

## ABSTRACTS

### **Leadership and Leaders of the *Poalei-Zion* Party in Russia: From its Inception to the October Revolution**

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This paper is an attempt to determine the characteristics of the social-democratic *Poalei-Zion* leadership (Borochof's followers), and to pinpoint their problems at different stages up to the breakout of the Bolshevik October Revolution. The author discusses the kind of leadership that crystallized at the initial stages and during the underground period of the party, until the end of the 1905 Revolution; the process of turning the leadership into a kind of 'Foreign Liaison Office', which came with the depression and atmosphere of liquidation, which seized the revolutionary organizations in 1907-1913, and the destruction of the cells by the Czarist domestic secret services. Also discussed in this paper is the chain of events that restricted the status of the traditional leadership by driving the intellectuals into a corner, and by elevating the cafe-sitting party apparatchiks to high power. Following the February Revolution, only a few of those leaders found their way back to the steering circles of the party. Although, apparently, the party in Russia honored their names and memories, they were gradually pushed out of the leading organs. The 1917 Bolshevik Revolution upset the process and only concealed it. Against this background, the author also adds several remarks concerning the changes in Borochof's position in the party.