96:1371-1394

Alfi-Nissan, S., Gabay-Egozi, L., & Pagis, M. (2021). "Being a Light unto the Nations in Entrepreneurship: The Ideal of the Zionist High-Tech Professional in Israeli Public Education." *Israeli Sociology*, 108-122.

Pagis, Michal (2021). "Inhabiting the Self-work Romantic Utopia: Positive Psychology, Life Coaching, and the Challenge of Self-fulfillment at Work." *Work and Occupations*. 48:40-69

Pagis, Michal, Wendy Cadge and Orly Tal (2018) "Translating Spirituality: Universalism and Particularism in the Diffusion of Spiritual Care from the United States to Israel" *Sociological Forum*.

Pagis, Michal and Galit Ailon (2017) "The Paradoxes of Self-branding: An Analysis of Consultants' Professional Webpages" *Work and Occupations*

- Pagis, Michal, Orly Tal and Wendy Cadge (2017) "What do Non-Clergy Spiritual Care Providers Contribute to End of Life Care in Israel? A Qualitative Study" *Journal of Religion and Health* 56:614-622.
- Pagis, Michal. (2016) "Fashioning Futures: Life-Coaching and the Paradox of Self-made Identities." *Sociological Forum* 31 (4), 1083-1103 [2017 second place, Louis Guttman Best Article Prize, awarded by the Israeli Sociological Society]
- Pagis, Michal. (2015). "Evoking Equanimity: Silent Interaction Rituals in Vipassana Meditation Retreats." *Qualitative Sociology* 38:37-56
- Pagis, Michal and Galia Sabar. (2014). "Enhancing the Spirit of Entrepreneurship: African Labor Migrant Returning from Israel." *Migration Studies* 3:260-80
- Pagis, Michal. (2010) "From Abstract Concepts to Experiential Knowledge: Embodying Enlightenment in a Meditation Center." *Qualitative Sociology* 33 469-489
- Pagis, Michal. (2010) "Producing Intersubjectivity in Silence: An Ethnography of Meditation Practices." *Ethnography* 11: 309-328
- Pagis, Michal. (2009) "Embodied Self-Reflexivity." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 72: 265-283. (Reprint in shorter version: *SPQ Snaps*, September 2009).

CHAPTERS in BOOKS

- Pagis, Michal (2021). "The Micro-interactive Order of Spirituality." In *Situating Spirituality: Context, Practice and Power*, Edited by Brian Steensland, Jaime Kucinskas and Anna Sun. Oxford University Press.
- Pagis, Michal and Daniel Winchester (2021). "Mediating the Sacred: Thinking through Religious Experience in the Classics and Beyond." In *The Handbook of Classical Social Theory*, Edited by Seth Abrutyn and Omar Lizardo. Springer
- Pagis, Michal "Embodied Therapeutic Culture." (2020). In *The Routledge International Handbook of Global Therapeutic Cultures*, Edited by Daniel Nehring, Ole Jacob Madsen, Edgar Cabanas, China Mills and Dylan Kerrigan. Routledge.
- Pagis, Michal (2019) "The Sociology of Meditation." *Oxford Handbook of Meditation*. Oxford Press
- Pagis, Michal, Orly Tal and Wendy Cadge (2019). "'Re-enchanting the End of Life: Spiritual Care in Israel'" In *Current Perspectives on Death in Israel*. Edited by Haim Hazan and Shai Lavie. Tel Aviv: Hakibutz Hameuad (In Hebrew)
- Pagis, Michal (2016). "Integrating Positive Psychology into the Workplace: The Case of Life Coaching in Israel." In *Beyond the Clinic* edited by Jose Brunner and Galia Plotkin. Tel Aviv: Resling. (In Hebrew).
- Pagis, Michal, (2015). "Can the Body Forget? The Deliberate Erosion of Embodied Memories." In *Forgetting* edited by David Shulman. Jerusalem: Magnes
- Pagis, Michal. (2013) "Religious Self-constitution: A Relational Perspective." In *Religion on the Edge*, Edited by Peggy Levitt, Courtney Bender, David Smilde and Wendy Cadge. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

