

Inbal Leibovits, Ph.D.

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Appointments

Assistant Professor	School of Communication Studies Scripps College of Communication Ohio University	2026 - present
Postdoctoral researcher	Violence Against Women Cluster School of Social Work University of Central Florida	2023-2026

Education

Ph.D.	Communication Studies, The University of Texas at Austin. Dissertation titled: The Homeless Civic Society: A Study of Liminal Citizenship. Advisor: Dr. Roderick Hart	2017-2023
M.A	Department of Communication, University of Haifa. Master's Thesis titled: Going to War Rhetoric: An Analysis of War Justification Discourse in the Israeli Press. Advisor: Dr. Tamar Katriel	2008-2012
B.A.	Psychology and the Humanities' Honors Program, University of Haifa.	2005-2008

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journals Articles

- Leibovits, I.** (2025). Knowing the Street: On the Production of Knowledge Between Homeless Civic Actors and Their Allies. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*.
- Voth Schrag, R., O'Connor, J., **Leibovits, I.**, Woods, L. Backes, B. (2025). Family health and wellbeing in Domestic Violence Transitional Housing: Service provider perspective. *Families in Society*.
- Woods, L., Backes, B., Voth Schrag, R., O'Connor, J., **Leibovits, I.** (in press). Advocacy approach and goals in Domestic Violence Transition Housing. *Journal of Family Violence*.
- Leibovits, I.** (2020). Homeless women self-advocates: The quest from liminal to full citizenship. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 106(3), 325-333.
- Leibovits, I.** & Katriel, T. (2010). Going to war rhetoric, *Israel Studies in Language and Society*, 3(2): 56-85 [Hebrew].

Book Reviews

Leibovits, I. (2020). *Homeless Advocacy and the Rhetorical Construction of the Civic Home: Melanie, Loehwing, University Park, Pennsylvania: Penn State Press, 2018. 232 pages. 29.95\$ paperback. Rhetoric Review.*

Other Publications

Havron, N., & **Leibovits, I.** (2016). *Language and body: Linguistic knowledge neutralizes automatic valence evaluations.* UK-CLC 2016, 47.

Work in Progress

Leibovits, I. "Homelessness doesn't end when you get a place": Experiences of housing after Homelessness (to be submitted to *Housing Studies*).

Leibovits, I. Woods, L. Voth Schrag, R., Backes, B., O'Connor, J. From transitional to stable housing: Domestic violence survivors' rocky road towards housing stability.

Roman, L. K., **Leibovits, I.** Isnardi, J., Backes, B. Masters, M, Moreto, W. Interagency communication amid a pandemic: challenges and adaptation strategies among criminal justice and domestic violence agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leibovits, I. Beyond Shelter: The Civic Power of Homeless Engagement [Book Manuscript].

Grant Funded Research Experience

More Than a Seat at the Table: Communicative Strategies for Substantive Participation of Lived Experience Experts in Homelessness Policymaking

Funded by Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society | Total

Award: \$ 9,966

Role: Principal Investigator | Ohio University | 2026-2027

Assessing the Impact of Domestic Violence-Specific Risk Assessment Tools on Pretrial Decision Making, Case Outcomes, and Victim Safety

Funded by Arnold Ventures | Total Award: \$3,401,023

Role: Postdoctoral Researcher | PI: Dr. Jill Messing | Arizona State University | 2021-2025

Safe Transitions: Longitudinal Examination of Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Models on Survivor Outcomes

Funded by U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women | Total Award: \$1,000,000

Role: Postdoctoral Researcher | PI: Dr. Bethany Backes | University of Central Florida | 2020–2025

Florida Statewide Domestic Violence Needs Assessment Request for Proposal

Funded by The Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence (FPEDV) | Total Award: \$257,384

Role: Postdoctoral Researcher | PI: Dr. Bethany Backes | University of Central Florida | 2024–2026

