

Research

Research is one of the three OUI cornerstones, 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. Ofer Reany, is in charge of the OUI Research Authority, the research institutes, and research ethics. As dean, he is also chairman of OpMop Ltd., the OUI's technology transfer subsidiary.

The Research Authority (RA)

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 scholars 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 headed by the dean of research oversees the RA. The committee sets the standards for evaluation of proposals submitted for funding by the internal fund, and for distribution of the fund's resources. This year, the steering



committee was expanded to ensure that all OUI disciplines are appropriately represented. It now comprises five faculty members from the departments of natural and life sciences, mathematics and computer science, language, literature and the arts, education and psychology, sociology, political science, and communication. Other than its central role in determining the distribution of the research budgets and funding research grants and scholarships, the steering committee also advises on university-wide decisions.

Research Infrastructure

OUI policy encourages collaboration with other academic institutions in order to find satisfactory solutions for faculty members who require experimental research infrastructure not available at the OUI.

- A collaboration agreement was signed this year with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev to establish Prof. Igor Rahinov of the Natural and Life Sciences Department as a co-researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Joshua Baraban of the Ben-Gurion University chemistry department. Prof. Rahinov will conduct independent and collaborative research, including co-supervising students studying for advanced degrees.
- The OUI Port Campus in Haifa, a learning and teaching center, has allocated space for building a research laboratory to study communication network reliability and serviceability. The laboratory head is Dr. Shir Landau-Feibish of the mathematics and computer science department. The laboratory develops tools to preserve the proper functioning of systems, particularly programmable networks.
- This year, foundations were laid for the Department of Natural and Life Sciences' new Astrophysics Research Center of the Open University (ARCO). The center will function as a scientific, institutional, and practical hub for the research of theoretical, observational, and empiric topics and issues in astrophysics, cosmology, and relativist gravity. The center's head is Prof. Saleem Zaroubi, who works with other department physicists. The center will host ten postdoc researchers and eight course coordinators. Not only do the center's

researchers excel individually, but their research fields interconnect, allowing for productive collaboration and the creation of a critical body of astrophysics research. Researchers from other universities have already expressed interest in joining the center or in building a joint curriculum. Since its inauguration this year, the center's researchers have won BSF-NSF grants, a personal ISF grant, and an ISF personal equipment grant, as well as a postdoc excellence scholarship. Research emerging from the center has already yielded forty articles.

OpMop Ltd.

OpMop Ltd., the OUI technology transfer subsidiary, was established in 2008. The OUI generates new knowledge defined as intellectual property. As a public academic institute, OpMop Ltd. works to commercialize the knowledge and transfer it to industry.

- This year, OpMop won a research grant from the Israel Innovation Authority in the Ezer-Tech program, which finds assistive technological solutions for people with disabilities, and which is a collaboration between the Innovation Authority and the National Insurance funds. The grant encourages R&D of assistive technologies for people with disabilities. The research, "Neuromorphic navigation of a robotic arm assist through machine vision and orientation sensors" is headed by Dr. Elishai Ezra Tsur from the mathematics and computer science department.
- Over the past year, OpMop has handled six patents of the following faculty members: Prof. Rica Gonen, Dr. Ravid Doron, Dr. Elishai Ezra Tsur, and Prof. Noam Shental. Some of the patents are in the process of submission and others have been submitted and await a decision.
- OpMop and The National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev Ltd. (NIBN) jointly established PoolD Diagnostics, specializing in pooling COVID-19 tests. The company's product is an algorithm-based computer software that tests pooled samples for COVID-19 using advanced robotics. The development is the fruit of joint research between Prof. Noam Shental of the OUI

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and Prof. Angel Porgador and Prof. Tomer Hertz of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The company has signed agreements with the Ministry of Health and a private laboratory (Ilex Medical Ltd.). The company's product has been implemented in various locations and has been involved in about half a million COVID-19 tests over the past year.