REVIEWS of BOOKS in REFEREED JOURNALS

- Pagis, Michal (2020) "Review of American JewBu: Jews, Buddhists and Religious Change." *Sociology of Religion*.
- Pagis, Michal (2011) "Review of The Promise of Salvation: A Theory of Religion. By Martin Riesebrodt." *Sociology of Religion*.
- Pagis, Michal. (2011) "Review of Society Without God: What the Least Religious Nations Can Tell Us about Contentment. By Phil Zuckerman." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Pagis, Michal. (2008) "Review of Subjectivity, Ethnographic Investigations. By Joao Biehl, Byron Good, and Arthur Kleinman." *American Journal of Sociology*, 113(4)

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2022-23 Israeli Science Foundation International Workshop Grant: Religion and Social Change
- 2020 Honorable Mention for best book, Theory Prize, The American Sociological Association.
- 2017-2021 Israeli Science Foundation Grant: An Ethnographic Study of Popular Psychology and Life Coaching among Ultra-Orthodox Israeli Jews (co-PI Nissim Leon)
- 2017 Best Lecturer Award, Bar-Ilan University
- 2017 Louis Guttman Best Article Prize, the Israeli Sociological Society (second place)
- 2013-15 The Institutionalization of Religious-Medical Relations in the Israeli Medical System. The Bronfman Brandeis-Israel Collaboration Fund. (co-PI Wendy Cadge).
- 2012-13 Martin Buber Postdoctoral fellowship, The Hebrew University
- 2010-11 Shapira Postdoctoral fellowship, Tel-Aviv University
- 2009-10 Lady-Davis Postdoctoral fellowship, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2008 Mellon Dissertation fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2007 Lady Davis Pre-doctoral fellowship, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2006 Park Lectureship, University of Chicago
- 2006 Oversees Dissertation Research Grant, University of Chicago
- 2002-2006 Century Fellowship, Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago

PAPERS PRESENTED AT SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

- 2023 Shape shifting as a professional expertise: the paradoxical dimensions of the self-care industry. The Israeli Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Israel (February)
- 2022 The potential for Micro Social Change: Resetting Selling through Aesthetic Engagement. Center of Subjectivity Research, University of Copenhagen (October)
- Between Ethics and Morality: How popular psychology reenforces non-liberal religious. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles (August).
- Finding Self in Conservative Regimes: Popular Psychology and Life-Coaching Among Ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel. Association for Israeli Studies, Bar Ilan University (June).
- Collective Solitude: Balancing Attention to Group and Self in Meditation Practice. Invited Colloquium, Hamilton College (April).
- Reenchanting Therapy: Intersections between Psychologists, Judaism and Buddhism. The Israeli Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Israel (February)
- 2021 Sensing the Sacred: Religious Experience, Somatic Inversions, and the Religious Education of Attention. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (August).
- Re-enchanting Therapy. Keynote speaker, Conference on Well-being, Harm and Religion. Masaryk University, Brno Cech republic (September).
- Enacting religious experience: Between active doing and submission. Keynote Speaker, Conference on Lived Religion: Practice, Power and Progress. University of Oslo, Oslo (November)

