

UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



The Swiss Center for

# Conflict Research, Management and Resolution

In the name of Sigi and Lisa Daniel

Annual Report 2015-2016



### The Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution In the name of Sigi and Lisa Daniel

# Annual Report 2015-2016



The Faculty of Social Sciences

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# The Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution

in the name of Sigi and Lisa Daniel

The Faculty of Social Sciences
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

### About the Center

he Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution is an interdisciplinary center established in 1999 at the initiative of the Swiss Friends of the Hebrew University and the European Executive Council of the university. Former Swiss President Ruth Dreyfus dedicated the center in May 2000.

The center operates within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University and incorporates students and researchers from various disciplines who have displayed interest in the areas covered by the center. The center is devoted to studying the sources and causes of domestic and external conflicts in general and in Israel in particular. It explores the methods, techniques and strategies that can help manage and resolve these conflicts from different disciplinary points of view, including social psychology, international relations and political science, communication and media studies, sociology, education and law.

The activities of the Swiss Center fall into four main categories:

- 1. Multidisciplinary Masters and Doctoral Study Program: This program is intended for advanced students in the social sciences who want to study and acquire skills in conflict management and resolution in different areas. Students learn about the theories, methodologies, strategies and techniques for managing and resolving conflicts, and for solving problems between social, economic, ethnic and political groups, as well as states.
- 2. Mediation and Negotiation Training Program: This program trains mediators for work in the Israeli mediation system. Such mediators, in tandem with the relevant authorities, can help relieve the burden of an overloaded court system. Students who have backgrounds in psychology, sociology, social work, international relations, education, law, and communication concentrate on gaining skills within the program, supplemented by an internship in community, municipal, and government offices. The Center also encourages the development of special programs for intervention in the education system, especially high schools.
- 3. Research: students and faculty at the Center research the local, regional, and international dimensions of conflict management and resolution in theory and practice. Papers produced by the Center are printed and disseminated to various journals and publications.
- 4. International Exchange: The Center aims at a cross-fertilization of ideas between scholars and practitioners who are analyzing, managing, and resolving conflict. Seminars, workshops, and conferences bring colleagues together for productive exchanges





From the Director

his year was another good and successful year for the Swiss Center, during which we developed our outstanding academic program, continued to enjoy inspiring teachers and brilliant students, all of which enabled us to remain the most prestigious program in conflict research, management and resolution in Israel.

I would like to thank our generous donors who contributed to the Center. Without your generosity, it would have been impossible to continue all of our activities in various domains such as teaching, research, workshops, conferences and collaborations with other organizations and institutions.

Special thanks to the members of the Swiss Association of the Friends of the Hebrew University for their help and support and especially to Mrs. Nadia Guth-Biasini, Mr. David Wollach, Mrs. Nathalie Berrebi, Dr. Eric Hauf, and Mrs. Nilly Sikorsky for their continuing support of the Swiss Center and its activities.

I would also like to express my appreciation and wish good luck to the devoted coordinator of the center Mrs. Limor Levy who has moved to a new position at the Hebrew University. On behalf of the staff and students - I would like to thank Limor for her outstanding work. At the same time, I would like to welcome our new coordinator, Mrs. Tamar Yakubovitz that joined us in May and already built a new website for the program and revived our Facebook platform. I am sure that Tamar will continue the legacy of dedication and outstanding work at the Swiss Center.

The following report describes the work and achievements of the Swiss Center and Program for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution during the past year.

### Professor Ifat Maoz

Head, Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

# The Swiss Center Study Program

Academic committee, Faculty members and Coordinators

### Academic Committee

**Prof. Ifat Maoz** Department of Commuication,

Head of the Swiss Center (2012-13; 2015-)

**Dr. Zohar Kampf** Department of Commulication, Former

Head of the Swiss Center (2013-14)

**Prof. Ilana Ritov** Chair of Academic Committee.

School of Education

**Prof. Ilan Yaniv** Department of Psychology

**Prof. Tamir Sheafer** Department of Political Science and

Department of Communication

**Prof. Michael Karayanni** Faculty of Law

**Prof. Paul Frosh** Department of Communication

### Faculty and Adjunct Faculty

Prof. Ifat Maoz (Center Director 2012-2013, 2015-) Prof. Ilana Ritov (Center Director 2009-2012)

Prof. Eitan Alimi Dr. Maya Kahanoff
Prof. Itay Fischhendler Dr. Zohar Kampf
Prof. Paul Frosh (Center Director 2013-2014)

Prof. Gabriel Horenczyk Dr. Yiftach Ron

Prof. Michael Karayanni Dr. Hananel Rosenberg

Prof. Danny Miodownik Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt

Prof. Moshe Negbi Adv. Yael Ezraty
Prof. Elie Podeh Adv. Carmit Fenton
Prof. Ilan Yaniv Adv. Yael Ilany

Dr. Yehudith Auerbach Mrs. Maya De Vries



### **Emeritus**

Prof. Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov (1946-2013)

Center Founder and Director 1999-2009 Prof. David Bargal (Founding member)

### Swiss Center Coordinator and Advisor

Tamar Yakubovitz

Faculty of Social Sciences, room 3412

### Dialogue Program Supervisor

Dr. Maya Kahanoff

### Academic Projects Coordinator and Methodological Advisor

Dr. Yiftach Ron

### Internship Project Coordinator

Maya de Vries

### Website Project Coordinator

Tamar Yakubovitz

**Contact** Website: http://crmr.huji.ac.il

Email: crmr@savion.huji.ac.il

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/conflict.huji

### Masters Program Courses

### **Theoretical Core Courses**

- Theories and Approaches in Studying Social Conflicts
- New Technologies Old Conflicts? New Media and Political, Cultural, and Religious Conflicts
- From Conflict to Reconciliation Between People and States
- Psychology and Media in Conflict
- Interdisciplinary Departmental Seminar

### **Training Courses: Tools and Techniques**

- Mediation
- Simulation Games and Negotiation Processes
- Negotiation: Behavioral Perspective
- Dialogue and Recognition in Ethno-National Conflict; The Israeli-Palestinian Case

### **Research and Methodological Courses**

Quantative Research Methods

### **Elective Courses**

### Swiss Center Cluster (courses from the program)

- Management and Resolution of Labor Conflicts
- From Theory to Practice in Mediation
- Advanced Approaches and Methods to Research on Narratives, Identities and Perceptions in Conflicts
- Civil Society Conflict Transformation & Reconciliation Practicum for Social Sciences MA Students

### Political-International Cluster

- Approaching Arab Liberalism
- Israel in the Middle East
- The Media and Law Enforcement
- Mass Media Effects on Public Opinion
- Political Narratives in Israel



- Party Democracy in Post-Communist Europe
- Poverty and Development
- The Politics of the International Economic System
- Memory, Narrative & Historiography The 1948 War
- Multinational Corporations in World Politics
- Fundamentalist Sunni Islam
- Muslims and non-Muslims: "Otherness" in Two Cultures
- Multi-Disciplinary Workshop on Environmental
- The Media and National Security
- Equality
- Society and Culture in German Thought in the Second Empire
- The European Union: A Unique "Beast"
- Empirical Political Research in Israel
- The Legitimation Crisis in Advanced Democracies
- Immigration to Europe
- International Law in the Age of Globalization

### Social-Psychological Cluster

- Israeli and Palestinian Intifada Cinema
- Research Approaches and Skills for Graduate Students
- Issues in Social Psychology: Pro—Seminar
- Themes and Methods in Feminist Reaserch
- Gender and Law
- Religion, State and Multiculturalism
- The Media in War and Peace
- Contemporary World Cinema
- Education to Equality and Gender Violence Prevention
- Interdisciplinary Workshop on Multiculturalism
- Terror, Counter-Terror and Human Rights
- Perception and Processing of Social Information in Conflict
- Issues in Gender Studies: Text, Identity and Culture
- The Role of International Law in Resolving the Middle East Conflict

# The Students

nly twenty to twenty five of the many applicants for the Swiss Center Masters program in Conflict Research, Management and Resolution are accepted, based on their grade average and field of study. Most of the Center's students who joined us in 2015-2016 came from the Hebrew University with others from Ben-Gurion University, Bar Ilan University, The College of Management, Hadassah Academic College, The Academic Collage of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, The Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya and Washington University.

