

**Schmidt, Joshua**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

**Trance Functionality: Comparing and Contrasting Secular and Religious Israeli Trance-Dance Parties**

As a musically driven socio-cultural entity, electronic dance music -- especially its 'full-on' psychedelic trance mode -- has evolved into a normalized facet of Israeli popular culture. In contemporary Israel, trance fulfills a range of roles for a diverse number of non-immediately related social groups. As such, my paper compares and contrasts the utilization of trance music and culture within two parallel communities -- secular and Orthodox (religious) youth.

Previous research on archetypical secular psytrance parties both focused on its linguistic and extra-linguistic attributes and established that participants' language contained more paradoxical elements than their behavior. A subsequent analysis of religious trance parties found the opposite to be true; the conduct of Orthodox psy-revelers was riddled with paradox while their language remained paradox-free. Presented in an audio/visual format, my paper examines a multitude of reasons for this disparity by discussing the societal factors that motivate participants to attend trance-dance gatherings and by illustrating the functions these events perform for their respective communities.