



Committee for the Evaluation of Sociology and Anthropology Study Programs

Bar Ilan University

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Evaluation Report

Contents

Chapter 1: Background.....3

Chapter 2: Committee Procedures.....4

Chapter 3: Evaluation of Sociology and Anthropology Study Program at
Bar Ilan University.....5

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Letter of Appointment

Appendix 2 - Schedule of the visit

Chapter 1- Background

At its meeting on July 14, 2009, the Council for Higher Education (CHE) decided to evaluate study programs in the field of Sociology and Anthropology.

Following the decision of the CHE, the Minister of Education, who serves ex officio as a Chairperson of the CHE, appointed a Committee consisting of:

- Prof. Seymour Spilerman – Department of Sociology, Columbia University, USA, Committee Chair
- Prof. Arne Kalleberg - Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina, USA
- Prof. Herbert Lewis - Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, USA
- Prof. Leslie McCall - Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, USA*
- Prof. Yitzhak Samuel - Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Haifa, Israel
- Prof. Moshe Shokeid - Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Prof. Florencia Torche - Department of Sociology, NYU, USA†.

Ms. Yael Franks - Coordinator of the Committee on behalf of the CHE.

Within the framework of its activity, the Committee was requested to‡:

1. Examine the self-evaluation reports, submitted by the institutions that provide study programs in Civil Engineering, and to conduct on-site visits at those institutions.
2. Submit to the CHE an individual report on each of the evaluated academic units and study programs, including the Committee's findings and recommendations.
3. Submit to the CHE a general report regarding the examined field of study within the Israeli system of higher education including recommendations for standards in the evaluated field of study.

The entire process was conducted in accordance with the CHE's Guidelines for Self-Evaluation (of October 2009).

* Prof. Leslie McCall did not take part in the evaluation of OUI, TAU, BIU and AUC

† Prof. Florencia Torche joined the committee at a later stage, after the first round of visits in January 2012, thus did not take part in the evaluation of BGU, HUJI, Academic College Emek Yezreel and University of Haifa

‡ The Committee's letter of appointment is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Chapter 2-Committee Procedures

The Committee held its first meetings on January 02, 2012 during which it discussed fundamental issues concerning higher education in Israel, the quality assessment activity, as well as Sociology and Anthropology Study programs.

In January 2012, the Committee held its first cycle of evaluation, and visited Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, University of Haifa, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The Academic College of Emek Yezreel. In May 2012 the Committee conducted its second evaluation cycle, and visited The Open University, Tel Aviv University, Bar Ilan University and Ariel University Center of Samaria. During the visits, the Committee met with various stakeholders at the institutions, including management, faculty, staff, and students, and toured the visited departments.

This report deals with the **Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Bar Ilan University (BIU)**.

The Committee's visit to Bar Ilan University of Israel took place on May 06th, 2012.

The schedule of the visit is attached as **Appendix 2**.

The Committee thanks the management of Bar Ilan University and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology for their self-evaluation report and for their hospitality towards the Committee during its visit at the institution.

Chapter 3: Evaluation of Sociology and Anthropology Studies Program at Bar Ilan University

This Report relates to the situation current at the time of the visit to the institution, and does not take account of any subsequent changes. The Report records the conclusions reached by the Evaluation Committee based on the documentation provided by the institution, information gained through interviews, discussion and observation as well as other information available to the Committee.

BACKGROUND

Bar Ilan University was founded in 1955. The university takes as its mission the promotion of excellence in teaching and research, with special emphasis given to the study of the Jewish heritage. To implement the latter goal all students are obligated to take basic Jewish studies courses as part of their academic program. Also noted in the mission statement is the university's commitment to bridge socio-economic and educational gaps in Israeli society and contribute to nation-building in Israel more generally.

The Faculty of Social Sciences was established in 1972 and has since experienced various administrative reorganizations. In its current configuration, according to the self-evaluation report, the Faculty consists of 10 academic units--7 departments, including the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and three professional schools (Education, Business Administration, and Social Work).

MISSION AND GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Sociology was established in 1957 as a minor field of study, and in 1964 was accorded permission by the university to offer an undergraduate major in Sociology leading to the BA degree. Masters-level studies were added in the early 1970s and the department was authorized to grant the doctoral degree in 1977. In the first decades of the department's existence, faculty research and teaching focused on the study of Jewish communities, Judaic rituals, and other religious phenomena. With the expansion of the department in the 1980s, a variety of new topics of study, including anthropology, were added to the curriculum and the name was formally changed to The Department of Sociology and Anthropology (DSA).

