

The Jewish Studies Program, The Dep. of History, The Dep. of Sociology at UC Davis and the
Israel Institute Present:

The Kibbutz: A Utopia that Failed?

Monday, February 4th, 2019 | Social Sciences & Humanities 273

University of California, Davis, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, USA

The only utopian experiment that did not fail was the kibbutz, wrote the philosopher Martin Buber in the 1940s. At that time, as much as 10% of the population of the new state of Israel were members of these socialist collectives. Today, the future of the kibbutz as a utopian experiment seems very much in doubt with the collective childrearing system dismantled and egalitarian wages no longer the norm. This one-day conference will consider the history and sociology of the kibbutz and how its future might play out in a high-tech, capitalistic Israel. Some issues to be taken up include women and children on the kibbutz, the role that the kibbutz plays in the Ashkenazi-Sephardi divide, the kibbutz's role in Israel's economy and the reflection of the kibbutz in literature.

Speakers:

Sylvie Fogiel-Bijaoui, College of Management, Israel.

Ranen Omer-Sherman - University of Louisville

Rachel Biale - Clinical Social Worker, Author of *Women and Jewish Law*

Assaf Inbari - Novelist, Author of *Home* and *The Tank*

Raymond Russell – UC Riverside

Program

8:45 am **Registration and Coffee**

9:15 am **Greetings and Introduction**

Panel 1: Cultural Dimensions to the Kibbutz and Its Future

Moderator: David Biale – UC Davis

9:30 – 10:30

Assaf Inbari – An Israeli Novelist, Author of *Home* (2009) and *The Tank* (2018)

The kibbutz as a Jewish Project

10:30-10:45: Break

10:45-11:45

Ranen-Omer Sherman - The JHFE Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies at the University of Louisville.

Literary Generations of the Kibbutz and the Tensions between Individuals & the Collective

11:45-12:45: Lunch

12:45-1:45

Rachel Biale – Clinical social worker, Author of *Women and Jewish Law* –
Collective Childhood

Break: 1:45-2:00

Panel 2: Social Dimensions of the Kibbutz and Its Future

Moderator: Diane Wolf – UC Davis

2:00-3:00

Raymond Russell - University of California, Riverside

What Was and What Remains “Utopian” About the Kibbutz?

3:00-4:00

Sylvie Fogiel-Bijaoui - The Israel Academic College in Ramat Gan, Israel

What’s next? Gender in Kibbutz Utopia – Past and Future

Discussant: Rafi Groszlik – UC Davis

4:00-4:30

Concluding Roundtable

5:00 pm **Dinner for speakers** (Location: TBA)

Transportation:

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