Research Institutes

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

The Institute for Policy Analysis

The Institute for Policy Analysis, headed by Prof. 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 sponsored the following events this year:

- Research workshop: "Social consequences of the new military operational conception"

- Conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Israeli Black Panthers Movement: "Where is the Mizrahi struggle heading? From the Black Panthers to the present".
- A special issue of the Israel Studies Review journal was published, dedicated to military and policing issues in Israel.

Research Center for Innovation in Learning Technologies

The Research Center for Innovation in Learning Technologies, headed by Prof. Yoram Eshet, 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 center was founded in 2010 to replace the Chais Center for the Integration of Technology in Education, which had been active since 2004. The center currently includes forty faculty members from various departments. It works in close cooperation with the Shoham Center for Technology in Distance Education. A key goal of the center is creating a solid community of Israeli researchers who maintain strong scholarly ties. To this end, it organizes regular academic events, including research seminars, symposia, and conferences.

Below are several studies currently underway by members of the Research Center:

- Velan, D., & Moldovan, S., "How knowledge and utility perceptions lead early adopters to adopt"
- Olenik-Shemesh, D., Heiman, T., Yablon, Y. & Eden, S., "Online social interactions of children and youth"
- Bran A. & Sidi Y., "Development of learning technology that support self-learning of digital text"
- Kesler, A., Shamir-Inbal, T. & Blau, I., "Active learning by visual programming: Pedagogical perspectives of instructivist and constructivist code teachers and their implications on actual teaching strategies and students' programming artifacts"

- Forkosh-Baruch, A., Avidov-Ungar, O. Blau, I., & Shamir-Inbal, T., "Evaluation of programs for digital leaders' training in teacher training colleges and in the centers for professional development of inservice teachers"
- Shamir-Inbal, T. & Blau, I., "Digital technologies in elementary schools to improve teaching, learning and assessment processes in e-learning during emergencies"
- Silber-Varod, V., Siegert, I., Jokisch, O., Sinha, Y., & Geri, N., "A cross-language study of speech recognition systems for English, German and Hebrew"
- Sidi, Y. & Eshet, Y., "Social-emotional aspects of online teaching among 4th–10th-grade teachers during the COVID-19 period"
- Kalman, Y., Ravid, G. & Weisser, O., "Data analytics competencies: identification, measurement and evaluation"
- Becher, A., Slobodin, O., Pinson, H., & Abu-Rabia Queder, S., "Israeli disadvantaged students facing the sudden move to distance learning in the higher education system"
- Ben-David, A., "Data rhetoric and the manufacturing of a national confirmation bias during the COVID-19 pandemic in Israel"

Chais Conference 2021

The Chais Conference on Learning Technologies, is a forum for researchers and experts of innovation and learning technologies in Israel to meet and exchange ideas. This year's conference was the sixteenth in a series of conferences held since 2006 and hosted by the Research Center for Innovation in Learning Technologies. The theme of this year's conference was "the learner in the digital era." Leading researchers and professionals in Israel presented their research, thereby contributing to the Israeli community of learning technology researchers and boosting the OUI's standing as a leader in the field.

The February 2021 conference was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. About 300 researchers, students,

and professionals participated. Prof. Paul Kirschner of the Open University of Netherland gave the keynote address. Participants enjoyed 21 lectures, 18 short lectures, and 17 posters.

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

The Institute for the Study of Relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims is headed by Prof. Avriel Bar Levav. The goal of the institute is to support research groups and organize events related to topics of interest to researchers and the public that enhance the understanding and relationship between the three Abrahamic religions.

This year, the institute granted a postdoc scholarship to Dr. Iqbal Abdel Raziq, for her research "David, Solomon, and Job in the Jewish tradition and the Koran," which was supervised by Prof. Dafna Efrat.

Co-organized international conferences

- "His Lips are still Moving": A commemoration conference on the centennial of Prof. Israel Friedlander's passing. With the Ben-Zvi Institute.
- Feminism in the Abrahamic Religions: Dilemmas of Gender and Law from a Multicultural Perspective. With the Rackman Center, Bar Ilan University.
- Albert Memmi Centenary International Conference marking the first anniversary of his passing. With the Ben-Zvi Institute.