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

2023	Best Student Paper Award, The Ethnography Division, National Communication Association conference, National Harbour, MD.
2023	U.T. Graduate School – Dissertation Writing Fellowship (\$13,000)
2022	Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies Honors Day
2020-2021	U.T. Olli Nova Diversity Scholar Award (\$2000)
2020-2021	Roderick P. Hart Student Achievement Award (\$1000)
2020-2021	U.T. Graduate School – Continuing Fellowship (\$30,000)
2020-2021	Outstanding Graduate Student Research, Communication Studies Honors Day
2019-2020	P.E.O – International Peace Scholarship (\$12,500)
2018-2019	P.E.O – International Peace Scholarship (\$12,500)
2018	Outstanding First-Year Ph.D. Student Award, The Department of Communication Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.
2017-2018	Graduate School Fellowship Stipend, The Graduate School, the University of Texas at Austin (\$15,000)
2017-2018	Provost Supplement Fellowship, the University of Texas at Austin (\$5000)
2017-2019	Moody Graduate Fellowship, The Moody College of Communication, the University of Texas at Austin (\$5,000)
2008-2010	Ofakim–Honors Program, University of Haifa, Full Tuition Scholarship for M.A. studies.
2009	Department of Communication - Scholarship for academic achievement in M.A. studies, University of Haifa (\$3000).
2010	<i>Yediot Haifa</i> scholarship for the top student paper, "'What Are You Doing Now?' – Examining the Utopic/Dystopic Discourse on Twitter." (\$1,500).
2005-2007	Ofakim–Honors program, Full Tuition Scholarship for B.A. studies (based on academic achievement).

Teaching Experience

2023	Teaching assistant, Capstone Communication Leadership (for Dr. Joe Cutbirth)
2022	Teaching assistant, "Gender and Communication (for Dr. Johanna Hartelius), Teaching assistant, "The Dark Side of Communication" (for Dr. Roselia Mendez Murillo) Teaching assistant, "Leadership and Urban Engagement" (for Dr. Laura Brown) Teaching assistant, "Communication and Leadership Capstone" (for Dr. Joe Cutbirth)
2021	Teaching Assistant, "Theories of Persuasion" (for Prof. Brendon Bankey)
2020	Teaching Assistant, "Speechwriting and Criticism" (for Dr. Roderick P. Hart).
2019 - 2020	Assistant Instructor, "Professional Communication," The University of Texas at Austin.

- 2017-2018 Teaching Assistant, "Apocalyptic Rhetoric," "Rhetoric of Popular Culture," and "Advanced Analysis of Popular Culture," The University of Texas at Austin (for Dr. Barry Brummett).
- 2017 Teaching assistant, "Leadership Stories" (for Prof. Joe Cutbirth)
- 2011-2012 Teaching Assistant, "Psychological Aspects in Inter-Personal Communication," Netanya Academic College (for Dr. Nurit Tal-Or)
- 2009-2011 Teaching Assistant, "Introduction to Communication as Culture," the University of Haifa (For Dr. Michele Rosenthal).
- 2008-2009; 2011-2012 Teaching Assistant, "Psychological Aspects in Inter-Personal Communication," the University of Haifa (for Dr. Nurit Tal-Or).

Conference Presentations

- Leibovits, I. (2025). Weaving Together Advocacy and Lived Experience: Utilizing Ethnographic and Autoethnographic Insights to Elevate the Communicative Dimensions of Lived Experience. A panel session, Ethnography Division, National Communication Association, Denver, CO, November 20, 2025.
- Leibovits, I. (2025). Elevating Survivors' Voices: Communication, Research, and Policy in IPV and Human Trafficking. A panel session, Women Caucus, National Communication Association, Denver, CO, November 22, 2025.
- Leibovits, I. (2025). Reframing Narratives and Challenging Misinformation: Communication Strategies for Complex Social Issue. A panel session, Public Dialogue and Deliberation Division, National Communication Association, Denver, CO, November 23, 2025.
- O'Connor, J., Roman, K., Wood, L., Voth Schrag, R., Backes, B. & Leibovits, I. (accepted, 2025). Service provider perspectives on family health and wellbeing in domestic violence transitional housing. *Futures Without Violence Conference on Health*. Conference canceled for 2025.
- Leibovits, I. (2024). "Beyond Economic Disruption: The Rhetorical and Material Disruption of Homes in Homeless Encampment Sweeps" A panel session, Public Address Division, National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA November 21, 2024.
- Leibovits, I., Roman, K. L., Backes, B., Isnardi, J., Mackenzie, M., and Moreto, W. (2024). "Interagency Communication Amid a Pandemic: Challenges and Adaptation Strategies Among Criminal Justice and Domestic Violence Agencies During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Organizational Communication Division, National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA November 22, 2024.
- Leibovits, I. (2023). "Co-Producing Homeless Advocacy: Navigating social relationships and expertise between homeless and their housed allies." Top student paper panel, Ethnography Division, National Communication Association, National Harbour, MD, November 16, 2023. [won Best Student Paper Award].
- Leibovits, I. (2022). "A Homeless Notion of Home: Finding PLACE for People Experiencing Homelessness." A paper session at the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, November 18, 2022.
- Leibovits, I. (2022). "Rhetorical Obstacles in Solving Homelessness: The Paradox of 'Housed Homeless.'" A panel session at the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, November 19, 2022.

