

CURRICULUM VITAE

ITAI VARDI, Ph. D.

Postdoctoral Research Associate
Department of Sociology
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EDUCATION

Ph.D Boston University, Sociology – January 2012

Dissertation: “Normalizing Accidents: Cars, Carnage, and the Disappearance of Social Problems”

Committee: Julian Go (Chair), Laurel Smith-Doerr, Emily Barman, Nancy Ammerman, and David Swartz

Critical Essay Fields: Culture; Science, Technology, & Society

M.A. Tel Aviv University, Israel, Sociology (high honors) – June 2006

Masters Thesis: “Death on the Margins: Roadside Memorials for Traffic Accident Victims in Israel and the Struggle for a Place in Collective Memory”

B.A. Tel Aviv University, Israel, Philosophy/Political Science (high honors) – June 2001

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

Vardi, Itai. 2011. “Auto Thrill Shows and Destruction Derbies, 1922-1965: Establishing the Cultural Logic of the Deliberate Car Crash in America.” *Journal of Social History* 45(1): 20-46.

Vardi, Itai. 2010. “Feeding Race: Eating Contests, The Black Body, and the Social Production of Group Boundaries through Amusement in Turn of the 20th Century America.” *Food, Culture and Society* 13(3): 372-396.

Books:

Rabinowitz, Dan and Itai Vardi. 2010. *Driving Forces: The Trans-Israel Highway and the Privatization of National Infrastructure in Israel*. Jerusalem: Van Leer & Hakibutz Hameuchad. (In Hebrew)

Book manuscripts under review:

Normalizing Accidents: Cars, Carnage, and the Disappearance of Social Problems (accepted for review by Cornell University Press).

Chapters in edited books:

Smith-Doerr, Laurel and Itai Vardi (forthcoming). "Inequality and Gender in Science." In *The Handbook of Science, Technology & Society*, edited by Daniel L. Kleinman and Kelly Moore. New York: Routledge.

Articles under review:

Vardi, Itai. "Quantifying Accidents: Car Crashes, Statistics, and Unintended Consequences in Social Problems Construction." Under review in *Qualitative Sociology*.

Smith-Doerr, Laurel, Itai Vardi & Jennifer Croissant. "Doing Gender and Responsibility: Scientists and Engineers Talk About Their Work." Under review in *Gender & Society*.

Invited book reviews and other scholarly publications

Paletz, Susannah, Laurel Smith-Doerr and Itai Vardi. 2011. *National Science Foundation Workshop Report: Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Innovative Science and Engineering Fields*.
<https://sites.google.com/site/interdisciplinary2010/>

Book review of "Crash: Cinema and the Politics of Speed and Stasis," by Karen Beckman. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2010. *Technology and Culture* 52(3): 656-657.

Works in progress:

Vardi, Itai. "'Death Never Takes a Holiday': Social Control and the Ideology of Traffic Safety"

Vardi, Itai. "Normal or Normalized? Towards a Comprehensive Theory of Technological Accidents"

Smith-Doerr, Laurel & Itai Vardi. "Mind the Gap: Formal Ethics Policies and Chemical Scientists' Everyday Practices in Academia and Industry"

Vardi, Itai. "Numbers as Forms of Life: New Directions in the Sociology of Quantification"

RESEARCH and TEACHING FIELDS

Cultural Sociology	Social Problems	Race & Ethnicity
Science, Technology, & Society	Film and Society	Social Theories
Environmental Sociology	Introduction to Sociology	Research Methods

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2011- : *Postdoctoral Research Associate*, Department of Sociology, Boston University.

2009-2010: *Research Assistant* for Prof. Laurel Smith-Doerr, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Conducting interviews and analyzing data for a

pilot study on gender, science, and responsibility. This collaboration has led to a co-authored paper with Prof. Smith-Doerr, currently in progress.

2002-2003: *Research Assistant* for Prof. Dan Rabinowitz, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University. This collaboration led to the co-authoring of the book mentioned above.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2011: *Lecturer/Senior Teaching Fellow*, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Lecturer for SO315 Technology and Society
 Summer 2010: *Lecturer*, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Lecturer for SO100 Principles in Sociology.
 Spring 2010: *Teaching Fellow*. Department of Sociology, Boston University. Course co-coordinator and assistant, SO277/EK280 "Society, Technology, and Policy".
 Fall 2009: *Lecturer/Senior Teaching Fellow*, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Lecturer for SO207 "Race and Ethnicity"
 Summer 2009: *Lecturer*, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts at Boston. Lecturer for SOC101 "Introduction to Sociology".
 Summer 2009: *Lecturer*, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Lecturer for SO345 "Film and Society".
 Spring 2009: *Lecturer*, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts at Boston. Lecturer for SOC101 "Introduction to Sociology".
 Fall 2008: *Lecturer/Senior Teaching Fellow*, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Lecturer for SO315 "Technology and Society"
 Summer 2008: *Lecturer*, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Lecturer for SO100 "Principles in Sociology".
 Spring 2008: *Lecturer*, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts at Boston. Lecturer for SOC101 "Introduction to Sociology".
 Fall 2007: *Lecturer/Senior Teaching Fellow*, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Lecturer for SO100 "Principles in Sociology", fall 2007.
 Summer 2007: *Lecturer*, Department of Sociology, Boston University. Lecturer for SO100 "Principles in Sociology".
 2006-2007: *Teaching Fellow*, Department of Sociology, Boston University (instructing the discussion groups for SO100 "Principles in Sociology", fall 2006/spring2007).
 2005-2006: *Teaching assistant*, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University.
 2005-2006: *Instructor*, academic writing workshop, Tel Aviv University.

