

# Research

Research is one of the three cornerstones of the OUI, alongside course development and teaching. OUI faculty members conduct a broad range of research in a variety of fields, including the humanities, social sciences, natural and life sciences, the exact sciences, and engineering.

The Dean of Research, Prof. Tzahi Weiss, is in charge of the Research Authority and the OUI research institutes, and is responsible for compliance with the code of ethics. As dean, he is also chairman of the board of OpMop Ltd., the OUI's technology transfer subsidiary.

## The Research Authority

The role of the Research Authority (RA) is to encourage research and to make infrastructure and equipment available to OUI researchers; provide assistance in submitting research proposals to competitive sources of funding; and primarily, to publish papers in journals and books. The RA is a platform for promoting research and maintaining the university's high academic level, and for the development and individual progress of faculty members.

Moreover, the RA promotes research studies by OUI researchers through direct support via an internal fund for grants, scholarships for research students, and funds for travel to present research results at scientific conferences.

The RA is responsible for the financial and administrative monitoring of the research proposals submitted and funded through it, and for managing researchers' budgets. It handles researchers' needs in all matters related to physical infrastructure (labs, computers) and human resources (research students and assistants). The RA also negotiates agreements with other academic institutions to promote collaboration between OUI researchers and colleagues from other universities.

A steering committee of four senior faculty members from different disciplines oversees the work of the RA. The dean of research is the head of the committee, which sets the standards for evaluation of proposals submitted for funding by the internal fund, and for distribution of the fund's resources.

## News and developments

- For the first time, the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) has permitted the OUI to submit requests for institutional procurement grants in computing. This approval joins a personal procurement grant in computing offered to the OUI last year by the Israel Science Foundation.
- To increase its support of proposal submissions to competitive funds, the RA issued a call to submit requests for designated feasibility grants prior to submitting proposals. The purpose of these grants is to assist faculty members in submitting mature research proposals to external foundations in 2019-2020. The financial support will help ensure the appropriate research conditions that are required for submitting proposals. Nine faculty members received feasibility grants this year.
- The RA prepared a work plan to promote the participation of OUI researchers in consortiums of Horizon-2020 – the European Research and Innovation program. The plan was prepared in collaboration with researchers who expressed interest in taking an active part in the program, and was submitted to the PBC and to the Israel-Europe R&D directorate (ISERD) for approval. Following the plan's recent approval, the RA will receive an annual grant of up to NIS 100,000 for two years, which will be used for the participation of researchers in technological platforms, travels to conferences abroad to learn the outlines of the next program, participation in events organized to find prospective partners and promote consortiums, professional assistance in submitting proposals, etc.

## Research Authority events

**Scientists' Night** has been held annually in Israel and Europe since 2007, under joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Space, and the European Union. The event is designed to introduce the general public to academic research. This year's theme was "From Idea to Reality." The evening was open to the public and was attended by high school, university, and college students, OUI faculty members and administrative staff, and their families. OUI researchers and guest speakers gave lectures, and a selection of experiential workshops, diverse activities, and informal encounters with scientists took place.

## Research Centers

The three research institutes of the OUI provide a framework for interdisciplinary research in a variety of fields, and forge reciprocal and cross-departmental collaboration. The centers provide support for researchers generating new scientific knowledge, participate in the mutual exchange of ideas, and foster cooperation, collaboration, and programming with researchers and experts in Israel and abroad.

### The Institute for Policy Analysis

The Institute for Policy Analysis, headed by Dr. Izhak Berkovich, is an interdisciplinary center dedicated to the promotion of research on theoretical, empirical and applied subjects related to the correlation between policy design and implementation; and social, political, and economic processes and mechanisms. The institute was founded in 2011, and its members include most of the OUI social sciences faculty.

The Institute focuses on policy analysis and contemporary social issues, and encourages research that focuses on Israel and abroad, comparative studies, and research examining the global and international dimensions of policy design and implementation. In order to create a vibrant and productive research environment for scholars from different fields, the institute organizes local and international seminars and conferences, publishes a series of working papers, and provides research assistance to its members.