The DSA takes as its mission the scientific study of social institutions and processes of social change, as well as cultural aspects of social life. Its research and teaching goals include the creation of empirical knowledge and the training of a future generation of sociologists and anthropologists, providing them with the tools to conduct, interpret, and use research.

Currently, a large proportion of the faculty are at early stages in their careers--at the time of our site-visit only 3 of 14 tenure track lines (lecturer and higher grades) were in the professorial ranks. This is a consequence of several retirements in the past decade, in some

cases of notable senior faculty, accentuated by the difficulty of hiring replacement staff during the period of the university's budgetary contraction. The result is that the department has experienced a decline in its reputation as a center of research. In very recent years several well-qualified entry-level additions have been made to the faculty and a number of junior members are in various stages in the promotion queue.

The DSA has experienced a number of difficulties with pursuing its missions effectively, which are outlined in this report. They relate to pressure from the university administration to keep enrollments high, a heavy teaching load and large class sizes which detract them from the time available for faculty research, and an inadequate university infrastructure--library facilities; lack of access to data bases--which compromises the quality of education and handicaps research efforts.

THE STUDY PROGRAM AND STUDENTS

Undergraduate Study Program

The DSA has two programs leading to a BA degree, a single major in sociology and anthropology (requiring 60 academic hours), and a minor in these subjects (entailing 28 hours). In addition, the BA program obligates students to take coursework in Judaic studies. Unlike the other Israeli universities, undergraduate students at Bar Ilan cannot enroll in a double major program, which would draw equally upon two departments. Since the sociology/anthropology major is often the second major selected by Israeli students (when a double major program is available), with the first choice being a discipline with stronger employment prospects--and for which the enrollment criteria often are more demanding--the unavailability of a double major program at Bar Ilan has the effect of lessening both enrollment in the department and the academic quality of students who enlist in the single major program. The loss of enrollment in sociology and anthropology due to the absence of the double major option is compensated to some extent by students who choose to minor in sociology.

It is also the case that the number of students enrolled in the single major program has declined in recent years. The decline is attributable to factors both internal to the university and to external circumstances. Concerning the former, the department must compete for students with the Interdisciplinary Department of Social Sciences at Bar Ilan which also offers coursework in sociology/anthropology, and with the Department of Criminology which offers a more professional social science program. Regarding external factors, enrollment in the DSA has been adversely affected by the growth of the colleges. The net consequence of declining enrollments is that the department has been pressed by the university to lower admission standards in order to maintain a high intake, forcing the faculty to contend with significant disparities in the students' quality.

It was pointed out to the Committee that classes are very large and that the university sets a high minimum class size--an enrollment of at least 17 is expected, even for a seminar. While the consequences of not meeting this threshold remains unclear in that few classes

with low enrollments have, in fact, been cancelled, faculty members who offer courses that turn out to have modest enrollments feel they are exposed to rebuke by the administration. The Committee is concerned by this size requirement, in that it tends to discourage course offerings on topics that are challenging to students and motivates the building of a curriculum consisting of less demanding courses on topics that are popular.

Graduate Study Program

There are three program areas in the DSA that offer thesis and non-thesis tracks to the MA degree: Organizational Sociology, Social Psychology, and Society and Culture. A new MA program, Organizational Counseling, which offers only a non-thesis track, was added in the past year.

The most popular program choices, by far, are Organizational Sociology and Social Psychology, according to the enrollment figures provided. In 2008-9 these two programs accounted for 115 students out of the 124 enrolled at the MA level. Moreover, there is much overlap between these two programs, with course electives in job insecurity, work and family, and social relations in organizations offered in both. Information provided to us on employment positions taken by graduates of the two programs indicates that organizational consulting and human resource jobs are the most popular destinations of students in both programs. In short, the MA course of study at Bar Ilan is very much a training enterprise for various occupational specialties in organizational settings. The opening of the new program in organizational counseling will only reinforce this proclivity.

This intense specialization of the DSA creates three problems. First, there is a potential mismatch between the expertise of faculty members and program needs; second, there is an issue of whether an academic department should be heavily invested in professional training; and third, there is the matter of whether a department of sociology and anthropology should be so narrowly focused.

