

Celan/1969: Re-Visiting Celan's Poetry (German, the Hebrew/Arabic)

[In Cooperation with the University of Stanford] (2018-2021)

The project aims at dealing anew with the critical implications of Paul Celan's poetry, once it is studied as an event of a witnessing, in which German, Jewish (Israeli) and Palestinian (traumatic) histories are re-gathered. The project is based on a call for researchers, translators and artists to reflect Paul Celan's visit in Israel in 1969, revealing also the sites of blindness and acts of witnessing in his writing, as they are related to the depth of historic experience, yet as an opening – a move towards the other (a reader?).

The major conceptual questions of the project are the following:

1. What histories (places, times, persons and events) are hidden/revealed in Celan's poetry, written during his visit in Jerusalem?
2. How does his poetry speak, what it keeps in silence – concerning the Jewish (Hebrew) and Arabic landscapes?
3. How does this (global/local) historic time-space (1969) and how do the events of Celan's visit – his encounters in Israel/Palestine, his poetic impressions signify a different path of understanding the act of Jewish writing in German (what he names *Verjudung*)?
4. What impacts and echoes one hears anew in his poetry, once they are being read/translated into Hebrew and Arabic? What stages/dimension of German language are brought into a different engagement in translation?
5. What images and which concepts of work-art are to be redefined, following Celan's later poems, partly written during and after the visit in 1969?
6. In what sense the idea of history is being challenged in the poetic encounters (the "meridians") of Celan's poetry?

The project consists of a research group in which historian, literary critics, translators and editors, painters and video artists are sharing and debating their perspectives and in-sights on the remnants of Celan's visit, attempting at a discursive, hermeneutic acts, historic readings

and poetic interpretations, being, however, associated with artistic, creative work and contemplation.

Main events in plan:

Workshops at the Tel Aviv (November 2018) and at the Marbach Archive (February 2020)

International Conference, May 2019

An Exhibition and a Conference, Tel Aviv University, 2020

Major Publication in plan:

Paul Celan/1969: History, Poetry, Witnessing (Essays Volume) (HaKibbuz Hamehucad, 2020) [in preparation]

Paul Celan, *Prose and Aphorisms* [Hebrew translation] (HaKibbuz Hamehuchad, 2019) [in preparation]

Galili Shahar: *The Stone and the Word: Witnessing Paul Celan* (Mossad Bialik, 2019) [in preparation]

Coordinators: Prof. Amir Eshel (Stanford), Prof. Galili Shahar (Tel Aviv)

Investigators and Artists: Mr. Shy Abady, Dr. Lina Barouch (Jerusalem), Dr. Almog Behar (Jerusalem/Tel Aviv), Dr. Michal Ben-Horin (Bar-Ilan), Dr. Omri Ben-Yehuda (Berlin), Mr. Ohad Kohn (Tel Aviv), Dr. Zahia Kondus (Tel Aviv/Jaffa), Mr. Zvi Lachman (Tel Aviv), Dr. Nitzan Lebovic (Leigh), Dr. Aim Luski (Jerusalem/Tel Aviv), (Jerusalem/Tel Aviv), Ms. Asif Rachamim (Jerusalem), Prof. Naama Rokem (Chicago), Ms. Shva Salhov (Jaffa), Dr. Thomas Sparr (Berlin), Dr. Giddon Tickotzi (Jerusalem/Tel Aviv), Ms. Maya Zack (Tel Aviv)

This project will be conducted in cooperation with Center of Jewish Studies at the University of Stanford (Prof. Amir Eshel)