### The institute's programming this year included:

- Publication of an edited book on the IDF and Israel's market society
- Publication of a special issue of the journal *Social Security*, dedicated to public scenarios and policy
- Symposiums: Educational and Social Change in a Complex Israeli Reality
- Army and Policing
- Evening symposium in anticipation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Knesset elections
- Methodological summer workshops for researchers and PhD students

### Research Center for Innovation in Learning Technologies

The Research Center for Innovation in Learning Technologies, headed by Prof. Ina Blau, explores the integration of innovative technologies in teaching and learning processes. The Center encourages research by OUI faculty aimed at improving the understanding of teaching and learning processes in technology-rich environments, and the integration of innovative technologies in the teaching of academic courses, particularly at the OUI. The institute was founded in 2010 to replace the Chais Center for the Integration of Technology in Education, which had been active since 2004. The institute currently includes fifty faculty members from various departments, and one part-time research fellow. It works in close cooperation with the OUI Center for Technology in Distance Education (Shoham). A key goal of the institute is to create a solid community of Israeli researchers whose members keep close contact with each other. To this end it organizes regular academic events, including research seminars, symposia, and conferences.

In 2019, the Center held three symposia for the general public, and six seminars in which members of the Center, guest researchers, and post-graduate students presented their research studies.

Following is a selection of research studies conducted by members of the Center:

**Prof. Ina Blau, Dr. Gal Ben-Yehudah, and Prof. Yoram Eshet-Alkalay:** "Developing Basic Digital Literacy Skills in Language-rich Subjects among Hebrew and Arabic Speakers"

**Dr. Avner Caspi, Dr. Shir Etgar, Prof. Gitit Kavé, and Prof. Sonia Roccas:** "Symbolic Value of Devices"

**Dr. Shir Etgar, Dr. Avner Caspi, and Prof. Gitit Kavé:** "Technological Devices and their Effect on Subjective Age"

**Dr. Shir Etgar, Dr. Ravit Nussinson, Prof. Ina Blau, and Prof. Yoram Eshet-Alkalay:** "Explanations for Punishment Disparities in Different Types of Academic Plagiarism"

**Shlomit Hadad, Dr. Hagit Meishar-Tal, and Prof. Ina Blau:** "Why do Parents Object to using Smart Phones as Teaching-Learning Tools in School?"

**Prof. Yoram Kalman, Prof. Keri K., Stephens, and Prof. Dron. M. Mandhana:** "A Goal-based Framework Integrating Disparate Media Choice Theories"

**Dr. Ronen Kasperski, Prof. Ina Blau, Dr. Gal Ben-Yehudah, and Prof. Yoram Eshet-Alkalay:** "Teaching Digital Literacy in the Education System: Gaps between the Teachers' Perspective and Classroom Reality"

**Dr. Yael Sidi, Prof. Ina Blau, Dr. Tamar Shamir-Inbal, and Rivka Yarkoni:** "Behavior in a Hyper-Video Academic Environment: The Contribution of Annotations to Teaching-Learning Processes"

**Dr. Yael Sidi and Prof. Yoram Eshet-Alkalay:** "Learning Processes and Reading Meta-Cognition in Hyper-Text Environments"

**Amir Winer and Prof. Nitza Geri:** "Use of Learning Analytics to Improve Performances in Educational Institutes"

## Chais Conference 2019

The 2019 Chais Conference was the 14<sup>th</sup> in the annual series of research conferences initiated by the Research Center for Innovation in Learning Technologies. The conference provides a forum for leading researchers and professionals in the field of innovation and learning technologies in Israel to present their research. The conference contributes to the formation of an Israeli community of learning technology researchers and the positioning of the OUI as a leader in the field.

This year, the conference was attended by 400 researchers, students and professionals. The program included 14 full-length lectures, 19 flash lectures, two workshops, one round table, and 29 posters. The two opening lectures were given by Prof. Marco Kalz of Heidelberg University, who lectured on "Learning in the Digital Society," and by Prof. Bart Rienties of the Open University of the UK, who lectured on "The Power of Learning Analytics."

## The Center for the Study of Relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims

The Center for the Study of Relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims (JCM), headed by Prof. Avriël Bar Levav, holds events for researchers and for the public that engage in topics related to its goals, supports research groups, and presents the findings with a view to enhancing understanding and interaction between the religions.