The Swiss Center students also come from a wide variety of disciplines, including Art History, Biomedical Sciences, Business Administration and Accounting, Communication and Journalism, Education, General History, International Relations, Islamic Studies, Law, Literature, Mechanical Engineering, Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology.

### Alumni

he Alumni of the Swiss Center include close to 250 graduates. Over the years program graduates integrated in different positions, some senior and very senior, in the following sectors: Universities and Colleges (Dr. Nimrod Rosler, TAU; Dr. Michal Reifen, IDC, Maya de Vries, Hebrew University, the Swiss Center); The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Yosef Levi – representative at the embassy in Turkey and Uruguay; Ran Yaakoby - Diplomat); The Prime Minister's Office (Dr. Kobi Michael); Research Institutes – such as The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies; Professional mediators (Adv. Yael Ezraty; Adv. Oshrit Zohar); Peace education and peace making organizations (such as Yedidim for youth and Society, Different Lesson); **Media and Journalism** (Hagit Kaminetzky – Operations Manager & Assistant to CEO – Israeli Television; Keren Tamir – Former Communication Officer of Hapoel Jerusalem BC) and in municipal and national leadership positions such as Rachel Azaria, who served at Jerusalem City Council, as Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem and is currently serving as a member of the 20th Knesset.



# Outstanding Research Students at the Swiss Center

Some outstanding research students that have begun their research work in 2016 have been awarded a grant from the Swiss Center to help and support their research.

# Aviv Halevy

**Topic:** Beliefs and perceptions of teenagers who live out of the 1967 borders on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

**Supervisor:** Prof. Ifat Maoz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Abstract:** The study seeks to deepen our understanding of the beliefs and perceptions that exist in society characterized by protracted and persistent conflict, with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The study focuses on the same segment of the population in the conflict, which has traditionally opposed the settlement of the dispute by compromise. In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict the research focuses on the sector of the settlers, that mostly traditionally oppose the resolution of the conflict through territorial compromise. The study also focuses on teenagers. Adolescence is a formative period in one's life, during which the political and ideological perception of youth in relation to the reality of life forms, including in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Given this focus in beliefs and concepts in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict among representatives of the younger generation of extremist public, this study seeks to answer which beliefs, feelings and perceptions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are held by Israeli Jewish youth living in a community settlement beyond the Green Line.

### Dina Sakin

**Topic:** Generation "one and a half" in Israel: cultural integration and attitudes towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict among the younger generation of immigrants from the former Soviet Union in the 90s.

**Supervisor:** Prof. Dan Miodownik, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Abstract:** In this study, I examine the experiences and perceptions of young immigrants to Israel from the former Soviet Union in the 90s, towards the Israeli and the "Russian" society and towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The research group are men and women immigrated who to Israel when they were under the age of 18, and formed at least in part, the identity of Israel.

I wish to explore the social-cultural preferences of the "one and a half" generation of the immigrants to Israel from the former Soviet Union, and examine their attitudes toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from different perspectives, "Russian" and "Israeli".

The research method is semi-structured in-depth interviews, these help to explore the story of the interviewees and to understand how the two cultures shaped the identity of the interviewed, their attitudes toward the Israeli and Russian cultures and their political attitudes and positions towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The main conclusion is that the 1.5 generation of immigrants from the former Soviet Union to Israel forms a "third culture", something between the "Israeli" and the "Russian", as reflected both in their cultural choices and their views regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



### **Enav Hecht**

**Topic:** Motherhood of soldiers and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

**Supervisors**: Prof. Amikam Nachmani, Bar-Ilan University; Prof. Ifat Maoz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Abstract:** In this study, I ask what are the positions, opinions, thoughts, and feelings of Israeli born, Ashkenazi mothers (or/and grandmothers) of soldiers and former soldiers, about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as their attitudes towards solutions to this conflict.

I would also like to investigate the relationship between gender and motherhood and personal attitudes towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### Graduation Ceremony

On June 2nd 2016, the 15th graduation ceremony was held for students who completed their M.A. studies in the program: Alessand Abusada, Elad Ayalon (Magna Cum Laude), Ilana Frankel, Zvi Fuchs, Leor Jacoby, Kineret Kahana, Eli Koronel , Shira Kudish (Magna Cum Laude), Ben Lev- Kadesh (Magna Cum Laude), Rinah Lipsky (Magna Cum Laude), Chen Mor, Moshe Nuriel (Magna Cum Laude), Perle Nicolle (Magna Cum Laude), Chen Reuveni (Magna Cum Laude), Meirav.Sela, Elisha Sidoun, Nirit Shimron, Yael Uresulenko, Ran Zacut (Magna Cum Laude), Yosef Zilbreman.

### **Doctoral Students:**

Name	Topic	Supervisor
Tziporit Glik	The interactive effect of ideology structure and emotions on political attitude & behavior tendencies in intergroup conflicts	Prof. Eran Halperin Prof. Maya Tamir
Yael Lahav	International Legitimacy to Foreign Policy - The Israeli Case	Prof. Galia Bar- Natan Prof. Sasson Sofer
Yaffe Nechumi	Disadvantage in the Ultra Orthodox Community	Prof. Avner De-Shalit
Saar Raveh	IDF Learning in the Israeli- Palestinian Conflict	Prof. Raanan Lifshitz Prof. Alon Peled
Michal Raz	Interaction patterns in a divided society: A case study of work relationships in diverse nurses' teams	Prof. Helena Desivilya Syna Prof. Ifat Maoz
Tal Shahaf	Who is a Good Parliament Member: Evaluating Members of Parliaments on an International Comparative Scale	Prof. Tamir Sheafer
Avigdor Shapira	Cyber Warfare Mangement And Resolution Compatibility With Traditional Conflict Resolution Theories and Creation of Glossary of Terms	Dr. Eitan Barak Prof. Lior Rokach



### Research Track Students Masters Students:

Name	Topic	Superviser
Nir Cohen	Identity, multiculturalism and globalization	Prof. Gabriel Horenczyk Prof. Guy Harpaz
Aviv Halevy	Beliefs and perceptions of teenagers who live out of the 1967 borders on the Israeli- Palestinian conflict	Prof. Ifat Maoz
Enav Hecht	Motherhood of soldiers and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict	Prof. Amikam Nachmani Prof. Ifat Maoz
Dina Sakin	Generation "one and a half" in Israel: cultural integration and attitudes towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict among the younger generation of immigrants from the former Soviet Union in the 90s.	Prof. Dan Miodownik

We Congratulate **Yosef Van Wijk** for completing his Masters thesis work supervised by Prof. Itay Fischhendler and for the publication, together with his supervisor, of an article in an academic journal based on his thesis.

# The Hans Guth Dreyfus Fund For Conflict Resolution And The Law

he Aharon Barak Center for Interdisciplinary Legal Research and the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution invited doctoral students and post-doctorate researchers to submit applications to the Hans Guth Dreyfus Fund doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships for the academic year 2016-2017.

The Fund awarded two fellowships. One grant was allocated for a study on **The Role of Demands for Recognition in Asymmetric Conflicts**, and the other for a study on **Cyber Conflicts**.

