



## Israel@70 Day of Learning: Connections and Complexities

### Breakout Sessions

#### Arts and Culture in Israel

**Presenter: Dr. Shayna Weiss**

We will explore the diversity of Israeli arts and culture. By approaching cultural artifacts as texts, we can gain insight into the complex debates that characterize contemporary Israel---controversies over memory, ethnicity, and belonging. We will focus on satire as a mode of cultural commentary, looking at texts that make us laugh, and then examining why they do so. Afterwards, we will discuss how best to integrate arts and culture in a variety of educational settings, with an eye towards highlighting the voices that represent the diversity of the Israeli experience.

#### Creating a Culture of Israel Education: A Relational Approach

**Presenter: Michael Soberman**

We will focus on the idea of education as the shaping of a culture. What is Israel Education and what are the principles of Israel Education in 2018 are the major questions that will be addressed. With the [Aleph Bet of Israel Education](#) as our foundation of excellence, we will explore strategies for transforming teaching about Israel from “a subject that is studied” to a meaningful learning experience. Twenty-first century Jewish life requires a new paradigm for Israel education that remains loyal to the past but speaks to today and tomorrow. How do we respond to this challenge and what is ‘a relational philosophy of Israel education’?

#### Exploring the Nation-State Law and its Complexity

**Presenter: Dr. Rachel Fish**

Israel has confronted both internal and external challenges the summer of 2018; security concerns have been heightened, and religion and state matters continue to increase pressures between Israeli Jews domestically and has also impacted Israeli Jewish and Diaspora relations. The recent Nation-State law passed by Israeli Knesset members has sparked serious controversy within and beyond the borders of Israel. This session explores the Nation-State law in its previous iterations and in conversation with Israel's aspirational desires as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Knesset's Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty. How does Israel, the Jewish nation-state, hold particularism and universalism in a healthy tension?

#### On the Map/Off the Map

**Presenter: Vavi Toran**

A good map of Israel? There are many! This session is a guided exploration of the many maps of Israel and the stories they reveal. Geographer Denis Wood reminds us that maps “are embedded in a history they help to construct” which calls attention to two aspects that critical readers need to bring to their encounter with maps. Like all other historical sources, maps can be “factual”, but they must also be read carefully as contextualized documents. The maps of Israel are no exception. They too have to be read with a discerning eye, in order to understand the subtext they represent and to unveil the narratives they support.

#### Tales of 1948: Multiple Views of Israel's Creation using Primary Sources

**Presenter: Richard Walter**

With the emergence of new organizations and groups of Jews calling for a reassessment of Israel education to be more inclusive of multiple narratives, the use of primary sources in our classrooms is more important than ever. In this session, we will use a variety of primary sources to understand that the events of 1947-1949 cannot only be simplified as *Atzmaut* (independence) or *Nakba* (catastrophe). Rather, these sources show both a diversity of opinions regarding the creation of a Jewish state among both Jews and non-Jews as well as shed light on how success is viewed from different sides.