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Academic Director: Yitzhak Hen

Administrative Director: Iris Avivi

Administrative Staff:
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Smadar Bergman, Sarah Gabison,
Inbal Gezehan Deutch, Ilana Goodkin,
Batia Matlub, Sarit Plutski Ben Harosh,
Keren Rechnitzer, Efrat Shvily,
Shai Smith, Anat Yagil

Production Manager: Smadar Bergman

Design and Production: Zvi Orgad

Photographs: Smadar Bergman Douglas Guthrie Keren Rechnitzer

Yaakov Mascetti

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Director's Report



 ${\sf Detail}\ from\ {\sf Danckerts'}\ new\ chart\ of\ the\ holy\ Promised\ Land\ showing\ the\ vignette\ of\ Jerusalem$



fter two years of disruptions, we have learned to live with Covid-19 and its consequences. We did not give up on our hope to get back to normal, and we planned the activities for the 2021-2022 academic year as if the pandemic were a thing of the past. And indeed, despite some restrictions and concerns, especially at the start of the year, we had a busy year of activity at the IIAS.

This year, the IIAS hosted three Research Groups - Mathematical Modelling of Biological Control Interaction to Support Agriculture and Conservation (five months); Purity and Pollution in Late Antique and Early Medieval Culture and Society (10 months); and Sensing the Truth: Changing Conception of the Perceptual in Early Modern and Enlightenment Europe (10 months). Each of them, in its own way and with the various (sometime unexpected) challenges it posed, turned the IIAS into a vibrant and exciting academic community. Moreover, this year we hosted our first cohort of Individual Fellows, and we also sponsored five at-risk Ukrainian scholars (three at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and two at the Polish Institute for Advanced Studies in Warsaw).

In addition to Research Groups and Individual Fellows, the IIAS hosted the 27th Advanced School in Life Sciences – Stem Cell Epigenetics; the 32nd Advanced School in Economic Theory – International Economics; the 5th Advanced School in the Humanities – Grammar Wars; the 4th Colloquium of the Rothschild Fellows; the Amitsur Centennial Symposium; a guest lecture by David Reich (Harvard University) on the Genetic History of the Southern Arc: A Bridge between West Asia and Europe; and the first conference for Israeli-Arab Postdocs; as well as numerous smaller workshops and conferences, all of which were extremely successful and well-attended events.

Our Artist in Residence this year was the author Yaniv Iczkovits, who enriched the intellectual life at the IIAS with his cheerful personality and splendid prose. Yaniv also gave a public lecture – From an Investigation to a Novel – and another lecture on his forthcoming book, giving us a rare glimpse into the inner world of a talented and sophisticated author.

The Michael Bruno Memorial Award

Since 2012, the IIAS has assumed full responsibility for the Michael Bruno Memorial Award, which is granted annually to three outstanding scholars who have demonstrated exceptional originality of mind, dedication, and ground-breaking impact in their research. The Bruno Award is both the highest recognition of past accomplishments and a vote of confidence in the laureates' future achievements and contribution to research in their fields and to Israeli academia. The 2022 laureates are Tamar Herzig (modern European history; Tel Aviv University), Mona Khoury-Kassabri (child welfare; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), and Yardena Samuels (molecular genetics of cancer; Weizmann Institute of Science).

International Cooperation

Despite the challenging circumstances this year, the IIAS continues its long-standing collaborations with UBIAS (University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study), NetIAS (Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study), and SIAS (Some Institutes for Advanced Studies). The visits of the two CAT (Constructive Advanced Thinking) Research Groups that were planned for this year have been postponed to a later date.

IIAS Staff News

Iris Avivi, the IIAS Administrative Director, has been elected as member of the Governing Board of UBIAS, and Keren Rechnitzer, IIAS Program Coordinator, was entrusted with the coordination of the NetIAS's CAT program. I wish them both much success in their new capacities.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the IIAS for their hard work and forbearance, despite all the difficulties brought on by the pandemic and its aftermath; the IIAS's Board of Directors and Academic Committee for the time and effort they continue to invest in the success of the IIAS and its programs; and the management of Yad Hanadiv and the leadership of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem for their support, advice, and encouragement.

J. Hen

About the Institute

he Israel Institute for Advanced Studies (IIAS) at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, established in 1975, is a national institution dedicated to the advancement of research and learning at the highest level. It is open to scholars in all academic fields, from both Israel and abroad, and it is the only institution of its kind in Israel.

Each year, the IIAS hosts approximately 40 fellows as members of collaborative Research Groups, representing a wide range of disciplines, which convene for a period of up to ten months, as well as Individual Fellows who undertake independent research projects. The IIAS annually hosts three to five Research Groups, comprised of scholars from Israel and elsewhere.

Fellows at the Institute participate in the IIAS programs, free of their normal teaching obligations and administrative duties. The Institute attracts scholars at the vanguard of their respective disciplines. By encouraging long-term interaction, the IIAS contributes to the exchange of knowledge and the vitality of academic life in Israel – and throughout the world.

Since 2020, the IIAS hosts an Artist in Residence and Guests of the IIAS each year. The Artist in Residence – a prominent scholar in the arts – is provided with a nurturing environment to pursue their creativity, as well as the opportunity to engage in mutually enriching collaborations with contemporary IIAS scholars. The Guests of the IIAS, esteemed academics in their respective field, are hosted for a short stay to lead an advanced workshop for students and deliver a public lecture on their research.

Every year, the IIAS also hosts six Advanced Schools in the following disciplines: Economic Theory, Theoretical Physics, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Humanities, and Computer Science and Engineering. The Advanced Schools,

each directed by a scholar of international standing, attract doctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars from around the world, who receive an opportunity to interact with leading scientists involved in pioneering research in their respective fields.

Additional programs at the IIAS include conferences that are open to a wide academic audience, as well as specialized conferences for scholars on innovative, comprehensive topics, with an opportunity to share and explore the latest research and methodologies. Some of the conferences are a reunion of past Research Groups convening to supplement their research.