The research supported by the grants will be presented by the research fellows in seminars and conferences organized by the Barak Center and the Swiss Center.



### The Scholarship Recipients 2016-2017



**Rotem Nagar**, A doctoral student at the Department of Communication and at the Swiss Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Struggle for Recognition: The Role of Demands for Recognition in Asymmetric Conflicts

Supervisor: Prof. Ifat Maoz

**Research abstract:** Recognition is increasingly being seen as a vital condition for resolving conflicts, as well as for normalizing processes and achieving a modus vivendi. Yet, only few studies have attempted to empirically examine what recognition actually means for those who are involved in asymmetric protracted conflicts. The goal of my research is to examine psychological and ideological factors that underlie public opinion (un)willingness to recognize the other side in situations of conflict, in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Considering that recognition is crucial for resolving asymmetric conflicts, understanding the conditions that make the recognition of the rights and needs of out-groups possible might be essential in paving the way to settling conflicts and disputes.

**Bio:** Rotem Nagar has graduated with honor from The Swiss Center for Conflict Research and from The Department of Sociology at the Hebrew University in 2011. Today she is a doctoral candidate at the Department of Communication and at the Swiss Center for Conflict Research (supervisor: Professor Ifat Maoz). Her research interests are psychological, ideological and media-related aspects of conflict resolution and conflict transformation, including aspects that underlie the (un-)willingness to recognize the other side in conflicts.



**Dr. Amit Sheniak**, post-doctoral fellow at the Swiss Center for Conflict Research and a research fellow at the STS center at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

# The legitimization process of state involvement in Cyberconflict

**Research Abstract:** Cyber-conflicts are a current version of human conflicts, and are evident in both the domestic and the international arenas. In my research I aim to explore and describe the actions taken by states in order to legitimize the use of force employed by them in and through cyberspace. Those actions contribute to the establishment of a new evolving international norm - the right of states to project power over civilian through and in cyberspace and to get involved in cyber-conflicts in order to regulate, contain and settle them. The research methodology is based upon the study of formal statements and quotes and recorded evidence of states' "Soft-Power" actions.

The research has the potential to contribute to the understanding of cyber conflict in general and state's ability to resolve them in particular, a field of study that was not yet properly researched.

**Bio:** Amit Sheniak is a current/currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Swiss Center for Conflict Research and a research fellow at the center for Science Technology and Society in Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. He received his PhD (2015) in Political Science form the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, combined with a public professional career as a policy adviser and strategic planner in the Israeli ministry of defense (IDF J5) and the Israeli parliament (the Knesset). He also holds a BA in political science and international relations and MA in democratic studies (all from the Hebrew University).



### The Scholarship Recipients of 2015-2016



**Yair Fogel-Dror,** Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science and Dreyfus scholarship doctoral fellow

### Computational Analysis of Political Discourse Analysis: Challenges and Implications

Research abstract: The purpose of my research is to explore and uncover patterns of political discourse in the context of a political conflict, utilizing new computational methods. My research focuses on qualifying the rival actors by discovering the sentiment of texts and studying characteristics associated with each actor as those appear in the text. The intensity of interactions between the rival actors in the media coverage, for example, makes it harder to correctly associate each description with the specific actor as both actors are mentioned. Also, as the sentiment of the text is highly sensitive to the values and perspective of the writer, sentiment analysis in the context of various values and perspectives becomes a real challenge. Therefore an alternative measure for qualifying is suggested. For example, a description of an Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear facilities would express different sentiment when written from Netanyahu's point of view compared to Obama's. Last, media agencies are also part of the discourse and might form a pattern by themselves. They can make an original voice, follow some opinion leader or even act as a part of a synchronized "clique" of media agencies. My research explores and exploits those patterns, in order to build new methods for better understanding the discourse and media coverage of political conflicts. For this purpose I apply a natural language processing and machine learning approach, while adapting the methods to the specific attributes of the political discourse. The end result of this research would allow for a better qualifying of actors' characteristics as well as better understanding of the role different media agencies play while covering a political conflict.

**Research progress report - 2016** In the past year my research, with the endorsement of the Dreyfus scholarship, has been focused on the development of two methods for computational analysis of political texts,

with regards to three conflicts: the media coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Israeli public diplomacy efforts with regards to the BDS movement, and the presidential election campaign in the United States. The first method involves automatic extraction of topics, using an inductive approach first, which later allows for deductive identification of those topics in real time. The different topics include issues which are relevant to the three mentioned conflicts, where the goal is to reach a high enough resolution of analysis in order to distinguish, automatically, between descriptions of the same events but from different perspectives. For example, the method can distinguish between the Israeli and the Hamas descriptions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The second method involves a network analysis of relations between topics, according to the way they are presented in different media agencies. For example, I show how in some agencies the BDS movement is presented as related to Anti-Semitic discourse, while in others this relation is absent. The existence of this relation may indicate a successful public diplomacy campaign on the part of Israel, as stressing this association is Israel's formal policy with regards to the BDS.

The past year research is forming into an article with this (temporary) title: Rapid Coding of Large Corpora with Minimal Human Intervention





**Rana Es'eed**, PhD candidate at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare and Dreyfus scholarship doctoral fellow

The Islamic Movement in Israel as a Welfare Services Provider: A Case Study of the "Independent Community" Concept

Supervisor: Prof. John Gal and Prof. Ram Knaan

**Research abstract**: The Palestinians in Israel have experienced processes of discrimination and marginalization in multiple areas, one of the most important of which is welfare. Studies shows that state discrimination of ethnic groups in Israel have reinforced structural inequality (Rosenheck, 1996; Quandangno, 1994). Indeed, throughout its history, the Israeli welfare state has been characterized by severe segmentation, which has often excluded and marginalized the Palestinians citizens of the country (Rosenheck, 1995, 2007). In recent decades, the Islamic Movement has emerged as a crucial religious and political force among Palestinians in Israel. This movement has also been a key player in the field of third sector organizations, providing diverse social services to members of the Palestinian community. A fundamental principle in the movement's activity is the concept of an "independent community". The leader of the Islamic Movement, Sheikh Ra'ed Salah, conceived this concept in the early 2000s. It refers to the creation of a community, which administers its institutions independently, devoid of the pressures applied by the Israeli Establishment on Palestinians on both public and individual levels (Ali, 2007). Although the literature recognizes the key role played by the Islamic Movement in social services in Israel, there is still no study that explains how historical events, changes in the welfare system and the third sector, and internal developments within the movement led to the emergence of the "independent community" concept.

Few studies in this field attempt to explain the development of the movement according to different theories. In this light, the current study wishes to further the understanding of the development of the Islamic Movement and the aforementioned changes, in the context of the various theoretical approaches. In particular, the current study has two main aims: to examine and describe the development of the concept "The Independent Community" and its meaning for minority groups in general and for the Palestinians in Israel in particular. The second goal is to examine and describe the social services provided by the Islamic Movement, whether as

part of the Independent Community project or as separate services. Such an examination is located in a complex theoretical space, due to the unique complexity of the Islamic movement, which can be described as a religious organization, a social movement, or a political organization or party.

Currently, I'm analyzing both the archival data (based on the Islamic movement newspaper since 1998 until 2015) and the 17 in depth interviews I have conducted with activist and leaders in the Islamic movement in Israel.

Research progress report - 2016 During the current academic year I had a significant progress in my research work. This year I focused on data collection: archival data and field work which includes interviews and observations. During this academic year I finished conducting the in-depth interviews and the observations and I am currently focusing on analysis of the data. In addition, I'm writing the first article as a part of the final dissertation. During the summer and the next academic year, I aim to focus on data analyzing and writing the final research report. I am planning to write the PhD as a chapters' dissertation, composed of independent three articles.

