



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY Faculty Senate

Boaz Kahana was born on May 18th 1934, to Joseph and Batya Kahana, who fled to the United States from massacres in the British mandate of Palestine. Boaz's first language was Hebrew, and he attended the Rabbi Jacob Joseph School on the lower East side of Manhattan. After graduating from high school, he attained bachelor's and master's degrees in Clinical psychology from Yeshiva University. After completing his clinical internship under Professor Solomon Machover at Kings County Hospital Center, he worked for five years as a clinical psychologist in this setting, working with prison inmates. In 1963, Boaz enrolled in the Human Development Program of The University of Chicago, where he worked with Professor William Henry. He completed his doctoral program in three years. He then secured a tenure track position at the Department of Psychology of Washington University with a joint appointment at the affiliated medical school's Department of Psychiatry. In that setting, Boaz worked with Professor James Anthony developing intervention programs for children of psychotic parents. A few years later, after Boaz's wife, the renowned Professor of Sociology, Eva Kahana, obtained a tenured position at Wayne State University, Boaz was awarded an appointment as a full professor at Oakland University in Michigan and eventually became the Psychology Department chair. In 1984, he joined the Department of Psychology at Cleveland State University as the department chair.



1934-2020

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When coming to CSU, Boaz brought a large NIMH grant aimed at studying the effects of trauma on the psychological well-being and Holocaust survivors. After his arrival, Professor Zev Harel, the chair of the Social Work Department, became his collaborator. Together, they authored the book titled *Holocaust Survivors and Immigrants – Late Life Adaptation*. Together they also published a book titled *Human Adaption to Extreme Stress*. At CSU, Boaz served as department chair for several years and engaged in gerontological research. He became involved in the Ohio Network of Gerontological Consultants and was later elected president of the organization. He was also very active in the Association of Gerontology of High Education. Boaz was a prolific scholar with over 200 publications spanning developmental psychology, gerontology, and traumatic stress studies.

In addition to being a productive researcher, Boaz was a mentor and committed to the success of his students and fellow faculty members. He was excited about the material he taught and had a great passion for students, and one would often find him in his office providing them with advice regarding their career goals and classes they might wish to take. His colleagues knew him as always being positive and supportive. He was optimistic, upbeat, and proudly would mention his young colleagues who successfully attained grants or were doing important research. Boaz continued to teach and publish until he was in his 80s, echoing his belief that successful aging is associated with being productive and involved in the community. Boaz's passion for academia was bequeathed to his son Michael, a renowned professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, and his son Jeffery, a history professor and award-winning teacher at Mount St. Mary College. Boaz will be sorely missed by his former students, colleagues, and friends.