

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**ITAI VARDI, Ph. D.**

Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Department of Sociology  
Boston University  
96-100 Cummington St., Boston, MA 02215  
617-358-0631 (office), 857-225-1331 (mobile), itaiv@bu.edu

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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

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Published 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century America.” *Food, Culture and Society* 13(3): 372-396.

### Published books:

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

### Books accepted for 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.

Revise and resubmit articles:

Vardi, Itai. "Quantifying Accidents: Car Crashes, Statistics, and Unintended Consequences in Social Problems Construction." Revise and Resubmit decision from *Social Problems*.

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"

Book Reviews

"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.

**RESEARCH and TEACHING FIELDS**

Culture	Social Problems
Science, Technology, & Society	Film and Society
Race and Ethnicity	Introduction to Sociology

**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.
- 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  
Eastern Sociological Society

Society for Social Studies of Science  
Society for the History of Technology

### **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 (mother tongue– superb command).

English (excellent fluency in reading, speech, and writing).

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**CITIZENSHIP**

Israel and The United States (dual)

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