### In 2019, the institute held several conferences, workshops, and symposia:

- The theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> annual international conference was "Present and Past – The Perception of Tradition in the Three Religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam." Among the participants were Prof. Simon Goldhill of Cambridge University, Prof. Yossi Schwartz and Prof. Aviad Kleinberg of Tel Aviv University, and Prof. Moshe Idel of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- The institute, in collaboration with Hamburg University, ran an international research workshop entitled "Ethical [Musar] Literature in Judaism, Christianity and Islam," with the participation of researchers from Israel and from abroad.

- Symposia were held for the general public on the following topics: "Converts and Proselytes – Then and Now," "Book production in Judaism, Christianity and Islam" (in collaboration with Lamda, The Open University of Israel Press), and "Religious Feminism." The film "Private Death" was screened, followed by a panel discussion with director Mariana Barr, Prof. Mustafa Kabha, and Dr. Yael Munk.

#### Divan sessions of 2019:

- **Prof. Kais Firro:** "Arab Thought during the Nahda Era: Between Modernism and Tradition"
- **Dr. Roni Beer Marx:** "Paper Walls: The Newspaper as a Social Reality Designer – The Case of the Journal Halebanon"
- **Prof. Haggai Erlich:** "Haile Selassie – a Historic Icon"
- **Dr. Kamal Moed:** "The Modern Educational Teachings of Khalil Al-Sakakini"
- **Adam Raz:** "The Kafr Qasim Massacre: A Political Biography"
- **Dr. Lior Brichta:** "Force Structuring of the IDF and the Egyptian Army after the Sinai Campaign"

## Research Infrastructure

OUI policy encourages collaboration with other academic institutions in order to find satisfactory solutions for faculty members who require experimental research infrastructure. In the past year, an experimental laboratory was set up for Dr. Ravid Doron of the Department of Education and Psychology in the laboratory building of Hadassh Ein Kerem Medical Center biotechnological park. As part of this project, a laboratory animal facility was built for the first time at the OUI for behavioral experiments with lab rats.

**OpMop Ltd.** is a technology transfer subsidiary of the Open University. The OUI creates new knowledge, which is defined as intellectual property. As a public academic institution, the OUI has an interest in putting to use the commercial potential of new knowledge for the benefit of society and the economy, and producing income for the university that will serve in turn to promote its goals. OpMop Ltd. works on

behalf of commercialization and transfer of knowledge to the industry and the marketplace.

In 2017, the Israel Innovation Authority awarded OpMop a first research grant as part of the Kamin Incentive Program aimed at directing and transferring knowledge from academia to industry. The research is based on a collaboration between Prof. Ofer Reany from the OUI's Department of Natural and Life Sciences and Prof. Gabriel Lemcoff from Ben-Gurion University, and is titled "Thermal and Photochemical Polymerization of Dicyclopentadiene (DCPD) Monomers for Innovative Applications in 3-D Printing." In 2018, the Israel Innovation Authority awarded the research a grant for another year.

## Individual Research Grants from External Funds

This year, 11 research grants and fellowships from external funds were approved.

### Grants from the Israel Science Foundation

#### Individual research grants:

**Dr. Mohammad Massalha and Dr. Gal Levy,** Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication, "Citizenship Education in Israel in the Eyes of Young Adults."

**Prof. Igor Rahinov,** Department of Natural Sciences, "Combustion Synthesis of Iron Oxide Nanoparticles."

**Prof. Ofer Reany,** Department of Natural Sciences, "Direct Conversion of Alcohols and Derivatives to Halides: Development of Sustainable Chemistries."

**Dr. Efrat Shust,** Department of Management and Economics, "Does Family Ownership Affect Cost Behavior?"

#### Workshop grants:

**Dr. Eran Fisher,** Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication, won a research workshop grant for "Algorithmic Knowledge in Culture and in the Media."

**Prof. Sonia Roccas,** in collaboration with a researcher from the Hebrew University, won a research workshop grant for "Personal Values: Personality, Context and Culture."