- 2020 Popular Psychology in the Ultra-Orthodox World. The Israeli Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Israel (Feb).
The Collective Aspects of Meditation. Invited Lecture, Bern University Seminar. (November)
- 2019 Inhabiting the Self-work Romantic Utopia: Positive Psychology, Life Coaching, and the Challenge of Self-fulfillment at Work, Israeli Sociological Association Meeting, Israel (January).
The Micro-sociology of Spirituality. International Conference on Current Spiritualities, Indiana University. (Apr).
Inhabiting the Romantic Utopia. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York (August).
Turning Inward: The Visible and the Invisible in the Embodied Production of Selves and Identities. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York (August).
Transcending Social Situatedness in Vipassana Meditation Practice. Association for the Study of Religion annual meeting, New York (August).
Popular Psychology among Ultra Orthodox Women in Israel. Fordham University Colloquium. (November).
"Moses was the First Coach": How Haredi Israeli Agents adapt Global Therapeutic Discourse. Fordham University, Jewish Studies Seminar. (November).
- 2018 Translating Spirituality: Universalism and Particularism in the Diffusion of Spiritual Care from the United States to Israel, Israeli Anthropological Association Meeting, Israel (May).
- 2017 Pagis, Michal and Galit Ailon. "The Paradoxes of Self-branding: An Analysis of Consultants' Professional Webpages" American Sociological Association Meeting, Montreal (August).
Pagis, Michal, Wendy Cadge and Orly Tal. "What is at Stake? Porous Cultural Objects in the Diffusion of Spiritual Care from the United States to Israel," American Sociological Association Meeting, Montreal (August).
Pagis, Michal. "Translating Spiritual Care to Israeli Context" Spiritual Care Provision Annual Meeting, Tel Aviv (March)
- 2016 Pagis, Michal. "Mindfulness: A Micro-sociological Perspective" Mindfulness on the Margins. Sussex, England. (April)
- 2015 Pagis, Michal. "Somatic Modes of Attention: An Interactive Perspective." The Cultivated Spirit: Between Anthropology and Psychology." Bar Ilan (Dec)
Pagis, Michal. "Re-enchanting the End of Life." Current Perspectives on Death in Israel. Tel Aviv (Nov).
Pagis, Michal and Galit Ailon "Professionals' Market Immersion: Self-Commodification and the Individualization of Professional Identity and Expertise," American Sociological Association Meeting. Chicago. (Aug)
Pagis, Michal. "Fashioning Futures: Life-Coaching and the Social making of Self-made Selves." American Sociological Association Meeting. Chicago. (Aug)
Pagis, Michal. "The Interaction Order of Equanimity: A Microsociological perspective on Vipassana Meditation" Association for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Chicago (Aug)
- 2014 Pagis, Michal. "Passion, Self-fulfillment and the workplace: The case of life coaching in Israel. Israeli Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Tel Aviv (Feb).

- Pagis, Michal. "Self or Not-self? Therapeutic Encounters in Vipassana Meditation Retreats." New Religions and Spiritualities conference. Tel Aviv (Apr)
- 2013 Pagis, Michal. "Consuming Individuality: The Case of Life Coaching." American Sociological Association Meeting. . Session: Microsociology. New York. (Aug)
- Pagis, Michal. "Pain Relationships and the Possibility of Salvation" Workshop on the Ethics of Pain and Consciousness, Potsdam Germany. (June)
- 2012 Religious Self Constitution: A relational Perspective. Session: Microsociology. American Sociological Association Meeting. Denver Colorado. (Aug)
- Enhancing the Spirit of Entrepreneurship: African Labor Migrant Returning from Israel. Session: International Migration. American Sociological Association Meeting. Denver Colorado. (Aug)
- Can the Body Forget? On Pain and Embodied Memories. Conference on Forgetting. Konstanz, Germany. (June).
- 2011 De-saturating the Self: Silent Interaction Rituals in Buddhist and Christian Meditation Retreats. Session: Ethnography. American Sociological Association Meeting. Las Vegas. (Aug)
- Beyond Habitus: The Phenomenology of Embodied Practice. Session: Social Theory. American Sociological Association Meeting. Las Vegas. (Aug)
- 2010 From Abstract Concepts to Experiential Knowledge: Embodying Enlightenment in a Meditation Center. Session: Religion. American Sociological Association annual meeting, Atlanta. (Aug)
- Theorizing Self through Religion. Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting. Atlanta. (Aug)
- Silencing the Self: Silent Interaction Rituals in Christian and Buddhist Meditation Retreats. Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction annual meeting. Atlanta.
- From Abstract Concepts to Experiential Knowledge. Israeli Anthropological Association annual meeting. (Apr)
- 2009 A Processual Approach to the Study of Practice. Session: Religion. American Sociological Association annual meeting, San Francisco. (Aug)
- Inner-worldly Equanimity: Meditation, Emotional Autonomy and Family Life. Israeli Anthropological Association annual meeting. (Apr)
- 2008 Embodied Self-Reflexivity. Session: Social Psychology. American Sociological Association annual meeting, Boston. (Aug).
- The Feeling Subject and the Reflexive Self. Junior Theorists Symposium, organized by ASA Theory Section, Boston. (Aug).
- The Body as Mirror. Israeli Sociological Association (annual meeting. (Feb)
- 2007 The Language of Silence. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington. (Nov)
- Producing Intersubjectivity in Silence. Session: Microsociology. American Sociological Association annual meeting, New York. (Aug)
- Ethnography of Silence. Israeli Anthropological Association annual meeting. (May)
- 2006 Remaking Selves: Buddhist Meditation in Context of Late Modernity. Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting, Montréal. (Aug)
- Toward an Analytic Theory of the Self. Session: Religion. American Sociological Association annual meeting, Montréal. (Aug)