The IIAS is a member of international networks such as SIAS, UBIAS, and NetIAS, and actively participates in their unique exchange programs for scientists and scholars.

Artist in Residence Yaniv Iczkovits



Photo: Eric Sultan



he Artist in Residence, a prominent scholar in the field of the arts, is provided with an environment to nurture their creative pursuits and enrich their work through engaging with fellow researchers.

Yaniv Iczkovits, born in 1975, is an award-winning author and screen writer. He has published four novels and one novella, and is now working on developing TV content based on his novels for Keshet and KI, Yes, Endemol Shine and more. His books include Pulse (Hakibbutz HaMeuchad), which won Haaretz's debut novel prize and was translated into Italian; Adam and Sophie (HaSifriya HaHadasha), which won the Prime Minister's Prize for Hebrew Writers; Laws of Succession, a novella published in the anthology "There's a Story Behind the Money" (Achuzat Bayit). His third novel, The Slaughterman's Daughter, was published by Keter in August 2015 and was awarded the Agnon Prize - in honor of Israel's only Nobel Laureate for Literature – the first time the prize has been granted in ten years (2016). Iczkovits won the Ramat Gan Prize (2017) for literary excellence and the People of the Book Foundation Prize (2017), was shortlisted for the Sapir Prize and is now nominated for the British Wingate prize (2021). The Economist and The Sunday Times chose the book as one of the best books published in Britain in 2020, and The New York Times and Kirkus chose the book as one of the best books to look forward to in 2021 in the U.S. In August 2020 Iczkovits published his recent book, Nobody Leaves Palo Alto (Keter) which immediately became a no.1 best seller in Israel and won critical acclaim. Iczkovits studied at the Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students at Tel Aviv University, and during his Master's degree he spent a year at Oxford University as a Chevening scholar from the British Council. His doctoral dissertation dealt with Ludwig Wittgenstein's thought and analyzed the interplay between ethics and language. He taught for eight years at the University of Tel Aviv, and After receiving his Ph.D., he went on to

pursue postdoctoral research at Columbia University in New York, where he adapted his doctoral dissertation into the book Wittgenstein's Ethical Thought (Palgrave Macmillan 2012).

Yaniv Iczkovits shared his personal reflections on his experience at the IIAS:

My academic year as the Artist in Residence at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies was extremely significant, both professionally and personally. Over this year I worked on my new novel, a wide-ranging book that required in-depth research. The book depicts the lives of three Jewish figures, who were born in the same desolate Romanian town after World War I, and follows their different paths until they meet again in 1986.

For this project, the IIAS crafted the best creative space I could have hoped for. First, I could use the enormous resources of the university and the endless archives of the National Library. And second, I could discuss many ideas and creative directions with the brilliant people of the Institute. We would discuss our respective projects each day over lunch, and these conversations often continued afterwards in our offices. When I presented my project in the fellows' seminar, I received many ideas and resources that I still use. There is no doubt that when I came to the Institute in October 2021, I had one book in mind, and when my residency terminated in June 2022, I had a completely different book.

Moreover, throughout the year I adapted my former novel, No One Leaves Palo Alto, into a TV series that was recently purchased by KI (Keshet International), and will air in 2023. This was my first experience of writing TV scripts, which is very different from writing a novel, and I really needed the right creative space to take chances and enter new territories. My residency here at the IIAS enabled me to take my time and grow into this new project. The staff and the other researchers were extremely friendly, and I feel honored and blessed to have had this great experience.

Individual Fellowships

ndividual Fellowships provide the opportunity for tenured scholars to undertake uninterrupted independent research at the IIAS, whilst also enabling potential collaboration with fellow researchers.

The IIAS provides the scholars with a nurturing and stimulating academic environment, as well as administrative support. Our expectation is that the fellow's residency will result in creative and original research that can be shared with the international research community.

This year Individual fellows were:



Simha Goldin Diaspora Research Center Tel Aviv University



Avishalom Tor The Law School University of Notre Dame

Research Groups





This year, the IIAS hosted three Research Groups:

Sensing the Truth: Shifts in the Early-Modern Sensorium

September 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 Organizer:

Yaakov Mascetti (Bar-Ilan University)

Purity and Pollution in late Antique and Early Medieval Culture and Society

September 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 Organizer: Yaniv Fox (Bar-Ilan University)

Mathematical Modelling of Biological Control Interaction

February 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022 Organizers:

Tamar Keasar (University of Haifa) Eric Wajnberg (INRAE)

More details on the groups' activities can be found in the individual Research Group reports

Sensing the Truth: Shifts in the Early-Modern Sensorium

September 1, 2021-June 30, 2022



Image: Robert Fludd on sensorium and cognition



Fellows

Yaakov A. Mascetti – Bar-Ilan University (organizer)
Emilie Murphy – University of York
Stephanie Shirilan – Syracuse University
Elizabeth L. Swann – Durham University
Miriam Jacobson – University of Georgia
Ofer Gal –University of Sydney

William D. Kolbrener - Bar-Ilan University

Visiting Scholars, Organi**⊵**r

Bruce Gordon - Yale Divinity School

Bridget Heal - University of St Andrews

Johanna Eva Holmberg - University of Helsinki

his Research Group defined, as its main objective, the problematizing of existing scholarship on the senses by providing participants with an interdisciplinary framework for a diversified scholarly debate on the senses, in order to further the understanding of the relationship between the sensory sphere and conceptions of epistemology and of devotion in the earlymodern and Enlightenment periods. Our first and foremost goal was to present ideas of touch, sight, smell, hearing, and taste against the background of the philosophical, scientific, religious, and literary discourses from the 15th to 18th centuries. We held 26 meetings, seminars, and general discussions throughout the year, which enabled us to problematize and challenge our understanding of the ways in which emergent philosophical and scientific conceptions of visual, olfactory, aural, haptic, and tactile perceptions played a role in changing devotional practices, such as sacramental ceremonies, methods and forms of meditational attention - while also fashioning exegetical practices and currents in the literary and visual arts of the 16th and 17th centuries.

