



The Swiss Center for
Conflict
Research,
Management
and Resolution

In the name of Sigi and Lisa Daniel

Annual Report
2014-2015



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



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Management and Resolution**
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The Faculty of Social Sciences



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

The Faculty of Social Sciences
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

About the Center

The Center for Conflict Research is an interdisciplinary research center established in 1999 at the initiative of the Swiss Friends of the Hebrew University and the European Executive Council of the university. Former Swiss President Ruth Dreifuss dedicated the center in May 2000.

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

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

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



From the Director

This was a good year for the Swiss Center, dedicated to solidifying and further developing our Masters Studies program in conflict research, management and resolution, to widening and intensifying our scope of activity, to expanding and deepening our research and to strengthening the ties with the friends and supporters of the Swiss Center.

Despite budgetary constraints the Swiss Center conducted and widened its activities in various domains such as: teaching, research, seminars, lectures conferences, and academic collaboration with other organizations and institutions. These activities are further described in the following sections of the report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous donors who contributed to the Center. Special thanks to the members of the Swiss Association of the Friends of the Hebrew University for their help and support and especially to Mrs. Nadia Guth-Biasini, Mr. David Wollach, Mrs. Nathalie Berrebi, Dr. Eric Hauf, and Mrs. Nilly Sikorsky for their continuing support of the Swiss Center and its activities.

Professor Ifat Maoz

Head, Swiss Center for Conflict Research
Hebrew University of Jerusalem



The Swiss Center Study Program

Academic Committee

Prof. Ifat Maoz	Department of Communication, Head of the Swiss Center (2012-13; 2014-)
Dr. Zohar Kampf	Department of Communication, Former Head of the Swiss Center (2013-14)
Prof. Ilana Ritov	Chair of Academic Committee, School of Education
Prof. Ilan Yaniv	Department of Psychology
Prof. Tamir Sheaffer	Department of Political Science and Department of Communication
Prof. Michael Karayanni	Faculty of Law
Prof. Paul Frosh	Department of Communication

Faculty and Adjunct Faculty

Prof. Ilana Ritov (Center Director 2009-2012)	
Prof. Gabriel Horenczyk	Dr. Zohar Kampf
Prof. Ifat Maoz	Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt
Prof. Ilan Yaniv	Dr. Itay Fischhendler
Prof. Elie Podeh	Dr. Maya Kahanoff
Prof. Paul Frosh	Dr. Yiftach Ron
Prof. Michael Karayanni	Adv. Yael Ilany
Prof. Moshe Negbi	Adv. Carmit Fenton
Dr. Eitan Alimi	Adv. Yael Ezraty
Dr. Danny Miodownik	Mrs. Maya De Vries
Dr. Yehudith Auerbach	

Emeritus

Prof. Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov (1946-2013)
Center Founder and Director 1999-2009
Prof. David Bargal (Founding member)

Swiss Center Coordinator and Advisor

Limor Levy
Social Sciences, room 3412

Dialogue Program Supervisor

Dr. Maya Kahanoff

Academic Projects Coordinator and Methodological Advisor

Dr. Yiftach Ron

Internship Project Coordinators

Maya de Vries

Website Project Coordinator

Daniella Yariv

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



Masters Program Courses

Theoretical Core Courses

- Management and Resolution of International Conflicts
- Theories and Approaches in Studying Social Conflicts
- Media and Psychology in Conflict
- Inter-National and Intra-State Conflicts: Management and Settlement
- Interdisciplinary Departmental Seminar

Training Courses: Tools and Techniques

- Mediation
- Simulation Games and Processes of Negotiations
- Negotiation: Behavioral Perspective
- Dialogue and Recognition in Ethno-National Conflict; the Israeli-Palestinian case
-

Research and Methodological Courses

- Quantitative Research Methods
- Methodological Skills Academic Writing and Topics Between Theory and Practice

Practicum for Social Sciences MA Students

Elective Courses

Political-International Cluster

- Civil Society Conflict and Transformation & Reconciliation: Between Theory and Practice
- Political Narratives in Israel
- Multiculturalism & Public Policy in Divided Democracy
- Issues in Democratic Theory
- Security and Democracy in Israeli Politics
- Labor Studies
- Democracy and Judaism
- Making Information Accessible to Decision Makers

- Political Violence in Comparative Perspective
- Israel in the Middle East: Patterns of Conflict
- Fundamentalist Sunni Islam
- Multi-Disciplinary Workshop on Environmental
- The Media and National Security
- Democracy and Politics in Israel
- Electoral Politics : Voters and Institutions
- Capitalism and Regulation
- Poverty ,Inequality and Disadvantage
- Civil-Military Relations
- Decision – Making and Strategy
- Society and Identity in Contemporary Israel
- Equality
- Social Protests in Israel and Abroad
- Leviathan or Behemoth? State and Man in Thomas Hobbes's
- Democ. Legislatures: The Knesset in Comparative
- The European Union : A Unique "Beast"
- Political Rhetoric in Israel
- The Legitimation Crisis in Advanced Democracies
- Gender, Sexual Violence and War

Social-Psychological Cluster

- From Theory to Practice in Mediation
- Language and Gender
- The Media in War and Peace
- Issues in Social Psychology: Pro –Seminar
- Population Dynamics & Social Change in 3rd World
- Management and Resolution of Labor Conflicts
- The Legal System as a Conflict Resolution System
- Gender and Law
- Religion , State and Multiculturalism
- Education to Equality and Gender Violence Prevention
- Civil Society Conflict and Transformation & Reconciliation: Between Theory and Practice
- Terror, Counter-Terror and Human Rights
- Perception and Processing of Social Information in Conflict
- The Role of International Law in Resolving the Middle East Conflict



The Students

Only twenty five of the many applicants for the Swiss Center Masters program in Conflict Research, Management and Resolution are accepted, based on their grade average and field of study. Most of the Center's students come from the Hebrew University with others from Ben-Gurion University, Bar Ilan University, The College of Management Academic Studies, Hadassah Academic College, Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya and Washington University.

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

Alumni

Program graduates hold positions, in part senior and very senior ones, in the following sectors: Universities and Colleges; The Ministry for Foreign Affairs; Prime Minister's Office; Non-governmental organizations; Professional mediators; Peace education and peace making; Conflict transformation; Media and Journalism.

Outstanding Research students

These outstanding research students that have begun their research work in 2014 have been awarded a grant from the Swiss Center to help and support their research.