- Leibovits, I. (2021). "No Shelter in Place: Home, Homelessness, and Housing in Light of the Covid-19 Pandemic." A panel session at the National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, November 20, 2021.
- Leibovits, I. (2021). "Class Disparities (From Local Events to Global Pandemics): An Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Spotlight Panel." the National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, November 18, 2021.
- Leibovits, I. (2020). "Women's Lives at an Economic Crossroads: Rhetoricians Engage Recent Bestsellers on Poverty." A panel session at the National Communication Association, online, November 22, 2020.
- Leibovits, I. (2019). "Homeless Women Self Advocates: The Quest from Liminal to Full Citizenship." Paper presented at Citizenship at the Intersections: 100 years since the 19th Amendment, Organizing for Research on Women and Communication, Milwaukee, WI, March 4-7, 2020.
- Leibovits, I. (2019). "The Rhetoric of Liminal Citizenship: A Pentadic Analysis of a Legislative Theater Performance." Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD, November 24-17, 2019.
- Leibovits, I. (2019). "The Ethos and Pathos of Homeless Orators: An Exploration of the Rhetoric of Liminal Citizenship." Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD, November 24-17, 2019.
- Leibovits, I. (2019). "The Homeless Body as a Site of Civic Deliberation." Paper presented at the Annual Symposium About Language and Society, Austin, Texas, April 12-13, 2019.
- Leibovits, I. (2019). "When the Speechless Speak: The Rhetoric of Liminal Citizenship." Paper presented at Western States Communication Association, Seattle, Washington, February 23, 2019.
- Leibovits, I. (2018). "When the Speechless Speak: The Rhetoric of Liminal Citizenship." Paper presented at the International Rhetoric Workshop, Ghent, Belgium, July 4-6, 2018.
- Havron, N. & Leibovits, I. (2016). "Language and Body: Linguistic Knowledge Neutralizes Automatic Valence Evaluations." Paper presented at United Kingdom Cognitive Linguistic Conference, Bangor University, U.K., July 19-22, 2016.
- Leibovits, I. (2016). "Hadar Neighborhood: A Preliminary Analysis of Social Neighborhood Regeneration/Urban Renewal Policy Documents." Paper presented at Ethnographic and Semiotic Perspectives on the Study of Urban Landscapes, Research Workshop, University of Haifa, Israel, June 27-29, 2016.
- Leibovits, I. (2014). "On the Collective Memory of Going to War in Israel." Paper presented at the Third CuWaDis-European-Group-Workshop to Advance the study of War, Discourse and Culture, Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, July 21-23, 2014.
- Leibovits, I. (2013). "On the Rhetoric of Going to War." Paper presented at The Annual Conference of the Israeli Communication Association, Bar Ilan University, Israel, March 21, 2013.
- Leibovits, I. & Katriel, T. (2012). "On the Rhetoric of Going to War." Paper presented at Talking Peace – Making War conference, Truman Institute, The Hebrew University, Israel, March 28, 2012.
- Leibovits, I. & Hamo, E. (2010). "Wiki-professionalism: Common Cultural Production." Paper presented at Metaksherim conference for research students, University of Haifa, Israel, December 5, 2010.

Research Experience

- 2023-present Postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Bethany Backes's research team.
- Writing grant proposals
 - Overseeing a research team of graduate and undergraduate research assistants
 - Developing research protocols and retention procedures
 - Managing data collection in two grant-funded national longitudinal studies, including surveys and interviews of over 1000 participants.
 - Overseeing Spanish translation of surveys and interview materials
 - Conducting trauma-informed interviews with intimate partner violence survivors
 - Qualitative research analysis and writing
- 2020 Research Assistant for Dr. Roderick P. Hart
- Reading and analyzing American top 100 speeches for his book "American Eloquence"
- 2009-2011 Research Assistant for the project "Unplugged – Media Ambivalence and Avoidance in Everyday Life" (for Dr. Rivka Ribak and Dr. Michel Rosenthal, University of Haifa).
- Conducted in-depth interviews with individuals and families
 - Conducted a preliminary analysis of data
 - Coordinated and processed interviews

Service

- 2026 Reviewer, Families in Society Journal
- 2026 Reviewer, Ethnography Division, Organizational Communication Division, and Public Dialogue and Deliberation Division, National Communication Association, 2026.
- 2024 Reviewer, International Journal of Communication
- 2024 Reviewer, Applied Communication Division and Activism and Social Justice Division, National Communication Association 2024.
- 2024 Paper poster judge in UCF's 2024 Student Scholar Symposium
- 2022-2023 Initiated weekly dissertation writing group in the department, providing peer support, goals setting, and accountability.
- 2020-2021 President of the Graduate Students Body, Communication Studies department
- Oversaw the group's work to execute five professional development and social events
 - Led a community effort to enhance departmental racial inclusiveness
- 2020-2021 Reviewer, Feminist and Gender Studies Division, National Communication Association 2021.
- 2020-2021 International Students working group in Moody School of Communication
- 2018-2020 Organizing working sessions for graduate students in Rhetoric and Language, Department of Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2019-2020 Reviewer, Critical and Cultural Studies division, National Communication Association 2020.