## Grants from other external funds

**Prof. Anat Barnea**, Department of Natural and Life Sciences, was awarded the European Commission (EU) Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks grant, 2019-2022 for "Variations in Stress Responsivity in Hens: Matching Birds to Environments."

**Dr. Hagit Cohen**, Department of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies, was awarded a research grant from the History Department of Hashomer Hatzair Yad Ya'ari, Givat Haviva, Israel, for the research project "Jewish Communist Women in the United States."

**Dr. Ravid Doron**, Department of Education and Psychology, was awarded a research grant from the National Institute for Psychobiology for "An Herbal Treatment with a Fast-Onset Anxiolytic Effect."

**Prof. Manor Mendel**, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, with Prof. Assaf Naor, Princeton University, were awarded a grant by the Binational Science Foundation for "Lipschitz and Coarse Geometry through the Lens of Banach Spaces."

**Eyal Rabin**, Department of Education and Psychology, was awarded a travel scholarship from the Fund for the Advancement of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Israel of the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities, for a two-month stay at the Centre for Education and Learning (CEL) at the Delft Technical University.

**Dr. Noam Shental**, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, was awarded a grant by The Ministry of Science and Technology and HDHL-INTIMIC Knowledge Platform on Food, Diet, Intestinal Microbiomics and Human Health, for "Creating Pan-Microbiome Associations via the dbBact Knowledge base."

**Dr. Levi Spectre**, Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, was awarded a six-year grant by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond – The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences awarded to 15 scholars and researchers from four disciplines: Philosophy, Psychology, Political Science, and Media, for "Knowledge Resistance: Causes, Consequences, and Cures."

Below are brief descriptions of two studies awarded grants by external competitive funds:

**Prof. Ofer Reany:** "Direct Conversion of Alcohols and Derivatives to Halides: Development of Sustainable Chemistries"

Most of the reactions invented and developed over the past century have been based on the use of readily available starting materials that originate from petroleum. However, if organic synthesis is to continue its development, alternative feedstock and reactions must be discovered; especially for compounds that are not found in nature, such as halogen containing compounds.

Indeed, halogenated organic compounds are synthetically produced on a large scale and used as commodities for industrial purposes. More specifically, despite the great number of available procedures for alcohol-to-halide interconversion, it is clear that there is still a dire necessity for the development of greener chemistries and sustainable processes for these kind of reactions.

This proposal aims at researching eco-friendly, step-economy and efficient halogenation reactions that can be employed with alcohols as raw materials from renewable sources. Our proposed approach is based on organocatalyst-assisted removal of the hydroxy group in a single step under mild conditions, without the need for acidic conditions or additional pretreatments via functionalization of the alcohols. Hence, we propose combining the need for the highly significant transformation of alcohols to alkyl halides with the power of thiourea as an organocatalytic agent with a safe and convenient halogen source. To the best of our knowledge, thiourea or its derivatives have never been reported as promoting catalysts in a direct halogenation reaction of alcohols.

We also hypothesize that by systematically exploring the halogenation reaction of alcohols in the presence of thioureas and using different reagents under various reaction conditions, we will be able to unveil a mechanism for this unique reaction system, which may lead to a more general discovery related to C-O bond activation by medium effects. Furthermore, we intend to explore the robustness and

tolerance of this reaction in the presence of various functional groups, its regio- and stereoselectivity with different types of alcohols, different thiourea organocatalysts and with different halogen sources. Exploration of this synthetic approach may also result in discovery for the halogenation of other types of substrates such as ethers, thiols, amines, etc.

The advantages, which make this approach an extremely exciting opportunity to strongly impact sustainable organic synthesis methodologies are: (1) alcohols are ubiquitous natural products, (2) thiourea, its derivatives and N-halosuccinimide (NHS) are relatively safe, readily available, amenable to industrial scale-up and (3) the reaction can be made highly atom efficient by recycling the succinimide by-product.

**Prof. Manor Mendel:** "Lipschitz and Coarse Geometry Through the Lens of Banach Spaces"

The theory of metric invariants will be investigated, with the goal being to export insights from the local theory of Banach spaces to metric geometry.

