



Minerva Humanities Center Tel Aviv University

Annual Academic Report 2018-19

Contact Information

Minerva Humanities Center

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Dr. Chen Misgav

Ms. Avital Barak



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

MIGRATING KNOWLEDGE

The "Migrating Knowledge" research group investigates practices of knowledge construction and transmission that enable or inhibit the trajectories of knowledge diffusion in time and space. Our focus on the mobility of knowledge underlines the social, institutional and epistemic configurations within which knowledge is created and transformed. Challenging the depiction of linear progression and the ultimate triumph of Western science, the research group continues to question both previous dichotomies between East and West, center and periphery as well as the hierarchies between theoretical and practical knowledge. As such, we frequently reevaluate the dominant "rise and decline" narrative which has conditioned our understanding of Islamic scientific culture in modernity. We have also continued to explore the assimilation of specialized methods and practices into new cultural environments in ways that promoted various social visions. From these perspectives we do not only engage in investigating the construction and transformation of bodies of knowledge, but also attempt to uncover the socio-political ideologies that shape the contents and infrastructure of knowledge production.

As part of our interest in the transmission of knowledge in conflict zones, last year we focused on the diffusion of law and its institutions, revealing the ways in which this movement also creates normative meanings and patterns. We explored how the migration of legal knowledge created new understandings, subjectivities, even shaping religious and ethnic identities. We began by exploring how early modern codification of Jewish law, despite the absence of a state, was part of comparable processes that took place in European and Islamic legal cultures (Weinstein). We examined the question of law as a normative system by exploring the relationship between jurisprudence and traditional norms and ideals (Hertz). Lastly, we discussed administrative planning, especially planning rules and authority in mandatory Palestine and the early State of Israel in order to understand how the transfer of



planning methods and theories from Central Europe to inter-war Palestine contributed to national aspirations (Wilkof). In this context, we focused upon the importance of local and transnational networks for the transmission of ideas, information and technologies. The latter were critical to the definition of national identities and cultural boundaries.

Meetings

November 6th, 2018: Roni Weinstein

Dr. Weinstein's lecture analyzed the codification of Jewish law between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries through a transcontinental and global, comparative perspective. Focusing on Rabbi Joseph Karo's codes of law, Dr. Weinstein argued that these texts responded to contemporary changes in legal processes and the enforcement of law that transformed Europe and the Ottoman world. Dr. Weinstein demonstrated that the formation of a centralized governing body in the European and Islamic worlds repositioned the centrality of the law for ethnic communities as well, as seen in the case of the Jewish legal tradition.

December 4th, 2018: Liat Kozma

In this talk, Prof. Kozma examined the history of colonial medicine in the Middle East through the case study of Bejel, a form of endemic syphilis. In the 1930s, European and American doctors in the Middle East and North Africa discovered a skin disease and explained its appearance in terms of a fundamental somatic differences between the white body, and the Muslim body and African body. Prof. Kozma focused on what happens to colonial medicinal knowledge when encountering local doctors; and how colonial legacies affected international medical discourse and practices, when the eradication of Bejel was declared one of the first campaigns of the World Health Organization.



January 8th, 2019: Gal Hertz

Robert Cover's "Nomos and Narrative" addresses the shortcomings of legal thought, in particular the moral/formal dilemma. Dr. Hertz analyzed Cover's way of forming a jurisprudence that follows a meaningful normative universe. His talk highlighted Cover's notion of narrative as a poetic practice that provides an alternate way of restructuring the relations between morality, tradition, and law.

March 12th, 2019: Tamar Novick

Both Jewish and Christian European settlers in Palestine/Land of Israel attributed unique qualities to the Holy Land, using agricultural science and technology to prove its sanctity. Dr. Novick's talk focused on the mobility of science and technologies in order to reconstruct the land's plentiful, biblical past. In particular, Dr. Novick analyzed the central place of animals, which served as foci for the process of restoring abundance, namely honeybees, cows, sheep, and goats.

May 7th, 2019: Shira Wilkof

Dr. Wilkof presented paradigms of architecture and urban planning that were part of a broader migration of knowledge from Central Europe to inter-war Palestine. These paradigms, including the settlement model of the planner Eliezer Brutzkus, radically transformed the physical and social reality of the State of Israel. Dr. Wilkof explored the diffusion of planning ideas into conflict zones, revealing its impact on the formation of ethno-spatial structures.

June 11th, 2019: Idit Chikurel

Dr. Chikurel's talk examined the ways by which commentators, including Moshe ben Yehoshua Narboni (1300-1362), Mordecai ben Eliezer Comtino (1420-1487), Moses Mendelssohn (1729-1786) and Salomon Maimon (1753-1800), used scientific knowledge in their interpretation of Maimonides' writings. She argued that the integration of scientific knowledge in Maimonides' commentaries played an important role in creating new philosophical positions. The talk focused on the commentators' different approaches and



agendas, considering also the means used by these scholars to bridge Jewish tradition with the non-Jewish European culture of their time.

Post-doctoral students

Dr. Tal Arbel

Dr. Tal Arbel is a historian of modern science and technology. In May 2016, she completed a PhD in History of Science at Harvard University. During her tenure as a postdoctoral fellow at the Minerva Center (October 2016 – September 2018), Arbel worked on a couple of articles concerning different dimensions of knowledge migration in the social and mind sciences. The first, “Fear in Hebrew”, examined Hebrew translations of WWII-era professional handbooks for soldiers on the psychology of war. The second – part of a larger project on Weimar-era Jewish scholars as a conduit for the canonization of modern social theory – tells the story of exiled Weberian sociologist Siegfried Landshut and his 1944 study *HaKvutza*; the first scientific work on the kibbutz. Arbel is currently working on a new, book-long project that draws on her expertise in the history of postwar American science and the global and international history of the Twentieth century. Her proposal, “Polling for Peace: Survey Measurement and the Postwar International Order” has won the 2018 Dan David Prize for young scholars.