Shira Kudish

Topic: The role of emotional preferences in political socialization of children in the context of intractable conflict

Supervisor: Prof. Maya Tamir, Prof. Eran Halperin, Dr. Michal Reifen Tagar

Abstract: One of the main characteristics of intractable conflict is its long duration – usually more than a generation. As such, a pertinent question for the understanding of the perpetuation of conflict is the transmission of socio-political orientations across generations. In this work, I propose to examine the role of emotional preferences (the emotions that people want to feel) - as one mechanism through which parents' political orientations are transferred to their children. Recent evidence suggests that people with different political convictions differ in the emotions they want to feel in the context of intergroup conflict, and that such preferences shape conflict-related decisions. Given that most preferences are learned from experience, it is possible that parents transfer their emotional preferences on to their children, indirectly shaping their political attitudes. In my thesis, I will examine three interrelated questions: 1) Are parents' political orientations associated with their emotional preferences? 2) Are parents' emotional preferences associated with their children's emotional preferences? 3) Is the association between parents' and their children's political orientation mediated by the parents'/ the children's emotional preferences? Together, answers to these questions would unravel the role of motivated emotions in the transmission of political orientations from one generation to the next.

Perle Nicole

Topic: 'Besieged Yet Apart' - Perception of the Enemy Within Israeli Society.

Supervisor: Dr. Eitan Alimi

Abstract: Enemies within my walls

Though literature is vast on the political and social thought of different Jewish-Israeli sensibilities on the conflict with the Palestinians, remarkably few studies explore the interaction of the main ideological currents within Israeli society. Through quantitative and qualitative methods, this thesis will highlight the mirroring patterns of discourse on the political right and left on one another, and measure the depth of the inner divide between two main ideological blocs. Examining the battle between the rightist group 'Im Tirzu' against the New Israel Fund and the various organisations it supports following the publication of the infamous Goldstone Report in 2010, this thesis will use questionnaires and in-depth interviews to show that while they frame themselves as minorities whose existence is threatened by the rest of society, parts of the Israeli public have come to perceive their political opponents as full-fledged enemies – a threat to their aspirations for the future, their collective belonging, and their sense of identity, that I suppose may be more overt and direct than the one perceived from the Palestinians. Departing from traditionally binding societal narratives, wide chunks of the Israeli public are not feeling besieged by outside enemies, but rather threatened from the insides of their national collective.



Josef Van Wijk

Topic: The construction of urgency discourse around mega-projects.

Supervisor: Dr. Itay Fischendler

Abstract: Around the world more and more mega-projects are being built on an ever larger scale. These include dams, bridges and tunnels, transportation infrastructure, olympic sport venues, water management infrastructure as well as energy infrastructure. The planning of these projects is notoriously complex, involving a variety of actors who seek to manipulate decision making in favour of their preferred policy. The research on decision making in mega-projects tends to be dominated by the problem of cost overruns and benefit shortfalls. A possible explanation of this problem is that project proponents succeed in biasing forecasts in ways that make the project seem more attractive and viable than it is in reality. This study examines the role of urgency framing in the mobilisation of biases in the decision making on infrastructural mega-projects in Israel. Urgency framing is employed in attempt to coax decision makers to go ahead with the project. It is instrumental in mobilising support for the solution preferred by the actors who dominate the discourse and is often exploited to justify the exclusion of actors who promote alternatives to the proposed mega-project from participating in the decision making process. As of yet no structural study has been undertaken on urgency as a discourse. This study aims to identify what drives actors to use urgency discourse and how it is portrayed. To answer these question it attempts at a critical analysis of the use of urgency discourse in attempt to influence decision making on the building of reception terminals for natural gas, a proposed infrastructural megaproject for the transportation, reception, storage and distribution of the vast reserves of natural gas that have recently been found off the coast of Israel.

Ben Lev Kadesh

Topic: Tourist sites in the shadow of a national conflict: structuring collective memory and national narratives, in the context of the Zionist-Arab conflict, threw tourist sites in Israel.

Supervisor: Dr. Dimitri Shomski, Dr. Amos Ron

Abstract: While in the Pre-modern era, people used to 'meet there past' threw daily practices, such as religious rituals or stories told by father to son, in Modern times, the past is forced into 'memory sites', which are defined and rational¹. 'Memory sites' are defined sites which preserve the past in present time, and include, among other, history books, monuments and memorial ceremony's. In Modern times, people travel into memory sites in order to learn about their past. But while the person visiting these sites, thinks that he is going back in time, discovering that past as it was, actually, he discovers the past, as it is imagined and presented ,by the people of the present, and mainly, by the agents of memory that create and dominate the hegemonic 'memory sites'.

Inspired by Nora's monumental theory of 'memory sites', and by Benedict Anderson's monumental theory, regarding the role of collective memory in the creation of national communities, this paper will examine tourist sites in Jerusalem, which will be seen as 'memory sites'. This paper will examine the historical narrative presented in these sites, in the context of the Zionist-Arabic conflict, questioning both the way's that the past and the present of the city, are presented. By this, I hope it will contribute to better understanding of critical discourse in tourism and, in a way, to the ending of the National conflict in this region.



Elad Ayalon

Topic: The acceptance of responsibility in testimonies of IDF soldiers given in the context of 'Breaking the Silence'.

Supervisor: Dr. Zohar Kampf

Abstract: This paper aims to characterize the discourse of responsibility and to address the question of the acceptance of responsibility in testimonies of IDF soldiers. First, I will examine the term "responsibility" taking into account topics such as moral responsibility, collective responsibility and personal responsibility. In addition I will theoretically analyze the conditions in which an individual is willing or forced to accept responsibility for his actions. Following the soldiers testimonies, I will address the ways in which these individuals interpret different dimensions of responsibility (personal, collective, moral, etc.) in light of their personal experiences during their military service. Furthermore, I will examine whether the burden of responsibility is placed on the testifiers as individuals, on society as a whole, or whether the text demonstrates denial of responsibility both on the individual and collective levels. Finally, I will discuss the attendant meanings of these actions according to my findings. The analysis will be based on testimonies of soldiers that were collected and published by "Breaking the Silence" organization. The rationale for examining the question of responsibility in testimonies is that such an examination could enable better understanding of different dimensions of the term and of social processes, such as acknowledgment of the other, reconciliation and so on. In this context, expressions of responsibility embody the potential for advancing a critical discourse on the actions of individuals and of society as a whole, which serve as an internal social process laying the groundwork for reconciliation with the Palestinians. However, evading responsibility, whether by casting it on others or on the victim, challenges the process of giving moral testimony as a corrective action because it undermines the existence of a specific injured party, thus facilitating the preservation of the existing status quo.