The Buddhist Not-Self in Practice. The 8th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Mar)

SERVICE and MEMBERSHIP

- 2020-present Vice Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Bar Ilan University
Head of the MA Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Bar Ilan University
- 2013-2020 Head of the Graduate Program in Social-Psychology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Bar Ilan University
- 2016-present Head of the Teaching Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Bar Ilan University
- 2016-7 Member of the Young Academy Forum, Israeli Science Academy.
- 2015-2017 Board member of the Israeli Sociological Society

SERVICE to JOURNALS

- 2019-2022 Member of Editorial Board, The American Sociologist
- 2015-2018 Member of Editorial Board, Sociology of Religion
- 2009- 2012 Book Review Editor, Israeli Sociology
- 2004-2006 Book Review Editorial Board, American Journal of Sociology

Manuscript Reviewer: American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Social Psychology Quarterly, Sociology of Religion, Qualitative Sociology, Sociological Quarterly, Sociological Forum, Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Israeli Sociology, Sociological Focus, Organization Studies, Work and Occupations, Sociological Theory.

COMMITTEES, WORKSHOPS and CONFRENCES

- 2022-2023 Member of the Junior Theory Prize committee, Theory Section, ASA
- 2021-2022 Member of Mentorship Committee, Social Psychology Section, ASA.
- 2022 Member of the Mary Douglas best book Prize committee, Culture Section, ASA.
- 2021 Member of the Theory Prize committee, Theory Section, ASA.
- 2020 Panel Organizer and Chair, Deep Culture, Changing Culture. Israeli Sociological Association (ISA) annual meeting, Israel (Feb).
- 2019 Panel Organizer and Chair, Rethinking Transcendence Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting. New York. (Aug)
- 2018 Panel Organizer and Chair, Religion in Movement Israeli Anthropological Association (IAA) annual meeting. Israel. (May)
- 2015 Conference organizer, The Cultivated Spirit: Between Anthropology and Psychology. Bar Ilan. (Dec)
- 2015 Member of the nominating committee, Religion Section, ASA.
- 2012 Member of the nominating committee, Social Theory Section, ASA.
- 2011 Co-Organizer, Junior Theorists Symposium, Sponsored by the Theory Section, ASA. Chicago. (Aug)

- 2010 Panel Organizer and Co-Chair, Theorizing through Religion. Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting. Atlanta. (Aug)
- 2010 Panel Organizer and Chair, Knowledge/Practice/Subjectivity. Israeli Anthropological Association (IAA) annual meeting. Israel. (April)
- 2006-7 Workshop Coordinator, Ethnographic Writings on Israeli Society. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2004-5 Workshop Coordinator, The Sociology & Cultures of Globalization, University of Chicago.
- 2005 Conference Organizer, Seventh Annual Globalization Conference, Chicago (May)