While the MA program is heavily oriented to organizational studies, the tenure-line faculty are diverse in their specialties, as should be the case in a full service department of sociology and anthropology. To balance this mismatch, the department relies on adjuncts, who have skills for training students in specific topics of the organizational curriculum. While adjunct faculty can be useful for providing very practical sorts of preparation, the DSA must ensure that appropriate and rigorous theoretical and methodological training are part of the curriculum of MA study, and must see that the core, academic courses are staffed by tenure-line faculty.

The second concern is exacerbated by the fact that the new MA program in organizational counseling has no pretense of being an academic undertaking; it is a non-budgetary, one-year program, intended for managers in organizations, and instituted to tap a new funding stream for the university and the department. The Committee recognizes that there is demand in the business world for such training but is troubled by its location in an academic department, rather than in a professional school. In short, we are concerned that the department's agenda is driven more by funding concerns pressed upon it by the

university than by a commitment to train students in sociological and anthropological theories, modern research methods, and familiarize them with the substantive materials of the disciplines. If the DSA is to deserve its current name, there must be a balance between having a robust curriculum in sociology and anthropology, and responding to the desires of students for applied programs that provide immediate labor market opportunities.

The small MA track, Society and Culture, captures some of the diversity of subject matter that is appropriate to a department of sociology and anthropology. It encompasses three broad areas: social anthropology, culture and community, and sociology of health (sometimes identified in other departments as medical anthropology). Anthropology is central to this track, though we point out that the department is seriously understaffed in this area and we recommend the addition of at least one tenure-line faculty member, especially an individual who is engaged in ethnographic work. We are aware that the department already recognizes this need and we encourage it to continue with its recruiting efforts.

The DSA has also indicated a hiring priority for a specialist in Arab society and the Committee concurs that such an appointment--which could well be filled by an anthropologist--would add to the diversity of its specialties and complement the university's focus on Jewish communities, as emphasized in its mission statement.

Finally, a high quality academic program in sociology must provide strong training in quantitative methods. The Committee notes with favor that the department requires coursework in statistics and quantitative methods in both its BA and MA programs. However, there are few faculty members in the DSA who are capable of staffing these courses. We therefore recommend the addition of a tenure-line faculty member with strong quantitative skills. This should be a sociologist with substantive interests in either inequality, life course studies, or organizational analysis, since each of these topical areas in the department would be strengthened by the addition of quantitative expertise.

The Committee feels that these additions to the faculty are justified by the high teaching load carried by the faculty and by the large class sizes. Either the faculty additions should be made or enrollment in the department should be greatly reduced, especially in the MA programs.

The department runs a robust Ph.D. program but one that makes heavy demands on faculty time. Only the senior faculty--senior lecturer and higher grades--are permitted to supervise doctoral dissertations, and few faculty members are currently in these ranks. Considering the large number of MA students in the department who also require supervision, the Committee feels that the demands on the senior faculty are excessive. Again, either enrollment in the MA and PhD programs should be reduced or more faculty added to the DSA.

Unlike the MA programs, the students enrolled in PhD study are relatively diverse in their interests. Ph.D. study is largely organized in terms of a close relationship between adviser and advisee, though the department has recently instituted student workshops for the on-

going discussion of research progress. There are some Presidential Fellowships that are awarded by the university on a competitive basis across disciplines, but the department has no fellowship funds of its own to distribute. As a consequence, many doctoral students must engage in full-time employment and this slows their progress to the degree.

In summary, the Committee is concerned that the administration is more focused on financial matters than on academic concerns in its treatment of the DSA, and that it has been too willing to sacrifice academic quality in order to meet budgetary targets. The faculty expressed to the Committee the view that the department has too many students for effective teaching and that admission standards should be raised, but feel that the administration will not support a reduction in enrollment, or of class size, or in the heavy teaching load. The Committee understands well the severe budgetary constraints that the university is under, but the administration must be careful to protect academic standards if the DSA is to be viewed as a center of excellence. A research university should be cautious about endangering the intellectual agenda and reputation of an academic department in favor of monetary targets and practical training.

