

**Core Concepts in Child Maltreatment: A Cross-Cultural, Context-Informed  
Comparative Perspective**

A Proposal for a Panel/Round Table at  
The Second Haruv International Conference

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**Participants:**

Prof. Jill Korbin, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.  
International Trends in Context and Child Protection

Noemie Bloomberg and Yan Serdtse, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.  
Immigrants from France: Middle-class religious mothers

Shelly Engdaw-Vanda, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.  
Ethiopian community: Parents and social workers

Netanel Gemara, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.  
Ultra-Orthodox community: Parents and social workers

Daphna Gross-Manos, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.  
Neighborhoods' Etiology of child maltreatment: Is there a change 20-years later?

Rivki Keesing, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.  
Ultra-Orthodox community: Parents, health professionals and educators

Lital Yona, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.  
Parents living in the context of poverty

**Abstract:**

The field of risk, wellbeing and protection of children is rooted primarily in Western "universal" developmental theories, and it is from these theories that definitions of risk, abuse and neglect are derived. The cross-cultural literature challenges many of the presumed assumptions found in universal developmental theories and shows that context and culture play a central role in the construction of core concepts in the field of child maltreatment.

The proposed round table/panel will adopt a cross-cultural, context-informed comparative perspective to discuss core concepts in the field of child maltreatment: risk and protection, neglect, corporal punishment and sexual abuse.

The discussion will be based on our findings from studies conducted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Nevet Greenhouse of Context-Informed Research and Training for Children in Need, focused on different communities' constructions of these core concepts (in Israel and abroad). Central focus will be given in the discussion to similarities and differences between the different groups, and between parents and service providers (social workers, educators and health professionals). Implications for practice, policy and training will be presented and discussed.

**Keywords:** Culture, Context, Diversity, Multiculturalism