Dr. Ran Segev

Dr. Ran Segev is a historian of the early modern period, whose interests include religious culture, colonial encounters and the interplay of science and religion, especially as they pertain to the Spanish world. He graduated from the Department of History at the University of Texas, Austin in December 2015. His upcoming book explores the importance of the study of the earth in Spain and its colonies for confessional ends. In this monograph, he shows how in the post-Reformation world new empirical knowledge and natural disciplines – including geographies, cosmographies and natural histories – were assimilated into Catholic outlooks by providing new ways to conceptualize and transmit religious ideologies. Dr. Segev’s second book examines



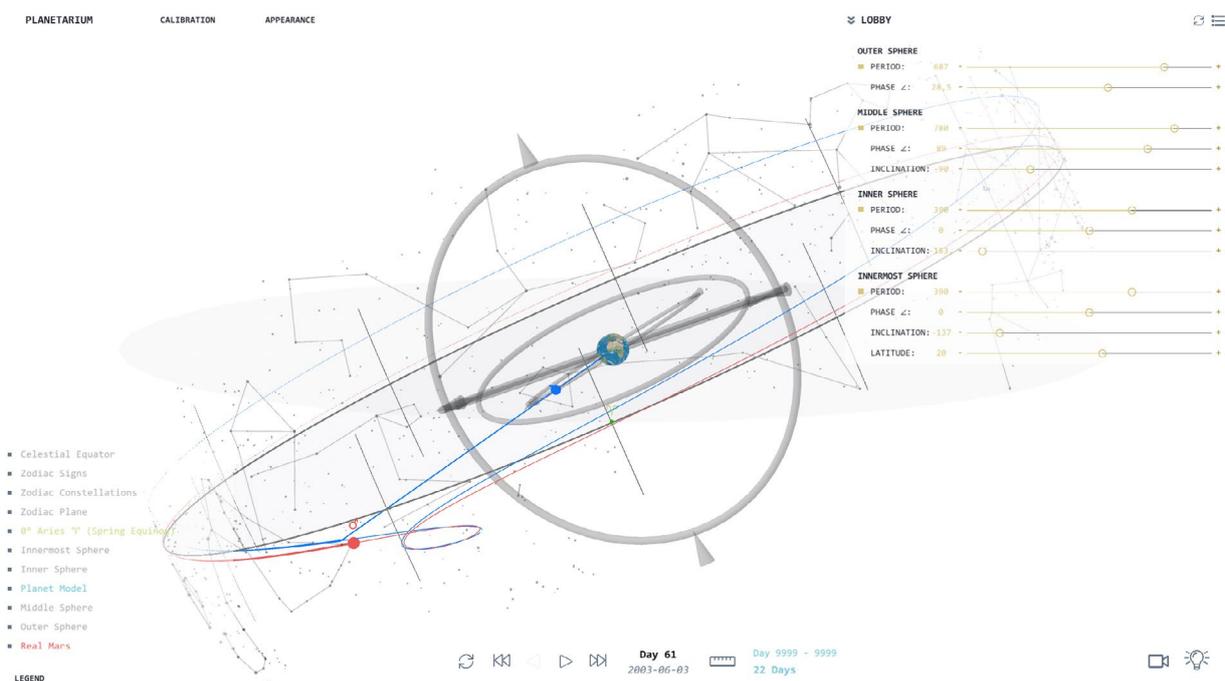
ethnographic practices in the pre-modern period in the Spanish, British, and French colonial realms.

PhD student

Luca Beisel

Luca Beisel is an art historian, historian of science and computer programmer from Berlin. In his project “Modeling the Cosmos: Digital Research Environment for the History of Ancient Astronomy”, associated with MHC, the Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas as well as Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science Berlin, he is developing a software tool for the digital reconstruction of pre-modern astronomical models.

His software will enable researchers to compose astronomical simulations from modular building blocks in order to conduct research on the kinematic behavior of historical astronomical systems. In this function, the tool assists in the reconstruction of models whose functioning up until today is only partially understood.





ISF Project

Rivka Feldhay, Israel Science Foundation Project on: Disciplinarization of the Sciences: Pre-classical Mechanics between the Sovereign State and the Reformed Catholic Religion: 1550-1650.

The study will focus on the emergence of an early modern political-religious constellation in the Catholic world in the years 1550-1650, and the place of pre-classical mechanics within this context. We shall argue that the Protestant and Catholic reformations and the religious wars led to a reconstitution of Christian religious communities not just as a reaction to, but also as a function of the newly emerging sovereign states.

Moreover, we shall show how new types of scientific and artistic practices, equally relevant to the state and to religion, came to constitute the disciplinary physico-mathematical core of Western modern science in that context. In analyzing the re-configuration of state-religion-science relationships circa 1550-1650 we shall thus delineate, in very broad lines, the Catholic path to modernity not only in terms of conflict and differentiation from science and the state, but also in terms of mutual power consolidation of a common framework.

The project consists of three parts, each organized around one theme shedding light on the structure of the entire field and the relationships that characterize it: the sovereign state, the reformed Catholic religion, and pre-classical mechanics – the heart and center of the new science emerging in the 17th century.

The project will take three years, and will be executed together with Dr. Michael Elazar and Dr. Ivor Ludlam, fellows at Minerva Humanities Center



Publications

Tal Arbel

Tal Arbel, Fear in Hebrew: Militarized Behaviorism and the Cultural Politics of Science in Translation, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, Vol. 49, No. 5 (2019)

Organization Man: Bureaucratic Authority and Scientific Integrity in Postwar Survey Research, *History of Science*, Special Issue: Making It Up: Histories of Research Integrity and Fraud in Scientific Practice, Editors: Lissa Roberts and Otto Sibum (under review)

Ran Segev

Mestisaje (miscegenation) and Labor: Rethinking Free Afro-Mexicans and the Colonial Labor Market in the Age of Mercantilism, *The Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 20:1 (Spring, 2019).

Sephardic Conquistadores in a New World: Menashe ben Israel on the 'Rediscovery' of the Lost Tribes. *The Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 18:4 (forthcoming, Summer 2019).

Spatial Evidence in a New World: Fray Antonio Vázquez de Espinosa's Geography, Evidence in the Age of the New Sciences edited by James A. Lancaster and Richard Raiswell (Dordrecht: Springer, 2018).

Accountable Creatures: Primatt's Dissertation, The Religious Enlightenment and the Origins of Animals Rights (Under review).

Rivka Feldhay

Book:

R. Feldhay, J. Renn, M. Schemmel, M. Valleriani (eds.), *Emergence and Expansion of Pre-Classical Mechanics*, Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, 271 (Dordrecht-Springer, on line 2019).

Articles:

R. Feldhay and M. Elazar, Jesuit Post-Galilean Conceptions of Impetus: Honore' Fabri, Paolo Casati and Francesco Eschinardi, *Emergence and Expansion of Pre-Classical Mechanics*, Springer 2019.