During its tenure at the IIAS, the Research Group had opportunities for fruitful discussions with a considerable number of scholars working in the growing field of sensory studies, through interactions with guest speakers, a stimulating joint workshop with the JEWTACT ERC group at Ben-Gurion University, and an excellent final conference organized by the group, in addition to undocumented yet essential informal discussions. These have led us to the partial conclusion that in a considerable number of cases, early-modern ideas of sensory perception were synesthetic and syncretic, porous and mutable, and most of all, centered on a phenomenological idea of the senses. Thus, our problematization of the field acquired the traits of an understanding of early-modern senses not as essentialized physical qualities or faculties, but as performances or phenomena. Rather than provide a clear understanding of the senses in the

early-modern era, or a set of results, the Research Group succeeded in disrupting the results of modern misreadings of the senses in that period.

Future research directions include a collection of essays, edited by the group leader, based on the conference and the annual work of each fellow. Another objective is to organize, under the possible auspices of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, an international conference in 2024, on similar topics though with different methodological assumptions and approaches to the matter of the senses. A third objective is to continue the group's discussions in a workshop to be held at the IIAS in July 2023.

Research Group Conference

By a unanimous decision of the group members, our concluding conference, titled Sensing the Truth, was structured as two-speaker panels with abundant time for subsequent discussion. Following a series of last-minute changes, the conference's final format consisted of two very intense days - with 14 speakers, seven panel chairs, and included the discussion of the senses in the early-modern period from a number of perspectives.

Senses were presented as ecologies, channels for the revival of the past, embodied manifestations of the lyric and the dramatic, as the physical means to perceive the sacred through the rhetorically effective words of a preacher, as a means for the formation of intersubjectivity, and as the means for the ludic and serious perception of reality through miniatures.

With eight guests from abroad, the conference brought together historians of the senses, literary scholars, art historians, and musicologists, galvanizing a study of early-modern conceptions of the sensorium. Conference participants agreed to contribute essays to a volume of collected papers.

Research Group Fellows



Ofer Gal School of History and Philosophy of Science University of Sydney



William Kolbrener Department of English Bar-Ilan University



Miriam Jacobson Department of English The University of Georgia



Yaakov Mascetti Department of Comparative Literature Bar-Ilan University



Emile Murphy Department of History University of York



Elizabeth Swann Department of **English Studies** Durham University



Stephanie Shirilan Department of English Syracuse University

Purity and Pollution in Late Antiquity and Medieval Society and Culture

June13 - 15, 2022

September 1, 2021 - June 30, 2002

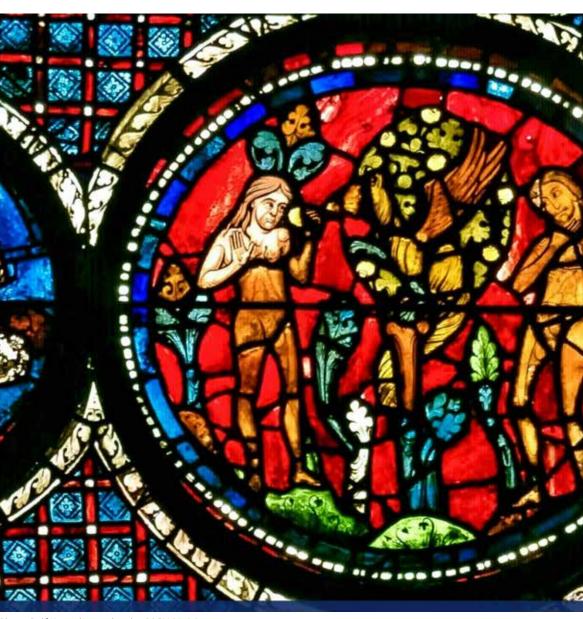


Photo: Rolf Kranz, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0



Fellows

Yaniv Fox – Bar-Ilan University (Organizer)
Jennifer Davis – Catholic University of America
Éric Fournier – West Chester University
Daniella Talmon-Heller – Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Deborah Tor – University of Notre Dame
Angela Zielinski Kinney – Universität Wien

Research Assistant

Nir Gonen - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Visiting Scholars

Rob Meens – Universiteit Utrecht, May-June 2022 Albrecht Diem – Syracuse University, March 2022

he Research Group's objective was to investigate the phenomena of purity in pollution in late antique and medieval cultures, primarily but not exclusively – in the three monotheistic religions. The discourse of purity and pollution was pervasive in Near Eastern and European contexts in the period in question (ca. 300-1500), although it was employed in a variety of ways to achieve very different results. Our objective was to investigate the usage of this terminology and to ascertain whether there were differences and, more importantly, essential similarities in cultural perceptions of purity and pollution.

To accomplish this, we assembled a group of historians and philologists from a range of disciplines. Our six-member group approached purity and pollution from various perspectives, such as the diseased body in patristic writings (Angela Zielinski Kinney); heresy and orthodoxy as purity and pollution of faith in late antique Christianity and medieval Islam (Éric Fournier, Deborah Tor, Yaniv Fox); the rhetoric of purity in Carolingian legislation (Jennifer Davis); purity and pollution with respect to the materiality of the Qur'an and the Jewish Bible (Daniella). In addition, we hosted many of the scholars currently studying this topic, to present their research and discuss their theoretical and methodological approaches, difficulties, and conclusions. Here we were less constrained by the chronological boundaries set out for the research group, hosting several scholars who focused on the ancient and classical Near East, so as to have a firmer grasp of the roots of the phenomenon.

From the outset, it was clear to us that it would be impossible to arrive at a broad, all-encompassing theory of purity and pollution that would articulate the plethora of different manifestations of this phenomenon taken from such remote contexts as Biblical-era Judaism, Sassanian Zoroastrianism,

the 13th-century Seljuk sultanate, and the late medieval Low Countries, to name but a few. While the pioneering conducted done in this field in the 1960s by Mary Douglas continued to be theoretically useful, we found linguistic approaches equally insightful. Moreover, we were interested in the epidemiological and hygienic aspects of pollution in tandem with its rhetorical, discursive, and performative expressions, so our attention was not directed solely at the symbolism of pollution, but also at its physical realities. Urban management, burial of the dead, food preparation and consumption, disease and quarantine — all were relevant to the historical understanding of pollution and are the foundation from which a symbolism of hygiene later emerged. Put differently, metaphors that were useful in one field of social and cultural interaction were applied to others.

