

ROEY J. GAFTER

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EDUCATION

- 2014 *Stanford University*
Ph.D. Linguistics
Dissertation title: “The most beautiful and correct Hebrew”: Authenticity, ethnic identity and linguistic variation in the greater Tel Aviv area
Dissertation Committee: Penelope Eckert, John R. Rickford (co-chairs) Robert Podesva, Meghan Sumner
Dissertation approved: 8/27/2014
- 2008 *Tel Aviv University*
M.A. Linguistics (*Summa Cum Laude*),
Thesis title: Where they linger on: motivating the current distribution of plural feminine pronouns in Hebrew
Thesis Advisor: Mira Ariel
- 2003 *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
B.Sc. Computer Science (*Magna Cum Laude*,
Interdisciplinary Honors Program)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2020 – present *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*
Senior Lecturer, Department of Hebrew Language and Sociolinguistics
- 2016 – 2020 *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*
Lecturer, Department of Hebrew Language
- 2014 – 2016 *Tel Aviv University*
Postdoctoral fellow, Linguistics Department

RESEARCH GRANTS

2019-2024 Israel Science Foundation (ISF). Regional and ethnic identity in Hebrew linguistic variation: a sociophonetic study of southern and central Israel

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

2024 BGU, Glatt Award for Excellence in Teaching
2020 BGU, Glatt Award for Excellence in Teaching
2014-2016 Israel Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship
2013-2014 Graduate dissertation fellowship at the Research Institute of Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity
2012 Stanford H&S Graduate Research Opportunity fellowship (GRO)
2012 Stanford VPGE Diversity Dissertation Research Opportunity (DDRO)
2010-2013 Stanford Graduate Fellowship (SGF)
2009 LSA Linguistic Institute Fellowship
2008-2009 Departmental Fellowship, Department of Linguistics, *Stanford University*
2008 Wolf Foundation Scholarship, *Tel Aviv University*
2007 Faculty of Humanities Award, *Tel Aviv University*
2000-2003 'Amirim' Scholarship, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
2000, 2002 Dean's list, Faculty of Science, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

PUBLICATIONS

Cohen Priva, Uriel, and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2024. The actuation of unstressed /a/-raising in Modern Hebrew. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 30.2.

Gafer, Roey J. 2023. Linguistic negotiation of place identity in a changing Tel Aviv neighborhood. *Language and Communication* 93: 57-66.

Gafer, Roey J. and Milani, Tommaso M. 2023 "The Pride Revolution": Homonational remembering in an Israeli documentary. *Lambda Nordica* 23 (2-3): 54-81.

Abu-Rabiah, Eihab, **Gafer, Roey J.** and Henkin, Roni. 2023. Where syntactic interference persists: the case of Hebrew written by native Arabic speakers. *L1 Educational Studies in Language and Literature*. 23(1): 1-19.

Gafer, Roey J. and Mor, Uri. 2023. Prescriptive language ideologies in Modern Hebrew. In J. Beal, M. Lukač and R. Straaijer (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Linguistic Prescriptivism*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Berrebi, Si, Bassel, Noa, and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2022. Hearing Hebrew Pharyngeals: Experimental evidence for a covert phonemic distinction. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 28.2.

Gafer, Roey J. 2021. Reconciling seemingly conflicting social meanings. In L. Hall-Lew, E. Moore and R. J. Podesva (eds.) *Social Meaning and Linguistic Variation: Theorizing the Third Wave*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 222-242.

Gafer, Roey J. 2021. "Me(h)amem": A Quantitative Account of (h) Variation and Speaker Attitudes. *Karmilim* 14: 183-209. (In Hebrew)
גפטר, רועי. תשפ"א. "זה מאמם!" – בחינה כמותית של מימושי המשתנה הלשוני (h) ושל יחס הדוברים אליהם. כרמלים י"ד, 183-209.

Milani, Tommaso M., Awayed-Bishara, Muzna, **Gafer, Roey J.** and Levon, Erez. 2021. When the checkpoint becomes a counterpoint: Stasis as queer dissent. *Trabalhos em Linguística Aplicada*. 59(3): 1659-1687.