One of the main thrusts in this direction is the Ribe program: a long term research program to reformulate some of the central linear invariants of normed spaces as purely metric invariants that apply to metric spaces with no linear structure. These insights have a wide variety of applications to geometry, group theory, and algorithms. The proposed research aims to overcome some remaining hurdles within the Ribe program.

An important goal is the discovery of a metric characterization of  $p$ -smoothness, and sharpened metric characterizations of type and cotype, as well as deciding the tightness of the non-linear Maurey-Pisier theorem for cotype in the metric setting.

Furthermore, the PIs aim to generalize the Poincaré inequality for expander graphs beyond superreflexive Banach spaces, hopefully to finite cotype Banach spaces and CAT(0) spaces. Basic absolute Lipschitz extendability problems for finite and doubling spaces will also be studied, along with new dimension reduction problems with possible practical motivation.

## Research Grants and Fellowships from the Internal Fund

The OUI makes funding available to its researchers for the purpose of leveraging their research. In the past year, 128 proposals were submitted to the Research Authority for funding from the internal fund.

Following is a brief description of one of the studies awarded funding from the internal fund this year:

**Dr. Itai Opatovsky:** "Understanding the Metabolic Interactions between Insects and Yeast for Increasing Natural Enemies Populations in Agricultural Fields"

One of the main changes that modern agriculture faces is the need for decreasing the use of pesticides and increasing the efficiency of natural enemies. Natural enemies, which colonize fields in the beginning of the crop season can decrease populations of herbivorous insects and reduce pest outbreaks. However, lack of resources, e.g. food, during this part of the crop cycle limits the ability of the natural enemies to establish sustainable populations. In some cases, natural enemies may require the presence of symbiotic microorganisms to supply necessary metabolites that are lacking in their diet. The green lacewing (Neuroptera: Chrysoperla carnea) is a predatory insect that serves as a natural enemy of soft body herbivorous insects, such as aphids. The lacewing's larvae are predatory, while the adults consume flower pollen and nectar and apparently environmental yeasts that are present in the nectar. The lacewing has a specialized organ (diverticulum) connected to the posterior part of the foregut. This organ has extensive oxygen supply through the trachea system and it contains yeasts. The presence of yeast in a specialized organ can suggest symbiotic interactions between the yeast and the insects, but the mechanism of these interactions is not fully known. The hypothesis is that the yeasts provide necessary amino acids to the insects. It is not clear whether the yeast excrete these amino acids to the insect's gut or whether the insects directly consume the yeasts. The main aim of this research is to identify the yeast species that interact



with lacewings in Israel and to test their metabolic effect on the adult lacewing. Understanding these interactions will allow future development of a "prebiotic" application that will improve the interactions between the lacewing and the yeast and will increase the sustainability of the lacewings population in agricultural fields. Lacewings have been collected from the flowers of various crop types in the northern Negev (Potatoes, radish and nigella). The gut contents of the lacewings were placed on yeast growth medium to receive yeast colonies. The colonies were later identified using PCR with general yeast primers. It was found that all lacewing individuals contained two species of yeast: *Candida pimensis* and *Metschnikowia pulcherrima*, which were found in the gut of lacewing from the USA. However, two common yeast species, *C. picachoensis* and *M. chrysoperla*, which were also found in the lacewing from the USA, were not found in individuals from Israel. The gut content of the adult lacewing were sequenced for all the yeast genomes (using Illumina Next generation sequencing with ITS primers) and is now being analyzed for non-cultivable yeast species. In order to test the effect of the yeast on the insect metabolism, the metabolite composition of the adult lacewings from different crop types were analyzed using GCMS. It was found that the lacewings from the radish fields have higher content of various amino-acids relative to individuals from potato fields. The similar yeast composition of adult lacewings from Israel and the USA suggest that these two groups of organisms share symbiotic interactions. However, because all the individuals from Israel have the same composition of yeast species, it seems that the effect on the amino-acid composition is due to the metabolite composition of the nectar. In order to further test the effect of the yeast on the insect's metabolism there is a need for manipulative experiments in which the yeast will be removed from the insect's gut.