Co-publications

- Volume III of the journal *Mahshevet Yisrael (Judaic Thought)* issued by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, following the co-organization of a conference during the past year.
- *Holy Places in the Holy Land: An Ethnographic View*. With Lamda Scholarship.
- *The Elder Will Serve the Younger: Myths and Symbols in Dialogue between Judaism and Christianity*. With Carmel Publishing House.

Divan sessions, led by Prof. Mustafa Kabha:

- Dr. Keren Abbou Hershkovits: Anonymity in the Margins: Women between *Jahiliyyah* and Islam (Session in memory of Hagar Hillel)
- Dr. Iqbal Abdel Raziq: The figures of David, Solomon, and Job in the Koran
- Prof. Bashir Bashir: The Arab and Jewish Questions: Geographies of Engagement in Palestine and Beyond
- Prof Haim Saadoun: History and the Construction of Collective Memory: The Case of Sfaks, Tunisia

Additional symposia

- In honor of the publication of Dr. Rivka Nir's book *The First Christian Believer: In Search of John the Baptist*
- Celebrating the publishing of the book *Strangers in Yemen: Travel and Cultural Encounter among Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Colonial Era* by David Malkiel of the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Bar Ilan University
- Jews, Arabs, and the British in the Jewish Quarter, 1948
- Three Religious Leaders, Eretz Yisrael/Palestine in the 1920s

Individual Research Grants from External Funds

This year, 29 research grants and scholarships from external foundations were approved.

Grants from the Israel Science Foundation

Individual research grants:

Prof. Eran Fisher, Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication, "Epistemic media and modern subjectivity: A comparative-historical study of print and digital calendars"

Dr. Sara Kahn-Nisser, Department of Sociology, Political Science, and Communication, "Between principles and

strategy: Explaining the UN's Treaty Bodies' shaming and Faming"

Prof. Gitit Kavé, Department of Education and Psychology, "Aging-related Increases in Reliance on Prior Knowledge when Spelling"

Dr. Shir Landau-Feibish, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, "Dynamic Allocation of Programmable Network Resources"

Prof. Tal Makovski, Department of Education and Psychology, "Preparing for Distraction: Function, Underlying mechanism, and Consequences"

Dr. Gadi Sagiv, Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, "Historical Digital Analysis of Hasidic Stories until 1914"

Prof. Iris Shagrir, Department of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies, "Ghost Cities and Boom Towns in the Levant: The Fate and Memory of Cities and their Hinterlands on the Palestinian Coast in the Post-Crusader Era (1265-1600 CE)"

Dr. Iris Sulimani, Department of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies, "Historiography, Biography and Mythography: A Comparative Study of Literary Genres"

Dr. Allona Vazan, Department of Natural and Life Sciences, "Revealing the Mysteries in the depth of Distant Worlds Studying Exoplanet Properties from an Interior Evolution Perspective"

Prof. Ronit Weisman, Department of Natural and Life Sciences, "The roles of TOR complex 2 (TORC2) in the response to DNA damage"

Prof. Tzahi Weiss, Department of Literature, Language, and the Arts, "Commentaries on the Ten Sefirot II: Database and Research"

Scientific equipment grants

Dr. Shir Landau-Feibish, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, "Dynamic Allocation of Programmable Network Resources"

Dr. Allona Vazan, Department of Natural and Life Sciences, "High performance computer for statistical modeling of exoplanet properties by interior structure evolution"

Book publication grant

Prof. Ora Limor, Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, *Jerusalem Travel: Christian Pilgrims in the Early Middle Ages*

Grants from other external foundations

Dr. Ronen Bar-El, from the Department of Management and Economics, together with researchers from the College of Management, Western Galilee Academic College, and Netanya Academic College, received a grant from the National Insurance for his research "Public Policy for Equal Opportunity: Evidence from Schools and Higher Education."