Gafer, Roey J. and Milani, Tommaso M. 2021. Affective trouble: a Jewish/Palestinian heterosexual wedding threatening the Israeli nation-state? *Social Semiotics*. 31(5): 710-723.

Meyerhoff, Miriam, Abtahian, Maya, **Gafer, Roey J.**, Horesh, Uri, Kasstan, Jonathan R., Keegan, Peter and King, Jeanette. 2020. Styles, standards and meaning: Issues in the globalisation of sociolinguistics. *Language Ecology* 4(1): 1-16.

Gafer, Roey J. 2020. Stylistic variation in Hebrew reading tasks: Methodological and theoretical insights. *Language Ecology* 4(1): 39-55.

Gafer, Roey J. 2020. Trilling as a sociolinguistic variable: Ethnicity and variation in the Hebrew dorsal fricatives. *Sociolinguistic Studies*. 14(4): 483-503.

Gafer, Roey J. and Horesh, Uri. 2020. What predicts pharyngeal realizations in Bilingual Palestinians' Hebrew? *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 25.2.

Gafer, Roey J. 2019. Using pharyngeals out of context: Linguistic stereotypes in parodic performances of Mizrahi Hebrew speakers. In R. Blake and I. Buchstaller (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to the Work of John R. Rickford*. New York, NY: Routledge. 232-241.

Gafer, Roey J. and Horesh, Uri. 2019. Two languages, one variable? Pharyngeal realizations among Arabic-Hebrew bilinguals. *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 24: 369-387.

Gafer, Roey J., Spicer, Scott and Ariel, Mira. 2019. How does 'bring' (not) change to 'give'? *Folia Linguistica* 53: 443-447

Gafer, Roey J. 2019. Linguistic change and resistance to change: the pronunciation of (h) and (ʕ) among the Yemenite community in Rosh Ha'ayin. In R. Berman (ed.) *Change and Variation in Language*. Jerusalem: The Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities. (In Hebrew)

גפטר, רועי. תשע"ט. שינוי לשוני ועמידות לשינוי: הגיית העיצורים הלועיים בקהילה התימנית בראש העין. בתוך שינוי ושונויות בלשון, בעריכת ר' ברמן, עמ' 97-112.

Levon, Erez and **Gafter, Roey J.** 2019. "This is not Europe": Sexuality, ethnicity and the (re)enactment of Israeli authenticity. *Discourse, Context & Media*. 30.

Gafter, Roey J. 2019. Modern Hebrew sociophonetics. *Brill's Journal of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics*. 11: 226-242.

Milani, Tommaso M., Levon, Erez, **Gafter, Roey J.**, and Or, Iair G. 2018. Tel Aviv as a space of affirmation versus transformation: Language, citizenship and the politics of sexuality in Israel. *Linguistic Landscapes* 4: 278-297.

Gafter, Roey J. 2016. What's a stigmatized variant doing in the word list? Authenticity in reading styles and the Hebrew pharyngeals. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*. 20:31-58.

Gafter, Roey J. 2016. Pharyngeal beauty and depharyngealized geek: Performing ethnicity on Israeli reality TV. H. Sami Alim, John R. Rickford and Aretha F. Ball (Eds.) *Raciolinguistics: How language shapes our ideas about race*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 185-202.

Gafter, Roey J. and Horesh, Uri. 2015. When the construction is *axla*, everything is *axla*: A case of combined lexical and structural borrowing from Arabic to Hebrew. *Journal of Jewish Languages* 3: 337-348.

Gafter, Roey J. 2014. The Distribution of the Hebrew Possessive Dative Construction: Guided by unaccusativity or prominence?. *Linguistic Inquiry*. 45(3): 482-500.

Sumner, Meghan, Kurumada, Chigusa, **Gafter, Roey J.** and Tice, Marisa. 2013. Phonetic variation and the recognition of words with pronunciation variants. In M. Knauff, M. Pauen, N. Sebanz, & I. Wachsmuth (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. 3486-3491.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Schapiro, Tomer and **Gafter, Roey J.** 2024. Place identity and masculinity: An examination of /t/-release burst duration. Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 52 (NWAV). November 7-9. Miami, FL.