R. Feldhay and Ayelet even Ezra, Heaviness, Lightness and Impetus in the 17th Century, R. Feldhay, J. Renn M. Schemmel, M. Valleriani (eds.), Springer 2019.

R. Feldhay, Pre-classical Mechanics in Contexts, R. Feldhay, J. Renn M. Schemmel, M. Valleriani (eds.), Emergence and Expansion of Pre-Classical Mechanics, Springer 2019.

Iddo Ginat

Efrat, Zvi, and Iddo Ginat, eds. Richard Kauffmann and the Architecture of Early Zionism, Ein Harod: Mishkan Museum of Art, Forthcoming (2020)

Ginat, Iddo. The Body between Universal Order, Proportions and Standardized Production, Bodies-Scapes, edited by Adina Kamien-Kazhdan, Jerusalem: Israel Museum, upcoming (2020)

Ginat, Iddo, Visual Analysis of Plants Along Tel-Aviv Boulevards, By Leaves We Live, edited by Rachel Gottesman, Avital Gourary, and Natanel Elfassy, Tel-Aviv: White City Center, 2018

גינת, עידו. אדריכלות בארבע מערכות, בתוך יסקי ושות': אדריכלות ישראלית על פי אברהם יסקי

Ahmad Ighbariah

Publications and articles in refereed journals:

Ighbariah, Ahmad, The Theory of Signification in Arabic Logic and its Influence on Jurisprudence and Eloquence, (in Arabic), Al-Majalla: Journal of the Arabic Language Academy, Vol. 7, 2016 (pp. 39-69)

Ighbariah, Ahmad, Grammatical Features in Ibn al-Muqaffa's Categories, JSAI, Vol. 43, 2016, pp. 251-271

Ighbariah, Ahmad, Three Stages of Translation the Categories into Arabic, Ben Ever la Arav, Vol. 9 (in Hebrew), 2017, pp. 96-116

Ighbariah, Ahmad, Paul Kraus in the Writings of his Faithfull Disciple Abdel Rahman Badawi, Tel Aviver Jahrbuch fuer deutsche Geschichte, Vol. 45, 2017, pp. 69-94

Ighbariah, Ahmad and Wagner, Roy, Ibn al-Haytham's Changing Views on the Euclidean Foundations of Mathematics, HOPOS. Spring 2018, pp. 62-86



Accepted for publication:

Ighbariah, Ahmad, Signification by Way of Implication: From Logic to Eloquence, Iyyun, January 2018

Ighbariah, Ahmad, Ibn al-Muqaffa's Isagoge: A Publication of the Arabic Text with an English Translation, Journal of Abbasid Studies, November 2018

Articles in refereed books accepted for publication:

Ighbariah, Ahmad, The Problem of Motion in Substance: From Ibn Sina to the Twentieth Century, Migrating Knowledge, Resling, ed. by: Rivka Feldhay and Gal Hertz, 2016 (in Hebrew)

Ighbariah, Ahmad, The Use of Logic in Early Kalam, Rationalität in islamischer Theologie zwischen Tradition und Moderne, eds., M. El Kaisy-Friemuth, R. Hajatpour and M. Abdelrahem, De Gruyter Verlag, 2018



RESEARCH GROUP

Tradition – Canon, Transmission, Critique

This research group led by Dr. Ori Rotlevy and Adi Sorek (who replaced Dr. Vered Sakal and Dr. Lina Barouch), is part of the Migrating Knowledge project. It explores the notion of tradition from a theoretical perspective and through its concrete implementation in the domains of religion, science and art. In continuation with its activities in the academic years 2016-2018, over the last academic year the group held five joint reading sessions with Immanent Critique as the central theme. In this context, we examined the concept of tradition and its various manifestations – between the written and the spoken, the explicit and the implicit, and between the theoretical and the practical.

The first session (27/2) was dedicated to the relation between embeddedness in a tradition and the presentation of truth to a community according to Hans Blumenberg; The second session (27/3) dealt with the problem of forgetfulness in tradition and examined how it serves as a medium of transformation in Maimonides; The third session (1/5) dealt with Moses Mendelssohn's implicit critique, which challenges Kant's concept of critique as drawing boundaries; The fourth session (22/5) outlines the forms of critique of Jewish and Zionist tradition that appear surprisingly in one of S.Y. Agnon's most religious texts; The final session (12/6) examined how an object that is unintelligible in a theoretical tradition evokes the understanding of this very tradition as practical according to Pierre Hadot.

These meetings, which were directed by Dr. Gilad Sharvit, Dr. Omer Michaelis, Dr. Yuval Kremnitzer, Adi Sorek, and Dr. Ori Rotlevy, respectively, focused not only on the sources read, but also on the wider research themes of the group members. The group plans to continue its activity on the theme of Immanent Critique this year as well. Apart from the regular meetings, members of the group will be responsible for the Center's research seminar.



RESEARCH GROUP

The Aristotelian Corpus as an Architect of Knowledge Civilizations

The research group's purpose is to analyze the vast Aristotelian field of knowledge from the point of view of Knowledge Civilizations, which takes into account the relationships between three cultural aspects: practices of coping with the material world and reflection upon them; the transcendental dimension of cultures; and the political structures that enable elite groups to interpret both the symbols of transcendence and of political power. Within the framework of this research group several lectures were delivered, about Aristotle within the Greek and Hellenistic cultures (by Dr. Ivor Ludlam from Haifa University), within the Jewish culture (by Prof. Yossef Schwartz from Tel Aviv University), and within the Islamic culture (by Dr. Ahmad Ighbariah from Tel Aviv University, Dr. Tony Street from Cambridge University and others).



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

POLITICAL LEXICON

The Political Lexicon department, led by Dr. Ariel Handel, is both a research group studying foundational concepts in political theory, and the primary venue for initiating, writing, editing, and assembling original essays in the framework of a Lexicon for Political Concepts (published in the peer-reviewed academic journal *Mafté'akh*).

Our work systematically cuts across institutional and disciplinary boundaries and does not shy away from interacting with extra-academic sources of knowledge, such as the arts and social activism. It is guided and integrated by a return to the most ancient philosophical question, "What is X?", posed here for the purpose of testing the common usage of concepts as well as their accepted theoretical frameworks. The critical examination of each concept is an opportunity for refreshing the arsenal and broadening the horizons of theory in the Humanities, awakening theory's political consciousness, and shedding new light on some aspects of political reality which the revisited concept seeks to capture.