Dr. Ronen Bar-El, from the Department of Management and Economics, together with a researcher from the College of Management, received a grant from the Heth Academic Center for Research of Competition and Regulation, for his research "Funding higher education and the status of colleges."

Dr. Ayelet Becher, from the Department of Education and Psychology, received a grant from the Leon Foundation for her research "Home teachers' professional autonomy and authority: Institutional factors shaping teacher professionalism in Israeli elementary and high schools."

Dr. Ayelet Becher, from the Department of Education and Psychology, received a grant from the Rothschild Foundation for her research "Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for disadvantaged Israeli students facing the sudden move to distance learning in the higher education system."

Prof. Ina Blau, **Dr. Shira Goldberg**, and **Dr. Eyal Rabin**, from the Department of Education and Psychology, received a grant from the Ministry of Education in the track "Short-term studies of the COVID-19 period" for their research "The role of family and organizational support in the family-career conflict, and self-efficacy as a teacher and parent among teacher-parents during the COVID-19 period."

Prof. Ina Blau and **Dr. Tamar Shamir-Inbal**, from the Department of Education and Psychology, together with a researcher from Achva Academic College, received a grant from the Ministry of Education for their research "Practical experience in the hybrid space among teaching trainees, through the use of an innovative physio-digital platform for building knowledge and skills - research and development."

Prof. Ina Blau and **Dr. Tamar Shamir-Inbal**, from the Department of Education and Psychology, received a grant from the Ministry of Education in the track "Short-term studies of the COVID-19 period" for their research "Digital technologies to improve teaching, learning and assessment processes in online learning during emergencies in elementary schools in Israel."

Prof. Ina Blau and **Dr. Tamar Shamir-Inbal**, from the Department of Education and Psychology, together with a researcher from Achva Academic College, received a grant from the Ministry of Education in the track "Short-term studies of the COVID-19 period" for their research "Characteristics of professional development processes for online teaching in elementary schools."

Prof. Ina Blau and **Dr. Tamar Shamir-Inbal**, from the Department of Education and Psychology, together with researchers from the Levinsky College of Education and Achva Academic College, received a grant from the Mofet Institute for their research "Evaluation of programs for the training of digital leaders in teacher-training colleges and in centers for professional development of in-service teachers."

Dr. Elishai Ezra Tsur, from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, received a research grant from the Israel Innovation Authority in the Ezer-Tech program for his research "Neuromorphic navigation of a robotic arm assist through machine vision and orientation sensors."

Prof. Jonathan Granot, from the Department of Natural and Life Sciences, received a grant for an outstanding postdoctoral researcher from the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Prof. Tali Heiman, Dr. Dorit Olenik-Shemesh, and Dr. Adi Bran, from the Department of Education and Psychology, received a grant from the Hemdat College of Education for their research "The relationship between self-regulated learning and academic resilience among middle-school students."

Dr. Shir Landau-Feibish, from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, together with a researcher from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, received a grant from the Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology, for their research "Building a PISA testbed for cybersecurity applications."

Prof. Adia Mendelson-Maoz, from the Department of Language, Literature, and Arts, together with a researcher from Bar-Ilan University, received a grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology in the track "Digital Social Sciences and Humanities" for her research "Computational stylistic profiles for the analysis of modern Hebrew prose."

Prof. Ophir Münz-Manor, from the Department of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies, together with a researcher from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, received a grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology in the track "Digital Social Sciences and Humanities" for their research "Validating distant reading from a comparative perspective."