AWARDS, PRIZES, and GRANTS

2009: - *Research Grant* to work with Prof. Laurel Smith-Doer on a study of gender, ethics and science. Morris Fund Research Grant, Department of Sociology, Boston University.
 - *Conference Travel Grant*. Department of Sociology, Boston University.
 2008: *Morris Fund Research Grant*. Department of Sociology, Boston University.
 2007: *Excellence in Teaching Award*. Department of Sociology, Boston University.
 2004: Received a competitive research grant for MA thesis from The Ran Naor Foundation for the Advancement of Road Safety Research (established by The Or Yarok –Green Light - Association), Tel Hashomer, Israel.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2012: - "Laughter and Loyalty: Traversing Interdisciplinary and Gender Divides in Scientific Collaboration." Paper presented (with Laurel Smith-Doerr) at the *Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics' (SASE) Annual Conference*, Cambridge, MA, June 28-30 2012.
- "Interrogating Collaboration: How Chemical Scientists Produce Collaborative Knowledge in Academic and Industrial Settings." Paper presented (with Laurel Smith-Doerr) at the *Eastern Sociological Society's (ESS) Annual Conference*. NYC, 23-26 February 2012.
 - "Mind the Gap: Formal Ethics Policies and Chemical Scientists' Everyday Practices in Academic and Industry Settings." Paper presented (with Laurel Smith-Doerr) at the *American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting*, Denver, 17-20 August 2012.
- 2010: - "'The Price of Progress': The Normalization of Traffic Accidents in American Newspaper Editorials, 1900-1990." Paper presented at the *Eastern Sociological Society's (ESS) Annual Conference*. Boston, Massachusetts, 18-20 March 2010.
- 2009: - "The Cultural Logic and Aesthetics of the Intentional Car Crash in America." Paper presented at the *Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery Annual Conference*. Colorado State University, Colorado Springs, 12-14 March 2009.
- "Feeding Race: Eating Contests, The Black Body, and the Social Production of Group Boundaries in Turn of the Twentieth Century America." Paper presented at the *Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Annual Conference*. Boston, Massachusetts, 5-7 November 2009.
- 2008: - "A Smashing Market: Auto Thrill Shows, Demolition Derbies, Bumper Cars, and the Commodification of Traffic Accidents in America." Presented at *The Contested Terrain of Consumption Studies*, a Consumer Studies mini-conference, in conjunction with the 2008 ASA. Boston College, 31 July 2008.
- 2006: - "Home, Field: Neighborhood, Community, and Soccer in Jerusalem." Presented at the *International Conference on Soccer and Society*. University of Haifa, Israel, 16-17 May 2006.
- "Marginal Death: Roadside memorials for Traffic Accident Victims in Israel and the Struggle for a Place in Collective Memory." Presented at the *Israeli Anthropological Society's Annual Meeting*. Ashdod, Israel, 7-8 June 2006.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2012: Junior Thesis Committee member, Department of Sociology, Boston University
- 2010: Organizer and participant. Workshop on Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Science, Technology, and Engineering. Boston University, November 4-5, 2010.

2009- : Editorial board of *Political Power and Social Theory*

2007: Department of Sociology representative at the Graduate Student Organization, Boston University.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association

Society for Social Studies of Science

Eastern Sociological Society

Society for the Study of social Problems

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

1997-2005: Journalist, *Tsomet Hasharon Newspaper*, Ra'anana, Israel.

COMMUNITY and PUBLIC SERVICE

1995- 2006 : Involvement in numerous activities and campaigns through several Israeli peace organizations (“Ta'ayush”, “Gush Shalom”, “Shalom Achshav”).

1999-2002: Involvement in the campaign against the construction of the Trans-Israel Highway through various Israeli environmental groups (“Pe'ula Yeruka”, “Megama Yeruka”, “Adam, Teva Ve'din”).

9/2001: Involvement in the organization of Month Against Globalization events through various Israeli social justice and environmental groups.

LANGUAGES

Hebrew & English

CITIZENSHIP

Israel and The United States (dual)

REFERENCES

1. Emily Barman, Associate Professor
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2. Julian Go, Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
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3. Laurel Smith-Doerr, Associate Professor
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