



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת  
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities  
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

# **Contextualizing the Self: Creating and Recreating the First Person**

An Interdisciplinary Workshop 2018 – 2019

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Tuesday, December 11, 2018

16:15 – 17:45

Gilman Building, room 449

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Chairman: **Prof. Aviad Kleinberg**

Lecture by:

**Pierre-Henri Castel**

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

## **Sex Change, Gender Change, Self Change?**

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My generation of therapists has witnessed a formidable turnabout. “Sex Change” metamorphosed from the quintessential psychiatric example of delusional destruction of self-identity to a legally-protected human right, anchored in the privacy, agency, and self-ownership of free individuals. How did this transformation happen? And what long-term process of social, cultural, epistemological and ethical transformation of identity categories could possibly account for such an upheaval?

Revisiting my former research about “transsexualism”, mostly centered on the philosophical conundrums of body and personal identity, I will argue that, contrary to what many gender scholars and militants appear to think, sex/gender change, though clearly a form of individual self-construction, hardly amounts to a construction, or even a displacement of the Self as such.

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\*\*\* The lectures will be held in English

<https://www.contextualizing-the-self-workshop.com/>