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

Prof. Ronit Weisman, The roles of TOR complex 2 (TORC2) in the response to DNA damage

The target of rapamycin (TOR) protein kinase is a key regulator of cellular growth, proliferation, and survival that is found in two distinct multi-subunit complexes, TOR complex 1 and 2 (TORC1 and TORC2). We have previously shown that fission yeast TORC2 is critically required for cell survival under DNA replication stress or damaging conditions. This is dependent on the kinase activity of the only known direct kinase target of TORC2, Gad8 (AKT in human cells). TORC2-Gad8 is largely dispensable for DNA damage checkpoint activation. However, disruption of TORC2-Gad8 signaling results in accumulation of homologous recombination (HR)-

Rad52 repair foci and dependency on the presence of HR genes for cell viability. Upon DNA damage, the Tel1 (ATM) and Rad3 (ATR) checkpoint kinases phosphorylate histone H2A proteins at serine-129 (known as γ H2A, equivalent to γ H2AX in higher eukaryotes). This type of chromatin modification is required for efficient repair of DNA damage and is thought to stabilize replication forks. We show here that TORC2-Gad8 is required for generating γ H2A, demonstrating another response to DNA damage that is impaired in TORC2-Gad8 mutants. Mutations in the Paf1 or SAGA complexes suppressed the lack of γ H2A induction, but only mutations in the SAGA complex suppressed the DNA replication/damage sensitive phenotype. Notably, Gad8 physically interacts with subunits of the Paf1 or SAGA complexes, suggesting that Gad8 may directly target these or associated proteins/complexes. Our findings suggest several possible mechanisms involving transcription and/or chromatin regulation that may account for the requirement of TORC2-Gad8 for DNA damage responses. We suggest genetic screens, as well as hypothesis-driven experiments, to identify factors that play a role in DNA damage sensitivity in TORC2-Gad8 mutant cells. Our investigations are expected to lead to a better understanding of the link between pathways that control metabolism and growth and those that are dedicated to preserving the genome integrity. Since mammalian TORC2 is implicated in cancer development, a future extension of our studies to human cells may provide a better understanding of cancerous processes and suggest new combinations of chemotherapy strategies.

Dr. Gadi Sagiv, Historical Digital Analysis of Hasidic Stories until 1914

Hasidism is a social pietistic movement that emerged in eighteenth-century Eastern Europe and gradually evolved into one of the most prominent movements in the Jewish world over the last three hundred years. The members of the Hasidic movement composed thousands of stories, which became an important aspect of Hasidic culture, and are invaluable sources for the study of Hasidism.

This project employs the approach and methods of Digital Humanities (DH) on the corpus of all Hasidic stories published from the emergence of Hasidism in the mid-

eighteenth century until 1914. In particular, the project aims to explore textual patterns that can shed light on significant aspects of the stories and culture in which they are embedded: historical changes emphasising various topics, personalities, places, and events; networks of people and ideas; and spatial dynamics.

In its digital aspects, the project relies on the personnel, infrastructure, experience, and accumulated resources of the Open University's Open Media and Information Lab (OMILab). In its Hasidic aspects, the project includes a significant collaboration with Prof. Marcin Wodziński of the University of Wrocław, Poland, a leading scholar of Hasidism with a special expertise in quantitative methods.

Research Grants and Fellowships from the Internal fund

The OUI provides funding to its researchers in order to promote their research. In the past year, 55 proposals were granted financial backing from the internal fund.

Following is a brief description of one of the studies that benefited from the internal fund this year:

Dr. Ayelet Becher, Teacher adaptive expertise in the shift to online teaching: Interactive decision-making and noticing within the digital space of distance education.

This research study revolves around teacher cognition (Borg, 2015) and examines teachers' adaptive expertise (Berliner, 2001) as it develops throughout the shift from traditional, face to face classroom instruction to online teaching. Specifically, the study will inquire into teachers' interactive decision-making model (Borko & Shavelson, 1990) while moving to work within settings of online education. The study aims to conceptualize a theoretical model of teacher interactive decision-making, adapted to virtual spaces of learning and teaching, and to discover the type of cues (e.g., visual, auditorial, communicational, etc.) on which teachers base their decisions while teaching online. Within this process, I wish to expose features of teacher noticing (Sherin et al., 2011) unique to online teaching and how these influence the development of adaptive expertise under new settings of distance education.