Within the department, two reading groups have operated bi-weekly or monthly. Political Theory, the project's core group, led by Dr. Ariel Handel; and Photo-Lexic, led by Dr. Ruthie Ginsburg. These reading groups strive to cultivate a community of scholars – including faculty, graduate and postgraduate students – committed to a critical approach to political theory and a political approach to theory in the humanities



Political Concepts of Work: Economy, Life, Resistance

This year's annual theme and lexical workshop was carried under the title "political concepts of work: economy, life, resistance". From the 1970s, the global West is gradually moving towards post-fordist, non-material production, based on new economies of information and care. In this process, the subject's cognitive, communicational and emotional capabilities turn into the locus of capitalist value production. Work has thus stopped being a separate sphere of existence. At the same time, a structural precarity has risen in the job markets, leading to a flourishing of "gig economy", "sharing economy", and "bullshit jobs".

Following these changes, the last couple of decades have been witness to new developments in critical theory of work, with new theorizations of immigration, gender, urban development, debt, emotional capitalism, human-object relations, neo-colonialism, and more. Part of these studies do not only analyze and criticize the contemporary job market, but rather challenge the basic idea of viewing work as the organizing principle of the Western society in the last centuries – wondering how the modern work myth has developed and why did Marxism adapt rather than oppose it. From here follows the question of resistance: what is the meaning of a refusal to work when it is so deeply embedded in life itself?

The outcomes of our work in the course of the last academic year, was a workshop, carried as a collaboration between the Lexicon for Political Theory and the Department of Politics and Government at the Ben Gurion University. Nine papers were presented in the workshop, which took place at Ben Gurion University at the beginning of June. The participants presented various concepts, such as "reproduction", "volunteering", "diversity", "exploitation", "unemployment", "teaching fellow", "working settlement", "bad work", and "rest". Selection of the papers will appear as a special issue of Mafte'akh – a lexical journal for political thought.



The 16th Lexical Conference for Critical Political Thought (May 2019)

The presentations in this conference aimed, like those presented in previous conferences, to contribute to an alternative political lexicon, drawing upon various trends within twentieth-century Continental Philosophy or inspired by it.

The conference consisted of four sessions, presenting concepts such as "the superfluous human", "conservatism", "nostalgia", "exterritoriality", "otherness", "obvious", "agency", "human prosperity", "legitimacy", "thought", and "imagination". The conference, held at the Tel-Aviv University, was a meeting point to many scholars from different disciplines within the social sciences and the humanities, from the Political Lexicon Group and beyond.

סדנה לקסיקלית
מושגים פוליטיים של עבודה
כלכלה, חיים, התנגדות

יום שלישי, 4.6.2019
בניין 72 חדר 629
אוניברסיטת בן גוריון בנגב

12:15 - 13:45
יור: ניא בן-פורת, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

ניול
דני פילק, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

אשמלה - מובלעת
שרה הלמן, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

עמיתות הוראה
ענבל וילמובסקי, האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

13:45 - 14:45 הפסקת צהריים

14:45 - 16:15
יור: שר אהרוני, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

התיישבות עובדת
מתן קמני, אוניברסיטת מישיגן

עבודה רעה
אריאל הנדל, אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

בפלה
יאב דונאל, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

10:00 - 9:45 התכנסות
11:45 - 10:00
יור: הללי פיסמן, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

על הסריב לעבוד והעבודה כסריב: לקראת דיון במושגים פוליטיים של עבודה
לגלד רייך, אוניברסיטת ת"א

ייצור תכרת
חדוה ישכר, חוקרת עצמאית

התגובות
אימנר שחר, אוניברסיטת אמסטרדם

גיוון
אילה הנדל, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

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mafeakh.org אתר מפתח-כתב-עת לקסיקלי למחשבה פוליטית

הכנס הלקסיקלי ה-16
למחשבה פוליטית ביקורתית

9:00 - 9:30 התכנסות
09:30 - 11:00
ברכות: אריאל הנדל, אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

יור: של ניצן
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

הארם המיתר עמר ארד, אוניברסיטת המובולדט, ברלין

שמרנות עמית איזמן, אוניברסיטת בר-אילן

נוסטלגיה אורלי גל, אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

11:15 - 12:30
יור: אפרת בן שושן גזית, אוניברסיטת ת"א

אקטמריאליזם מעין אמיר, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

אחרות גיל יפמן, אמן

13:00 - 14:30
יור: ענת מפר, אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

המובן מאליו יועד אליעז, המכללה האקדמית עמק יזרעאל

מוכנות לבנת קונפני-דקלב, אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

שגשוג אנושי מנחם מאוסר, אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

14:30 - 15:30 הפסקת צהריים

15:30 - 17:00
יור: עמנו דהאמשה, המכללה האקדמית הערבית לחינוך בישראל, חיפה

לגיטימיות יאיר יאסן, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

חשיבה איחי שויד, האוניברסיטה הפתוחה

דמיון נורמה מוסי, האוניברסיטה הפתוחה

יום א' 12.5.2019
אוניברסיטת תל-אביב, בניין גילמן, חדר 496 | כניסה חופשית

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Maft'e'akh: A Lexical Journal of Political Thought

The journal *Maft'e'akh: A Lexical Journal of Political Thought* is now in its ninth year of continuous open-access online publication. The journal is co-edited by Dr. Merav Amir, Dr. Ruthie Ginsburg and Dr. Itay Snir.

In 2019 the journal published its 13th issue. It includes articles on "Care for the Self", "Tribal Liberalism", "Populism", "Colonial Imitation", "Financial Governmentality", "Childhood", "Landscape Syncope", "Return" and a translation of Michael Warner's article on "publics and counterpublics".

Issue 14 is forthcoming in 2019 (guest co-editor: Dr. Assaf Tamari), and will include selected papers from a highly successful workshop on Jewish political concepts that took place in May of 2018 in collaboration with the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, entitled "Beyond the Horizon of Secularization".

Academic Professionalization from a Critical Perspective: Workshops for First-Generation Students 2018-2019

In the 2018 – 2019 academic year, the Minerva Humanities Center initiated two workshops. Both workshops reached out to Master's and PhD students in the humanities, arts, law and social sciences, who consider becoming scholars at the academy.