## Honors and Awards

**Dr. Leonid Barenboim**, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, was commended at the 2019 ICDCN conference for the paper: Barenboim, L., & Tzur, Y

(2019) "Distributed Symmetry-Breaking with Improved Vertex-Averaged Complexity." Proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Distributed Computing and Networking; ICDCN, 31-40.

**Dr. Shir Etgar**, a research fellow at the Research Center for Innovation in Learning Technologies, received a post-doctoral excellence scholarship from the Planning and Budgeting Committee, to specialize in big data and psychometrics at the Business Administration School of Columbia University, New York.

**Prof. Sarah Guri-Rosenblit** was invited by EDEN (European Distance and E-Learning Network) to be a member of a committee that supervises and consults with doctoral students conducting research in various European universities on aspects of implementing digital technologies in higher education systems.

**Dr. Dana Kaplan**, Department of Sociology, Political Science, and Communication, won the outstanding article award of the International Society for the Study of Religion (ISSR) for the article: Kaplan, D. and Werczberger, R. (2017) New Age, New Economy, New Middle Class: Jewish New Age in Israel and Politics of Identity. *Sociology* 51(3): 575–591. Dr. Kaplan was invited to join a research group of the Hebrew University Mandel Scholion Center as a senior researcher for "Set Tables: Eating, Boundaries, and Intercultural Passages."

**Dr. Or Karassin**, Department of Sociology, Political Science, and Communication, and **Prof. Aviad Bar Haim**, Department of Management and Economics, won the Outstanding Article Award of the Israel Political Science Association for 2019, for their article: Karassin O. and Bar Haim A. (2018) "How does Regulation effect CSR – Corporate Environmental Responsibility under Different Scenarios." *Social Security*, (Bitahon Soziali) 105:17-49 (Hebrew).

**Dr. Yael Sela-Teichler**, Department of Language, Literature, and the Arts, was awarded a research fellowship for 2020 at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

## The Open University of Israel Press – Lamda Scholarship

The Open University of Israel Press - Lamda Scholarship publishes original research and other academic titles in all disciplines under rigorous academic review. The OUI Press has been chaired since October 2018 by Prof. Tamar Hermann. Serving with her on the editorial board are Prof. Anat Barnea, Prof. Inbal Ofer, Prof. Tzahi Weiss, and Prof. Motti Regev from the Open University; Prof. Mahmoud Ganaim and Prof. Menachem Mautner from Tel Aviv University; Prof. Menachem Klein from Bar-Ilan University; and Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli from the University of Haifa.

As part of a comprehensive process of positioning and branding, the name and logo of the Press were redesigned this year. The covers of the published books now include flaps and photos of the writers, QR links to video clips, and other visual elements that give the books an exceptional finish. The press' website has also been improved. Early this year, the press began a pilot for distributing its books through private bookstores such as Tola'at Sfarim, Adraba, Sfarim beRehavia and others, and via the Hebrew digital book reading application *Ivrit*.

Four new titles were published in 2019:

1. *The Army and the Market Society in Israel*, a collection of articles edited by Yagil Levy, Nir Gazit, Rinat Moshe, and Alona Harness. The collection was produced in collaboration with the OUI Institute of Policy Analysis.
2. Sigal Barkai, *A Stage for Masculinities: Representations of Israeli Soldiers in the Theater*
3. Rivka Brot, *In the Gray Zone: The Jewish Kapo on Trial: Trials of Jews Collaborating with the Nazis* (winner of the Joseph and Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Trust Prize, 2016).
4. Rivka Nir, *The First Christian Believer: Looking at John the Baptist through the Sources*

Over the year, many manuscripts were submitted to the editorial board. After rigorous academic review, nine were approved for publication in 2020, including four recent winners of the Goldberg Foundation Prize.

The fifth round of the Goldberg Foundation Prize was announced for original, research-based manuscripts of interest to researchers as well as to the public. The names of the prizewinners will be announced in early 2020.

Lamda Scholarship and the publishing house of the Ben-Gurion Research Institute of Israel and Zionism at Ben-Gurion University have joined forces to publish a new book series titled *Israelis*. The series proposes fresh, penetrating, socio-political views of diverse aspects of Israeli society. It seeks the unexpected and unusual, while shedding light on significant phenomena and struggles shaping Israeli society. The series' first books will be published in 2020.