Thanks to Dreyfus scholarship, I had the opportunity to finish the data collection. During the forthcoming months, I will finish writing the first article, which will be based on the archival data and the interviews that have already been undertaken. I hope to finish my writing and submitting the PhD no later than by the end of 2017.



# News And Achievments

We congratulate **Michal Raz Rotem** for receiving President's Scholarships for excellence and innovation in science. The scholarship is meant to encourage quality academic research, to shine a spotlight on various scientific fields, raising public awareness of the purposes and areas of scholarships, providing incentives for research and scientific endeavor and to promote scientific excellence and innovation in Israel.

The ceremony took place on Dec. 17, 2015 at the President's residence where Michal was one of 11 scholarship awardees.



Holding the certificate from the right: Mr. Reuven Rivlin, President of Israel, and from the left: Michal Raz Rotem

We congratulate **Yasmin Guerin** for her acceptance to the Student Exchange program. Yasmin will spend the second semester of the 2016-2017 year in Freie University of Berlin, Germany. Yasmin is a BA Graduate from the Hebrew University Department of Economics and Department of International Relations, and a MA student of the Swiss Center since Oct. 2015.

We congratulate **Dr. Maya Kahanoff** for the publication of her new book: *Jews and Arabs in Israel Encountering Their Identities: Transformations in Dialogue* co-published by Lexington Books and The Van Leer Institute Press.

This book describes the process of inter-group dialogue meetings between Israeli Jews and Arabs that took place between students attending the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It presents a thorough analysis of the process undertaken by participants from both national groups, as well as the group dynamic of the encounters. It conveys the voices of Jews and Arabs whose personal life experiences are colored by political attitudes and cultural expectations, and talks about the limitations and potential of dialogue during a time of conflict. The book, which reveals the powerful emotional dynamics of the inter-group encounter, contributes to understanding the psychological dimension of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

The conversations presented in this book highlight the immense vulnerability hidden behind the aggressive behavior of each side, as well as the sense of existential threat, victimization and fear that reinforces segregation. They also reveal how both sides have a strong need for recognition and approval. At the same time, they demonstrate the far-reaching human and creative potential that lies within the encounter. The author, an experienced group facilitator and researcher, suggests that dialogue has the potential to break mental and emotional barriers and reveal the human behind abstract categories of Jew and Arab, majority and minority, oppressor and oppressed. The author argues that dialogue contains the potential to destabilize a person's sense of identity and that the seeming failure of overt dialogue may signal the beginning of a process of inner dialogue and transformation. The book presents participants' inner dialogues as they shift in response to the encounter with conflicting perspectives. The author maintains that it is precisely this destabilization of identity that offers the potential for serious transformation and change within the participants. An awareness of the limitations of dialogue, without renouncing it altogether, is perhaps the most realistic basis upon which to build a sustainable agreement.



# Colloquium Seminars And Lectures

During the academic year 2015-16 a series of lectures and seminars was held in the framework of the Swiss Center colloquium. These lectures cover a variety of topics, relevant to conflict, peace and inter-group relations from psychological, political, media related and sociological perspectives.

In cooperation with the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, we hosted two lectures related to international relations and conflict resolution during the first semester. Two scholars presented their work on Autonomy, Secession and Conflict: A Strategic Model and The Occupier's Dilemma: Foreign-Imposed Nation-Building after Ethnic War. These lectures attracted both current and former students and teachers in the conflict research program, as well as research students from other programs at the Hebrew University.

All seminars are organized and coordinated by Dr. Yiftach Ron.

### First Semester Seminars

Meeting Title: Opening of the year meeting - acquaintance with the program and

the program's lecturers

**Date**: Monday, October 19, 2015

Aba Even Hall, Truman Institute.

Lecture Title: Autonomy, Secession and Conflict: A Strategic Model

In collaboration with Prof. Danny Miodownik - Head, The Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations

Chair: Prof. Danny Miodownik

Lecturer: Prof. Simon Hug

The Department of Political Science and International Relations,

Universite De Geneve

Opening Comments: Dr. Yiftach Ron

**Date**: Monday, November 16, 2015

Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus

Lecture Title: The Geopolitics of Power Grids: The Case of Israel-Arab Countries

Chair: Dr. Yiftach Ron

Lecturer: Prof. Itay Fischhendler

The Department of Geography
The Hebrew university of Jerusalem

**Date**: Monday, December 21, 2015

Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus

Lecture Title: The Occupier's Dilemma: Foreign-Imposed Nation-Building after

**Ethnic War** 

In collaboration with **Prof. Danny Miodownik** – Head, The Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations

Chair: Prof. Danny Miodownik
Lecturer: Prof. Nicholas Sambanis

The Department of Political Science, Yale University

**Date**: Monday, January 4, 2016

Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus



### Second Semester Seminars

A seminar held in cooperation with the Department of Communication and Journalism at the Hebrew University as part of a conference organized by the Department of Communication and Journalism, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research and The Smart Family Institute of Communication. The conference discussed conflict from political communication, journalism, public opinion, discourse and psychological perspectives.

Panel Title: Journalism, Politics and Conflict

Chair: Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt

Speakers: Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt, Prof. Motti Nieger,

Dr. Christian Baden, Prof. Gadi Wolfsfeld, Prof. Moshe Negbi

Date: Monday, March 14, 2016

Room 501, Maiersdorf Faculty Club

Lecture Title: The Plan to Increase the Use of Mediation in Courts:

Implementation, Lessons Learnt and Future Implications

Chair: Dr. Yiftach Ron

Lecturer: Adv. Carmit Fenton, Adv. Nathaly Levi, Michal Lifshitz

Date: Monday, April 4, 2016

Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus

A seminar held in cooperation with the Department of Communication and Journalism at the Hebrew University as part of a conference organized by the Department of Communication and Journalism, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research and The Smart Family Institute of Communication. The conference discussed new media, conflict resolution and cultural, political and technological aspects.

Panel Title: New Media, Culture, Religion and Technology

Chair: Dr. Nicholas John

Speakers: Dr. Nicholas John, Dr. Neta Kligler-Vilenchik,

Prof. Menahem Blondheim, Dr. Hananel Rosenberg.

Respondent: Prof. Zizi Papacharissi

**Date**: Monday, May 30, 2016

Room 501, Maiersdorf Faculty Club

# Conferences And Symposiums

During the 2015-16 academic year the Swiss Center was involved in building, organizing and conducting the following three international conferences:

# A. Conference Title: Political Communication, Conflict, Journalism, Public Opinion, Discourse and Psychological Perspectives.

In cooperation with the Department of Communication and Journalism and the Smart Family Institute of Communication at the Hebrew University and with the support of the Social Science Faculty and the Eshkol Institute at the Faculty of Social Science.

The conference discussed different aspects and perspectives on conflict: discourse-related, perspectives centered on narratives, journalism, political communication, as well as psychological perspectives. The program consisted of panels on various topics including:

- Discourse: Actions, Interactions and Narratives
- Journalism, Politics and Conflict
- Public Opinion, Political Communication and Political Psychology
- Political Communication, Conflict Research, Public Opinion, Journalism

The conference program included two keynote lectures:

**Keynote Lecture I Title**: Can Surveys Measure Informed Public Preferences Regarding Government Policies? An Evaluation of the Contingent Valuation Method

**Lecturer:** Professor Jon Krosnick, Stanford University

**Chair and Respondent**: Professor Lilach Nir

**Keynote Lecture II Title**: Reflections on an Extraordinary Career: Elihu Katz and the Study of Mass Communication and Public Opinion.

**Lecturer:** Professor Jon Krosnick, Stanford University

**Chair:** Dr. Meital Balmas

The conference was followed by a research workshop for young researchers and doctoral students led by the keynote guest lecturer, Professor Jon Krosnick from Stanford University.