In the 2015 – 2016 academic year, the first workshop was established, and was led by Dr. Roy Wagner and Ms. Revital Madar. From that year on, the workshops are led by Ms. Efrat Ben-Shoshan Gazit, a PhD candidate at the Women and Gender Studies Program.

Both 'first generation' academics workshops are for students, whose parents do not hold academic degrees. One of the workshops was in cooperation with TAU's "Sawa" (سوا) project, and the Dean of Students' Office, and reached out to Arab students.

The workshops aim to provide a response to the systematic educational exclusion and to other structural factors, that prevent 'first generation' students from becoming full scholars in the Israeli academia.



The workshops offer professional and academic skills, while exposing the students to the political structure of contemporary academia.

In addition, the workshops provide a six-hour mentoring program. All mentors and tutors are volunteers, researchers at the Minerva Humanities Center and the 'Academia for Equality', when some of them are first-generation academics themselves.

This current year, only women enrolled in the workshops, adding further layers of needs, regarding the challenges of navigation at the academic establishment.

The higher education system in Israel is unfamiliar with the term 'first-generation students' both as a policy issue and as a category. Therefore, it ignores the experience and the obstacles that challenge first-generation students, foremost first-generation women, who often carry additional marginal identities, that intersect with being a 'first-generation student'.

The workshops provide a safe space for women, with diverse identities, in which they, as 'first-generation students', define "another" academy, giving voice to the periphery and to diverse points of view. The workshops serve as a mutual support group for the participants, allowing them to discuss their respective concerns, experiences, and challenges.

The students strongly confirmed the contribution of the both workshops. They reported that they have a better understanding of what is expected of them as scholars, and that they have more tools to meet those expectations.

Group members' publications

Monterescu, Daniel and Handel, Ariel (2019), Liquid Indigeneity: Wine, Science, and Colonial Politics in Israel Palestine, *American Ethnologist*.

Handel Ariel and Ginsburg Ruthie (2018) (eds.), special collection Israelis Study the Occupation: Critical Reflections, *Critical Inquiry* 44.

Handel, Ariel (2019), What's in a home? Towards a critical theory of housing/dwelling, *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2399654418819104>



- Handel Ariel (2018), Distance matters: mobilities and the politics of distance, *Mobilities* 13, 473-487.
- Handel Ariel and Ginsburg Ruthie (2018), Israelis study the occupation: an introduction, *Critical Inquiry* 44, 331-342.
- Handel Ariel (2018), Book review: Living Emergency (Yael Berda, Stanford UP, 2017), *Society and Space*, <http://societyandspace.org/2018/06/19/living-emergency-by-yael-berda/>
- Chalozin-Dovrat, Lin (2019), Grammar as science: Beauzée's theory of tense and the metaphysics of time, *History of Humanities* 4(1), 79-102, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/701987>
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- Madar, Revital (2019), 'Do You Know What's an Arab Bystander?': The Kafr Qasim Trial as Case Study for a Sovereign Failure, Amal Jamal (Ed.), *The Conflict – Sociological, Historical and Geographical Aspects*, Walter Lebach Institute for Jewish-Arab Coexistence through Education, Tel Aviv University, pp. 25-48 [Hebrew]
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- Leibler, Anat (in preparation), The Evolving Nature of the Omnipresent State: Documenting Individuals in Israel 1948 - 2017, *Surveillance and Society*.
- Leibler, Anat (Forthcoming), The Emergence of a Global Economic Order - From Scientific Internationalism to Infrastructural Globalism, *Working Numbers - Science and Contemporary Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan
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RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

LIVING TOGETHER

The subject of the Living Together research group's investigation this year was *Resistance*. As in every year, we held 12 meetings, 6 in each semester. During the first semester we read theoretical, philosophical texts of different scholars and examined different paradigms of this concept, its history, its genealogy and different traditions of resistance. During the second semester, we focused on different case studies and examined them vis- a- vis the theoretical and philosophical frames we marked on the first semester.

The motivation:

The need to discuss the theme of resistance stems from an increasing feel of lack of control regarding the conditions within which we conduct our lives, even if one is not living under foreign military rule: giant economic powers, social and political networks manage our lives on our behalf; from Google to Facebook, from multi-national corporations to banking systems, from indoctrinated schools to the neo-liberal university, from the global market to different codes of conduct that do not leave anything out of state control. All of these bodies speak the language of freedom while leaving this freedom a completely empty signifier, freedom as a mere illusion of free choice, in a reality where all basic rules of the game are implemented behind our backs and we are simply thrown into this world of rules and codes.

Historically, the word resistance has a rather immediate military connotation to it, associated with war. Probably, the first time the term was used systematically was during the Spanish war against Napoleon's occupation of Spain, in the early 19th century. It was Von Clausewitz, in his book "On War" (1830), that has turned this Spanish war against occupation to a paradigm for resistance. But the term gained its glory during the Second World War when the free army led by Charles De Gaul lead the French resistance to the Nazi occupation to the point that it became the paradigm of the term "The



resistance". Since then the term has been appropriated by many anti-colonial movements and gained widespread deployment.

However, resistance has gained and is still gaining a less military tone, and aims to describe a resistance that acts not necessarily against a military force. The seats of power controlling our lives are numerous, they take different shapes and control different aspects of our living experience.

The desire to resist is understandable and seems almost synonymous with freedom and the right to self-determination, on the personal and collective level. To resist can mean the creation of an inviolable self that can fend for itself and be an independent source of values, actions and meanings.

The first set of issues in our discussion on "resistance" was to situate the term within its "terminological neighborhood" and to see how the term resistance relates to other similar/familiar terms such as: revolution, reform, resilience, resentment (resentment), protest and opposition. In many ways all of these express certain negativities to the current reality, but each imply a different meaning as how to deal with this negativity. Here our aim was to think "what is resistance"?

A second set of issues pertained to the question of that "thing" that we want to resist. Resistance can be a resistance to: force, to power, hegemony, domination, empire, the market, culture, ideas, discourse, regimes of knowledge, and practices. Does resistance have the same meaning in all of these cases? Does it have the same elements? If it does not – then we may ask whether it does have at least one common element to all these cases. What can that element be? Here we want to deal with questions pertaining to Resistance to what?

A third set of issues pertained to the question: How do we resist? What do we do when we resist? How and when can resistance be effective? How do we know that we are not simply reproducing the system, and being complicit with it when we resist? Where do we act when we resist and do we have to resist within the same domain? Can we resist cultural domination by acting in the market? Can we resist economic forces through culture or art? And what tools do we deploy when we resist? Another set of questions related to how we resist pertains to consciousness: Is resistance always conscious? Can one



resist without being aware of itself resisting? What does that say about the nature of resistance?