Purity and pollution obviously meant different things to different people in different times, yet the language of contagion, defilement, cleansing, and purification persisted. We found the vocabulary of purity and pollution to be almost ubiquitous in language, law, religion, public health, and diet. The terms and their numerous semantic cognates recur in modified form in all the cultures and periods we examined. While perhaps to be expected, this led us to continuously question the degree to which the rhetoric of pollution reflected real-world concerns about hygiene, contamination, fear of contagion, and disease, and to what degree it was 'epiphenomenal', in the sense that it was a convenient way of regulating social behavior by imposing a framework of hygienic dichotomies.

While the former is certainly present in the purity and pollution discourse of Late Antiquity and medieval societies, it was not the predominant form in which the terminology was used. Rather, in our work we mostly encountered purity and pollution as triggers of mental imagery, which play on sensory experiences that occasion feelings of revulsion. In this capacity, they were activated as normative barriers in a range of legal, cultic, and spatial contexts, primarily to demarcate communal boundaries.

Research Group Conference

Due to the Covid pandemic outbreak mid-year, we decided to postpone the conference to June 2023. The goal of our conference, titled Sanitized Pasts: Purity, Pollution, and Historical Narrative, is to examine the function of purity and pollution in the construction of historical narrative and memory. The conference presentations will consider attempts in Late Antiquity and Medieval texts to 'purify' the past by purging it of disagreeable components. Foundation myths often employ ideas of purity and pollution in their attempt to construct an idealized past. They imagine nucleic communities, whether religious, ethnic, civic, or otherwise, which contain some 'pure essence' later diluted by cultural encounter, religious schism, or simply, corruption. The authority to define purity and pollution was itself founded on sanitized and edited versions of the past. The conference's papers will explore this dynamic of shaping the present through creatively retrojecting notions of purity and pollution into the past. The conference will conclude with a tour of Jerusalem's Old City, with emphasis on sites that have a purificatory dimension.

Research Group Fellows



Jennifer Davis Department of History The Catholic University of America



Daniella Talmon-Heller Department of Middle East Studies Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



Eric Fournier Department Of History West Chester University of Pennsylvania



Deborah Tor Department of History University of Notre Dame



Yaniv Fox Department of General History Bar-Ilan University



Angela Zielinski-Kinney Department of Christian History, Art and Archaeology University of Vienna

Mathematical Modelling of Biological Control Interactions

February I- June 30,2022



Photo: Alfred Daniel



Fellows

Moshe Coll – The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Ian Hardy - University of Helsinki
George Heimpel – University of Minnesota
Tamar Keasar – University of Haifa (Organizer)
Saskya van Nouhuys – Indian Institute of Science
Michal Segoli – Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Asaf Sadeh – Agricultural Research Organization, Volcani Center
Eric Wajnberg – French National Institute for Agriculture, Food,
and Environment (INRAE) (Organizer)

Research Assistant

Netta Shamir- Weller - Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Visiting Scholars

Marc Mangel – University of California, Santa Cruz Paul Ode – Colorado State University



he Research Group's scientific and academic goals were to convene, in one location, the most recognized experts worldwide in order to develop a theoretical and formal modeling framework that would improve the efficacy of biological control programs using natural enemies against crop pests. To achieve this, we aimed to interact with biological control practitioners in Israel and to apply theoretical tools to the real-world challenges that they face.

During our stay at the IIAS, we organized our scientific discussion into five different and complementary teams, with weekly meetings and clearly defined goals. The teams discussed the interactions between biological control programs and (1) landscape-level processes; (2) climate change; (3) insecticide use; (4) traits of natural enemies; (5) effects on non-target organisms. The Research Group also organized a week-long course (funded by the Israel Science Foundation) attended by some 35 participants from various countries. Finally, we held an international conference, again with 35 participants from many countries, summarizing our progress and presenting our future perspectives.

Important scientific advancement was achieved at the academic level, with regards to how biological control programs can be improved using a formal modeling approach. Several theoretical models were conceived and their development started. A number of draft manuscripts were prepared, some now almost ready for submission to international journals. Thus, the Research Group's constituted a meaningful and effective occasion to develop long-term significant international cooperation networks that will lead to future academic outcomes.

Examples of Research Group outcomes:

- An opinion piece on the use of information about natural enemy traits to predict biological control success (in advanced writing stages).
- An algorithm for risk-benefit analyses to aid decision making in biological control releases (in advanced writing stages).
- A model considering the occurrence of natural enemies for the optimization of pesticide applications in agricultural fields (in advanced writing stages).
- A model predicting the effect of global warming on biological control interactions (at model-development stage).
- A model predicting biological control dynamics at the landscape level (at model-development stage).

Beyond the joint discussions, the members of the Research Group engaged in additional projects related to biological control theory and policy. These include:

- Editing a book on natural enemies.
- Contributing to a European Commission expert report on insecticides.
- Development of models on sub-maximal oviposition behaviors in wasps, and on optimization of nutrition by insects with broad diets.
- Work with Israeli applied entomologists to improve pesticide management in two important agricultural systems (field tomatoes and stored wheat).

Main findings and conclusions

We developed practical tools to evaluate the success of past biological control introductions, better plan future ones, and reduce the use of

pesticides. Based on these projects, we conclude that the integration of ecological modeling into the practice of biological control is both feasible and timely. We also found that it is currently impossible to identify insect traits that predict their performance as biological control agents, most likely due to a shortage of data. A detailed and updated database of natural enemy traits is therefore needed; creating such a database has emerged as one of our long-term goals.

