

EMDA ORR

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It was my great pleasure to meet Emda Orr some twenty five years ago at a conference of social psychology, particularly concerned with the study of groups. During the conference we started discussing social psychology and very soon the theory of social representations came into our debate. Emda was dynamic, curious and during our conversation she brought to my awareness her interest in educational and political issues, in particular those of Israeli-Palestinian conflicts. She was deeply involved in the study of these complex problems and I became intensely attentive to her views and reflections on these ethno-national and territorial conflicts.

Emda then became a member of the network of social psychologists who studied social representations. Among other places, we met again in 1999 at the Summer School on Social Representations and Communication in Rome where she was invited to present a keynote lecture on Jews and Palestinians in Israel and Palestinians in the Palestinian Autonomy region. Some years ago Emda invited me to Beer Sheva. It was a marvelous occasion during which we had intellectual discussions on social representations and more broadly on social psychology in general. Emda's interests brought into our discussion questions concerning the style of life in collective settings, political trends in diversity of people in groups, and new immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. We also had extensive talks about religion and the roots of Durkheim's ideas.

I met some of Emda's students and she kept sending me her own publications as well as the papers that she jointly wrote with her students. I found all her work very inspiring and was

very sad to learn that she was no longer among us. She will be always remembered as a very exciting and deeply cultivated colleague who has made a tremendous influence on her friends, students and collaborators and who has so significantly contributed to the study of social representations in extreme group conflict.