This qualitative study will be conducted in the broad context of Israeli public education. Participants will include ten high-school subject teachers. In the first stage, teacher cognition during lesson planning and during instruction will be examined. Here, data collection with each participant will involve five cycles of: (a) An in-depth interview focusing on the teacher's planning for a particular online lesson; (b) a think-aloud observation during the implementation of the online lesson to document thought in-action; and (c) a stimulated recall interview immediately after the online lesson to expose rationalization and reflection on-action (altogether 50 observations and 20 interviews). In the next stage, aspects of teacher noticing during online teaching will be examined. In this stage, the study will investigate teachers' pedagogical framing of various instructional situations, based on which teachers turn their attention to events during synchronized lessons. To this end, data collection will incorporate five focus group interviews with 3-5 teachers, in which teachers will watch video segments of recorded online lessons and will conduct a guided joint reflection to describe, characterize and frame instructional situations.

Dr. Yael Levenson, Partial dolomitization in Cretaceous carbonate platforms as a possible solution to the "Dolomite Problem".

The extensive abundance of Dolostone in ancient marine sedimentary rocks contrasts with the small distribution of dolomite in the Cenozoic era. This observation is known as the "Dolomite Problem." Modern dolomite crystal formations had been documented mainly in warm environments with shallow and high salinity water such as in hypersaline lagoons and sabkha flats, environments that might have been more common in the pre-Cenozoic era and became rare in Cenozoic and modern settings. Recent studies suggested that dolomite growth is promoted by elevated burial temperatures. In this case, the abundance of dolomite in pre-Cenozoic rocks could reflect their higher thermal maturity.

In this study we used Dolostone and Limestone samples from Nahal Mearot, Mount Carmel, Israel. This well-mapped and dated geological section presents an ideal case-study of

the "Dolomite Problem." We analyzed the crystal-ordering and stable-isotope composition of calcite and dolomite as proxies for the crystallization temperature of calcite and dolomite. In addition, we used polarize light microscope and micro-XRF elemental mapping to characterize the dolomitization process in this section. Using these and other methods we aimed to determine whether the dolomitization of the Cretaceous rocks in Israel occurred at the Earth's surface, in shallow burial conditions, or in deep burial environments with high temperatures.

Honors and Awards

The OUI's proposal for setting up a multidisciplinary center in the Humanities and Social Sciences (Merhav) won a competitive call of the PBC. The new Merhav center will be a hub for interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary collaboration between researchers, research fellows, and scholarship recipients. It will respond to the increasing influence of digital media on all modern life spheres. Its mission is to encourage synergy between researchers in different departments, generating research, study programs, innovative courses, and other varied enterprises.

Prof. Ina Blau, from the Department of Education and Psychology, received the Lifetime Academic Achievement award of IIAKM – The International Institute for Applied Knowledge Management.

Dr. Shira Gottlieb, from the Department of Language, Literature, and Arts, received the Mahar Award for an Outstanding Article by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev for the article "Cassatt's La Lecture, The new Grandmother," which was published in *Woman's Art Journal*. Dr. Gottlieb also won the Chateaubriand Fellowship for a six month research period in France, granted by the French Embassy in Israel.

Prof. Tamar Hermann, from the Department of Sociology, Political Science, and Communication, received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Israeli Association for International Studies. Prof. Hermann received the prize for promoting the study of peace and conflict in her research of peace movements and social movements and for her

analysis of Israeli public opinion on the Israeli-Arab conflict and other issues. Prof. Hermann was also appointed a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities assessing the status of social science in Israel.

Dr. Reut Itzkovitch-Malka, from the Department of Sociology, political science and communication, received the Falk Institute Award for Excellence in Research (2021), for the paper "The Gender Gap for Populist Parties: Extremism and Risk Aversion" (co-authored with Odelia Oshri, Liran Harsgor, and Or Tuttnauer), which was accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Political Science*.

Prof. Yagil Levy, from the Department of Sociology, Political Science, and Communication, received the Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, in recognition of his many years of research work in this field.

Prof. Adia Mendelson-Maoz, from the Department of Language, Literature, and Arts, was appointed co-editor of *Israel Studies Review*, the journal of the Association for Israel Studies.