Chen Reuveni

Topic: From Rachel's Tomb to Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque: The formation process of a Palestinian sacred sit

Supervisor: Prof. Nurit Stadler

Abstract: This thesis will present transformations that occurred in the perception of Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem by the Muslim-Palestinian society. My analysis will look at this issue as part of the development of the Palestinian national narrative and within the frame of the constant conflict with Israel, the resistance to the military presence and the separation barrier in particular. In this work, I will refer to common theories from the fields of anthropology and cultural geography, which present sites as a process and sacred sites as a field for conflicts between groups. Based on this theoretical framework, I wish to present the changes in the sacred site itself, and the area that surrounds the compound. I will put particular emphasis on how the landscape has transformed, and how it has been perceived by Palestinian literature and media. In parallel, I will conduct interviews with local residents and leaders. In order to understand how this place is transforming into a Palestinian sacred site, I will refer to additional aspects as well and ask several questions such as: do the Palestinians try to create a new narrative or do they base their arguments on existing local narratives? How does the Israeli-Palestinian conflict find its expression in the discourse on Rachel's Tomb? What is the role of Islam in the formative process of the site, in the frame of the struggle for Rachel's Tomb?



Zvi Fuchs

Topic: from political violence to civil war

Supervisor: Dr. Danny Miodownik

Abstract: When does Political Violence develop into Civil War?

This study will investigate the necessary conditions which cause political violence to escalate into civil war. I will consider which variables explain why political violence leads to civil war in some nations and not in others. Following a high level of political violence, violent protests against the regime, and even revolutionary regime change, civil war is one of many possible outcomes. I will examine the following factors as I work to explain this development: type of regime, level of military involvement and military supported actors, the number of organizations participating in the conflict and the nature of their activity.

I intend to explore the connections between the phenomena of political violence and civil wars and examine how the state of affairs deteriorates from the initial wave of violence to an internal war. The connection between these occurrences has not yet been researched thoroughly, and through this paper I hope to add to the understanding of this issue.

In order to test this phenomenon, I will examine the literature on political violence, the political radicalization process, and the escalation of violent protests. My paper will be strongly based on extensive research in the field of civil war. Specifically, I will focus on academic theories which explain the eruptions of revolts and I will attempt to extract the mechanisms of these phenomena where applicable.

The empirical research will examine the occurrence of violent events within Arab countries party to the recent "Arab Spring" sparked by violent protests in Tunisia in the beginning of 2011. Political protests were the first stage of most of the Arab Spring events. In a number of countries, these protests escalated into civil war, while in others, the ruling regime fell quickly and the situation did not deteriorate into an internal war.

The Hans Guth Dreyfus Fund For Conflict Resolution And The Law

The Aharon Barak Center for Interdisciplinary Legal Research and the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution invited doctoral students and post-doctorate researchers to submit applications to the Hans Guth Dreyfus Fund doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships for the academic year 2015-2016.

The Fund awarded the Swiss Center two fellowships in the amount of \$5750 each for a two doctoral students doing research on the psychological, sociological, and political aspects of conflict management and resolution (see more details below).



Research Topics and Requirements

The fellowships were required to support interdisciplinary graduate and post-graduate research projects that involve the legal or social-sciences (e.g. psychology, culture, politics, sociology or ethics) aspects of dispute resolution conflict management, or conflict resolution, including:

- Interdisciplinary studies of adjudication, the legal process and other methods of dispute resolution
- Interdisciplinary studies of law and legal institutions
- Representations and perceptions of justice and fairness in conflict resolution and mediation processes
- Representations and perceptions of legal and mediation mechanisms, procedures and decisions, and international tribunals in conflict and post conflict
- Psychological, societal, and media related aspects of conflict and conflict resolution.
- Conflict, morality, society and culture
- Cultural, political, geographical, environmental and social-psychological aspects of conflict management and resolution
- Reconciliation, dialogue, track two diplomacy and peace building
- Conflict and conflict resolution in the context of local and international sphere
- Sociological aspects of conflict and conflict resolution
- Decision making and the dynamics of mediation and conflict resolution procedures and processes
- Political psychology, cognition and public opinion in conflict
- Perceptions of fairness and justice regarding peace and conflict resolution agreements, post conflict arrangements, and factors influencing these perceptions
- Perceptions and representations of human rights and human right violation in conflict
- The study of activist groups and organization operating in the realm of human rights and legal activism in the context of conflict and conflict resolution
- The portrayal of the above in media, new media, and public opinion

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

The Scholarship Recipients



Rana Es'eed, PhD candidate for Paul Baerwald School of Social Welfare.

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

Supervisor: Prof. John.Gal and Prof. Ram Knaan

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

Few studies in this field attempt to explain the development of the movement according to different theories. In this light, the current study wishes to further the understanding of the development of the Islamic Movement and the aforementioned changes, in the context of the various theoretical approaches. In particular, the current study has two main aims: to examine and describe the development of the concept “The Independent Community”

and its meaning for minority groups in general and for the Palestinians in Israel in particular. The second goal is to examine and describe the social services provided by the Islamic Movement, whether as part of the Independent Community project or as separate services. Such an examination is located in a complex theoretical space, due to the unique complexity of the Islamic movement, which can be described as a religious organization, a social movement, or a political organization or party.



Yair Fogel-Dror, PhD candidate for Political Science

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

Supervisor: Prof. Tamir Sheafer and Prof. Shaul Shenhav

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



Graduation Ceremony

On June 9th 2015, the 14th graduation ceremony was held for students who completed their M.A. studies in the program: Ben Amos Aya (Magna Cum Laude), Gal Marina (Magna Cum Laude), Zohar Anat (Magna Cum Laude), Horev Shai (Magna Cum Laude) Tenebous Mijriam (Magna Cum Laude) , Levy Einat (Magna Cum Laude), Luling Karen (Magna Cum Laude) , Davidson Schahar, Terez Tamar, Yaffe Nechama, Nissar Nadda, Amrani Maayan, Peleg Matan, Shilo Tama,

Doctoral Students:

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

We Congratulate Dr. Ofir Lang for completing his dissertation on The Role of Hope in Making Decisions in Situations of Crisis and War supervised by Prof. Galia Bar-Natan, Prof. Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov and Prof. Daniel Bar-Tal, and for receiving his Doctor Degree (May, 2015).

We Congratulate Dr. Yiftach Ron for completing his dissertation on 'Interrelations between Collective Narratives, Personal Narratives, and Continuous Involvement of Israeli-Jews in Dialogue Processes with Palestinians in Israel' supervised by Prof. Ifat Maoz and by Dr. Zvi Bekerman, and for receiving his Doctor Degree (May, 2015).

