Lecturer Biographies

Dr. David Lester (head of program) is a bibliotherapist. He holds a BED in Education, an MA in English Literature and Creative Writing, an MAAT in Bibliotherapy and a PHD from Bar Ilan University in the field of Hassidut. His interdisciplinary doctoral dissertation focused on processes of self listening that lead to inspiration in psychoanalytic thought, in the creative process of authors and in Rebbe Nachman's mystical experience. At the Schechter Institute David is leads "Et LiDrosh," the "Intertwined Tools" (Kiryat Shmona), and the "Naharayim" programs. David is a lecturer at Bar Ilan University in the "Mystical Narrative" program and at Orot Israel College in the Special Education department. His first book – "Jewish Marriage: The Ceremony, the First Year, and the Journey That Follows" was published by Mosaica Press. David works as a therapist in the public sector in Israel and in private practice in his zoom clinic. He lives with his wife and their two children in Maale Gilboa.

Dr. Levi Weinstein is a drama therapist. He holds a BED from Herzog College, an MA in Drama Therapy from Haifa University and a PHD from Ben Gurion University. His PHD thesis, "The Healing Power of Law," presented a multi-lens analysis of Jewish practice as performative legal rituals to be applied in clinical healing. As a therapist Levi currently works with adolescents in the Israeli school system. As a lecturer, Levi teaches at Herzog College in the Art Therapy Master's program and at Bar Ilan University in the "Mystical Narrative" program. In addition, he teaches at the Otniel Hesder Yeshiva, serves as a military chaplain, and is a member of the Israeli Association of Sex Education. Levi lives with his wife and their six children in Otniel.

Dr. Batya Bing is a bibliotherapist and dyadic therapist. She holds a BA in general studies and philosophy, an MA in Hebrew Literature, an additional MA in Bibliotherapy and a PHD from Bar Ilan University in Comparative Literature. Her PHD research provides a psychological analysis of two Israeli novels and the book of Job, through which she discusses processes of grief and post-traumatic growth. As a therapist Batya serves as Clinical Director at The Resilience Center in Gush Etzion — a center that provides therapy for civilians experiencing distress stemming from the current security situation — as well as having a private practice. As a lecturer and group facilitator, Batya coordinates Schecter Institute's "Intertwined Tools" program in Ofakim where she integrates Jewish learning with creative arts therapy within a group setting. Batya lives in Kfar Etzion with her husband and their six children.

Mordechai Zeller is a clinical psychologist and a couples therapist. He received his BA in Psychology & Jewish Comparative Folklore from Hebrew University and his MA in Clinical & Educational Psychology from the University of Haifa. Mordechai has undergone training as a Jungian analyst and is a certified sex therapist. In the public sector, he served as head of the educational psychology services in the Gilboa region of Israel. Currently he sees clients in his private practice. Mordechai served as a rabbi at campus in Cambridge, England and as a member of the faculty of Yeshivat Maale Gilboa. He has been teaching Hassidic philosophy, Jewish mysticism and Hebrew mythology for the past two decades, serving as scholar in residence at Zenith Sufi camp in the Swiss Alps and the Abode in the USA among other places. He lives in Kibbutz Maale Gilboa with his wife and their three children.