Machlouf, Hodaya and **Gafter, Roey J.** 2024. What sounds like Tel Aviv? An acoustic examination of phonological variation in imitations of local stereotypes. Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 52 (NWAV). November 7-9. Miami, FL.

Shor, Leon and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2024. Variation in the reduction of the 1SG pronoun *ani* in spoken Hebrew. Talk given at *Societas Linguistica Europaea 57th Annual Meeting (SLE)*. August 21-24. University of Helsinki, Finland.

Gafer, Roey J. and Mor, Uri. 2024. “Hebrew revival” revisited? Language ideologies in *The Reviver*, a podcast by the Academy of the Hebrew Language. Talk given *Sociolinguistics Symposium 25*. June 24-27. Curtin University, Perth, Australia.

Gafer, Roey J., and Milani, Tommaso M. 2024. The temporal contradictions of Israeli econationalist rhetoric. Talk given *Sociolinguistics Symposium 25*. June 24-27. Curtin University, Perth, Australia.

Machlouf, Hodaya and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2024. “Tel Aviv accent”? An acoustic analysis of phonological variation in imitations of local stereotypes. Talk given at *Israeli Association for the study of Language and Society 22nd annual conference*. June 24th. Haifa University.

Salem, Shai and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2024. Giving orders in spoken Hebrew: Variation and change in the morphological imperative. Talk given at *Israeli Association for the study of Language and Society 22nd annual conference*. June 24th. Haifa University.

Schapiro, Tomer and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2024. Between gender and place: The realization of (t) in Modern Hebrew. Talk given at *the Israeli Linguistics Society in Honour of Haiim B. Rosén 38th annual meeting*. March 20th. Tel Aviv University.

Gafer, Roey J., and Milani, Tommaso M. 2024. Discursive and embodied critiques of homonationalism: A view from within. Talk given at the *American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)*. March 16-19. Houston, TX.

Cohen Priva, Uriel, and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2023. The actuation of unstressed /a/-raising in Modern Hebrew. Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 51 (NWAV)*. October 13-15. Queens College, NY.

Gafer, Roey J. 2023. Variation in Hebrew (ej) – an ethnic marker no more? Talk given at *UK Language Variation and Change 14 (UKLVC)*. June 26-28. University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.

Gafer, Roey J., and Mor, Uri. 2023. The portrayal of the revival of Hebrew in the podcast *Hamehayeh* (‘the reviver’). Talk given at *Israeli Association for the study of Language and Society 21st annual conference*. June 18th. Achva Academic College.

Gafer, Roey J. 2023. Stereotypical representations of the pharyngeals on Israeli television. Talk given at *The Language of Television*. May 5th. The Academic College of Tel-Aviv Yafo.

Gafer, Roey J. and Milani, Tommaso M. 2023. “The Pride Revolution”: Homonational remembering and erasing in an Israeli documentary. Talk given at the *American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)*. March 18-21. Portland, OR.

Gafer, Roey J. and Milani, Tommaso M. 2023. Homonational remembering and forgetting in an Israeli documentary. Talk given at *Lavender Languages and Linguistics 29*. March 9-11. Boise State University, Boise, ID.

Gafer, Roey J. But is there a lexical set? 2022. Challenges in modelling the variation of Hebrew (ej). Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 50 (NWA)*. October 13-15. Stanford University, CA.

Horesh, Uri and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2022. Enregisterment of local features in Palestinian Arabic political discourse. Talk given at *Sociolinguistics Symposium 24*. July 13-16. University of Ghent, Belgium.

Starr, Rebecca L. and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2022. ‘Dothraki is a real language’: Constructed languages and authenticating practices in media discourse. Talk given at *Sociolinguistics Symposium 24*. July 13-16. University of Ghent, Belgium.

Henkin, Roni, Abu-Rabiah, Eihab and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2022. Persistence of syntactic interference in the Hebrew of Negev Bedouin high school students. Talk given at the *Israeli Linguistics Society in Honour of Haiim B. Rosén 38th annual meeting*. February 8th. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. [remote conference].