Research Track Students Masters Students:

Name	Topic	Supervisor
Yosef Van wijk	The construction of urgency discourse around mega-projects	Dr. Itay Fischendler
Chen Reuveni	From Rachel's Tomb to Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque: The formation process of a Palestinian sacred sit	Prof. Nurit Shtadler
Perle Nicole	Besieged Yet Apart - Perception of the Enemy Within Israeli Society	Dr. Eitan Alimi
Ben Lev Kadash	Tourist sites in the shadow of a national conflict: structuring collective memory and national narratives, in the context of the Zionist-Arab conflict, threw tourist sites in Israel.	Dr. Dimitri Shomski and Dr. Amos Ron
Shira Kudish	The role of emotional preferences in political socialization of children in the context of intractable conflict	Prof. Maya Tamir, Prof. Eran Halperin, Dr. Michal Reifen Tagar
Elad Ayalon	The acceptance of responsibility in testimonies of IDF soldiers given in the context of 'Breaking the Silence'.	Dr. Zohar Kampf
Zvi Fuchs	From political violence to civil war	Dr. Danny Miodownik

We Congratulate Chen Mor for completing her thesis work supervised by Prof. Ifat Maoz and **Moshe Nuriel** for completing his thesis work supervised by Prof. Elie Podeh and Dr. Oriah Forman.

Colloquium Seminars And Lectures

During the academic year 2014-15 six lectures and seminars were held in the framework of the Swiss Center colloquium. These lectures cover a variety of topics, relevant to conflict, peace, and inter-group relations from psychological, political, media related and sociological perspectives.

In cooperation with *the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations* we hosted a special series of lectures related to international relations and conflict resolution during the spring semester. Three scholars presented their works on the subtleties of the breakthroughs and failures in past Israeli peacemaking; interethnic conciliation in severely divided societies; and the relations between demography and national security. The series of lectures attracted both current and former students and teachers in the conflict research program, as well as research students from other programs at the Hebrew University.

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



First Semester Seminars

Lecture title: **Studying Women's Role in Peacemaking: Insecurity, Hope and Silence in Israel**

Lecturer: **Dr. Sarai Aharoni**
Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Opening Comments: **Prof. Ifat Maoz**

Date: Monday, November 24, 2014
Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus

Lecture title: **Leaders, Society, Context and Change in Intractable Conflicts: A Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis**

Lecturer: **Dr. Nimrod Rosler**
Lady Davis Postdoctoral fellow, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Lecturer, Conflict Management Program, Bar-Ilan University

Opening Comments: **Dr. Yiftach Ron**

Date: Monday, December 15, 2014
Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus

Lecture title: **Democratic Peace: A Political Biography**

Lecturer: **Prof' Piki Ish - Shalom**
Department of International Relations, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Opening Comments: **Prof. Ifat Maoz**

Date: Monday, January 26, 2015
Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus



Second Semester Seminars

In collaboration with Dr. Danny Miodownik from the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations.

Lecture title: **Intractable conflict: Factors for breakthroughs and (mainly) failures in past Israeli peacemaking**

Lecturer: **Prof. Galia Golan**

Professor Emeritus of the Hebrew University and Professor of government at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at the Interdisciplinary Center

Abstract: Factors behind transformation of intractable conflict have been suggested by Coleman of Columbia and Kriesberg of Syracuse. My recent book examines the factors that made for the breakthroughs or failures in Israeli peacemaking efforts since 1967. Drawing from the lessons learned, the talk will also deal with possible “corrections” for future negotiations.

Opening Comments: Dr. Danny Miodownik

Date: Monday, March 16, 2015
Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus

Lecture title: **Approaches to Interethnic Conciliation in Severely Divided Societies**

Lecturer: **Prof. Donald Horowitz**

Professor of Law and Political Science Emeritus at Duke University

Abstract: There are two main approaches to interethnic conciliation in severely divided societies. One of these, the consociational, relies on a set of agreed guarantees for all ethnic groups. The other, the centripetal approach, rests on incentives for political leaders of ethnic groups to behave moderately toward the interests of groups other than their own. Both approaches aim at interethnic compromise and accommodation, but through different methods. Touching just briefly on the relative efficacy of the two methods, this lecture will deal principally with the matter of their problematic adoptability and durability.

Opening Comments: Dr. Danny Miodownik

Date: Monday, April 20, 2015
Media Room no. 32, Central Library, Mount Scopus Campus

Lecture title: **Demography and national security**

Lecturer: **Prof. Monica Toft**

Professor of Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

Abstract: On January 17, 1979 the sixth all-Union census was conducted across what was once the Soviet Union, which revealed that the character of the population of the Union had undergone and would likely continue to undergo enormous change. One of the most alarming of the trends revealed by this census was the low birth-rate among the European peoples relative to their Central Asian compatriots. The results were so worrisome to Soviet officials that publication of the census was delayed for five years. The timing of this census was critical as 1979 proved a watershed in terms of conflict along the Union’s southern periphery, including war and revolution in Afghanistan and Iran. This period represented a sobering turn of events in a state with vast coercive and material resources, which had sustained three generations of heroic efforts to create *homo sovieticus*. But the census underlined that to its leaders and many beyond the Urals and to the South that these efforts were failing. The disintegration of any state—whether slow or fast, whether at war or at peace—is necessarily a complex matter, and each case is at root unique. However, the demographic dynamics that unpin any state are critical for understanding whether and how the demise of a state might come about.

Opening Comments: Dr. Danny Miodownik

Date: Monday, June 15, 2015
Room 405, Maierdsdorf Faculty Club



Conference

The Marguerite Wolff Annual Seminar

The Gatekeepers: Media and political processes in the Middle East

“The Gatekeepers” conference was held on December 29-30, 2014, at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This conference was organized and conducted as a joint project of the Swiss Center for Conflict Research with the Smart Family Institute of Communication, The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace and the Department of Communication and Journalism.

Chairmen, managers and organizers of the conference were: Prof. Raya Morag, Prof. Ifat Maoz, Prof. Esther Schely-Newman, Professor Menahem Blondheim and Tal Shenhav.

Writing about the conference - Prof. Moshe Maoz, The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace:

This is a time of unprecedented revolution and critical developments in Arab countries and in the relations between Israel and the Palestinians, with internal, regional and global effects: on the one hand, the uprisings of the “Arab spring”, free and democratic elections in Arab countries and the rise of Islamic regimes, when in Tunisia The new regime is also democratic-liberal. On the other hand, the appearance of radical Islamic organizations, such as Isis and Jabhat al-Nusra, who conquered large parts of Syria and Iraq, and threaten their territorial integrity and the neighbouring countries. And in between, further deterioration in the relations between Israel and the Palestinians, began operation Protective Edge in Gaza to the growth of a Muslim-Jewish “religious war”, Regarding the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Regional powers like Iran and Turkey, and international powers - the US and Russia were involved in these developments, competing for strategic, political and economic influence in the area. There are number of risks in affairs assessment and reporting in this complex, using one-sided approaches, biased, disinformation, concealment of facts and figures and the preference of the heart.