This very successful event - attended by various scholars including senior professors, young researchers and doctoral students as well as other university graduates and current undergraduate students - received excellent feedback from both audience and speakers who participated in the conference.

**Conference Chairs**: Professor Ifat Maoz and Professor Paul Frosh

**Dates**: March 14th-15th, 2016

Room 501, Maiersdorf Faculty Club



At the center of the picture **Dr. Yiftach Ron**, Academic Project Coordinator and Methodological Advisor, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution.



Speaking: **Prof. Moshe Negbi**, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution; Seated: **Dr. Christian Baden**, Department of Communication and Journalism.



Right to Left: **Prof. Ifat Maoz**, Conference Chair, Head, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution; **Prof. Raya Morag**, Head, the Smart Family Institute of Communications.





The Noah Mozes Department of Communication and Journalism and the Smart Family Institute of Communications

Invite you to the first international workshop on

### **Regenerating Communication:**

Fifty Years of Communication Research at the Hebrew University Noah Mozes Department of Communication and Journalism

# Political Communication, Conflict, Journalism, Public Opinion, Discourse and Psychological Perspectives

March 14th-15th 2016, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Beit Maiersdorf Faculty Club, Room 501 also supported by

The Levi Eshkol Institute for Social, Economic and Political Research in Israel

Conference Chairs: Professor Ifat Maoz and Professor Paul Frosh Keynote Guest Lecturer: Professor Jon Krosnick, Stanford University

### Conference Day 1: Monday, March 14th 2016

10:15-10:30- Greetings

Professor Paul Frosh, Conference Chair

Professor Raya Morag, Head of the Smart Family

Institute of Communications

Professor Ifat Maoz, Head, Swiss Center for Conflict

Research, Head of the Department of

Communication, Conference Chair

### 10:30-12:00 Discourse: Actions, Interactions and Narratives

Chair: Dr. Gadi Taub

Speakers: Dr. Zohar Kampf

Professor Esther Schely-Newman

Professor Shaul Shenhav

Respondent: Dr. Michal Hamo

12:00-12:15- Coffee Break

### 12:15-13:45 Journalism, Politics and Conflict

Chair: Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt

Speakers: Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt

Professor Motti Neiger

Dr. Christian Baden

Professor Gadi Wolfsfeld

Professor Moshe Negbi

13:45-14:30- Break

### 14:30-16:00 Kevnote Lecture I

Professor Jon Krosnick, Stanford University: Can Surveys Measure Informed Public Preferences

Regarding Government Policies? An Evaluation of the

Contingent Valuation Method

Chair and Respondent: Professor Lilach Nir

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

### 16:30-18:00 Keynote Topic Panel: Public Opinion, Political Communication and Political Psychology

Chair: Professor Ifat Maoz

Speakers: Dr. Meital Balmas

Dr. Neta Kligler-Vilenchik

Professor Lilach Nir

Dr. Tsfira Grebelsky

Respondent: Professor Jon Krosnick

### Conference Day 2: Tuesday, March 15th 2016

14:15-15:40- Keynote Lecture II

Professor Jon Krosnick, Stanford University:

Reflections on an Extraordinary Career: Elihu Katz and

the Study of Mass Communication and Public

Opinion

Chair: Dr. Meital Balmas

Respondent: Professor Elihu Katz

15:40-16:00- Coffee Break

### 16:00-16:30- Plenary Session: On History and Beyond

Professor Hanna Adoni & Professor Anat First: 50 years of Communication Research in Israel

Chair and Respondent: Professor Paul Frosh

# 16:30-18:00- Young Researchers: Doctoral Students: Political Communication, Conflict Research, Public Opinion, Journalism, Discourse and Psychological Perspectives

Chair: Professor Tamir Sheafer Respondent: Professor Jon Krosnick

### The public is invited.



# B. Conference Title: Ethics, Culture and History: New Media, Communication Technology, Visual Culture and Cinema

In cooperation with the Department of Communication and Journalism and the Smart Family Institute of Communication at the Hebrew University.

The conference discussed different aspects of new media, communication technology, journalism, culture, ethics, conflict and trauma. The program consisted of panels on various topics including:

- New Media, Culture, Conflict, Religion and Technology
- Mediation and the Suffering of Others
- Cinema, Conflict and Trauma

The program included two keynote lectures and a special plenary session in honor of Professor Elihu Katz:

**Keynote Lecture I Title**: Towards a Post-Humanitarian Solidarity? Historical Change in the Affectivities of Global Politics

**Lecturer:** Professor Lilie Chouliaraki, London School of Economics and Political Science

**Chair:** Professor Paul Frosh **Respondent**: Dr. Amit Pinchevski

**Keynote Lecture II Title**: Affective Publics: News Story Telling, Sentiment and Twitter **Greetings**: Professor Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, The Hebrew University.

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**Lecturer:** Professor Zizi Papacharissi, University of Illinois at Chicago

Chair: Dr. Nicholas John

**Respondent:** Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt

**Special Plenary Session Title**: Chance, Ambivalence and Path- Dependence

**Lecturer**: Professor Elihu Katz, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Chair: Professor Menahem Blondheim

The conference was followed by two research workshops for young researchers and doctoral students led by the keynote guest lecturers, Professor Lilie Chouliaraki from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Professor Zizi Papacharissi from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The conference, attended by Israel Prize recipient, Professor Elihu Katz, attracted graduate and undergraduate students, research students and young lecturers as well as senior researchers, professors emeriti and guest scholars.

**Conference Chairs**: Professor Paul Frosh and Professor Ifat Maoz

**Dates**: May 30th-31st 2016

Room 501, Maiersdorf Faculty Club

Conference Day 1: Greetings
Participants and Audience. At the Speakers
Table Right to Left: **Prof. Ifat Maoz**,
Conference Chair, Head, the Swiss Center
for Conflict Research, Management and
Resolution and Head, the Department of
Communication and Journalism; **Mrs. Mary Smart**, President, the Smart Family
Foundation; **Prof. Raya Morag**, Head, the
Smart Family Institute of Communications;

**Prof. Paul Frosh** (speaking), Conference Chair, Department of Communication and





Journalism.

Right to Left: Conference Key Note Speakers **Prof. Lilie Chouliaraki**, London School of Economics and Political Science; **Prof. Zizi Papacharissi**, University of Illinois at Chicago.



**Dr. Zohar Kampf**, former Head, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution (2013-2014).



**Dr. Tobais Ebbrecht-Hartmann**, Department of Communication, DAAD Center for German Studies and the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution.



**Mrs. Maya De Vries**, Internship Project Coordinator, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution.



The Noah Mozes Department of Communication and Journalism and the Smart Family Institute of Communications





### The Noah Mozes Department of Communication and Journalism The Smart Family Institute of Communications

and the Swiss Center for Conflict Research

Invite you to the second international workshop on

### **Regenerating Communication:**

Fifty Years of Communication Research at the Hebrew University Noah Mozes Department of Communication and Journalism

## Ethics, Culture and History: New Media, Communication Technology, Visual Culture and Cinema

May 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Beit Maiersdorf Faculty Club, Room 501

With the support of the Faculty of Social Sciences
Conference Chairs: Professor Paul Frosh and Professor Ifat Maoz

**Keynote Guests: Professor Lilie Chouliaraki,** London School of Economics and Political Science **Professor Zizi Papacharissi,** University of Illinois at Chicago

### Conference Day 1: Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 12:15-12:30 Greetings and Presentation of Awards

Professor Paul Frosh, Conference Chair Professor Raya Morag, Head, the Smart Family Institute of Communications

### Ms. Mary Smart, President, the Smart Family Foundation:

### Greetings and Presentation of the Smart Doctoral Students Awards for Excellence

Professor Ifat Maoz, Head of the Department of Communication, Head, Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Conference Chair