The last theme we discussed pertained to the value of resistance: why resist? Does resistance have value in itself? Or is it always parasitic to other values and is merely an instrument for achieving such other values like: equality, justice, distribution, fairness, recognition? Or does resistance have its intrinsic value of self-control, flourishing, doing, living, initiating, hoping?

Our theoretical discussion in the first semester developed through paradigmatic texts, among them: Kant On Time and Revolution; Martin Luther King, Letter from Birmingham prison; James Scott, Everyday Forms of Resistance; Foucault and the Politics of Resistance; Melancholia as Resistance; Silence as Resistance; Herbert Marcuse, The Aesthetic Dimension.

In the second semester we focused on several case studies that were presented by the group members. Among them:

Shaul Setter presented his research on Genet, Godard and the Palestinian Resistance in the 1970s.

Asher Levi's presentation focused on the Spaghetti Western as a postcolonial act of resistance. Spaghetti Westerns (as they are derisively called in the US) are a cultural byproduct of the postcolonial struggle, the supposedly popular film (the Western) becomes a cultural tool in anticolonial theories. The Fanonic employment of a perception of the Third World oppressed by the armed imperialists is granted cultural, cinematic, postcolonial expression that is able to make use of culture and history to teach people harsh theories on oppression and emancipation.

Orit Dudai presented the film "Once upon a time in Anatolia" and her research on resistance in psychoanalysis. Focusing on resistance as an unconscious defense mechanism of the ego that "protects" repressed traumatic knowledge.

Raef Zriek led the discussion on the Palestinian resistance today, focusing on the question of subjectivity and complicity of Palestinians and their resistance to the Israeli regime by marking opposite trajectories and practices of



resistance between Palestinians of 48 (citizens of the Israeli state) and those of 67 (residents of the Occupied Territories).

Public events

Two public events took place this year; The first in Tel Aviv University and the second in Nazareth. The first event was in commemoration of the poet Mahmood Darwish and the second in commemoration of the intellectual Edward Said.

Mahmood Darwish was the most famous, well-known and original, Arabic writing poet of the last century. In his poetry, issues of home and homeland, love and exile, fragility and nationalism come together with spontaneous originality and intimacy. Edward Said, the exiled Palestinian who turned his exile to organizing theme for his writings on politics and morality, on the role of intellectuals, humanism, secularism and criticism. Darwish was inspired by Walter Benjamin and Said writes under the spell of Adorno. Two exiled Palestinian writers under the influence of two exiled German Jewish writers.

Holding both events in Israel, one in Tel Aviv and the other in Nazareth, brought closure to a certain circle, and suggest a symbolic intervention. These events reintroduced Benjamin and Adorno to a Jewish audience through the eyes of Said and Darwish, and introduced Darwish and Said to a Palestinian audience through Adorno and Benjamin. There could be no better way to question the purity of identity than this kind of intervention, which asserts the presence of Palestinian identity in a Jewish space, while at the same time questions the alleged purity of such an identity. This double entanglement is in itself a mode of critique and a mode of thinking: thinking the other, thinking with the other, and thinking as othering, othering oneself in order to be able to converse.



A Farewell to a Poet: The Tenth Commemoration of Mahmoud Darwish's Departure



The Darwish Commemoration event was the fruit of a collaboration between a number of institutions: The Minerva Center for German History, the Minerva Humanities Center and the Program for the Study of the Jewish-Arab Culture – all at Tel-Aviv University. The Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Institute, to our gratitude, helped fund part of the expenses of the event.

In terms of the content, the speakers at the event represented a number of institutions, disciplines and genres. The first panel focused on the poetic and literary dimension of Darwish's heritage: Dr.

Basilius Bawardi of Bar Ilan University read on the search for the self and the other in the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish. Dr. Aida Fahmawi of Al-Qasemi College textually analyzed a poem by Darwish. Dr. Raef Zreik also read one of Darwish's famous poems. This panel was held in Arabic. Translated scripts of the talks and the poems have been handed out to the audience.

The second panel addressed the political dimension in Darwish's legacy, hosting Professor Galili Shahar, Professor Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin and Dr. Honaida Ghanim.

The third part of the event included a musical performance by Wisam Jubran; and finally, a theatrical reading of one of Darwish's poems by the actor Amer Hlehel accompanied by music – conducted by Ayed Fadel, a DJ from Haifa.

The event achieved great success, attracting faculty, staff and students from several universities.



Top: Artist in Residence Amer Hlehel (with Ayed Fadel): Mahmoud Darwish - A New Reading; Bottom: Wissam Joubran - Tribute to Darwish



Commemorating Edward Said Workshop

COMMEMORATING EDWARD SAID

Workshop Programme

4-7 January 2019
Legacy Hotel, Nazareth



This workshop is sponsored by Barenboim-Said Foundation



Between January 4th and January 7th 2019, a workshop for advanced students was held in the Legacy Hotel in Nazareth, structured around the work of Edward Said, and commemorating the 40th anniversary of his hugely influential "Orientalism". The workshop was organized by the Minerva Center and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and sponsored by the Barenboim - Said Foundation.

Seventeen Arab and Jewish graduate students participated. Students presented their work in relation to Said's writings in five sessions. In addition, seven prominent scholars lectured on his key works. The workshop also included a reading of a poem on Said by Mahmoud Darwish, an oud concerto, as well as a walk-through Nazareth.