Media and the academia in Israel should be “Gate Keepers” in front of these negative trends, and their purpose is to report and analyze the various developments in an open, balanced and impartial way as possible. Researchers and participants in this conference are indeed responsible for these positive attitudes, as well as cooperation and dialogues between Israelis and Arabs. The Hebrew University and the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, in particular, has a long record and productive of such positive dialogues, the Smart Family Institute of Communication and the Department of Communication and Journalism specialized in issues of communication, conflict resolution and peace, on various aspects of them, and the Swiss Center for Conflict Research has a long and based tradition in teaching and research interdisciplinary about conflict and resolution. The “Gate Keepers” conference and additional activities of these organizations in particular and the Hebrew University in general, on issues of cooperation, dialogue, and presenting different and complexity perspectives, including critical perspective on issues related to conflict, negate the claims of international organizations such as “BDS” to ban Israeli academia.

The conference was very successful, interesting and varied and attracted many people that came and participated.

Two sessions were devoted to the film “The Gatekeepers”. The discussions focused on issues that arose from the movie and on the complex relationship with the Palestinians over the years. Participants: The director of the film, Dror Moreh, and security officials: Carmi Gillon (former head of the Shabak and vice president of the Hebrew University), Reuven Merhav (formerly senior Mossad and Shabak and Foreign Ministry Director) and Danny Yatom (formerly Mossad Chief, the military secretary of Prime Minister Rabin and Chief of Staff of Prime Minister Barak).

The lectures were interesting, enriching, and engaged in political and cultural processes in the Middle East: Communication and Media in the Arab world, politics, conflict, gender and identity, relations between Israeli Jews and Palestinians and more.





 האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

המכון למחקר ע"ש טרומן למען קידום השלום
 המחלקה לתקשורת וחינוך
 The Smart Family Institute of Communication
 The Swiss Center for Conflict Research
 מרכז שווייץ לחקר סכסוכים בינלאומיים

המכון לתקשורת ע"ש משפחת סמארט בשיתוף עם מרכז שווייץ לחקר סכסוכים, ניהולם ויישומם, המכון למחקר ע"ש ה. טרומן למען קידום השלום והמחלקה לתקשורת ועיתונות ע"ש נח מוזס

"שומרי הסף": תקשורת ותהליכים תרבותיים ופוליטיים במזרח התיכון
 בתמיכת מכון לוי אשכול לחקר החברה, הכלכלה והמדיניות בישראל

30-29 לדצמבר 2014, האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים, הר הצופים

יושבי ראש הכנס:
 פרופ' רינה מורג, פרופ' יפעת מעוז, פרופ' אסתר שלי-נימן, פרופ' מנחם בלונדהיים וד"ר טל שנהב

יום שני ה- 29 לדצמבר
 נתיקים אולם אבא זבן, סוכן טרומן (10:00 עד 14:00)

התכנית:
 10:00 - 10:30 **ברכות**
 כרוזי מנחם בן ששון, נשיא האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
 כרוזי מנחם בלונדהיים, ראש מכון טרומן
 כרוזי אסתר שלי-נימן, ראש המחלקה לתקשורת
 כרוזי יפעת מעוז, ראש מרכז שווייץ
 כרוזי רינה מורג, ראש סוכן סמארט

10:30 - 10:35 **מושב ראשון: תקשורת בעולם הערבי**
 כרוזי טל שנהב

10:35 - 12:00 **ד"ר טל שנהב - בשם השלטון: סלידתה מסלמתה במדינת ערב לפני ואחרי "האביב הערבי"**
 ד"ר גבי בראל - המאבק בין התקשורת הימנה לחופש על עיבוד סרטי השיח אחרי הסתבכה במצרים
 אדם הפלמן - שומרי הסף: הרעיון העולמי

12:30 - 12:40 **המסקה קפה**

12:45 - 12:30 **מושב שני: מדיה חדשים ומדיה חדשה**
 כרוזי ליטל פתמן

12:30 - 13:45 **המסקה סמלולוגיה: תקשורת ומדיה חדשה**
 כרוזי גדי אלמסטרל ומרכז המידע Social media and the Arab Spring: Politics comes first
 ד"ר רינה מוזס - דעות בשערך התיקון שימשו במסגרת להפצת האסלאם באיטליה

13:45 - 13:45 **המסקה צהרית**

נתיקים חדר המורה 32 בסביבה המרכזית (14:30 עד 20:00)

16:00 - 14:30 **מושב שלישי: קהלים, דמויות, סליטיקה ואודור**
 ד"ר מיטל בלסס

16:00 - 14:30 **הואיל דיווחים וסרטים יפעת מעוז - "ראשון עם סמלולוגיה": הניסוחים סמלולוגיים ומודרניים של תהליכי התקבלות**
 אסתר סיגל - ייצוג זהויות סמלולוגיות כהרפתקה בקולנוע המצרי
 יפעת רון - יהודית ופוקרטיזם דמוייים: ייצוג עצמיים וזרים בתמיסת פוליטית בעקבות השיחה של יהודים-ישראלים לרטיב המלטיני

16:30 - 16:00 **המסקה קפה**

16:30 - 16:30 **מושב רביעי: זהות ומבנה החיים בין יהודים-ישראלים למלטינים**
 כרוזי אל שנהב

16:30 - 16:30 **כרוזי דוד יליצקי-סרסני, דוברת הפקולטה למדעי החברה - חג לכולם על חיים, זהות, המדינה וקולקטיב ישראלי**
 כרוזי רינה מורג - לקראת "קרבות דם" בין סכסוך לשותף בקולנוע הדוקומנטרי הישראלי
 הקרנת סצנת סוף הסרט "שומרי הסף"

יום שלישי ה- 30 לדצמבר
 נתיקים אולם אבא זבן, סוכן טרומן (12:00 עד 18:00)

התכנית:
 12:30 - 12:00 **מושב שמיני: עיתונות, זהות ומדיה חדשה**
 כרוזי חסיה שפי

12:30 - 14:15 **אירכיוס משותף - Dilemmas of Palestinian Journalists in the war in Gaza in summer 2014**
 ד"ר גרן טובוביץ-זבלס וד"ר גריטלון בארן - Four murdered youths making the news: How journalism transforms source information into conflict coverage
 כרוזי מוסטפא כהנא - העיתונות הערבית בישראל
 בערבולת סעודי הזהות
 יפעת רון - כיצד התקשורת המלטינית משתמשת ואסטרטג את התקשורת הישראלית

