

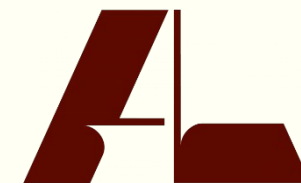


האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



COMPUTATIONAL STUDIES OF HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY

The Alfred Landecker Digital Humanities Lab
Lab director: Dr. Renana Keydar



Remapping Wandering Routes

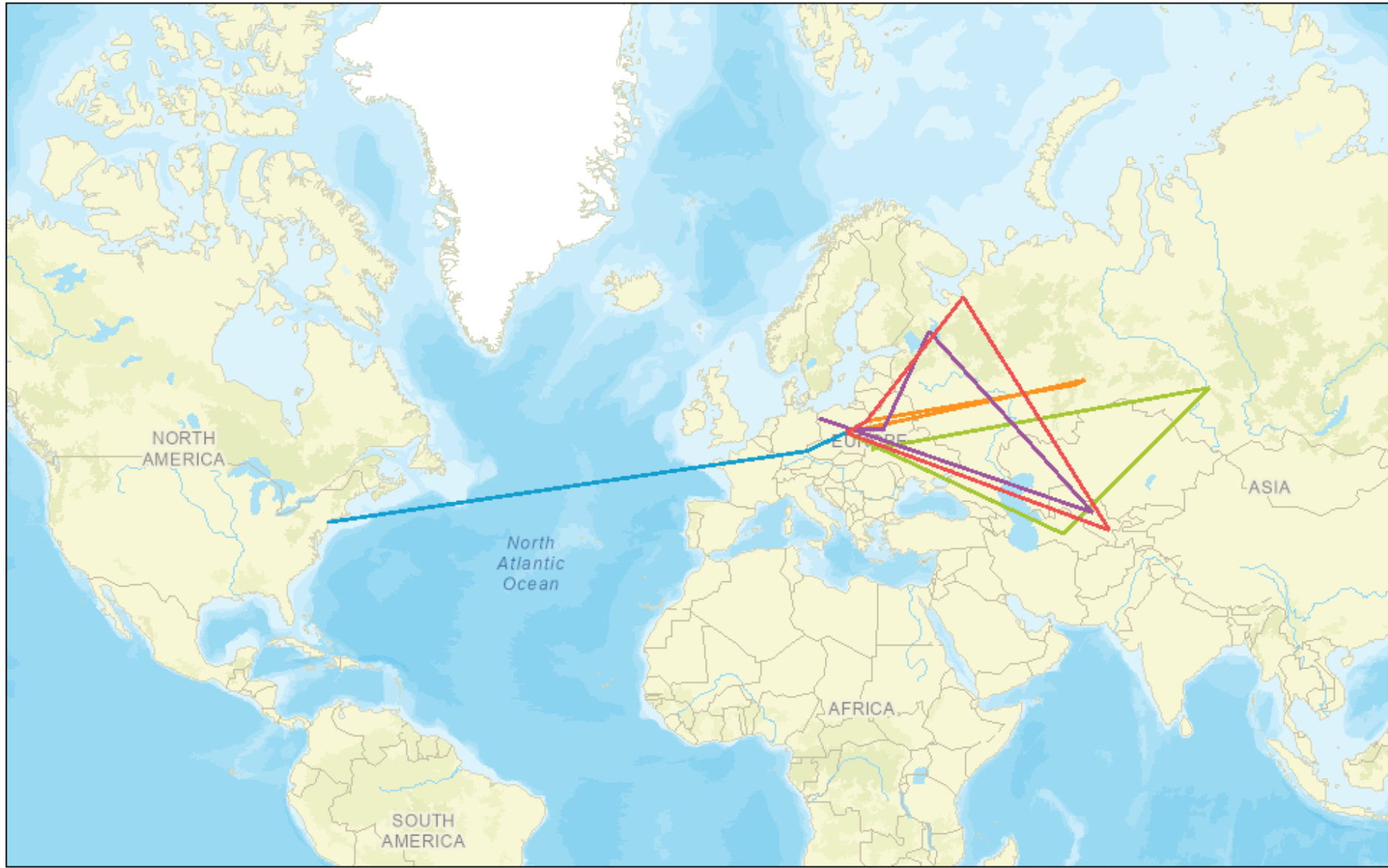
Description:

This research deals with the biggest group of Polish-Jewish survivors, about 230,000 people, who spent the war as refugees in the Soviet Union. The project focuses on the geographical and spatial experiences and aspects of this story. Using tools from Digital Humanities, Seri-Levi will analyze and map the flight and exile routes of the refugees and deportees from Poland toward the Soviet Union and within it during WWII for the first time, by examining personal and familial narratives appearing in questionnaires, early and late testimonies, and memoirs found in archival materials and other sources written immediately after the war and onward. By visualizing the geographics of this experience, the goal of this project is to create an open-access map that will reveal the vast dispersion of these refugees throughout the Soviet Union.