Participants of the Commemorating Said Workshop



Publications of the group members:

Raef Zriek:

Raef Zriek, *Law, Minority and National Conflict*, Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University Press, 2017) [Hebrew], pp. 485, Contributor and Co-editor (with Ilan Saban)

Selected articles in peer reviewed journals

Subject, Subjectivity, Subjection: An Essay on Resistance, Complicity and Discourse, *Comparative Literature and Culture* (forthcoming 2019)

Ronald Dworkin and Duncan Kennedy: Two Views on Interpretation, *Canadian Journal of Jurisprudence*, 32:1, (2019), 195-235

Kant on Time and Revolution, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*, 39:1, (2018), 197-225

On twentieth-century South Africa and Palestine/Israel: Apartheid's Discursive Construction, *Law, Minority and National Conflict*, (2017), 185-220 [with Azar Dakwar, Hebrew]

Selected chapters in anthologies

Nationalism, Secularism, Religion: Readings in the Political thought of Islamic Jihad, Leerom Medovy, ed., *Religion and Political Belonging* (Duke University Press, forthcoming 2019)

Writing Silence, Bashir and Amos Goldberg, eds., *The Holocaust and the Nakba: A New Grammar of Conflicting Historical Traumas* (Columbia University Press, 2018), 307-329

Maram Masarwi, (2017), A dialectic of identities in Palestinian society and Israeli Society: The national, the binational

Abed Kanaaneh, (2018), From Jihad to Muqawamah: The Case of Hizballah in Lebanon, *The Journal of the Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions*

Ronnen Ben-Arie, (2018), The Haifa urban destruction machine, Deleuze and the City, Hélène Frichot, Catharina Gabrielsson, and Jonathan Metzger (eds.), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press

Marcelo Svirsky and Ronnen Ben-Arie, (2017), *From Shared Life to Co-Resistance in Historic Palestine*, London and New York: Rowman & Littlefield International.



Nitzan Rothem:

Special Issue:

November 2018, Nitzan Rothem and Shlomo Fischer (guest editors), Arnold Van Gennep's Les rites de passage: The Structure of Openness and the Openness of Structure, *Journal of Classical Sociology* <https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jcsa/18/4>

Articles in peer reviewed journals:

June 2019 (online first), Nitzan Rothem and Eyal Ben-Ari, Mutuality and the Study of Suicide: Psychological Notions about Military Suicides in Israeli Courts, *The Sociological Review*, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0038026119856808>

November 2018, Repetition and Reintegration: Van Gennep's Structure and Routinized Warfare, Arnold Van Gennep's Les rites de passage: The Structure of Openness and the Openness of Structure, Nitzan Rothem and Shlomo Fischer (eds.), *Journal of Classical Sociology*, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1468795X18789012>

November 2018, Nitzan Rothem and Shlomo Fischer, Introduction: The Structure of Openness and the Openness of Structure, Arnold Van Gennep's Les rites de passage: The Structure of Openness and the Openness of Structure, Nitzan Rothem and Shlomo Fischer (eds.), *Journal of Classical Sociology*, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1468795X18789010>

Levy, Asher, The truth always lies between two extremes, but never in the middle. The dynamic dimension according to Martin Buber, Ursula Frost, Johannes Waßmer and Hans-Joachim Werner eds. *Dialog und Konflikt. Das dialogische Prinzip in Philosophie, Religion und Gesellschaft. (Martin Buber-Studien 3)*, Verlag Edition, Bodenburg, 2018, Verlag Edition Av



MHC JOINT PROJECT

HUMANITIES IN CONFLICT ZONES

The initiative Humanities in Conflict Zones has entered its third year, in which its focus shifted from mostly MHC activities to an increasing involvement in the TAU humanities faculty. During this year Zahiye Kundos, Manar Makhul and Gal Hertz have been giving courses and seminars at the faculty (see details below). In addition, efforts were given to the engagement of Palestinian students and the cooperation between the initiative and the Jewish-Arabic Study program has expanded. Accordingly, the initiative's success and the need to implement aspects of the MHC spirit and approaches, has led to the creation of two 5 year positions for Zahiye Kundos and Gal Hertz, to continue this important work, expand the impact of the MHC on campus as well as to be able to promote their own research projects beyond their post doc fellowship. In addition, Manar Makhoul's courses became an integral part of the Literary Department, while Amer Hlehel begins teaching at the theater school.

Above and beyond the individual research projects, events and the academic work carried out during these three years, the initiative's main contribution is in bringing to light what we define as "humanities form a Palestinian perspective". With this term we do not mean affirmative action or integration but rather understanding the unique condition of the Palestinian Citizen of Israel – with all its political, social and cultural dimensions, and use it as a fruitful and essential perspective onto the subject matter we deal with.

This could be the ability to come to terms with colonial texts, as in the work of Zahiye and Manar, to go beyond the notions of trauma and loss in the understating of mourning in the work of Maram (in the social aspect) and Yusri (as a political response to the Arab spring). It is not only the charisma of Amer or the thirst for knowledge that have brought so many young Palestinian students to join our activities and events; It is the connection that we are trying to strengthen between identities, experiences and hopes, which find not only a language (Arabic) and a place (MHC), but also a different relation



between the texts we study and who we are. We believe that here lies one of the MHC's greatest achievements, and that the program for the next years will be able to take it even further.

MHC Research Seminar

The themes of the MHC research seminar were diverse this year, and included several guests from other universities, academic disciplines and cultural fields. We dealt with the nation state law, with the question of Jewish-Arab relations within university campuses, critical approaches to language, in relation to “fake news” and the theological questions raised by the research projects we undertake.

Following is a detailed list of the meetings that took place this year:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 4.12.18 | Prof. Daniel Dor
Speaking Fake to Power - Contemporary Perspectives on Media and Language. |
| 8.1.19 | Prof. Dafna Golan
On Activism, Human Rights and Encounters Between Palestinian and Jewish Students at Hebrew University, Mount Scopus. |
| 12.3.19 | Prof. Gad Barzilai
Nation-State Law – Legal Implications and Modes of Appeal |
| 21.5 | Mr. Alaa Hlehel
Nation-State Law – From a Palestinian Perspective |
| 11.6 | Prof. Menachem Lorberboim
On the Possibilities of Political Theological Bridges Between Islam and Judaism |



Individual Research Reports:

Zahiye Kundos

Teaching at TAU Humanities Faculty:

Islam, Reform and Modern Sciences (M.A. seminar at the Cohn Institute)

Publications:

Nūr Alā Nūr: Toward a Second Evolution of Muslim Civilization, will be published by De Gruyter (in cooperation between Erlangen-Nürnberg University and al-Azhar University, Cairo), forthcoming 2019.

Gal Hertz

Teaching at TAU Humanities Faculty:

From the Dangerous Body to the Criminal Mind – on Science and Crime (M.A. seminar at the Cohn Institute)

Publications:

From Epistemology of Suspicion to Racial Profiling – Hans Gross, Mobility and Crime around 1900, *Transfers – Interdisciplinary Journal for Mobility Studies*, 2019 (Forthcoming).

Authenticity and Translation: Hans Rothe and the Shakespeare Controversy (1920-1935), Steffen Bruendel and Frank Estelmann (eds.), *Disasters of War*, Wallstein Verlag, 2019.