14:15 - 14:30 **מושב שמיני: עיתונות, זהות ומדיה חדשה**
 כרוזי חסיה שפי

14:30 - 14:30 **מושב שמיני: עיתונות, זהות ומדיה חדשה**
 כרוזי חסיה שפי

14:30 - 16:00 **מושב שישי: פרספקטיבות חדשות על תקשורת בסכסוך**
 כרוזי אסתר שלי-נימן
 סאיה דה-כריס, אנסמבלן סטרי מורלי יפעת מעוז
 כנו שטר טל מוזס - כיצד אגוס סלידנות מלטינת בקרב המלטינים בירושלים המודרנית במלחמה בעזה בקיץ 2014
 ד"ר מיטל בלסס - "הרעיון של הקונפליקט" כמות של פרסונליזציה בסיקור הסכסוך הישראלי-מלטיני במדיה הבלטורית
 ד"ר ניקולס בן - I don't Like you any more: Political Facebook unfriending during the Gaza conflict in Summer 2014

The public is invited
 For more information contact: swisscenter@trumaninstitute.huji.ac.il
 המזנה 4 מנחה: עיסה כריסה לתנן סעודי הרצון
 נא להצטרף עם השדרה והשתתף בהזמנה זו



Right to Left: Prof. Esther Schely-Newman, Head of the Communication and Journalism Department
Prof. Raya Morag, Head of the Smart Family Institute of Communication
Prof. Ifat Maoz, Head of the Swiss Center for Conflict Research



Speaking: Prof. Menahem Blondheim, Head of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace
Sitting (Right to Left): Prof. Raya Morag, Head of the Smart Family Institute of Communication
Prof. Ifat Maoz, Head of the Swiss Center for Conflict Research
Prof. Esther Schely-Newman, Head of the Communication and Journalism Department



Speaking: Dr. Yftach Ron, Coordinator of the departmental seminar and Academic Projects at the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Communication and Journalism Department



Right to Left: Prof. Elie Podeh, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
Prof. Raya Morag, Head of the Smart Family Institute of Communication
Prof. Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, Dean of the Social Science Faculty



Speaking: Danny Yatom, formerly Mossad Chief, the military secretary of Prime Minister Rabin and Chief of Staff of Prime Minister Barak
Sitting (Right to Left): Prof. Menahem Blondheim, Head of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace
Prof. Raya Morag, Head of the Smart Family Institute of Communication
Carmi Gillon, former head of the Israel Security Agency and vice president of the Hebrew University
Dror Moreh, Director of the movie "Gatekeepers"



Speaking: Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt, Communication and Journalism Department, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research



Speaking: Ashraf El-Agarmi, Former minister at the Palestinian Authority



Speaking: Maya De-Vries, graduated from the The Swiss Center for conflict Research in 2011, today the coordinator of the Swiss Center Internship Program

The Swiss Center Internship Program For Outstanding Students

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

The participation in the internship program involves a selection process, and only outstanding students are accepted. The Internship program is conducted in a framework of a larger project of the Hebrew University Faculty of Social Science, Directed by Dr. Shaul Shenhav and supported by the Dean of the Social Science Faculty, Professor Vered Vinitzky- Serrousi. The Swiss Center is pioneering in applying this program to outstanding Masters students.



Ms. Maya De Vries supervised our students during the Internship and wrote a summery aboute the experience:

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

The participation in the internship program involves a selection process, and only outstanding students are accepted. The Internship program is part of a larger project of the Hebrew University Faculty of Social Science, Directed by Dr. Shaul Shenhav and supported by the Dean of the Social Science Faculty, Professor Vered Vinitzky- Serrousi.

This year was unique since the it was an election year and the Knesset (Israeli parliament), which is a central internship place, wasn't open for our students. Nevertheless, we manged to intergrate our students in excelnet internships such as: The Israeli Public Radio ("Kol Israel"), The Israeli Central Bearuoe of Statistics, The Knessete TV channel, The Sartegic Dept. within the office of the President of the state of Israel, the Jeruaslem Muncipility and the Israeli Museuem.

As part of the internship the studnets are obliged to particpte in an academic course which is divided to class meetings and 'one-on-one' meetings. Alongside their pratcal work the students are expected to hand in a final paper relating directly to their intersnhip. Hence, thrghouout the course the studnets were exposed to various reserch methods, focousing on qualtaive methods. In this manner, the students worked intensively, throughpout the year finding a research question, chossing a proper method and creating the resesarch outline.

At the end of the academic year the students presented their resesarch outline in a a format of a poster as part of a formal graduation ceremnoy with the particiaption of repretetives from the organizaions and the Dean of the Social Science Faculty, Professor Vered Vinitzky-Serrousi.



The graduates of the Intership Program

Youth Peace Initiative

Embarking on the Youth Peace Initiative

A mere few weeks after the past summer's war, an Israeli student delegation and a Palestinian group from the West Bank, joined delegates from other conflict and post-conflict regions (such as Northern Ireland, Cyprus, or Korea) as well as young representatives from the EU and the United States to jumpstart the Youth Peace Initiative (YPI) in The Hague. Three M.A students from the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, a B.A student from the Hebrew University, and an M.A student from TAU were chosen to represent Israel.

In Holland, they partook in dialogue and negotiation sessions with their Palestinian counterparts.

The summit in Holland was both enriching and challenging. Policy discussions often formed the basis for deeply personal exchanges on personal experiences of the conflict and beliefs held by each society on the other. None of the Israeli students had previously had any opportunity for close encounters with Palestinian youths. Though each group lives only a short car ride away from each other, they evolve in parallel yet fully separate universes. During the days prior to the beginning of negotiation sessions at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, personal bonds strengthened between the Israeli and Palestinian representatives. The trust established between the two delegation has been the driving force of this program throughout the year in Jerusalem.

The group is bound by a common declaration of intent - "Our Common Future" - made public at the end of the summit in Holland. The Israeli and Palestinians members of the YPI committed to a full year of continued dialogue and policy discussions. Despite the ongoing violence in Jerusalem



and in the West Bank, the delegations have met twice at the Truman Institute at the Hebrew University this year, and their exchanges are ongoing. Several members of the Israeli delegation have been involved in the organization of a non-partisan event at the Truman Institute this year during the Israeli legislative campaign to encourage candidates to detail their vision of the future of the region, and their own "peace plan". The Truman Institute has continuously advised the Israeli delegation, and supported the Palestinian delegation in securing necessary permits. With the support of the Dutch Representation in Ramallah, the Dutch Steering Committee remains actively involved in the facilitation of the coordination between the two delegations. Three main ideas have been at the core of the activities of the Israeli student delegates of the YPI this year.