FACULTY AND TEACHING

The DSA consists of some 14.25 full-time positions allocated among 16 tenure-line faculty. The department has declined in size in recent years, largely due to retirements. Under the staffing policy now in effect, the lines of retirees are returned to the university's general pool, to be reallocated to departments generally as junior faculty, and in a competition among departments. This has two consequences: first, there are few senior faculty in the professorial ranks who can provide guidance to the department and who are empowered to supervise doctoral dissertations; second, it is difficult for the department to coherently plan for its future since it is not clear that lines will be forthcoming.

An added problem that was emphasized to us concerns the opaqueness and bureaucratized nature of the appointment process, with several committees from which approval must be sought for an appointment. We were told that because of the delays in getting university approval for an offer, there have been instances in which a candidate accepted a position at a different institution while waiting for Bar Ilan approval.

Relatively few faculty members were trained abroad, though very recent hires have tended to have their doctoral degrees from quality American and European universities. The DSA is aware of the need to seek recruits who have received training outside of Israel in order to diversify the range of intellectual perspectives. The department encourages graduates of its doctoral program to seek post-doctoral training abroad and the Faculty of Social Sciences makes available special grants to women Ph.D.s to undertake post-doctoral study in countries outside of Israel.

In terms of specialty needs, we reiterate our recommendations in the preceding section on study programs: The faculty is heavily qualitative in their methodological orientation and require the addition of at least one tenure line quantitative sociologist, preferably a recent

Ph.D. who is well trained in the latest statistical techniques. We also recommend the appointment of at least one anthropologist who has undertaken effective ethnographic research. This is a desperate need, as only one senior faculty member is a trained anthropologist. While it is the case that several sociologists study issues related to culture, they are not a substitute for a researcher trained in anthropological methods and theory. To its credit, the DSA and the university appear to recognize this need and have been trying to recruit an anthropologist; we urge them to continue in these efforts.

For reasons already noted, the DSA must broaden its training of students to encompass a variety of subfields, beyond a concentration on organizational studies. This is not to suggest that organizational studies should not be the largest specialty in the department, but that the other program areas cannot remain so tiny. Several graduate students regretted the relative absence of courses in comparative-historical studies and in stratification-inequality. We encourage the university to support additions to the faculty in these and other specialty areas. While the availability of such courses, by itself, will not solve the problem of low student demand for these subjects, the visibility of faculty and coursework in these specialties will increase the appeal of the DSA to students with such interests. The appeal to students should be further strengthened by offering fellowships for graduate studies on topics other than organizational studies. The intent is to permit the department to develop a more balanced and more academic graduate program in sociology and anthropology than is currently in place.

The Committee was impressed with the quality and motivation of the faculty. By and large, their research records are fairly strong; most are productive, and the younger faculty are promising scholars. The faculty members appear to be delivering good training, and students seem to like them and appreciate their instruction. The Committee heard from individuals at many levels in the departmental hierarchy that the atmosphere is collegial, that the working environment is supportive, and that, generally, the department is a “nice place in which to work.” Comments about the university, however, were less favorable.

For one matter the faculty are faced with a very heavy teaching load. While the number of lecture hours at Bar-Ilan is similar to that at other Israeli universities (8 hours per semester), the courses are structured differently. In particular, the faculty sometimes have to teach four different courses each semester which is rarely the case at other universities, and they receive less credit for supervising MA and Ph.D. dissertations. In addition, there is pressure to have a minimum number of students enrolled in a course (10 in the MA programs, 17 in BA study), which can distort the curriculum, for reasons noted earlier. The high teaching loads are especially problematic for young faculty who are at the beginnings of their careers and under great pressures to develop research programs and publish in peer reviewed journals.

The Committee also believes that the number of students, especially in the MA programs, is too large; it is far above the average at other Israeli universities. There are two ways to address this problem: either reduce the number of students; or increase the faculty size. The Committee is of the view that if the faculty is not increased by at least 3 FTE's from the

current size of 14.25, enrollment should be reduced by, at least, 25 percent, with the bulk of the reduction coming from the MA programs.

The promotion process has been another source of discontent. While it was changed two years ago to expedite advancement, the faculty expressed the view that the new structure doesn't work, that there are too many committees with hands in the process and that the criteria are oriented to the hard sciences. We were informed that promotions have succeeded in going forward only because committee decisions to deny promotion have been overturned through appeals to higher officials. We are gratified that there is an effective appeal procedure and that it has recognized the particular criteria used in the social sciences to assess quality and productivity, but recommend that standards be institutionalized that are appropriate for these disciplines.