Semiotics Beyond Agency: Violence and Meaning in the Theater of War, Frank Jacob (ed.) *Semiotics of War*, Königshausen & Neumann, forthcoming (2019).

Together with Rivka Feldhay: Migrating Knowledge and the Mobility of Ideas, *Transfers – Interdisciplinary Journal for Mobility Studies*, vol. 9 issue 1, 2019.

Together with Christian Bachhiesl, Hans Gross und die Normativität der kriminalistischen Wahrheitsfindung, Benjamin Lahusen (ed.), *Myops – German Journal of Legal Studies* 35, 2019.



Manar Makhoul

Teaching at TAU Humanities Faculty:

To Be a Palestinian? Literature, History and the Question of Identity

Publications

2019. Seismography of Identities: Literary Reflections of Palestinian Identity Evolution in Israel Between 1948 and 2010 [Arabic], Beirut: Institute of Palestine Studies.

Forthcoming, Palestinian Citizens of Israel: Literary Reflections of Identity Evolution (1948-2010), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (contract signed).

Paratexts: Thresholds to Palestinian Identity, Book Studies and Islamic Studies in Conversation, edited by Marta Dominguez, In Kodex (8), 105-120, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag 2018.

Conferences and Workshops

2018 Fear of Oblivion: Intellectual Histories of Erasure in the Medieval and Contemporary Middle East, MESA's 52nd annual meeting (San Antonio, Texas 15-18 November).

Papers Presented

2019 Global Intellectual Currents in Palestinian Thought after 1967, The Radical Sixties: Aesthetics, Politics and Histories of Solidarity (University of Brighton, UK, 27-29 June)

2019 Reading the 1960s Edward Said, Edward Said Memorial Workshop (Tel-Aviv University Minerva Humanities Center and The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Nazareth, 4-7 January)

2018 Athazagoraphobia: The Impact of the 1967 War on Palestinian Intellectuals, MESA's 52nd annual meeting (15-18 November)



Yusri Khaizran

Publications:

Left to its Fate: Arab Society in Israel under the Shadow of the Arab Spring (Tel-Aviv: Tel- Aviv University: Moshe Dayan Center, 2019) (First Author) (Hebrew).

Particularism Versus Integration: The Druze Communities in the Modern Middle East, Paul Rowe (Editor), Routledge Handbook on Middle East Minorities, London: 2018, pp. 197-211.

An Israeli Perspective on the Popular Uprisings in the Arab Middle East, Cenap Kacmak and Ali Onur Ozcelik (Editors), World Community and Arab Spring, London: Palgrave, 2018, pp. 301-323.

Arab Society in Israel Following the 'Arab Spring', The Public Sphere (Hebrew), Vol. 14 (Summer 2018) (First Author), pp. 9-46.

The Druzification of Arab Christians in Israel in the Wake of the 'Arab Spring', Israeli Studies (Accepted for Publication 2018)

Manuscript Title: Emigration of Christians from the Arab Middle East: A New Reading

Journal of Middle East and Africa – forthcoming – 2019

Edited Volumes:

The Arab Druze in Israel: Critical Political Approaches and Perspective (Haifa: Mada al-Karmel, 2019).

Amer Hlehel, artist in residence

Activities:

Artistic management and participation in the conference "Farewell to a poet - 10 years for the death of Mahmoud Darwish"

Getting started on the "Magnon Lila Chronicle" project in London. A project of text and music that through a dialogue between the two tools tells the Arab classic love story from the modern, political and erotic perspective of the Bahraini poet, Qassem Hadad.

Theatrical intervention at the Edward Said conference in Nazareth



End of writing and rehearsal of "Publisher", a play on Najib Nazar, the owner of Al-Carmel newspaper, which in the first half of the twentieth century in Haifa focused on creating awareness of the Zionist plans for the Palestinian audience.

Concluding the first draft of the play "The Hole", written during her artistic stay in Manirba, and submitting a request for support from the Alcatan Foundation in Ramla to produce the show.

Producing the "Publisher" and presenting it in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Haifa.

Receiving support for the development of the "Palestinian/ American" project from "MAP" and starting the planning for the research and writing schedule.



PUBLIC EVENTS

Books Review Project

The Book Review Project, directed by Mr. Uri Landesberg, is a series of public events held on the TAU campus dedicated to discussions of important, recently published books in the humanities and the social sciences. The events focus on innovative research books, written by authors mainly from Israeli academia, as well as on selective Hebrew translations of key books in philosophy, history, literature, political science, cultural studies and more. The events, which usually attract a wide and diversified audience, comprise of interdisciplinary panels of researches, combining leading scholars and young researchers. By providing a stage for these encounters, MHC aims to establish a fertile and critical discussion on issues and themes at the heart of contemporary academic life, touching upon current social and political questions. Recent examples include discussions on "The Poverty of Ethics" and the meaning of the political Left; Critical-phenomenological approaches to brain research and cognitive science, and contemporary manifestos in Hebrew literary and political culture. For further details, see the list and posters below.



List of Recent Book Events (Academic Year 2018/19)

"For Marx" by Louis Althusser, translation: Tal Gilaadi (28.11.18).

Discussants: Prof. Eran Dorfman, Prof. Gideon Freudenthal, Dr. Tal Gilaadi.

"The Invisible: Women and the Palestinian Cities", by Manar Hassan (26.12.18).

Discussants: Dr. Safa Abu-Rabea, Prof. Hanna Herzog, Dr. Chen Misgav.

"Refusal: Conscientious Disobedience in Israel" (in cooperation with the Walter Lebach Institute for Jewish-Arab Coexistence), by Idith Zertal (6.1.19).

Discussants: Prof. Gadi Algazi, Zehava Galon, Dr. Hagit Gur-Ziv, Prof. Amal Jamal, Prof. Adi Ophir, Michael Sfard.



"The Screen Subject: The Human as Spectator of the Techno-Theological Space", by Itzhak Benyamini (21.5.19).

Discussants: Prof. Eran Dorfman, Dr. Aim Deulle Luski, Prof. Yosef Schwartz, Dr. Carmel Weissman.

"Manifests: Writings of Disquietude at the Turn of the 21st Century", by Nana Ariel (29.5.19).

Discussants: Dr. Moshe Elhanaty, Prof. Hannah Naveh, Prof. Galia Yanoshevsky.