1. They have been confronted with the complexity of maintaining relationships established in a protected environment abroad upon their return to the region, and have remained committed to their engagement to pursue regular meetings despite ongoing violence. They have recognized the inherent ambivalence of their Palestinian counterparts as to their own continued participation, and sought to provide opportunities for dialogue on their situation, and their narratives of conflict. On the Palestinian side, buoyant hopes have sometimes given way to despair - leading some members to briefly leave their national delegation. Though the contacts are ongoing, expectations have been revised to match the current capacities of the Palestinian representatives, and support has been extended by the Truman Institute.
2. As outlined in The Hague, the students involved in the YPI do not envision peace just as the end result of a political process, but also as a process itself. While they recognize the limitation of processes involving members of the civil societies, they see grassroots initiatives as critical to the formulation of inclusive conflict resolution policies. Further, both Israeli and Palestinian representatives of the YPI share a belief that the involvement of publics that have been traditionally wary of dialogue is key to producing inclusive policies to advance conflict resolution.
3. The Israeli students involved in the YPI, thus, have advocated that multi-party discussions on peace and visions for the future of the region must be promoted *within* Israeli society. They have formulated ideas to the Truman Institute and hope to continue advancing the creation of a Young Policy Forum bringing together student leaders from various political

sensibilities to parallel the process with the Palestinian delegation with an intra-national discussion on Israel's future. Attending the YPI summit was a defining moment for the students involved - providing them with an opportunity for hands-on experience in negotiation and dialogue. The bond between the representatives on the Israeli and the Palestinian side has not broken, despite a year of renewed conflict.

Personal reports

Rinah Lipsky, M.A. student, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research

My experience in the Youth Peace Initiative was life changing. The experience allowed me to understand many things that I was convinced I already knew prior to that week in The Hague. I began to actually understand that we are all human beings that want to live full, happy and secure lives. I understood how similar both societies are - mirroring one another -, and at the same time I learned to feel comfortable with our many differences. My experience over the year following the week in The Hague was no less important. I learned to understand how complicated it would be to translate into reality all the hopes and dreams we all shared in The Hague. I learned how to keep my expectations high but not to lose sight of the differences between our societies; the different experiences, motivations, goals and capabilities. This year taught me a lot about the importance of strengthening the Israeli society, not in a militant sense, but rather in a sense of leaning on one another for strength, creativity, hope and light in times of difficulty and darkness. This conflict is ongoing and complex. There are endless reasons and explanations as to why it can't be resolved based on the past and the present. I choose the unknown, the more difficult option, which requires me to prove that there is an alternative. I choose to believe that our future can be different. I choose to be committed to translating my belief into a sustainable, practical reality. I believe that we can create change, each in his or her way.



Itamar Ben Israel, B.A. student, Political Sciences and Middle-Eastern Studies

As I left for The Hague, I packed my books on the conflict, and polished ready-to-draw arguments for our debates. A few hours after our landing in Holland, I decided to leave the books at the bottom of my suitcase, and I gave up on the responses I had prepared ahead of time. Slowly, the rehearsed arguments, which we have heard and grown tired of, disappeared from our conversations. I shared my personal life experience, I told the stories of my family and my friends in Israel. I listened to the stories of our new Palestinian friends. Slowly, we each spoke of our pain and our past. We spoke of our dreams for a better and more peaceful future. Our talks happened all the time. We spoke wherever we could, or more exactly, wherever I felt relieved of the pressure of formal representation. We spoke on the bus to the Peace Palace, at the table of our evening meal in the Dutch parliament building, or during a cruise along Amsterdam's canals. To me, these discussions were most enriching, much more than any of the formal visits. They were rich of revelations and mutual understanding. In these discussions, we all found - Israelis and Palestinians - true partners. We share much more than our cultural curiosities, our food, or our preference for hot weather. We share a vision for a better reality. The reality after coming back from The Hague was not easy. Our discussions with the Palestinian delegation became more difficult when the situation became more tense in the region. One of the most difficult exchanges happened about two months after our return from the Hague around the death of Ziad Abu-Ein, a Palestinian minister. For me, as an Israeli, he was a terrorist. He killed two teenagers in Tiberias years ago. For my Palestinian friend, Abu-Ein was a respected political leader, and an important figure in his life. However, the moments of tension have made the little dots of hope more salient: our personal bond is still there, we understand that the situation is complicated during times of crisis, we've met twice at the Truman Institute. Hope must be found in our small successes. There are already several of these: the permanent permits given to the Palestinian delegation to travel to Israel, the mentoring provided by Nidal Fuqaha of the PCC to the Palestinian representatives, the willingness expressed by the Dutch Steering Committee to continue supporting us.

This being said, one of the most important lessons for me this year has been in recognizing the need for dialogue within Israel. In the fights with my amazing friends from the delegation, we certainly do not agree on every single policy matter, but we know how to conduct an inclusive, respectful, honest discussion based on our readiness to hear each other out. It is only this kind of discussion that can provide Israeli society with original solutions to resolve this conflict and still stay united.



Perle Nicolle, M.A. Student, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research

Attending YPI with Team Israel was probably one of the most inspiring moments of my life. Something in me changed, I thought. It wasn't about *believing* that something could be done despite the odds and despite my experience with violence and terror. I suddenly *knew* that peace was reachable. The personal bond with the Palestinian representatives of the YPI made me believe that we have partners. It's about knowing how much young Palestinians hope for a different future too, and becoming able to hope together. I had never had a long and complex conversation with West Bank Palestinians before that week. I never had imagined that we may become actual friends or that we would get to a point where our differences are so obvious that they do not matter anymore – because, together, we're desperately looking for our similarities. I left The Hague imbued with hope that wasn't at all "cautious" despite what our document said. The fact that we had contemplated options together, and refused to even discuss a shallow agreement reenacting previously held negotiations with leaders on our two sides to prefer to engage into deep conversations about our narratives indicated to me that something different had happened between us. We could not agree on much in The Hague, but we were ready to agree to disagree. We'd found a common language to listen to each other, and express our identities. This hope was the strength I needed to risk failing and to keep believing in the infinitesimal possibility that we may succeed in having an influence, in pushing our societies towards a practical resolution of the conflict. After a year of action in Jerusalem coordinating between the teams, I now know how much the task we took upon ourselves is daunting - but I am not willing to give up. Not all of our hopes have come true, but we have had successes. Our shared commitment to continue speaking, despite several too-close-for-comfort encounters of some of us with the violence of this year, is one such success. Receiving the Palestinian delegation in my home, and succeeding in holding there a deep discussion about the situation in Jerusalem and the West Bank, is another one.

Another, to my mind, is the ongoing discussion within the Israeli delegation. We come from different backgrounds and political sensibilities. Our attempt to present the Palestinian delegation with an honest account of our society's beliefs has challenged us to connect with the publics that traditionally reject the very possibility of peace in an attempt to include their voices to our own. It has made us critically aware in the need to promote discussion about Israel's future and plans for the region within Israeli society.

