

## **The digital divide as a social gap? Inequality of Internet access and use among immigrants in Israel**

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### **Abstract**

The Internet use has become widespread throughout the world. One of the advantages of skilled Internet users is their ability to retrieve more relevant information. The current research examines the digital divide between immigrants and natives in Israeli society as manifested by computer and Internet access and use. The study is based on the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics' 2008 and 2009 Annual Social Survey data, collected by face-to-face interviews. The sample included 10,337 interviewees (age 20-65), of whom 1,656 were immigrants from the former Soviet Union (FSU), 326 Ethiopian immigrants, 232 Western immigrants and 8,123 native-born Israelis. In terms of access, gaps were found between the various groups: the highest rates were found among Western immigrants followed by native Israelis and FSU immigrants while the lowest rates were found among Ethiopian immigrants. In our analysis we divided digital uses of the Internet according to their context. We found two main types of digital use – instrumental uses (e-mail, information search, shopping and payments) and entertainment uses (games, forums, downloading content). The most significant differences between the ethnic groups included in this study were found in the domain of instrumental uses. Western immigrants and native Israelis tend to use the Internet more for instrumental purposes, as compared to FSU and Ethiopian immigrants. Entertainment applications were found to be used more by FSU and Western immigrants than by native Israelis and Ethiopian immigrants. We should note that instrumental uses are an important resource that

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## **The deliberation forum as an arena for deliberation and an agent of empowerment: A case study of students in the Department of Communication**

Vered Malka\*

### **Abstract**

A new field of research has developed over the recent decades, called "Deliberative Communication". It focuses on the potential contribution of public deliberations to strengthening the foundations of democracy and the promotion of social-political goals and objectives. As such it also has practical implications. The current study focuses on a unique case study, the "Deliberation Forum" course, conducted now for the third year by the Department of Communication at The Max Stern Yezreel Valley College. The project sought to learn about the students' experience of participating in the forum and the effects they attributed to it through unstructured interviews with the participants. The students indicated that the experience of participating in the forum was very positive. They felt the activity benefited them on several levels: It enhanced their self-image as thinking people whose opinions were worthy of being heard; it strengthened their sense of self-importance as students within the department; it developed and reinforced habits of keeping abreast of current affairs as well as critical thinking; and finally, the experience developed and strengthened habits of active participation in pluralistic debates. The findings indicate that participation in projects of this kind has the potential to enhance students' self-image and improve their attitude towards public deliberation and decision making processes. Although this deliberative framework was not aimed at promoting a specific external cause, the activity within the forum at hand had a multi-faceted democratic value.

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contributes to income, beyond the impact of classic socio-demographic factors such as education. Therefore, inequality in instrumental uses can increase social inequality.

## Purity and danger: Newsworthiness, framing of image crises and the Kishon diving investigative report

Oren Meyers & Asaf Rosen\*

### Abstract

The article explores the journalistic coverage of the public crisis that developed, following the publication of *Yediot Aharonot's* investigative report about the diving practices of Israel's sea commandos in the polluted Kishon River. The coverage of the Kishon diving crisis is probed via two, complementing research trajectories: The first trajectory looks at the construction of the newsworthiness of the Kishon diving crisis in comparison to two, similar crises, while addressing the interpretations provided by various involved factors; The second trajectory analyzes the various frames through which the Kishon diving crises was narrated. The article's concluding section discusses the complex interrelations between newsworthiness and framing.

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## The civilian story of the news: *The Previous Day* with Guy Zohar

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### Abstract

The late night show *Hayom Shehaya* (*The Previous Day*), hosted by Journalist Guy Zohar on Israeli Channel 10, offers an alternative to the traditional narrative of the news. The show attempts to imitate the viewer's personal agenda and its ways of construction of a civilian daily routine. This pattern is based on the program's selection of items from the media's flow, re-considering the concept of the news hierarchy and thus encouraging a critical view of the media's concepts of news and agenda setting. This article explores the ways in which the visual and verbal components of the show's discourse reflect its producers' interpretation of media models and the journalists' modes of action and social functions. The viewers' experience is reflected in the host's mediated conversation with his fellow experts. His persona as the knowledgeable conversing "third man" is emphasized by the usage of comic moments, irony and reflexive comments on the media's laundered language.

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