### 12:30-14:00 New Media, Culture, Religion and Technology

Chair: Dr. Nicholas John Speakers: Dr. Nicholas John Dr. Neta Kligler-Vilenchik Professor Menahem Blondheim and Dr. Hananel Rosenberg Respondent: Professor Zizi Papacharissi

### 14:00-14:30 Break

14:30-16:00 Keynote Lecture: Professor Lilie Chouliaraki, London School of Francomics and Political Science:

Towards a Post-Humanitarian Solidarity? Historical Change in the Affectivities of Global Politics

Chair: Professor Paul Frosh Respondent: Dr. Amit Pinchevski 16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

### 16:30-18:00 Keynote Topic Panel: Mediation and the Suffering of Others

Chair: Professor Esther Schely-Newman Speakers:

Professor Raya Morag

Dr. Amit Pinchevski Dr. Zohar Kampf

Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann Respondent: Professor Lilie Chouliaraki

### Conference Day 2: Tuesday, May 31st 2016

### 12:30 -14:00 Cinema, Conflict and Trauma

Chair and Respondent: Professor Raya Morag

Speakers: Professor Raya Morag Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann Professor Aner Preminger

### 14:00-14:15 Break

14:15-15:45 Keynote Lecture: Professor Zizi Papacharissi, University of Illinois at Chicago Affective Publics: News Storytelling, Sentiment and Twitter

### Greetings: **Professor Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences**

Chair: Dr. Nicholas John Respondent: Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt

### 15:45-16:00 Coffee Break

### 16:00-17:30 Young researchers - Doctoral students:

Chair: Professor Tamir Sheafer Respondents: Professor Lilie Chouliaraki and Professor Zizi Papacharissi

### 17:30-17:45 Coffee Break

### Marking the Jubilee: Panels in Honour of the Department of Communication and Professor Elihu Katz

### 17:45-18:30 On Memory Lane: Personal and Professional Reflections

Chair: Professor Raya Morag Speakers: Professor Dov Shinar, Professor Yeshayahu Nir, Professor Alan Rosenthal, Professor Akiba Cohen Respondent: Professor Elihu Katz

### 18:30-19:00 Plenary Session: Professor Elihu Katz: Chance, Ambivalence and Path- Dependence

Chair: Professor Menahem Blondheim

### 19: 00-19:45 Towards the next 50 years: Brief Comments and Greetings

Chair: Professor Menahem Blondheim Speakers: Professor Menahem Blondheim Dr. Zohar Kampf Professor Esther Schely-Newman Ms. Shosh Silberberg Ms. Tirza Elnatan-Rosenthal Ms. Marcie Kalson-Fishburn

Respondent: Professor Elihu Katz

The public is invited.

### C. Workshop Title: Israel under the Shadow of Conflict: A Reappraisal of Current Processes and of Future Repercussions

In cooperation with the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University.

The workshop discussed different aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict such as Ethical and Public Opinion; Decision Making; Regional Dimensions; Population Management and Political Violence. The program consisted of lectures and panels on various topics including:

**Lecture I**: How Ethical is the Palestinian Refusal to Recognize Israel as a Jewish State? — Prof. Amal Jamal, Tel Aviv University

**Lecture II**: **Current Israeli Documentary Cinema and Questions of Ethics** — Prof. Raya Morag, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

### Panel I - Legacies in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

**50 years of Peace Negotiations: Breakthroughs and Failures** — Prof. Galia Golan, Prof. Emerita, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Socio-Psychological Barriers to Conflict Resolution** — Prof. Daniel Bar Tal, Tel Aviv University.

### Panel II - Israeli Decision Marks and Decision Making:

The Polythink Syndrome in Israeli and Palestinian War and Peace Decision — Prof. Alex Mintz, IDC.

The Settlements/Occupation Project: Decision Marks Modus Operandi — Mr. Akiva Eldar, Israeli journalist (Al-Monitor).

Panel III - Regional Dimensions and their Effects on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Recent Arab Revolts and their Effects on State-Society Relations and Middle East Regional Politics — Prof. Emeritus Avraham Sela, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Defending Ourselves Against the Wild Beasts: How Israel Copes With Internal and Regional Challenges — Prof. Oren Barak, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

### Panel VII - Palestinian Perspectives:

Palestine as Theatre for Colonial and Postcolonial Experiments and Ways Out - Walid Salem, Al-Quds University.

Journalism under Fire: Perspectives, Experiences and Practices of Palestinian Journalists at Time of Crisis — Ibrahim Hazboun, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

### Panel VIII - Urban Development in Jerusalem:

**Height, Planning and Urban Politics: Rethinking Jerusalem's Growth Trajectories** - Dr. Gilad Rosen, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Two State Solution Present Obstacle and Possible Solutions – A Jerusalem Perspective — Prof. Menachem Klein, Bar Ilan University

**Violence in Jerusalem: Explaining Spatial Variation** — Prof. Dan Miodownik, Head the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



The workshop participants included the Following Guests: Prof. Andrew Kydd, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Prof. Ben Kiernan, Yale; Prof. Cameron Thies, Arizona State University; Prof. D. Scott Bennett, Penn State; Prof. Emanuele Castano, The New School for Social Research New York; Prof. Erik Gartzke, University of California, San Diego; Prof. Fotini Christia, MIT; Prof. Kanchan Chandra, NYU; Prof. Lee Ann Fuji, University of Toronto; Prof. Lee Jussim, Rutgers State University; Prof. Linda Tropp, UMass Amherst; Prof. Michael Horowitz, University of Pennsylvania; Prof. Robert Trager, University of California, Los Angeles.

The Local speakers included: Akiva Eldar (Journalist), Prof. Alex Mintz, IDC Herzliya; Prof. Amal Jamal, Tel Aviv University; Prof. Avraham Sela, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Prof. Claude Berrebi, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Prof. Dan Miodownik, Head, the Leonard Davis Institute for International.

Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Prof. Daniel Bar-Tal, Tel Aviv University; Prof. Daphna Canetti, University of Haifa; Elias Levy Benarroch, (Journalist); ADV. Gaby Lasky; Prof. Gadi Wolfsfeld, Sammy Ofer School of Communication, IDC and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Prof. Galia Golan, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Dr. Gilad Rosen, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Prof. Ifat Maoz, Head, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Prof. Menachem Klein, Bar Ilan University; Prof. Oren Barak, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Prof. Raya Morag, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Dr. Yael Berda, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The participants of the workshop also took part in three guided tours:

A tour of the old city of Jerusalem with Mr. Ben Lev-Kadesh which included: Jaffa Gate, Armenian Quarter, Kardo, The Hurba Synagogue, The Western Wall, Rechov Ha-Guy, Via Dolorosa & The Holy Sepulcher.

Geo-Political Tour of Areas Surrounding Jerusalem with Col. (ret.) Shaul Arieli which included: Tomb of Samuel, Road 443, Mount Scopus & Mount of Olives.

Geo-Political tour of the Golan Heights with Lt. Col. (ret.) Ron Shatzberg which included: Tel Katzir, Tel al-Hama, Kfar Haruv, Observation of Quneitra, Bental Mountain & Majdal Shams.

**Conference Chairs**: Professor Dan Miodownik, Head, the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations and Professor Ifat Maoz, Head, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution.

**Organizing Committee**: Prof. Dan Miodownik, Head the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations; Prof. Ifat Maoz, Head, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution; Chanoch Wolpe; Chagai Weiss

**Dates**: May 29th – June 2nd 2016 Room 502, Maiersdorf Faculty Club



Workshop Opening and Greetings: Chair (Seated at the head table): **Prof. Dan Miodownik**, Head, the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Workshop Opening and Greetings: Right to Left: **Prof. Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi**,
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
the Hebrew University of
Jerusalem; **Prof. Ifat Maoz**, Head,
the Swiss Center for Conflict
Research, Management and
Resolution, the Hebrew University
of Jerusalem.









