

# International Academic Initiatives

This year, the OUI opened an International Office headed by Prof. Avriel Bar-Levav, to promote its international projects. The office engages in expanding and improving various efforts to connect the OUI with academic initiatives worldwide for teaching, students, and faculty.

As part of this international activity, OUI faculty members maintain contacts and collaborate with their counterparts in universities around the world. The office initiates and encourages international collaborations that involve the OUI in academic work around the world. The OUI hosts guests from universities and academic organizations worldwide, and participates in the activities of international associations of other open universities.

Below are the main international initiatives carried out this year:

- The OUI hosted a delegation of Brazilian educators, and delegations from the Open University of Cyprus, a Chinese university, and the Brno University of Technology.
- The OUI initiated a forum of the small language communities within the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU). The forum convenes during the Association's international conferences.
- The OUI signed an agreement with the humanities faculty of Amsterdam University for cooperation in supervising PhD students in Judaic Studies.
- In January 2019, a week-long intensive Winter School in Judaic Studies took place in Athens. Instruction was divided between researchers from the OUI, the University of Amsterdam, King's College in London, and universities in Greece. The project was sponsored by the Rothschild Foundation in Europe. Select students from the participating universities studied and toured together. In 2020, a similar winter school is planned for Prague, and in 2021 it will take place in Madrid.
- The OUI and the University of Amsterdam are participating jointly in a competition for the translation of Hebrew poetry into Dutch. To date, translated poetry books by H. N. Bialik, Rachel, and Miri Ben Simhon have been published.

## Collaboration with Foreign Publishers

Translated titles published this year:

- *Cognitive Psychology* with Cengage Learning Inc.
- *The Physiology of Behavior* (vol. I), with Pearson Education
- *Modern Political Ideologies* with Palgrave Macmillan (Macmillan Publishers Ltd.)
- *Mechanics* (vol. I) with McGraw-Hill Companies

Contracts signed this year between the OUI and other publishing houses:

- A contract was signed with the Francis & Taylor Group for the translation of the course book *International Political Economy*
- A contract was signed with Universitets forlaget in Oslo for the translation of the course book *Introduction to Anthropology*
- A contract was signed with The Open University UK for the translation of the course book *Introduction to Social Thinking*
- A contract was signed with Oxford University Press for the translation of the course book *Introduction to New Media*