Each of our five teams plans to publish its output in the form of (one or more) peer-reviewed papers. We hope that our group exercise in identifying the top open questions in biological control (see Research Group Conference Summary, below) will result in an additional publication. Furthermore, we plan to develop two collaborative grant proposals – one on positive side effects of biological control programs for the conservation of native plants, and the other to construct an international database of parasitoid traits.

In summary, we can safely say that the Research Group's activity proved to be successful. Important results and draft manuscripts have been produced, and group cohesion, which was good from the outset, has enormously improved, denoting continued fruitful and long-term collaboration.

Research Group Conference Summary

The goal of the conference was to summarize our Research Group's work during its residency, and to expose it to the wider community of researchers and students.

The conference's keynote speakers were Bernie Roitberg (Simon Fraser University) and Marc Mangel (University of California, Santa Cruz). During the first session, the Research Group's five discussion teams presented their outputs. Four additional sessions - 'Modelling', 'Pesticides', 'Landscapes and communities,' and 'Interactions,' more generally addressed applications of ecological theory to pest control and biodiversity conservation. The final session of the conference was devoted to a group discussion, towards identifying the most urgent questions in the theory of biological control. We hope to develop this discussion into a future multi-author paper.

Due to the Covid pandemic, several of the meeting's attendees and speakers were not able to attend in person. We employed a hybrid format, with several talks delivered remotely, enabling us to maintain the scientific schedule as planned. Regrettably, it also meant lower than expected oncampus attendance.

The three-day meeting was followed by an optional field trip to Caesarea and the Nahal Mearot Nature Reserve.

Workshops

- A two-day kickoff mini-conference to determine the Group's main topics of focus.
- A one-day workshop dedicated to meeting biological control practitioners and visiting a sustainable 'model farm' in Newe Ya'ar Research Center.
- A four-day ISF-funded international workshop on modeling of insect trophic interactions using R.

Group-organized trips

- A weekend trip to the Negev highlands, including a visit to the Ramat Negev Desert Agro-Research Center.
- A weekend trip to the Sea of Galilee and the Hula Valley.
- A day trip to Israel's northern coastal area.
- Several shorter trips in the Jerusalem area, including to the biblical zoo, the botanical gardens, the Hebrew University's collections, and Yad Vashem.

Research Group Fellows



Moshe Coll Department of Entomology The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Asaf Sadeh Department of Natural Resources Newe Ya'ar Research Center, ARO



Ian Hardy Department of Agricultural Sciences University of Helsinki



Michal Segoli Department of Desert Ecology Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



George Heimpel Department of Entomology University of Minnesota



Saskya van Nouhuys Center for Ecological Sciences Indian Institute of Science, Banglore



Tamar Keasar Department of Biology and the Environment University of Haifa



Eric Wajnberg Department of Plant and the Environment INRAE

Advanced Schools



Economic School students

check font pages 37-40



March 27-31, 2022 The 27th Advanced School in Life Sciences: Stem Cell Epigenetics

General Director: **Roger Kornberg** (Stanford University) rector: **Eran Meshorer** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Organizer: Eitan Segev (EpiSyStem Manager, The Hebrew

University of Jerusalem)

The school covered advances at the frontier of stem cell biology, from the fundamental molecular mechanisms of pluripotency and development to the latest progress toward regenerative medicine. Despite the pandemic, we brought together leading researchers to discuss recent topics on chromatin and epigenetic regulation in the context of stem cells and pluripotency, lineage choice, and more. Speakers who could not attend because of travel restrictions or other reasons delivered their talk live through video conferencing technology. The students and speakers participated in a complimentary guided tour of the Old City as well as a social dinner.

The first three days of the program were in a school format, with 45 minutes of in-depth lectures, while the last two days were in a conference format, in cooperation with the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR). Registration was conducted through the ISSCR website and was either to the conference alone or to the conference + school. The combination was substantially subsidized for students. Overall, the students received five days of lessons and talks. The School itself was recognized as academic credit points for HUJI students.



May 29 – June 2, 2022 5th Advanced School in the Humanities

General Director: Anthony Grafton (Princeton University)
Organizers:

Grammar Wars
Care Brace
Wars
C

David Shulman (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Yigal Bronner (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Grammar, broadly defined, is often a battleground of choice between rival factions, and not only in the purely intellectual sphere. What is considered proper linguistic usage, who can mandate and regulate it, when is a dialect recognized as a language, how does language impact on religion, politics, and power - these are questions our school examined from a comparative perspective. Speakers discussed such issues and tensions in the classical and Carolingian worlds (Greek and Latin), China, Mesopotamia, South Asia (where Sanskrit grammar was the paradigmatic science, like mathematics in the West), and also in modern linguistics. Some fifteen presentations were delivered over five days, with lively discussions throughout. Topics included the missionary attempt to impose Latin grammar on modern Chinese, the debates between the Alexandrian and the Pergamon schools of thought, the use of lexicons in Mesopotamian divinations, the definition of Malayalam's literary language as independent from those of Sanskrit and Tamil, the complex relations between medieval Tamil grammarians and Sanskrit theories of analyzing language, and the mostly forgotten Hebrew medieval grammar, Ma'aseh Efod.

In addition to our discussions, we had several excursions and outings, including to the Monastery of the Cross, the Bible Lands Museum, and an unforgettable tour of Jaffa with Abd Shhada. All in all, it was a unique experience that left everyone with much to think about and a taste for more.



June 21-30, 2022 The 32nd Jerusalem Advanced School in Economic Theory: International Economics

General Director: Fric Maskin (Harvard University) Organizers:

Elchanan Ben-Porat (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Marc Melitz (Harvard University)

Numerous topics in international economics were discussed at the School:

Elhanan Helpman gave an overview of the evolvement of the theory of International Trade, and discussed the importance of variation of factors of production, the integration of these insights into a Walrasain equilibrium system, models of product differentiation and monopolistic competition, and recent models that added firm heterogeneity and refocused attention on within-sectorial variation.

Eric Maskin presented a model of matching that can explain the empirical fact that dispersion of income is increasing at a faster rate than the dispersion of skill.