Right to Left: **Prof. Andrew Kydd**, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison; **Prof. Robert Trager**, University of California, Los Angeles; **Prof. Cameron Thies**, The School of Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University; **Prof. Lee Ann Fuji**, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto; **Prof. Ben Kiernan**, Department of History, Yale; **Prof. Arie Kacowicz**, Department of International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Right to Left: **Prof. Linda Tropp**, Department of Psychological and Brain Research, UMass Amherst; **Prof. Kanchan Chandra**, Department of Politics, NYU; **Prof. Michael Horowitz**, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania; (in the back) **Prof. Lee Jussim**, Department of Psychology, Rutgers State University; **Prof. Erik Gartzke**, Department of Political Science, University of California, San Diego; **Prof. Foniti Christia**, Department of Political Science, MIT; **Prof. Emanuele Castano**, Department of Psychology, The New School for Social Research, New York; **Prof. D. Scott Bennett**, Department of Political Science, Penn State.

# The Marguerite Wolff Annual Seminar

Lecture Title: The Geopolitics of Power Grids: The Case of

Israel-Arab Countries

Chair: Dr. Yiftach Ron

**Lecturer**: Prof. Itay Fischhendler, The Department of Geography, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Abstract: The academic literature highlights the economic, social and environmental benefits of international electricity grids. Therefore, countries and international institutions often attempt to establish electricity integration via regional electricity grids. However, whereas research on natural resources, such as oil and gas, frequently seeks to understand policy outcome through a geopolitical prism, when it comes to electricity studies the prism is always economic or technical. This oversight may explain the failure of many attempts to establish power interconnections. Hence, this study is a first attempt to identify the geopolitical dimension of international electricity grids. The study argues that similarly to many other contentious natural resources issues, the resolution of conflicts relating to electricity transmission requires identifying how the geopolitical dimension interplays with the physical dimension of regional electricity integration. This study first presents the expected benefits from transboundary electricity grids. Then it suggests four geopolitical bottlenecks that may explain why many of the social benefits of electricity grids have not fully materialized. To examine the role of these geopolitical bottlenecks, the study examines negotiations protocols, spanning over 15 years, on establishing ten grid connections between Israel and its Arab neighbors. It finds that electricity geopolitics has been used both as a platform for deeper international cooperation and as a stick against neighboring states. When policies are driven by a peace dividend, proposals for grid connection appear to evolve and overcome the dependency and the security-economy bottlenecks. When



relations deteriorate, proposals for grid connections appear to undergo reconsideration and to be held hostage by higher politics. For both options, the geopolitical dimension of electricity network is attributed to the nature of the electricity network as a twofold package.

**Date**: Monday, December 21, 2015 Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus



Prof. Fischhendler is a member of the Geography Department at the Hebrew University. His research engages in environmental disputes resolution, and climates and political changes.

He examined cases in Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Canada, USA and Mexico. He publishes in academic journals dealing with environmental politics,

geography, water, conflict resolution, ecological economics, changes in climates and more. Today he is involved in two projects of the European Union (FP7) dealing with disputes in international waters and integrated coastal management.

## The Swiss Center Internship Program For Outstanding Students

As part of the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution Masters Studies Program, we offer our students the opportunity to participate in an internship program. Its aim is to enrich the participants' knowledge in management and resolution of conflicts, to increase their exposure to work in the social and public sector, and mainly to enable the students acquire proper skills in those fields.

The participation in the internship program involves a selection process, and only outstanding students are accepted. The Internship program is conducted in a framework of a larger project of the Hebrew University Faculty of Social Science. The Swiss Center is pioneering in applying this program to outstanding Masters students.

#### Ms. Maya De Vries supervised our students during the Internship and wrote a summary about the experience:

The aim of the internship course is to enrich the participants' knowledge in management and resolution of conflicts, to increase their exposure to work in the social and public sector, and mainly to enable the students to acquire proper skills in those fields.

The participation in the internship program involves a selection process, and only outstanding students are accepted.

This year we were able to integrate our students in excellent internships such as: The Knesset, The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, The Knesset TV channel, The Strategic Dept. within the office of the President of the State of Israel, the Jerusalem Municipality and more.



As part of the internship, the students are obliged to participate in an academic course that is divided to class meetings and 'one-on-one' meetings. Alongside their practical work, the students are expected to hand in a final paper relating directly to their internship. Hence, throughout the course the students were exposed to various research methods, focusing on qualitative methods. In this manner, the students worked intensively, throughout the year finding a research question, choosing a research method and creating the research outline.

At the end of the academic year the students presented their research outline in a format of a poster as part of a formal graduation ceremony.

#### Students' experiences from the internship program:

**Ariel Nora Cohen** - The internship experience at the Civil Service Commission was significant, interesting and most important. During my time in the Commission I went through the process of getting involved with the daily assignments, meeting the various workers of the office and learning its structure. It gave me an opportunity to combine my skills and the knowledge I acquired in my years as a student. I completed my internship with a feeling of a deeper understanding of the Israeli public service, and being more focused about the potential of future possibilities.

**Lior Betzalel**—The Jerusalem Press Club is the right place for anyone interested in politics and the media and would like to meet foreign journalists from around the world. In addition, the club enables meeting with key members of Israeli society — politicians, writers and cultural figures. I really enjoyed my internship at the club, I also learnt a lot about the way organizations works and about the work of journalists.



Speaking: **Ayana Adler** – Civil Service Commission, at the graduation ceremony.



**Uri Paz** – Knesset Chanel GM and Editor, at the graduation ceremony.



## Focus On A New Course

Advanced approaches and methods of research on narratives, identities and perceptions in conflicts

#### Dr. Yiftach Ron

This course aims to enable processing and understanding of narratives, discourse and identities in multicultural societies and in contexts of intergroup conflict. The course examines the manner in which narratives are expressed in different arenas of intergroup communication and conflict, and are also fed and shaped by processes that take place in these arenas. During the course students make acquaintance with the characteristics, language and logic of narrative research, and with various aspects of the qualitative approach to research and scientific writing in the social sciences including studies of life stories, ethnography, qualitative content analysis and narrative approaches to the study of group identities, society, communication, and intergroup conflicts.

Starting this year, this course is one of the core courses in the M.A. program for conflict research, management and resolution.

The course is given by Dr. Yiftach Ron, a teaching associate at the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, and a research Fellow in the Harry S. Truman Research Institute at the Hebrew University.

# The Swiss Center Focus On Young Researchers

(Master Thesis, Doctoral And Postdoctoral Students)



#### Maya de Vries

My current research deals with the Social Media within Disadvantaged Communities in Intractable Conflict Zones: The Case Study of Palestinians in East Jerusalem. My research aims to reveal, using discourse analysis, the role of social media and its uses within disadvantaged political groups situated in an intractable conflict such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Moreover, in this research I hope to add to the existing knowledge about Jerusalem as a contested city, focusing on the Palestinian population in the city.

Maya de Vries graduated from The Swiss Center for conflict Research in 2011, today she is the coordinator of the Swiss Center Internship Program Conducted in the framework of the Faculty of Social Science Project, and a doctoral student at the Department of Communication and at the Swiss Center (supervisor: Professor Ifat Maoz).