Berrebi, Si, Bassel, Noa and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2021. Hearing Hebrew pharyngeals: Experimental evidence for a covert phonemic distinction. Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 49 (NWA)*. October 19-24. University of Texas at Austin, TX. [remote conference]

Gafer, Roey J., Awayed-Bishara, Muzna and Milani, Tommaso M. 2021. What has tahini got to do with Sexuality? Discourse and the homonational matrix in Israel. Talk given at Israeli Association for the study of Language and Society 19th annual conference. June 20th. NYU Tel Aviv. [remote conference]

Horesh, Uri and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2021. Writing spoken Arabic: Local characteristics as an identity resource in political advertisements in Jaffa. Talk given at the *Israeli Association for the study of Language and Society 19th annual conference*. June 20th. NYU Tel Aviv. [remote conference]

Gafer, Roey J., Starr, Rebecca L. and Puderbaugh, Rebekka. 2021. Sociolinguistic variation in a constructed language: The commodification of ‘authentic’ Klingon on Star Trek. Talk given at *Sociolinguistics Symposium 23*. June 7-10. University of Hong Kong. [remote conference]

Gafer, Roey J. Between change, variation and markedness. 2021. Talk given at *Changes in Language*. April 21st. The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jerusalem. [remote conference]

Gafer, Roey J. 2021. Phonological variation in parodic imitations of Mizrahi Hebrew speakers. Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation Asia-Pacific 6 (NWAV-AP)*. February 17-20. National University of Singapore, Singapore. [remote conference]

Starr, Rebecca L., Puderbaugh, Rebekka and **Gafer, Roey J.** 2020. “The authentic alien: Production and evaluation of sociolinguistic variation in Klingon”. Talk given at the *Linguistic of America 94th annual meeting*. January 2-5. New Orleans, LA.

Gafer, Roey J. 2019. “Performing ‘correct’ Hebrew: Stylistic variation in reading tasks”. Talk given at *UK Language Variation and Change 12 (UKLVC)*. September 3-5. Queen Mary University, London, UK.

Gafer, Roey J., and Milani, Tommaso M. 2019. “Nationalism policing heterosexuality: The discourse surrounding a celebrity Palestinian-Jewish marriage in Israel”. Talk given at *Lavender Languages and Linguistics 26*. May 2-4. University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Gafer, Roey J. 2018. “The Hebrew pharyngeals: Changes among speakers and changes in research perspectives”. Talk given at *What was done and what remains: 40 years of research on Jews of the Middle East and North Africa*. December 24-26. Haifa University, Israel.

Gafer, Roey J., & Horesh, Uri. 2018. “The roles of linguistic transfer, education, and identity in the Hebrew of bilingual Palestinians”. Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 47 (NWAV)*. October 18-21. New York University, NY.

Gafer, Roey J. 2018. “Linguistic construction of identity in changing Tel Aviv neighborhoods”. Talk given at *Sociolinguistic Symposium 22*. June 27-30. University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Gafer, Roey J. 2018. “Beyond standardness: Interpreting Hebrew reading styles”. *Talk given at Sociolinguistic Symposium 22*. June 27-30. University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Gafer, Roey J., & Horesh, Uri. 2017. “A tale of two pharyngeals in the Hebrew of bilingual Arabic-Hebrew speakers”. Talk given at *UK Language Variation and Change 11 (UKLVC)*. August 29-31. Cardiff University, Wales, UK.