Mifal HaPayis Council for the Culture and Arts approved a grant to support publication of the manuscript *Waiting on the Way: The Journey of Zera Beita Israel (the Falashmura) from Ethiopia to Israel* by Ravit Talmi-Cohn. The NIS 35,000 grant is part of the support given for the publication of nonfiction, essays, and research books in Hebrew, and is another vote of confidence in the high quality and significance of the Lamda Scholarship press.

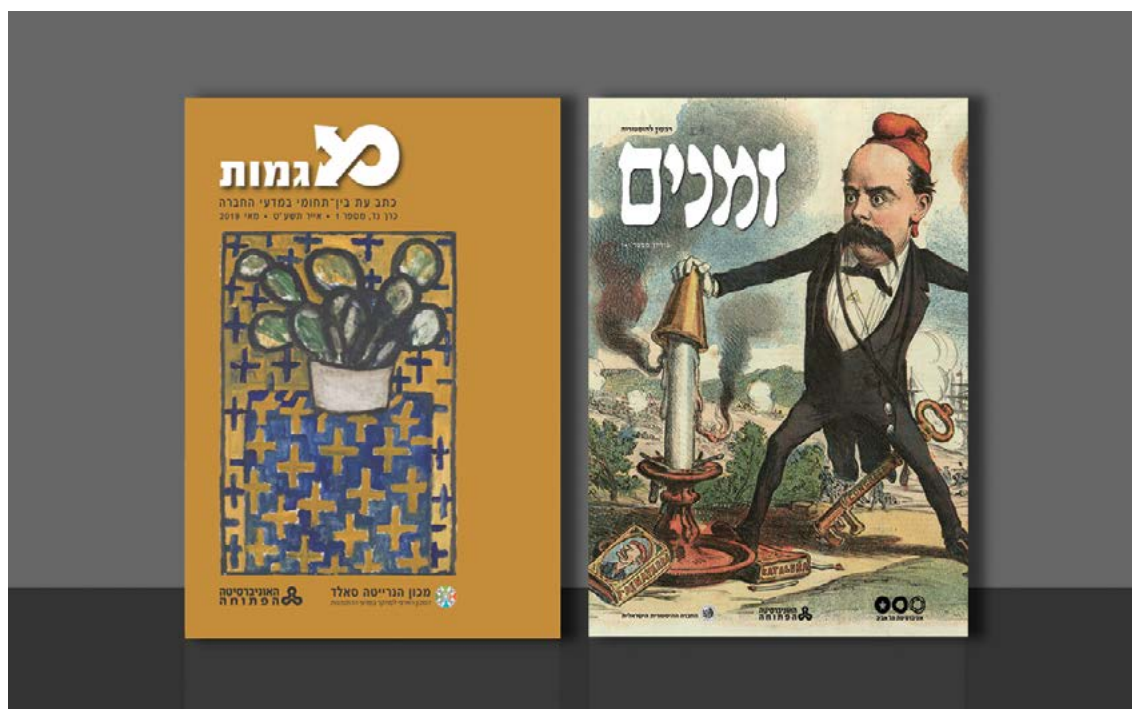


## Jointly Published Journals

### The OUI is a partner in the publication of two academic journals:

*Megamot* is an interdisciplinary journal in the social sciences, published jointly with the Henrietta Szold Institute. Its chief editors are Prof. Tamar Hermann from the Open University, and Prof. Edna Lomsky-Feder from the Henrietta Szold Institute. This year's publication of Volume 54 is the tenth jointly produced issue, and its theme is local anthropological knowledge, and its use in Israeli society. The issue was co-edited by guest editors Dr. Chen Bram and Prof. Harvey Goldberg.

*Zmanim*, a history quarterly, is co-published with Tel Aviv University and the Historical Society of Israel. Two issues were published this year: Issue 140 (April 2019) introduced a new format of the journal after comprehensive remodeling by its new editors – Prof. Gadi Algazi and Prof. Miri Shefer-Mossensohn from Tel Aviv University, and Prof. Guy Miron from the Open University. The issue is dedicated to events related to the Christian Reformation. Its guest editors were Prof. Miri Eliav-Feldon from Tel Aviv University and Prof. Moshe Sluhovsky from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Issue 141 (July 2019) is an eclectic issue that opens a window on several historical issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including issues of time and war experience.