Dr. Naama Seri-Levi
a postdoctoral fellow at the
Alfred Landecker Digital
Humanities Lab

Journeys



24/05/2023

Journeys - journeys lines

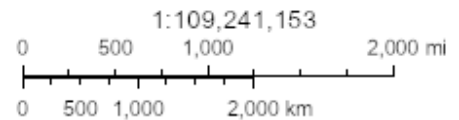
Abbe Herse

Achtung Jakob

Abbe Fela

Abramshon Dawid

Ajchencwajg Chil



Esri, FAO, NOAA, USGS

Comparing Acoustic and Text-based Segmentation of Holocaust Testimonies

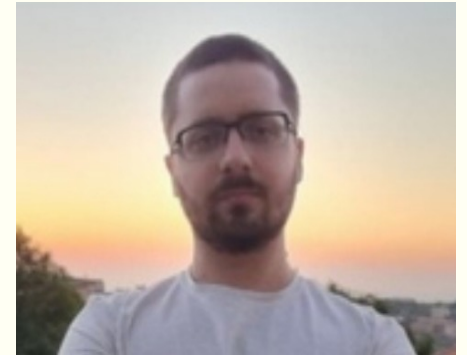
Description:

When analyzing testimonies, one of the most important initial steps of the analysis is to segment and categorize them in a meaningful way.

While text segmentation is a topic of much research in NLP, the corresponding task for auditory signal is much less explored. The two types of segmentation are expected to correspond to one another to some extent, but also to reflect different narrative and affectional properties.

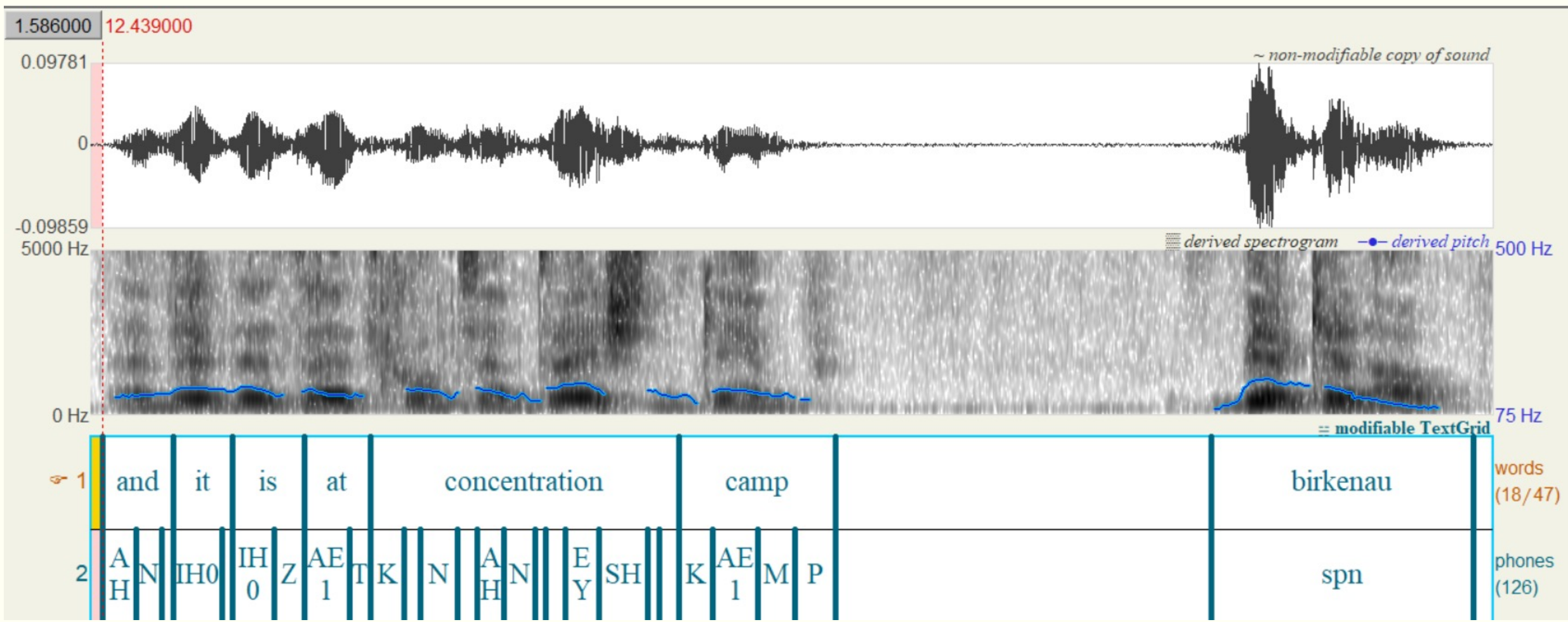
The nature and degree of correspondence between these two segmentations are the topic of the research project.