#### Yiftach Ron

My current research deals with the interrelations between collective narratives, personal narratives and continuous involvement in intergroup dialogue processes. Using a thematic content-analysis of in-depth interviews and transcripts of sessions of an intergroup encounter-workshop, my research investigates the relationships between involvement in intergroup dialogue, narratives, ideology and attitudes toward the resolution of conflicts. This is done in the context of the ongoing conflict and dialogue processes between Palestinians and Jews in Israel, and with a focus on the experience and viewpoint of Jewish Israelis who have been continuously involved in Jewish-Palestinian encounter programs. This research seeks to contribute to our understanding of the processes occurring as a result of the exposure to the narrative of the other in an intergroup dialogue, and the ways in which these processes can not only mitigate the destructive role that ethnocentric beliefs and narratives play in conflict situations, but also help to promote processes of conflict resolution and peacemaking.

**Dr.YiftachRon** is a Lecturer, Academic Projects Coordinator and Methodological Advisor at The Swiss Center for conflict Research, Management and resolution, and a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Harry S. Truman Research Institute. He completed his dissertation on "interrelations between collective narratives, personal narratives and continuous involvement of Israeli-Jews in dialogue processes with Palestinians in Israel (Supervisors: Professor If at Maoz and Dr. Zvi Bekerman) and received his Doctor Degree on May 2015.



#### Yaffa Nechumi

My dissertation examines the issue of poverty and disadvantage in the Ultra-Orthodox community using the "theory of capabilities and functions" (Sen 1992; Nussbaum, 1997). The theory postulates that the most exact and comprehensive way to measure poverty is through an examination of the overall functions and capabilities that are available to the individual. This measurement reflects the totality of the real opportunities available to people in a given society. In addition, the dissertation will examine poverty from the social psychology perspective answering the question of why poverty rates in the Ultra-Orthodox community in Israel are significantly higher than in Orthodox communities around the world.

**Nechumi Yaffe** is a Ph.D candidate at The Swiss Center for Conflict Research at the Hebrew University (supervisors: Professor Avner de-Shalit and Professor Eran Halperin) Dissertation title "Poverty and Disadvantage in the Ultra-Orthodox community in Israel. Nechumi is also a lecturer at The Beit Hamorah: an ultra-orthodox teachers training College





#### Michal Raz Rotem

My study is designed to unravel the impact of the rifts in Israeli society on the functioning of a small but socially diverse group, where collaboration is not voluntary but rather stems from the members' job definition and organizational positions. The research examines interactions among members of different social groups and the internal dynamics within the small group, including the communication patterns, the quality of cooperation, mutual trust, the image of the other group members, and perceived justice and fairness as opposed to feelings of discrimination. The dynamics of the team is examined via the perceptions of the team members.

The study investigates the dynamics in diverse work teams in two different situations: at times of relative calm of the intractable conflict and during episodes of fighting or violent outbreaks of the conflict (peaks of conflict escalation). This aspect of the study will shed light on shifts in the team members' perceptions and behavior along the changing intensity and conspicuousness of the intractable conflict.

In addition, the proposed study examines the phenomena mentioned above in a field setting - in medical and para-medical teams in contrast to previous studies that have examined similar processes using ad hoc groups, some of which were created as part of group encounters consisting of two national/ethnic groups (Dixon, Durrheim & Tredoux, 2005; Maoz, 2000; 2011; 2000; Dixon & Durrhiem, 2003; Suleiman 2004). The study examines how employees perceive their relationships with the "other" in the context of a divided society. The current study also attempts to respond to the criticism concerning the contact hypothesis (Allport, 1954), claiming that most studies have examined contact between groups only in optimal conditions rather than in situations where the contact is not voluntary and takes place in the course of protracted and asymmetrical conflict (in terms of power relations between the parties).

Michal Raz Rotem graduated with honor (cum laude) from the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Haifa University. Today she is a Ph.D candidate at the Swiss Center for Conflict Research at the Hebrew University (supervisors: Professor Ifat Maoz and Professor Helena Desivilya Syna). Michal's dissertation has been awarded the presidential scholarship for excellence and innovation in science. Michal is also a lecturer at The Max Stern Yezreel Valley College and at the Open University.



#### Ibrahim Hazboun

The first study of my PhD dissertation explored the experiences and practices of Palestinian journalists working for Palestinian local and private media outlets during the 2014 war in Gaza. The thematic analysis is based on data gathered from 10 in depth semi-structured interviews with Palestinian reporters and editors. The findings indicate that the practices of Palestinian journalists were shaped by their personal experiences during the war. The interviewed Palestinian journalists described a constant sense of fear and threat as well as difficulties of coping with restrictions and limitations on their journalistic work. Moreover, our findings indicate that Palestinian journalists witnessing their peoples' suffering and tragedies during the war felt responsible and were motivated to report on and reveal this suffering through media outlets. I am now continuing to study these questions within the research program of my doctoral studies that deal with the role of journalists in conflict.

**Ibrahim Hazboun** is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Communication and at the Swiss Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dissertation title: The experiences and practices of Palestinian journalists in the asymmetrical conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Supervised by Prof. Ifat Maoz and Prof. Menahem Blondheim.



## Plans For The 2016-2017 Academic Year

After 17 years of activity, the Swiss Center is clearly the main center in the field in Israel. More than 200 students have completed their studies at the center, about a quarter of them with distinction. Some of the alumni hold senior positions in the Israeli public arena, as well as in private organizations. Eleven research students are presently working on their Doctoral dissertations and on their Masters research thesis at the center and almost two dozen of students will begin the program this year.

In the coming year we will continue and expand our collaboration with other universities, research institutions and organizations that promote dialogue and reconciliation. We will also expand the work and teaching of the center on political, technological, and psychological aspects of conflict and their resolution. Importantly, we also plan to further build and expand in the coming academic year and beyond that, the international connections of the Swiss Center - inviting excelent international students and researchers, to study and learn about conflict and conflict resolution with our first rate experts, researchers, practionairs and teachers.

## Swiss Center Faculty Research

Selected recent publications by Swiss Center faculty members:



#### Prof. Ilana Ritov

Kogut, T., and Ritov, I. (2011). The identifiable victim effect, Causes and boundary conditions. In D. M. Oppenheimer & C. Y. Olivola (Eds). The science of giving: Experimental approaches to the study of charity, Society for Judgment and Decision Making series (pp. 133-145). New York, NY, US: Psychology Press, xviii, 256 pp.

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#### Dr. Yehudith Auerbach

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### Dr. Maya Kahanoff

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Kahanoff, M (2015) "Collective Trauma, Recognition and Reconciliation: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives", Paper presented at the conference on: Towards Reconciliation: Confronting the Past and Accepting Accountability in the International Arena, Tel-Aviv University, June 2-4, 2015

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Kahanoff, M (2014) "Dialogue and Empathic Understanding in Prolonged Conflicts." Paper presented at the International Conference on Transitional Justice and Civil Society, Minerva, Jerusalem, Hebrew University, May 18-19, 2014

Kahanoff, M (2014) "Dialogue Teaching in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Between Theory and Practice." Paper presented at the Buber Seminar, Minerva, Tel-Aviv University, May 13, 2014

Kahanoff, M (2014) "Collective Trauma as a Barrier to Reconciliation: Reflections on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." Invited guest lecture at the seminar, "Organizing Traumatic Experiences and Memories: Comparative Perspectives." Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, Japan, April 19, 2014

Kahanoff, M (2014) "Reconciliation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Prospects and Challenges in an on-going Active Conflict." Paper presented at the Middle East Research Forum, Aiwa University, Tokyo, Japan, April 7, 2014

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Kahanoff, M (2013) "Reconciliation in times of conflict: Is It Possible? The Israeli-Palestinian Case." Organized a panel and presented the paper at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), Political Psychology of Global Conflict, Protest and Reconciliation, July 8-11, 2013, IDC-Herzliya, Israel.





#### Dr. Yiftach Ron

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#### Adv. Carmit Fenton

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Adv. Yael Ilany

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