Gafer, Roey J., Spicer, Scott & Ariel, Mira. 2017. “Hebrew *hevi*’s path towards ‘give’: usage-based all the way”. Talk given at *Usage-Based Linguistics Conference*. July 3-5. Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

- Gafer, Roey J.**, Spicer, Scott & Ariel, Mira. 2017. "BRING-ing about a change" Talk given at *the Linguistic of America 91st annual meeting*. January 5-8. Austin, TX.
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2016. "Differences in the social patterning of the two Hebrew pharyngeals" Talk given at *Sociolinguistic Symposium 21*. June 15-18. Universidad de Murcia, Murcia, Spain.
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2015. "What's a stereotyped variable doing in the word list?" Talk given at *the Linguistic Society of America 89th annual meeting*. January 8-11. Portland, OR.
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2014. "The folk perception and phonetic reality of /h/ evaluation in Israeli Hebrew". Poster presented at *the Linguistic Society of America 88th annual meeting*. Minneapolis, MN, January 2-6.
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2013. "This is not a trill: On the Hebrew fricatives and ethnic identity". Poster presented at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 42 (NWAV)*, October 17-20. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2013. "At the intersection of place and ethnicity: Yemenite identities and Hebrew pharyngeals". Poster presented at *Locating Language conference*. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, April 20-21
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2012. "Expanding the range of variables in the study of segmental variation in Hebrew: Ethnicity and beyond". Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 42 (NWAV)*, October 17-20. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2012. "Producing pharyngeals and performing ethnicity on Israeli reality TV". Poster presented at *Racing language, languaging race conference*. Stanford, CA, May 3-4
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2012. "Social judgments of unfamiliar variables: English speakers' perception of the uvular fricative". Poster presented at *the Linguistic Society of America 86th annual meeting*. Portland, OR, January 5-8
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2011. "Pharyngeal beauty and depharyngealized geek: Performing ethnicity and class on Israeli reality TV". Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 40 (NWAV)*, October 27-30. Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2011. "The choice of script when writing English words in Hebrew on-line chatting". Talk given at *Societas Linguistica Europaea 44th Annual Meeting*. September 8-11. Universidad de la Rioja, Logroño, Spain.
- Gafer, Roey J.** 2011. "What *script switching* can tell us about norms of multilingual language use". Poster presented at *the Linguistic Society of America 85th annual meeting*. Pittsburgh, PA, January 6-9.

Gafter, Roey J., Chigusa Kurumada, Marisa Tice and Meghan Sumner. 2011. “Integrating frequency, formality and phonology in the perception of spoken words”. Talk given at *the Linguistic Society of America 85th annual meeting*. January 6-9. Pittsburgh, PA.

Gafter, Roey J., Chigusa Kurumada, Marisa Tice and Meghan Sumner. 2010. “Frequency maDDers, but formality and phonology maTTER too”. Poster presented at *the Acoustic Society of America 160th meeting*. Cancun, Mexico. November 15-19.

Gafter, Roey J. 2010. “A prominence based account of the Hebrew possessive dative construction”. Talk given at *the Israeli Association for Theoretical Linguistics 26th annual meeting*, Bar-Ilan University, Israel. October 4-5.

Gafter, Roey J., Dan Jurafsky and Meghan Sumner. 2009. “Where accommodation to non-native speakers doesn’t happen”. Talk given at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 38 (NWAY)*, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, 22-25 October.

Gafter, Roey J. 2008. “Motivating the (non-random) distribution of plural feminine pronouns in Hebrew: The role of Humanness”. Talk given at *New Reflections on Grammaticalization 4*, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, July 16-19.

RESEARCH STUDENTS

Ph.D students

Hodaya Machlouf, 2028 (expected), BGU
Eihab Abu-Rabiah (with Prof. Roni Henkin-Roitfarb), 2022, BGU

M.A. Students

Noam Mashash (with Prof. Pnina Shukrun-Nagar), 2026 (expected), BGU
Idan Chubinsky, 2025 (expected), BGU
Gil Oanunu, 2025 (expected), BGU
Shay Salem, 2025 (expected), BGU
Tomer Schapiro, 2025 (expected), BGU
Hodaya Machlouf, 2024, BGU
Miriam Belkin, 2023, BGU
Inbar Dahan, 2023, BGU
Gil Elias (with Prof. Uri Mor), 2023, BGU

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AS SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

2006-2008 Software Developer, *Melingo Natural Language Technologies*

2004-2006 Software Developer, *Nuance Israel*

2002-2003 Software Developer, *Intel*

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Hebrew	Native proficiency
English	Near native proficiency
Arabic	Advanced
Spanish	Advanced
French	Intermediate
Japanese	Intermediate