Chen Reuveni, M.A. Student, the Swiss Center for Conflict Research

The Youth Peace Initiative conference in The Hague was a unique experience that will remain vivid for me for many more years to come. During this intense week, we took part in significant formal events and we had the opportunity to conduct deep conversations with young Palestinians who were open-minded and expressed their will to listen to us. This was indeed an emotional roller coaster. I felt anger and sadness mixed with hope and happiness. Eventually, after an amazing but hard process in which both sides put a lot of efforts, I believe that we reached mutual understanding, based on trust and respect for each other. At the end of the conference we came out with a piece of paper that proved our ability to talk and listen even though it is hard, but in my opinion the visible outcome was not the most important matter. The personal relations that had developed during the week between the two sides, in addition to the internal process that each participant had gone through, were even more important and would have a bigger influence in the future. Retrospectively, I believe this is the case.

Since the end of the conference in The Hague, we have met the Palestinian delegation couple of times in Jerusalem, mostly in the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace. We sat together around the table and talked about current events and the complicated situation. The fact that we met in Jerusalem after the conference in The Hague, despite the violence, is a success in my opinion. However, we have struggled to create a stable mechanism for meetings and decision making. My hope for the future is that we will continue our meetings in Jerusalem, and Ramallah as well, while inspiring to deepen our conversations and deal in depth with the core issues of the conflict. The future meetings must deal with policy with regards to the conflict but not only. Our narratives are at the core of our trust. We now need to bridge over the gaps between them.

The Youth Peace Initiative web site: <http://kindvanderekening.org>.



The Israeli deligation from right to left: Chen Reuveni, Itamar Ben-Israel, Rina Lipsky, Dana Raz, Perle Nicole. In the middle: Chaim Divon (Ambassador of Israel to the Netherlands) and his wife Linda Divon.



From right to left: Iman Atri (Palestinian deligation), Dr. Nabil Abu-Ziad (The Palestinian Authority's representative in the Hague), Chaim Divon (Ambassador of Israel to the Netherlands), Rina Lipsky.

The Swiss Center Focus On Young Researchers

(Master Thesis, Doctoral And
Postdoctoral Students)



Maya de Vries

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

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



Rotem Nagar

My current research deals with *(Non)Acknowledgment of Rights as a Barrier to Conflict Resolution: Predicting Jewish-Israeli Attitudes towards the Palestinian Demand to National Self-Determination*. My research aims to explore a major barrier to conflict resolution: the unwillingness to acknowledge or recognize the basic rights of the other side in situations of conflict. Recognizing the rights of out-groups is especially important in asymmetric intergroup relations, where marginalized social-political groups, national groups or even states -- that see themselves as unjustly neglected, excluded, and discriminated against -- demand recognition of their basic rights. Although unwillingness to acknowledge the rights of out-groups constitutes a major barrier to the resolution of protracted asymmetric conflicts (Maoz & McCauley, 2008), this barrier has received little systematic research attention. My research examines psychological and ideological correlates underlying the (un)willingness to recognize the out-group as having the right to national self-determination in the asymmetrical and protracted conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. In addition, the research discusses implications for understanding moral concern in conflict and for applying the “barriers” approach in other settings of asymmetrical conflict.

Rotem Nagar graduated in honor from the Swiss Center for conflict Research and from The Department of Sociology at the Hebrew University in 2011. Today she is a doctoral student at the Department of Communication (supervisor: Professor Ifat Maoz). She is also a qualified mediator and a vice director at the Mosaica Conflict Resolution Center, which develops models and paradigms of conflict resolution and Communication at the grassroots level as well as at the theoretical micro level.



Dr. Yiftach Ron

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

Dr. Yiftach Ron is a Lecturer, Academic Projects Coordinator and Methodological Advisor in The Swiss Center for conflict Research, Management and resolution, and a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Harry S. Truman Research Institute. He is currently at the course of submitting his Ph.D in the Department of Communication and Journalism at the Hebrew University (Supervisors: Professor Ifat Maoz and Dr. Zvi Bekerman).



Dr. Nimrod Rosler

My research project seeks to study how political leaders mobilize social support and legitimacy in the context of a peace process. The project aims at exploring the understudied area of leadership in the field of conflict resolution by conducting a comparative study of leaders of both sides in various conflicts around the world. My use of a comparative research design is intended to broaden our understanding of the challenges peace processes pose to societies accustomed to living under intractable conflict and the role leaders play in meeting these and inaugurating change.

Dr. Nimrod Rosler is currently a Lady Davis post-doctoral fellow at the Swiss Center for Conflict Research. He received his Ph.D. in 2012 from the Swiss Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and spent the last two years as a Visiting Israel Professor at the Center for Global and International Studies, the University of Kansas, on behalf of AICE-Schusterman foundation.



Swiss Center Faculty Research

Selected recent publications by Swiss Center faculty members:



Prof. Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov

Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov, *Barriers to Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (Jerusalem: The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, 2010).

Bar-Siman-Tov, Y. (2010). Introduction: Barriers to Conflict Resolution. In Y. Bar-Siman-Tov (Ed.). *Barriers to Peace: The Israeli Palestinian-Conflict*. Jerusalem: The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, pp. 15-26.

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Prof. Ilana Ritov

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Prof. Ilan Yaniv

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Prof. Gabriel Horenczyk

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Prof. Ifat Maoz

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Dr. Zohar Kampf

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Dr. Dan Miodownik

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Dr. Yehudith Auerbach

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Dr. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt

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Dr. Itay Fischhendler

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Plans For The 2015-16 Academic Year

After nearly two decades of activity, the Swiss Center is clearly the main center in its field in Israel.

We plan to continue developing both the study program and the Center, which, we believe, can contribute not only to the academic research and teaching regarding conflict and conflict resolution but also to public discourse in Israel regarding the important topics of conflict management, peace and reconciliation and living in a multicultural society. We will continue and expand our collaboration with other universities, research institutions and organizations that promote dialogue and enrich the civil society. As the only Swiss Center in Israel dealing with conflict resolution and peace we will especially continue our focus on establishing a solid and fruitful connection with our major source of support and inspiration - our Swiss friends. Following the successful meeting this year with Mrs. Nadia Guth-Biasini, President, The Association of the Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem of German-speaking Switzerland, whom we warmly thank for the establishment of the Hans Guth Dreyfus Lectureship and Fund for Law and Conflict, we will work on further establishing and maintaining contact and cooperation with the Swiss Association of the Friends of the Hebrew University.

Another major goal of the Swiss Center for the coming year is to continue and develop our research program "Between conflict and dialogue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict" that includes impressive, cutting edge research projects by post-doctoral, doctoral and graduate student fellows of the Swiss Center.