Professional Development

- 2025 Preparing Tomorrow's Faculty, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning,
University of Central Florida
- 2008-2009 Dialogue Facilitation Course, Seeds of Peace

Non-academic publishing

- Leibovits, I. (2020, September 14). "Safe, open public schools a necessity," *San Antonio Express-News*. Retrieved on February 23, 2021, from <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/Commentary-Safe-open-public-schools-a-necessity-15565966.php>.
- Leibovits, I. (2020, June 23). "Being nice is a privilege of citizens protected by the state." Local Conversation. [in Hebrew]. Retrieved on February 23, 2021 from <http://bit.ly/3HqD3F3>.

Invited Talks:

- Leibovits, I. (2024). Civic Engagement as "Political Healing": The Case of Homeless Civic Advocates, Texas A&M, November 11, 2024.
- Leibovits, I. (2024). *International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Ending Gender-Based Violence*, OrlandoWorld, University of Central Florida. August 2, 2024.
- Leibovits, I. (2024). *Community Engaged Research: Lessons From The Field*, Criminal Justice Department, University of Central Florida. April 1, 2024.
- Leibovits, I. (2021). *When the Speechless Speak: Homeless Self-Advocacy and Liminal Citizenship*, Olli Nova, online, April 21, 2021.
- Leibovits, I. (2020). Being nice is a privilege of citizens protected by the state. Presented on a panel on *Violence, Oppression, and Hope: Here and Across the Ocean* [in Hebrew], organized by Hand in Hand Community, Haifa, Israel, June 14, 2020.
- Leibovits, I. (2020). *Peacebuilding Through Dialogue in the Middle-East*. Moody College of Communication, October 27, 2020.

Previous Work Experience

- 2012-2017 Director of Hadar HaCarmel Students' Village
A community engagement partnership between Haifa University and the municipality
- Supervised the community engagement activity of over 100 students and staff members
 - Coordinated the program's steering committee
 - Planned and monitored a yearly budget of \$250,000
 - Directed, guided, and trained six staff members
 - Conducted community outreach and learning sessions among diverse communities
 - Initiated, planned, and oversaw wide community events
- 2007-2014 Conflict resolution facilitator, Seeds of Peace and Hands of Peace
- Co-facilitated intense dialogue group of youth from the Middle East
 - Navigated leadership with a Palestinian co-facilitator
 - Supported participants through difficult conversations to reach common grounds
 - Fostered inclusion of silenced perspectives and individuals
 - Promoted an understanding of diverse points of view
- 2007-08 Program Coordinator, Yedidim.
A mentorship program for young offenders
- Trained university students for mentoring positions and oversaw the mentoring of 25 young offenders.
 - Fostered relationships with participants' families and support systems, including social workers, teachers, and health professionals.
 - Managed the program's steering committee and partnering organizations, including police, government departments, and city agencies.
 - Planned and executed group workshops for participants and mentors

Volunteer Civic Engagement Work

- 2023 Facilitated listening sessions
Property Engagement Workgroup of the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care
- Facilitated three sessions of around 100 stakeholders overall
 - Worked with the organizers to plan the sessions' outline
- 2021-2022 Gathering Ground Theater, Research Coordinator
- 2014-2017 Active member in the Jewish-Arab parents' community of a bilingual school.
- 2008-2017 Community activist in Hadar neighborhood, Haifa, Israel.
- Initiated and led a diverse community forum to represent the neighborhoods' needs in quarterly meetings with Haifa mayor and heads of the municipality's departments.
 - Led community members through research and mapping of the needs of various ethnic and religious communities in the neighborhood.
 - Collaboratively wrote and produced three comprehensive reports
- 2005-2010 Member of "Seeds of Peace" alumni organization.
- 1999-2002 Active participant in the regional program of Seeds of Peace.

Language Skills

Hebrew (native); English (fluent, academic level); Spanish (fluent); Arabic (basic)

Software Skills

Atlas ti. (advanced); SPSS (intermediate), Qualtrics, Excel, Word, PowerPoint (advanced); Canva (intermediate); Communication Apps such as Slack, Discord, Signal.