Jewish Peoplehood in a Global Context

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The Reality of Global Migration

- Total global migration rose from 75 million in 1965, to 120 million in 1990, and 175 million in 2000 (Waters and Ueda; 2007)
- One in every 35 worldwide is an “International Migrant”
- In 2002, 175 Million people live outside the country in which they were born (UN)
  - 56 Million in Europe, 50 million in Asia, 41 million in North America
The Concept of Peoplehood: It’s not just about the Jews

- Globalization—Global–local–glocal
- Late modernity and post-modernity
- Multiple identities
- Homeland–Diaspora
- Trans–nationalism, Trans–national Diaspora
- Jewish identity, Jewish religion, Jewish Peoplehood
Diaspora identities are "multifaceted and composed of complexly interwoven strands of ethnicity, religion and ancestry. Diaspora communities have specific geographies and histories, they have multiple loyalties, they move between regions, do not occupy a single cultural space and, perhaps most importantly, operate exterior to state boundaries and their cultural effects" (Mitchell (1997), cited by Coles and Timothy 2003:7).
Jewish Peoplehood: Theoretical Underpinnings

- A sense of personal closeness to other Jews
- A sense of belonging to a shared destiny and common goals of the Jewish collective
- A sense of responsibility and commitment to other Jews and their communities
- Possessing the cultural knowledge and skills to feel at home within the Jewish culture(s) wherever Jews gather.
- Engaged in Jewish social networks both local and global with significant intensity and meaning.
- Engaged in practices that both signify and realize all the above
Jewish Peoplehood: Emerging Factors

- Collective Belonging
- Interpersonal Attachment
- Jewish Capital
- Responsibility

Taglit Mifgash

A structured encounter between the Jewish Worlds of Homeland and Diaspora