David Atkin discussed different aspects related to the distribution of gains from trade across the income distribution, and the transfer and evolvement of knowledge through trade.

Lorenzo Caliendo discussed new empirical methods for trade policy evaluation, in particular, quantification of aggregate and distributional effects of trade policy.

Robert Staiger presented the basic structure of the GATT agreement and argued that the logic that underlies GATT can address most of the new

developments that took place since it was signed, particularly the rise of China. Robert also discussed the role of international institutions in meeting the challenges of climate change and global pandemics.

Isabelle Mejean discussed micro-level empirical trade patterns and presented data supporting the gravity equation and data that demonstrates that firms that export are larger, pay higher wages, and are capital-intensive. These facts are consistent with the celebrated Melitz (2003) model.

Paola Conconi presented data on lobbying activities of firms for trade agreements, showing that lobbying is dominated by a few large companies, and discussed the effects of rules of origin on global supply chains. This issue was further developed by Marc Melitz in the Arrow lecture, in which he showed how rules of origin that are too restrictive can backfire.

Stephen Redding presented a general equilibrium model of an economy with a geography that defines costs of trade between different regions, and also presented a quantitative model of city structure to determine agglomeration and dispersion forces.

Pol Antras developed a general equilibrium model of global supply chains with a general geography of trade costs across countries and structurally estimated the model.

Marc Melitz presented a framework for the analysis of the effects of competition and trade on innovation. The model that he presented features both the Schumpeterian force that operates in the direction of making innovation less profitable when competition increases, as well as

the stimulating effect that competition can have on innovation that was identified by Arrow. The model highlights the strong correlation between exporting and technology adoption.

Gianmarco Ottaviano discussed the relationship between trade, growth, and comparative advantage as well as the welfare implications of trade agreements, and pointed out that with variable markups, laissez faire would not lead to an efficient outcome; cooperative multilateral government intervention is required

Conferences

November 1-4, 2021 Amitsur Centennial Symposium

Organizers:

Avinoam Mann (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Louis Rowen (Bar-Ilan University)
David Saltman (Center for Communication Analysis,

Princeton)

Aner Shalev (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Lance Small (University of California, San Diego)
Uzi Vishne (Bar-Ilan University)

Shimshon Amitsur was a spectacular mathematician, who, with Jacob Levitzki, founded the Israeli school of Algebra. Not only has every Israeli algebraist been influenced by him – his reputation was global, including – at a crucial time – beyond the Iron Curtain. Amitsur's ingenious construction of noncrossed-product division algebras, using techniques from Number Theory and Arithmetic, demonstrates his superb ability to establish surprising connections between major branches of the field.

The goal of this hybrid international symposium, with lectures and speakers from many different countries and time zones, was not only to provide a retrospective view of Amitsur's legacy, but also to provide a prospective panorama of algebra in decades to come. The topics discussed include Ring Theory, Group Theory, and their various connections with other areas, such as Geometry and Probability.

Conference speakers were prominent contributors to a variety of topics of contemporary algebra, including Fields medalist Efim Zelmanov. The goal of the symposium was fully achieved, largely due to the excellent professional organization by the IIAS, to which we are very grateful.

December 20-21, 2021 Outstanding Arab Postdoctoral Fellows' Conference

The Arab population in Israel constitutes 21% of the general population. While the number of students from Arab society in Israeli academia is increasing, its representation in academic faculty remains very low.

Through a unique initiative by Yad Hanadiv, the IIAS, and Mouna Maroun, chair of the steering committee on accessibility of the Arab population to the academia, and Israel's leading universities' rectors and VPs gathered in Jerusalem with selected Arab postdocs to discuss the obstacles they face and form a strategy for recruitment of outstanding Arab researchers. The meeting's motto was "Diversity is the key to excellence."



March 20-24, 2022

Animals and Human Society in the Sinitic World (Rescheduled Research Group Conference)

Organizers:

Nir Avieli (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) Gideon Shelach-Lavi (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Meir Shachar (Tel Aviv University)

Relationships with animals were always an important feature of the human experience, social relations, and the economy. In recent years, more attention has been paid to human-animal relations in Western societies, but the ways in which these relations evolved in the Sinitic world remain largely unexplored. In this conference, we approached human-animal relations in East Asia from archeological, historical, and anthropological perspectives. The conference was attended by 12 scholars – some well-established, others in mid-career, and some taking their first steps in academia. They included five international scholars - from the U.S., France, Turkey, and Vietnam (the first visit of a Vietnamese professor in the humanities in Israel). The conference's opening event was open to the public and included the screening of the wonderful Mongolian film Weeping Camel (2003), followed by a roundtable session on "Animals, Animal Gods, and Animal Taboos." The three-day conference was followed by a two-day fieldtrip in the Judean desert, in which we explored various facets of human-animal relations, such as herding in the Bedouin community, wild animals and visitors in nature reserves, and wild animals in farmed areas. The conference papers and fieldtrip were very insightful and we plan to publish the proceedings in a special volume.

May 10-11, 2022 Fourth Rothschild Fellows' Colloquium

Organizer: Yad Hanadiv

In 2012, Yad Hanadiv initiated the Rothschild Fellows Colloquia, a colloquium held every three years (except during the pandemic, when we were compelled to postpone it) that brings together the three last Rothschild

Fellows cohorts. The fourth colloquium was held on May 10-11, with the participation of some 40 Fellows from the cohorts of 2017-2019. The goal was to enable them to meet each other, as well as senior scholars in their field, and to present their own work. This year's Colloquium included a lecture by Noam Solomon, CEO and co-founder of Immunai (and a 2017 Rothschild Fellow himself) and one by Yaniv Iczkovitz, the current Artist in Residence at the IIAS. The Colloquium also featured 15 Fellows' presentations, a visit to the National Library of Israel's collections, roundtables according to disciplines with senior Fellows, and numerous networking opportunities.



