**On the Threshold:**

**Stories of School Security Guards in Israel**

**Abstract**

Under neoliberalism, indirect employment systems have flourished around the world. Concurrently, private security services expanded. In Israel, indirect employment and the political-security climate gave rise to private security at schools. Most research on private security focuses on socio-economics; little explores guards’ personal world. The current qualitative study documents Israeli school security guards’ perceptions of their profession using semi-structured interviews, observations, and document analysis. Findings indicate Israeli school security guards’ experiences, perceptions, status, and working relationships are characterized by multilayered liminality. This liminality relates to global socio-economics, alongside core aspects of Israeli society, oscillating between a security ethos and neoliberalism.