Finally, there is a lack of effective communication between the department and the administration of the university. This is clear from comments made to us by departmental members who noted that they often do not get replies to letters bringing problems to the attention of the administration, and from the contradictory answers we received from the DSA and from the administration to a range of questions. It seems that the faculty members feel alienated from the university; they feel--perhaps incorrectly--that the administration cares little about the welfare of the department. We view this situation as a failing of the administration and urge them to take steps to address concerns brought to their attention and, more generally, to meet periodically with the faculty to discuss matters of mutual interest.

RESEARCH

The faculty have expertise in several areas of sociology and anthropology, including social psychology, organizations, gender, culture, and, to a lesser extent, stratification. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are represented in the research agendas of departmental members, though the latter is the dominant work style.

Scholarly output by the faculty includes books (both in Hebrew and in English), journal articles, and chapters in edited volumes. Prestigious presses have published several of the books, while many of the articles have appeared in solid specialized journals, some even in highly ranked, general journals. A few faculty have received awards and prizes for their writings, which attest to the quality of their scholarship. Research productivity, however, is heterogeneous, with some faculty displaying truly outstanding publication records, while others are less productive. Overall, the Committee regards the level of research output as an accomplishment, in light of the substantial teaching demands faced by the faculty and the weak research infrastructure in the university (see below).

The total amount of research support secured by the faculty during the period 2004-2009 was US \$900,000. This amount is modest, and most of the grants were small, with only one or two members receiving large grants. To an extent, the concentration of small grants reflects the methodological styles of the faculty, with most using qualitative approaches,

since such projects generally require less financial support. Yet, the small intake of research funds is also a consequence of the limited research infrastructure at Bar Ilan and the few mechanisms in place for supporting the preparation of grant proposals. The university should take steps to encourage the submission of grants, such as by providing successful applicants with a reduced teaching load. We note that in the past the university offered 'seed money' to researchers who submitted grants that were not successful, but that such funds are no longer available. We encourage the university to rethink its strategies for motivating the preparation of proposals for external funding.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The layout of the department's space is satisfactory and the offices are of adequate size. However, they date to the 1970's and many need remodeling and have old furniture. The meeting room is narrow and has multiple uses, including as a kitchen, restricting the ability to reserve it for a specific purpose. For large meetings the Social Science Faculty conference room must be used, a facility that is shared by a number of social science departments.

Of greater concern to the Committee are the inadequacies of the library for teaching and research. The Social Science Library is shared by all the social science departments at the university with the exception of economics, which has its own facility. Space at the library is very limited and there are no private corners or cubicles for study; in general, the layout is not inviting. The functionality of the library is also limited. For one matter, it is closed on Friday, a day that many students, employed during other days of the week, use for study.

The book collection amounts to some 80,000 volumes which is inadequate for a facility that covers the full range of social science disciplines. Also, few current journal series are available. The library does subscribe to ATHENS, an e-journal and e-book access system. However, we were told that in many instances only the title and abstract of items are available, not the full text. Thus, the faculty and students must either resort to inter-library loan--for which they have to pay--or rely upon the good will of associates at other universities. Also, computer terminals are few and outdated; for example, most of the computers we saw during our library tour had cathode ray screens. It is the view of the Committee that the quality of the facility is sub-par for a research university.

A related issue concerns access to major data depositories in Israel and elsewhere. The Ma'agar Ha'nitunim is the main data library in Israel with holdings that include many surveys from the Central Bureau of Statistics as well as privately financed studies on a great range of topics. It is the premier source of data sets for social science research in Israel and, in our view, it is not possible to field a quality sociology department without ready access to these materials. Yet, Bar Ilan is not an institutional member of the data library, which means that faculty and graduate students have to pay individually for use of the data sets. This situation should be remedied immediately with Bar Ilan joining the depository.