May 15-19, 2022 Xenophon and the Emotions (cheduled Research Group Conference)

Organizers:

Gabriel Danzig (Bar-Ilan University) Tazuko van Berkel (Leiden University)

Two volumes have been produced on the emotions in the writings of Plato, and this conference aimed to fill a gap by focusing on the portrayal of emotions in the writings of Socrates' other great student, Xenophon. A keynote talk, titled The varieties of emotional experience, was delivered by David Konstan, who showed the differences between phenomena we categorize as emotions, but which were not necessarily categorized as such by the Greeks. Other papers focused on the arousal or manipulation of emotions by political and military leaders; emotions connected with the educational process; emotional immersion in narrative prose; the economic model for emotions; and specific emotions, such as fear, envy, and love. The conference was extremely productive and enjoyable and included a trip to Ein Gedi, Masada, and the Dead Sea. Currently, papers from the conference are being edited towards publication in one of the more prestigious printing houses. We are already at work on a follow-up conference, tentatively titled "Socrates and the Emotions," which will bring together research on Plato with our recent contributions on Xenophon. This future conference is planned to be held under the auspices of the International Society for Socratic Studies, of which Gabriel Danzig is the elected president.



June 22-23, 2022

Cultural Brokerage in Pre-modern Islam (Kescheduled Research Group Reunion Conference)

Organizers:

Luke Yarbrough (UCLA)

Uriel Simonsohn (University of Haifa)

In this one-day conference, six of the eight former Research Group members met to present materials related to last year's project, which will be published in due course as part of an essay collection on cultural brokerage in the premodern Islamic world. The conference included the following presentations: Gregor Schwarb (SOAS, University of London): A Jewish Muʿtazilī Hexaemeron: Brokering Interpretive Communities in Fāṭimid Jerusalem Eugenio Garosi (LMU Munich): Lost and Found in Translation: The "Invisible" Transcultural Brokers of the Early Islamic Administration (7th–8th century)

Uriel Simonsohn (University of Haifa): Islamic Ascetic and Christian Monastic Ties in Early Abbasid Iraq: Ibn Abī al-Dunyā's Example Louise Marlow (Wellesley College): The Arabic Translation of the Ghazālian Naṣīḥat al-Mulūk: A Case Study in Intra-Cultural Brokerage Michal Biran (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem): "The Abode of Afrasiyab": Muslim Cultural Brokers in Mongol Qaraqorum Luke Yarbrough (UCLA): Cultural Brokers and East Syrian Culture in the Abbasid period: A View from The Tower (Kitāb al-majdal) On the following day, the group took part in an excursion to the cities of Lod and Ramla, where it received instruction from Dr. Taufik Daadle (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Dr. Moshe Yagur (Tel Aviv University) respectively.

July 12, 2022 Lecture by Prof. David Reich - "The Genetic History of the Southern Arc: A Bridge between West Asia & Europe" Organizers: **Inbal Arnon** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) **Liran Carmel** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Prof. David Reich gave a lecture under the auspices of the 2023 Research Group "What Allows Human Language? Seeking the Genetic, Anatomical, Cognitive, and Cultural Factors Underlying Language Emergence", covering his recent work on the movement of people during the past thousands of years in the Southern Arc (Anatolia, Southeastern Europe, and West Asia). Prof. Reich is a world leader in the study of ancient DNA, and uses the genetics of ancient populations to detect population-level past demographic events. The potential implications of ancient DNA on the study of language emergence and evolution is among the topics that will be covered by the Research Group. In the talk, David showed the results of sequencing the DNA of more than a thousand individuals from the region, spanning roughly 10,000 years of human history, which demonstrates repeated gene flows between the populations, including from the Steppes into Southeastern Europe and from the Southern Levant into the region. The lectures was followed by an expansive discussion that resulted from numerous questions from the audience.

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The Michael Bruno Memorial Award



he Michael Bruno Memorial Award was initiated in 1999, in memory of Professor Michael Bruno, a distinguished Israeli economist and the fifth governor of the Bank of Israel. The annual award seeks acknowledge the achievements of three outstanding Israeli young scholars working in any field. Bruno laureates embody excellence in research and scholarship, as well as the potential to make a unique and lasting impact on their academic field – and beyond it.

Each laureate presents a proposal that details how, in conjunction with the IIAS, he or she will continue to pursue new fields of research in order to fulfill their academic goals.

The 2021 Bruno laureates are:

- Tamar Herzig, Tel Aviv University, History
- Mona Khoury-Kassabri, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Social Work and Social welfare
- Yardena Samuels, Weizmann Institute of Science, Molecular Cell Biology

We thank our loyal nominators from across Israel, who select each year's laureates from an extremely impressive candidate list; and the members of the IIAS Board of Directors, for their help in naming the laureates.

Tamar Herzig



Prof. Tamar Herzig is a scholar of early modern European history, specializing in the religious history of Renaissance Italy. She is a Professor of History at Tel Aviv University, and currently serves as Director of Tel Aviv University's Morris E. Curiel Institute for European Studies and as Vice Chair of the Historical Society of Israel.

Prof. Herzig has dedicated her career to studying early modern religion from a social and cultural-

historical perspective, focusing on religious women, preachers, heretics, converts, and slaves. She is the author of *Savonarola's Women: Visions and Reform in Renaissance Italy* (University of Chicago Press, 2008; Italian edition published by Carocci in 2014); a book in Hebrew on the Italian Renaissance (2011; 2014); and *'Christ Transformed into a Virgin Woman': Lucia Brocadelli, Heinrich Institoris, and the Defense of the Faith* (Rome: Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2013).

She recently won the American Historical Association's Rosenberg Prize (2020) and was awarded an Honorable Mention for the Renaissance Society of America's Gordan Book Prize in Renaissance Studies (2021) for her book *A Convert's Tale: Art, Crime, and Jewish Apostasy in Renaissance Italy* (Harvard University Press, 2019). She also won the Kadar Award for Outstanding Research in 2019 for her work on religious conversion in early modern Italy.