Prof. Igor Rahinov, from the Department of Natural and Life Sciences, was declared an honorary member of the Israel Vacuum Society for his contribution to the society's promotion and positioning at the front of Israel's research, science, and technology.

Prof. Haim Saadoun, from the Department of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies, received the 2021 Shaul Ben-Simhon Foundation prize for the Study of North African Jewry, from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Dr. Dorit Segal, from the Department of Education and Psychology, received the Nisan Award for Outstanding Educational Researchers.

Dr. Tamar Shamir-Inbal and **Prof. Ina Blau**, from the Department of Education and Psychology, received the Best Research Idea Award of the IIAKM International Institute for Applied Knowledge Management.

Dr. Vered Silber, Head of the Open Media and Information Lab, received the Excellence in Leadership Award offered

to a distinguished colleague, researcher, and outstanding leader by the IIAKM International Institute for Applied Knowledge Management.

Prof. Varda Wasserman, from the Department of Management and Economics, was awarded the 2020 European Group for Organizational Studies "That's interesting" award for the article "With God on their Side: Gender – Religiosity Intersectionality and Women's Workforce Integration", co-authored with Prof. Michal Frenkel of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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 is chaired by Prof. Tamar Hermann. Serving with her on the editorial board are Prof. Bashir Bashir, Prof. Tzahi Weiss, and Prof. Motti Regev from the Open University; Prof. Hanna Yablonka (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev); Prof. Tova Cohen (Bar-Ilan University); Prof. David Levi Faur

(The Hebrew University of Jerusalem); and Prof. Menachem Mautner (Tel Aviv University).

Seven new titles were published in 2021:

1. Ravit Talmi-Cohn, *Waiting on their Way: The Journey of Zera Beita Israel from Ethiopia*.
2. Tamar Hermann & Ofer Shiff, (Eds.) *Contemplating Israeliness: Eighteen Proposals*.
3. Maoz Azaryahu, *The State of Tel Aviv: A Brief History*.
4. Eitan Ginzberg, *Camilo Torres: A Revolutionary in a Soutane*.
5. Amit Varshizky, *The Metaphysics of Race: Science and Faith in the Nazi Worldview*.
6. Amalia Sa'ar & Hawazin Younis, *Diversity: Palestinian Career Women in Israel*.
7. Jay Winter, *War beyond Words: Remembrance Languages from WWI to the present*. (With the University of Haifa School of History).



During the year, many manuscripts were submitted to the editorial board. After rigorous academic review, five were approved for publication in 2022.

This year, the seventh round of the Joseph and Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Trust Prize for original, research-based manuscripts of interest to the researcher community and to the general public was publicized. The list of award winners will be announced in early 2022.

Lamda Scholarship signed an additional contract with the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem for the co-publishing of Na'ama Shik's book, *Women in Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration and Extermination Camp, 1942-1945*. The book won the 2020 Goldberg Prize and was also supported by the Mifal HaPais council for culture and art.

The Israel Center for Libraries (of the Ministry of Culture and Sports) has agreed to support the production of Michael Gluzman's book *Aharon: Home and Family in Aaron Shabtai's Poetry*.

As part of a general effort to establish the Lamda Scholarship brand, promotional and PR materials are tailored to each publication. This type of PR has increased media exposure of the books published by Lamda this year.

Authorization was granted to launch a new Hebrew journal, *Kriot Israeliot* (Israeli Readings), an interdisciplinary online journal for the social sciences and humanities, to be issued twice a year. The journal will engage in empirical and theoretical issues relevant to Israeli society, to stimulate cross-disciplinary local academic discourse. In addition to regular format articles and literature reviews, *Kriot Israeliot* will also include digital content related to research, such as video guest lectures and online thematic podcasts and exhibitions. The journal will appear entirely online, and will be fully accessible to the public. Its editors are Prof. Tamar Hermann of the OUI and Prof. Edna Lomsky-Feder of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The journal's first issue will be released in early 2022.