

REVIEW

**by Prof. Vanya Gospodinova Hristova. PhD., VFU Chernorizets Hrabar
Member of the Scientific Jury pursuant to The Rector of VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar"
for on the procedure for awarding the degree of PhD of Psychology
by Tsuriel Zuff,
professional field 3.2. Psychology**

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE DISSERTATION

Tsuriel Zuff's dissertation addresses a timely and significant issue, revealing the important connection between two fundamental constructs—the influence of youth movements on the functioning of their members in society. Today, given the geopolitical situation in the cultural environment under study, interest in the factors and mechanisms through which informal leaders influence the development and functioning of youth movement members is particularly relevant.

From this perspective, Tsuriel Zuff's dissertation addresses a timely and significant issue for the Israeli community, namely, identifying the long-term influence of effective training strategies in youth movements during adolescence on life trajectories in adulthood, with a special focus on patterns of military service, choice of place of residence, and civic engagement behavior.

Tsuriel Zuff's dissertation is 161 pages long, with the content structured into an introduction, eight chapters, conclusions, recommendations, a bibliography, and appendices. The text includes 6 tables and 4 figures. A total of 166 sources are cited.

The introduction presents the rationale for selecting the research topic, as well as the role of the issue under consideration from both theoretical and practical perspectives.

The parameters necessary for the dissertation research are defined, namely the object and subject of the study, the main objective of the dissertation, and the tasks set out to be solved.

II. DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The structure of the dissertation is logically organized and aligned with the comprehensive development of the research problem, the testing of the research hypothesis, and the research questions derived from it.

The introduction presents the rationale for the choice of the research topic, as well as the role of the problem under consideration from both theoretical and practical perspectives.

The parameters necessary for the dissertation research are defined, namely the object and subject of the study, the main objective of the dissertation, and the tasks set for resolution. Chapter One, "Development and Understanding of Adolescence – Historical and Theoretical Perspective," is theoretical and examines the theoretical concepts describing adolescence as a stage in personality development. It outlines the psychological theories covering the age period under consideration, the sociological aspects of adolescence, as well as the development of temperament and personality traits in adolescents.

Chapter Two, "Nonformal Education — A Complementary Educational Framework," presents the theoretical framework of formal education and the aspects of non-formal

education, while also examining the differences between formal and non-formal education. Special attention is also given to the challenges and problems faced by all participants in these types of education.

In Chapter Three, “Youth Movements as a Central Model for Non-Formal Education,” the focus is on youth movements as a central model of non-formal education. The first section examines the influence of youth organizations on the socialization, social adaptation, and psychosocial identity of adolescents. The second paragraph presents theories regarding groups, while the following two paragraphs examine the characteristics of youth movements, as well as their types on a global scale. The final paragraph of the chapter addresses the influence of youth movements on adolescent development.

Chapter 4, “Youth Movements in Israel,” examines and describes the historical development, as well as the unique characteristics and influence, of youth movements in Israel.

The following four chapters present the parameters and methods of the dissertation research.

The aim, objectives, and subject of the study are precisely defined, and the hypotheses and methods for data analysis are formulated. The sample of respondents includes 310 individuals aged 25 to 45; 205 of them participated in youth movements during their adolescence, while 105 did not. The relevant sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents are also described.

To collect the necessary information, methods such as surveys, interviews, and questionnaires were used, based on which the corresponding analysis of the results was conducted.

The thesis is written in a logical manner, and the doctoral candidate demonstrates a thorough understanding of the subject matter and the ability to establish logical connections between the theoretical approach and the resolution of practical issues.

The results obtained are interpreted in terms of the extent to which they confirm the hypotheses. Based on this, conclusions are drawn and possibilities for practical applications of the dissertation’s findings are proposed.

The conclusion summarizes the findings of the dissertation. The conclusions follow logically from the text, are sound, and are directly related to the specific subject matter.

III. ABSTRACT AND PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

The abstract of the dissertation accurately and faithfully reflects the dissertation, and the related publications are sufficient and cover essential aspects of the doctoral candidate’s work.

I accept the contributions formulated by the doctoral candidate, and I would like to emphasize some of them once again:

- ✓ A systematization of fundamental scientific theories and research perspectives on human development has been carried out, which are interpreted based on the identification of the long-term impact of effective training strategies in youth movements during adolescence, as well as their influence on life trajectories in adulthood.

- ✓ The results of this comprehensive study fill a gap in the existing literature regarding the influence of military service models, choice of residence, and civic engagement behaviors among the study population in this cultural context.
- ✓ Innovative and practical solutions are proposed for the main problems of social adaptation, responsibility, and integration, so that adolescents can become responsible members of society in adulthood.
- ✓ The practical significance lies in the fact that the results of the dissertation research contribute to the practical applicability of programs supporting non-formal education in the studied context.

IV. CRITICAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

I have no critical comments regarding the substantive aspects of the main theses and their substantiation in the dissertation. During the development of the dissertation, and in my capacity as a reviewer, the doctoral candidate made a conscientious effort to address the comments made.

V. CONCLUSION OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation presented by Tsurriel Zuff constitutes an independent scientific study. In it, the author demonstrates his in-depth theoretical knowledge and his ability to conduct and interpret experimental research. The dissertation makes contributions in both theoretical and practical-applied aspects.

In conclusion, on the basis of the above, I propose the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury to award the PhD. of General Psychology to Tsurriel Zuff in the professional field 3.2. "Psychology".

May 19, 2026

Prepared the review:

(Prof. Vanya Hristova, PhD.)