## List of Selected Publications

### Books and Edited Publications

- Ben Ami, I. (2019) *Tzipi Livni: Political Biography*. Steimatzky Publishing House (Hebrew).
- Bashir, B. & Goldberg, A. (eds.) (2018) *The Holocaust and the Nakba: A New Grammar of Conflicting Historical Traumas*. Columbia University Press.
- Constantinou, S. & Meyer, M. (eds.) (2018) *Emotions and Gender in Byzantine Culture, New Approaches to Byzantine History and Culture*. Palgrave-Macmillan.
- Firro, T. (2018) *Wahhabis and the Rise of the House of Saud*. Sussex Academic Press.
- Gordinsky, N. & Tsirkin-Sadan, R. (guest eds.) (2019), *Jerusalem Studies in Hebrew Literature*, XXX: Special Issue (Hebrew).
- Heifetz, A. & Charbit, D. (eds.) (2019) *Simone Weil, Are we Fighting for Justice? Selected Social Writings*. Carmel & Bar-Ilan University Press (Hebrew)
- Levy, Y., Gazit, N., Moshe, R. & Harness, A. (2019) *The Army and the Market Society in Israel*. Ra'anana: The Open University of Israel Press. (Hebrew).
- Levy, Y. (guest ed.) (2018). *Social Security* vol. 105: Special Issue - Scenarios and Public Policy (Hebrew).
- Nir, R. (2019) *The First Christian Believer, In Search of John the Baptist*. Phoenix Press.
- Segal, Z. (2019) *Political Territories in the Age of Mobility: Infrastructures, Maps, and Movement Shape the German States, 1815-1866*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Shagrir, I. & Gaposchkin C. (eds.) (2019) *Liturgy and Devotion in the Crusader States*. Routledge.
- Shagrir, I. Kedar, B.Z., & Balard, M. (eds.) (2018) *Communicating the Middle Ages: Studies in Honor of Sophia Menache, Crusades Subsidia*. Abingdon: Routledge.

### Chapters in Books

- Aldouby, H. (2019) Camminare su una fune tesa sulla soglia della realtà virtuale: Il cinema di Phil Solomon in *Grand Theft Auto* [Tightrope Walking on the Threshold of Virtual Reality: Phil Solomon's Filmmaking in *Grand Theft Auto*]. In: M. Bittanti (ed.), *Fenomenologia di Grand Theft Auto* [*Phenomenology of Grand Theft Auto*]. Milan: Edizioni Mimesis, pp. 275-298.
- Bashir, B. & Goldberg, A. (2018) The Holocaust and Nakba: a New Syntax of Memory, History and Political Thought. In: B. Bashir & A. Goldberg (eds.), *The Holocaust and the Nakba: A New Grammar of Conflicting Historical Traumas*. Columbia University Press, pp. 1-65.
- Ben-David, A. & Amram, A. (2018) Computational Methods for Web History. In: N. Brügger & I. Milligan (eds.), *SAGE Handbook of Web History*. London: Sage, pp. 152-167.
- Ben-David, A. (2019) National Web Histories at the Fringe of the Web: Palestine, Kosovo, and the Quest for Online Self-Determination. In: N. Brügger & D. Laursen (eds.), *The Historical Web and Digital Humanities: The case of National Web Domains*, Routledge, pp. 89-109.
- Blau, I. (2019) Real-Time Mobile Assessment of Learning: Insights from an Experiment with Middle School Students from Remedial, Midstream, and Excellence Tracks. In: *Mobile Technologies in Educational Organizations*. IGI Global, pp. 283-301.
- Charbit, D., Laithier, S. & Vilmain, V. (2018) Discours et échanges. Sur la pluralité religieuse au lycée en Israël» In: D. Avon, I. Saint-Martin & J. Tolan (eds.), *Faits religieux et manuels d'histoire. Contenus – Institutions – Pratiques – Approches comparées à l'échelle internationale*, Éditions Arbre Bleu, pp. 309-339.
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