A particular issue emerges with respect to methods and statistics courses that require students to use computers. The department does not have its own computer labs, and so courses requiring computer-based learning must meet in facilities distant from the department. The equipment is outdated and sometimes insufficient for the number of students enrolled in the courses. We have also been told that the technical support for this infrastructure is inadequate. We recommend that this facility be upgraded to make it adequate to the department's needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our summary assessment of the DSA is that it has a capable faculty who are intent on delivering a quality education but that it does not receive the resources necessary for this task from the university. Further, the department appears to be pressed by the university to formulate MA study programs that have more in the way of monetary goals than academic objectives. Also, the ability of the faculty to engage in research is handicapped by the weak infrastructure at Bar Ilan. We therefore make the following recommendations:

1. The faculty size is inadequate relative to enrollment. We recommend that three tenure line faculty be added. As noted in our report, critical areas to be staffed are in anthropology and in quantitative research methods, with the substantive specialty of the latter to be in stratification, life course studies, or organizational studies. The third addition might be a specialist in Arab society or in another area determined by the department. These positions should be filled within three years.
2. The teaching load required of faculty should be lightened to permit more time for research. This can be accomplished in various ways: less teaching in return for supervision of doctoral and MA dissertations, smaller class sizes, and fewer course preparations. The precise parameters of what the faculty feel capable of undertaking should be established by the department in consultation with the administration. The administration should implement the changes within two years.

The following recommendations (3-11) should be implemented immediately (0-2 years):

3. The requirement that undergraduate courses have enrollments of at least 17 students and that MA courses have enrollments of at least 10 students is not appropriate for all courses. The DSA and university should give consideration to replacing this requirement by a distributional goal; for example, that not more than four undergraduate classes and not more than four graduate classes fall below these numbers in each semester. The department should recommend the particular parameters that make sense for it.
4. The DSA should review the minimum criteria for admission to the BA and MA programs and its assessment should be given weight by the administration. It is the Committee's view that the department--not the university--should set the criteria for enrollment to its programs.

5. To increase the number and quality of students enrolled in undergraduate study, the department and the administration should consider replacing the minor program with a double-major program available to students on all other campuses in Israel.
6. The graduate program should be broadened to enlarge the specialty options available to MA students. Various recommendations for accomplishing this objective are noted in the text.
7. The DSA should rethink its involvement in the organizational consulting MA program, both in terms of whether it has the manpower to undertake this new program and in terms of whether it wishes to add to its involvement in non-academic programs. In turn, the university should recognize that a deep investment by the department in non-academic programs can be detrimental to its academic mission.
8. The administration should institute better communication lines with the DSA, explain its policies and procedures, and act on departmental concerns.
9. There appears to be considerable dissatisfaction with the promotion procedures. It is the view of the committee that the department--indeed, all departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences--should be consulted in the formulation of the promotion process.
10. The library facilities are inadequate. Since the library is a concern to several social science departments at Bar Ilan, a decision to require a major updating is beyond the purview of this review committee. We therefore recommend that the university and the MALAG examine whether the different social science departments at Bar Ilan are adequately served by the present library facility.
11. We recommend that the university expand its access to e-journals so that availability conforms to that at other Israeli universities. The DSA should determine the sort of access arrangements that will meet its needs and inform the university of its decision.
12. The book holdings in the social science library are inadequate. Since the cost of rebuilding the library's holdings would be considerable, and since many books are not available in e-book form, the Committee recommends that the university cover the cost of inter-library loan by faculty and students. This should be done within one year.
13. It is vital that data sets on a variety of Israeli topics be available for research undertakings by faculty and students. The Committee recommends that the university become an institutional member of the Ma'agar Ha'nitunim, located at the Hebrew University. This should be done within one year.

Signed by:

Sy Spilerman

Prof. Seymour Spilerman,
Chair

Arne Kalleberg

Prof. Arne Kalleberg

Herbert A. Lewis

Prof. Herbert Lewis

Florenca Torche

Prof. Florenca Torche

Yitzhak Samuel

Prof. Yitzhak Samuel

Moshe Shokeid

Prof. Moshe Shokeid

Appendix 1: Letter of Appointment



February, 2012

שר החינוך
Minister of Education
وزير التربية والتعليم

Prof. Seymour Spilerman
Department of Sociology
Columbia University
USA

Dear Professor Spilerman,

The State of Israel undertook an ambitious project when the Israeli Council for Higher Education (CHE) established a quality assessment and assurance system for Israeli higher education. Its stated goals are: to enhance and ensure the quality of academic studies; to provide the public with information regarding the quality of study programs in institutions of higher education throughout Israel; and to ensure the continued integration of the Israeli system of higher education in the international academic arena. Involvement of world-renowned academicians in this process is essential.