Prof. Herzig has co-edited three volumes and published over 40 articles in journals, books, and historical encyclopedias. She is a recipient of the George L. Mosse Fellowship, the Hanadiv Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Yigal Alon

Fellowship for Outstanding Junior Faculty, the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, as well as Israel Science Foundation research grants (in 2010-2013 and in 2015-2019). She is currently the Renaissance Society of America's Discipline Representative for the field of Religion and a member of numerous academic advisory boards.

Mona Khoury-Kassabri



Prof. Mona Khoury-Kassabri is the Vice President of Strategy and Diversity at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Frances and George (z"l) Katz Family Chair at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare. Her research addresses issues related to child and youth welfare; she is one of the world's leading child welfare scholars specializing in youth involvement in violence, as victims or as perpetrators. In recent years, with the increased use of information and communications

technology among youth, Prof. Khoury-Kassabri has also studied cyber-bullying, exploring students', parents', and teachers' views and conceptions regarding cyber-bullying over time. As a visiting professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work University of Toronto (in 2011-2012 and 2016-2017), she studied youth involvement in cyber-bulling together with Prof. Faye Mishna.

Her research aims to expand the theoretical literature in the field, by showing how children's behavior is a result of the interplay between individual and socio-contextual (economic, social, and political) factors. Her work has important implications for training, policy, and interventions to prevent child and youth violence and delinquency.

She has received numerous awards and excellence scholarships, including the 2018 Hebrew University Rector's Prize for excellence in research and teaching, a MAOF Fellowship in 2007-2010, and a Golda Meir Fellowship in 2005-2006. Prof. Khoury-Kassabri is heads the committee appointed to examine The Hebrew University's diversity policy as part of the Israeli President's initiative Israeli Hope in Academia, and is an alumna of the Israel Young Academy and a member of the Global Young Academy.

Yardena Samuels

Prof. Yardena Samuels is an Associate Professor and the Knell Family Professorial Chair at the Department of Molecular Cell Biology of the Weizmann Institute of Science.



Prof. Samuels has a long-standing interest in the molecular genetics of cancer, and she conducts research at the forefront of cancer genome analysis. After a PhD in Molecular Cancer Biology at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Imperial College, she pursued postdoctoral research with Prof. Bert Vogelstein at Johns Hopkins University, with whom she was the first to uncover the PIK3CA gene's high frequency of mutations. This research significantly

enhanced our understanding of the important role of these genes in human malignancies. Subsequent research has used her findings to develop models of cancer that have further improved the understanding of cancer biology and led to the development of novel cancer drugs, at least one of which is now FDA-approved for breast cancer treatment.

Her laboratory's research focuses on the identification and characterization of gene mutations that play a role in the progression of cutaneous melanoma, with the goal of delineating ideal protein target combinations in melanoma towards lasting disease control. Over the years, the laboratory has identified and characterized multiple melanoma mutations, emphasizing their comprehensive functional analysis. Overall, Prof. Samuels' contributions have promoted the understanding of melanoma biology, and provided new targets for melanoma diagnosis and treatment.

She has received numerous awards and honors, including the Estela Medrano Memorial Award (2020), the Youdim Family Prize for Excellence in Cancer Research (2016), and the Teva-Israel Science Foundation Founders Prize (2014).

Workshop by Bruno Laureate

November 21-23, 2021 Workshop in Chemical Biology

Ashraf Brik (Technion)

The three-day Chemical Biology workshop was led by Prof. Ashraf Brik, a 2017 Bruno Award laureate. The workshop surveyed the recent advances in the Brik laboratory,

focusing on the chemical synthesis of proteins and their delivery into living cells. Each group member presented their current research advances and discussed future strategies. In addition, two invited scientists, Micha Fridman from Tel Aviv University and David Margulies from the Weizmann Institute, gave lectures on their own research. Besides the scientific component, the group had guided tours in the Old City of Jerusalem and a tour of Ein Karem. The group was delighted to have the opportunity to visit the famous Albert Einstein archives on the Hebrew University's campus.

Research Groups 2022/2023

What Allows Human Language? Seeking the Genetic, Anatomical, Cognitive, and Cultural Factors Underlying Language Emergence

February 1-28, 2023; June 1 - July 31, 2023

Organizers: Inbal Arnon and Liran Carmel (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Meta Reasoning: Concepts, Open Issues and Methodology

September 1- December 31, 2022

Organizers: Rakefet Ackerman (Technion-Israel Institute of Technology) and Valerie Thompson (University of Saskatchewan)

New Christian and New Jewish Discourses of Identity between Polemics and **Apologetics**

September 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Organizers: Claude Stuczynski (Bar-Ilan University) and David Graizbordb (University of Arizona)

Individual Fellows 2022/2023

Marc Brettler (Duke University) Edward Breuer (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Carol Harrison (University of Oxford) Ronit Kessel (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) George Yaakov Kohler (Bar-Ilan University) Stefan Schmid (University of Vienna) Edward Schoolman (University of Nevada) Edward Stolper (Caltech)

Research Groups 2023/2024

Judæo-Persian and Persian Textual Landscapes: Towards an Intellectual History of Medieval Iranian Jewry

February 1 - June 30, 2024

Organizer:

Julia Rubanovich (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Desert Sea Connectivity: Arid-Zone Food Security and Climate Change in Late Antiquity

September 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024

Organizers:

Guy Bar-Oz (University of Haifa)

Gideon Avni (Israel Antiquities Authority)

Paying for the Past: Reparations after the Holocaust in Global Context

September 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Organizers:

Iris Nachum (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Gideon Reuveni (University of Sussex)

Daniel Siemens (Newcastle University)

Individual Fellows

Renana Bartal Cohen (Tel Aviv University) Tita Chico (University of Maryland at College Park) Naama Cohen-Hanegbi (Tel Aviv University) Isaiah Gafni (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Jan Grabowski (University of Ottawa) Maijastinan Kahlos (University of Helsinki) David Levi-Faur (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Lior Sternfeld (Pennsylvania State University) **Yfaat Weiss** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Tamar Wolf-Monzon (Bar-Ilan University) Anna Zapalec (Pedagogical University of Krakow)

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