The auditory segmentation task will be based on patterns in the pitch and volume of the speaker, as well as semantic features, some of which were explored in our group's recent EMNLP paper "Topical Segmentation of Spoken Narratives: A Test Case on Holocaust Survivor Testimonies" (<https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.13783>).



Avishai Elmakies
MSc, Computer Science

Comparing Acoustic and Text-based Segmentation of Holocaust Testimonies - Initial Results



Evolutions of Religion in Holocaust Testimonies

Description:

I'm working on exploring changes in religious beliefs as reflected in testimony transcripts of Holocaust survivors, through looking at Jewish practices and beliefs described in the text.

The testimonies were collected from the Shoah Foundation (SF) Holocaust archive.

To accomplish this, I'll use supervised and unsupervised methods together with other NLP tools, such as Fine-tuning, few-shot learning, and prompting Large Language Models (LLMs).



Esther Shizgal
MSc, Computer Science

Examining narrative representations in textual content

Description:

My research focuses on extracting valuable embeddings from texts, (such as stories, or within the broader scope of the study - Holocaust testimonies) that capture the author's individual writing style and the underlying narrative they convey.

These embeddings will capture concepts that transcend the mere content, plot, and textual semantics of the story.

The study involves developing methods and models for extracting such meaningful embeddings, exploring methods to utilize and assess these stylistic representations, and establishing clear definitions of style and narrative within the research framework.

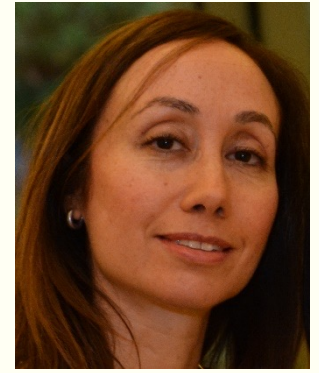


Nathan Voldman
MSc, Computer Science

The École de Paris in Jerusalem: A Tale of Culture Salvation and Nation Building

Description:

During the aftermath of the Second World War and with the general understanding in the Jewish world that Europe can no longer be a center of Jewish life, two major centers developed, one in the United States and the other in Israel. Simultaneously to this reordering, remnants of Jewish cultural material: Art, Judaica, Books and Archives were transferred from Post-war European soil to the new centers. Mordechai Narkiss, the director of the Bezalel Art Museum in Jerusalem, who, once the war ended, campaigned zealously the importance of going to Europe and transferring these materials to Israel, embarked on his first trip to Europe on May 1947. During this trip, that was followed by a series of long stays in Europe till 1955, he mapped out the various countries from which he intended to transfer art and Judaica, amongst them: France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Poland. My Masters project concentrates on France and more specifically on a group of a few hundred paintings and sculptures of the Jewish artists of the “School of Paris”, that Narkiss transfers to Israel through a network intertwining pre-war, war and post-war connections. In my research I am telling the story of Narkiss’ decision to salvage the “School of Paris” and bring it to Israel while threading together the emigration of the Jewish artists from Eastern-Europe to Paris during the first half of the twentieth century and especially the inter-war period, their artistic life in Paris and their fate during the Occupation there.



Avisahg Ben Yosef
a graduate student in
Jewish History and Digital
Humanities

International workshop on computational Holocaust studies, 2024

A 3-day workshop aiming to bring together experts working in the fields of Holocaust studies, digital humanities and computational sciences more broadly, to examine the practical, methodological and theoretical aspects of engaging with survivor testimonies through the use of computational tools.



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