This most important initiative reaches out to scientists in the international arena in a national effort to meet the critical challenges that confront the Israeli higher educational system today. The formulation of international evaluation committees represents an opportunity to express our common sense of concern and to assess the current and future status of education in the 21st century and beyond. It also establishes a structure for an ongoing consultative process among scientists around the globe on common academic dilemmas and prospects.

I therefore deeply appreciate your willingness to join us in this crucial endeavor.

It is with great pleasure that I hereby appoint you to serve as Chair of the Council for Higher Education's Committee for the Evaluation of Sociology - Anthropology Studies.

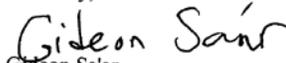
The composition of the Committee will be as follows: Prof. Seymour Spilerman (Chair), Prof. Arne Kalleberg, Prof. Herbert Lewis, Prof. Leslie McCall, Prof. Yitzhak Samuel Prof. Moshe Shokeid and Prof. Florencia Torche.

Ms. Yael Franks will coordinate the Committee's activities.

In your capacity as Chair of the Evaluation Committee, you will be requested to function in accordance with the enclosed appendix.

I wish you much success in your role as Chair of this most important committee.

Sincerely,


Gideon Sa'ar

Minister of Education,
Chairperson, The Council for Higher Education

Enclosures: Appendix to the Appointment Letter of Evaluation Committees

cc: Ms. Michal Neumann, The Quality Assessment Division
Ms. Yael Franks, Committee Coordinator

רח' שבטי ישראל 34 ירושלים מיקוד 91911 • טל' 02-5602330 • פקסמיליה 02-5602246

34 Shivtei Israel St' 91911 Jerusalem. Tel. 02-5602330. Fax 02-5602246

شارع شبطي يسرائيل 34 . اورشليم القدس 91911 . هاتف 02-5602330 فاكس 02-5602246

כתובת אתר ממשל זמין: <http://gov.il>

כתובת אתר המשרד: <http://www.education.gov.il>

Appendix 2: Site Visit Schedule

Sociology & Anthropology - schedule of site visit
Bar Ilan University

Sunday, May 06, 2012

Time	Subject	Participants
08:45-09:15	Opening session with the heads of the institution and the senior staff member appointed to deal with quality assessment	Prof. Haim Taitelbaum, Rector Prof. Miriam Faust, Vice-Rector
09:15-09:45	Meeting with head of Faculty of Social Sciences	Prof. Zemira Mevarech, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences
09:45-10:30	Meeting with the academic and administrative heads of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology	Prof. Ephraim Tabory, Chair, Department of Sociology & Anthropology Dr. Orna Sasson-Levy, Former Department Chair
10:30-11:45	Meeting with senior academic staff (representatives of relevant committees)*	Dr. Galit Ailon, Deputy-Chair Prof. Larissa Remennick Dr. David Rier Dr. Orly Benjamin Prof. Ilana Silber Dr. Tova Gamliel Dr. Danny Kaplan Dr. Avi Shoshana Dr. Baruch Shimoni
11:45-12:30	Meeting with Junior academic staff and Adjunct academic staff *	Dr. Efrat Tillinger Dr. Nissim Leon Dr. Shira Offer Dr. Nadav Gabay
12:30-13:30	Lunch (in the same room)	Closed-door meeting of the committee
13:30-14:15	Tour of facilities: classrooms, library, offices	
14:15-15:00	Meeting with BA students**	Up to 8 students

15:00-15:45	Meeting with MA students**	Up to 8 students
15:45-16:30	Meeting with PhD students**	Up to 8 students
16:30-17:15	Meeting with Alumni**	Mr. Omri Tobi Ms. Tair Pressler Ms. Hilla Cohen Nissan Dr. Shai Ben Yosef Dr. Sarit Nissim Dr. Dov Orbach, Principal, Shevach Mofet High School
17:15-17:45	Closed-door working meeting of the committee	
17:45-18:15	Summation meeting with head of department	Prof. Ephraim Tabory, Head of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology
18:15-18:45	Summation meeting with heads of institution	Prof. Haim Taitelbaum, Rector Prof. Miriam Faust, Vice-Rector Prof. Zemira Mevarech, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences

* The heads of the institution and academic unit or their representatives will not attend these meetings

** The visit will be conducted in English with the exception of students who may speak in Hebrew and anyone else who feels unable to converse in English.