Farewell to Ralph Halbert

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF THE HALBERT CENTRE’S FOUNDER

With great sorrow, we say goodbye to Canadian philanthropist Dr. Ralph Halbert, who passed away on December 4, 2018.

More than 30 years ago, Ralph and his beloved wife, Roz, helped to establish what would become the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Ralph and Roz wanted to facilitate closer academic ties between Canadian and Israeli academics through collaborative research and teaching. Since its founding, the Halbert Centre has enabled hundreds of Canadian and Israeli scholars to develop rich and productive academic relationships and networks.

Ralph was a devoted and effective friend of the Hebrew University for decades. He understood and believed in academic excellence as a core value; central to his vision was the deepening of Canadian-Israeli academic ties. In addition to his foundational support of the Halbert Centre, Ralph served as Chairman of the Hebrew University’s Board of Governors, and was an honorary doctor of the university.

Ralph’s legacy of building bridges between Canada and Israel through higher education will continue to live on through the Halbert Centre’s activities. “It has taken the world 25 years to catch up with Ralph Halbert’s vision,” Prof. Janice Stein, founding director of the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto, and chair of the Halbert Networks Program, told the Globe and Mail. “His great achievement was to bring together networks of scholars.”

Ralph will be missed by many at the Hebrew University, and in Israel and Canada, who had the good fortune to know him and to experience his good will, graciousness, deep commitment to academic excellence, and unstinting generosity.
FAREWELL TO EDIT DORON

We were deeply saddened by the recent passing of Halbert Academic Committee member Prof. Edit Doron. Prof. Doron was a member of the Hebrew University’s Department of Linguistics and its Language, Logic and Cognition Centre. In 2016, she was awarded the Israel Prize for her contribution to the field of linguistics.

COTLER RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

We extend congratulations to Halbert Centre Advisory Committee member Prof. Irwin Cotler, who received an honorary Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, from McGill University, and gave the commencement address at McGill’s faculty of law convocation ceremony on May 30, 2019. Prof. Cotler was also awarded the prestigious Heintz Memorial Award for Humanitarian Achievement in August 2019.

A Family Legacy

MICHAEL HALBERT & SONS VISIT HALBERT CENTRE

The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies was delighted to welcome Advisory Committee member Michael Halbert for a visit in March 2019. Michael, a son of Halbert Centre founders Ralph and Roz Halbert, was accompanied by his two sons, Naftali and Yoel. Here, Naftali reflects on the visit:

Visiting the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University affirmed many of the lessons my dear grandparents, Ralph and Roz, transmitted to the family. Although the Centre is 40 years old, it has been though many transitions and still remains a beacon of hope for the future of Canadian-Israeli collegiality, congeniality and academic alignment through a shared vision.

Ralphy and Grammy built a bridge between their two homes: Canada and Israel. As a grandchild living in Israel, I feel a strong sense of belonging to both countries, thanks to their commitment and contributions to both places. My children, Calla Lily and Oliver Kai, have much to look forward to as they grow and learn of their great-grandparents’ great acts of kindness to empower this bridge of hope between nations. Before my visit, I had not been particularly involved with the Centre. Upon my departure, I felt relieved to be connected to a larger family of academics and coordinators who care as much as I do about the future of this precious centre of learning.

My beautiful wife, Brielle, and I are very proud of Ralphy and Grammy’s contributions. The Hebrew University, State of Israel, Canada, the Jewish People and humankind have all benefited immensely from their generous devotion to building bridges between worlds. We are inspired by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, and look forward to doing our part to ensure this great legacy continues for many years to come.
In May 2019, the Halbert Centre and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies (IACS) hosted the 16th Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University, on the theme of “Globalization and innovation: Canada and Israel in comparative perspective.” Nearly 90 people attended the three-day event, including 30 Canadian scholars.

The rich academic program included sessions on topics as diverse as “Integration v. assimilation: Jewish-Canadian woman authors,” “The nature of religious education in Canada and its place within a global context,” and a comparative study of urban planning in British Columbia, Ontario and Israel in the context of the global housing crisis. Hebrew University Prof. Gili Drori and Dafna Kariv, Vice President for Global Initiatives at the College of Management (COLLMAN), co-chaired the conference committee.

Canadian Ambassador to Israel Deborah Lyons greeted attendees at the conference’s opening session, along with Hebrew University Pres. Asher Cohen, Prof. Drori, and IACS Pres. Daniel Ben-Natan. University of Toronto Prof. Janice Stein chaired a keynote session in memory of Dr. Ralph Halbert. Hebrew University Rector Prof. Barak Medina, Prof. Kariv, and Prof. Nachman Ben-Yehuda, acting director of the Halbert Centre, provided closing remarks.

Additional highlights included a tour at Start-up Nation Central in Tel Aviv, followed by a reception at the Canadian Embassy, as well as three lectures at HUstart, the Hebrew University Entrepreneurship Center at the Givat Ram campus.

The conference was warmly and positively received by speakers and attendees.
Joint Israeli-Canadian Workshops

STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC TIES & EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ACADEMIA

The Halbert Centre is committed to funding joint research workshops between partnering Israeli and Canadian researchers and scholars. The workshops, held at the Hebrew University, aim to

- strengthen academic ties between Hebrew University researchers and their colleagues at Canadian universities
- promote the exchange and development of ideas and knowledge with Israeli and Canadian content
- promote and remain at the forefront of the latest developments in academia.

2018–2019 workshops

“Understanding international economic agreements: Theoretical innovations and methodological challenges,” led by Hebrew University international relations scholar Prof. Yoram Haftel and McGill University political scientist Prof. Krzysztof Pelc (May 2019)

“Israeli-Canadian workshop on queues,” led by Prof. Moshe Haviv, department of statistics, Hebrew University, and Prof. Opher Baron, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto (May 2019)

“Conversations on sociomateriality and understanding affordances,” led by Dr. Micki Eisenmann, Hebrew University of Jerusalem School of Business Administration, and Prof. François Cooren, communications department, Université de Montréal (June 2019)

“Charity in classical Jewish law: Between religion and social ethics,” led by Dr. Benny Porat, Hebrew University faculty of law, and Prof. Gregg Gardner, department of classical, Near Eastern and religious studies, University of British Columbia (July 2019)

2019–2020 workshops

“Wrongful convictions in Canada and Israel: Barriers to exoneration — Phase II,” led by Dr. Barak Ariel and Dr. Anat Horowitz, Hebrew University faculty of law, and Prof. Kathryn Campbell, department of criminology, University of Ottawa. Phase I was held at the Hebrew University in April 2018, and Phase II will take place in Canada.

“New frontiers in morality and emotion research,” led by Prof. Ran Hassin and Prof. Hillel Aviezer, Hebrew University department of psychology.


“Reflecting on the legacy of G.A. Cohen’s egalitarianism after a decade,” led by Prof. Shlomi Segall, Hebrew University department of political science, and Dr. Igor Shoikhbedrod, 2018–2019 Halbert Postdoctoral Fellow at the Hebrew University.
Mr. Barton serves as chairman of Teck Resources and as non-executive director at the Singtel Group (Singapore) and Investor AB (Sweden). In September 2019, he was appointed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as Canada’s ambassador to China. He is a board member of the Olayan Group, a private, family-owned company. He is chancellor of the University of Waterloo, the chair of Standard Chartered Bank’s International Advisory Council, the chair of the Canadian Minister of Finance’s Advisory Council on Economic Growth and former chair of the Seoul International Business Advisory Council. He is also a senior trustee of the Brookings Institution, a member of the Singapore Economic Development Board’s International Advisory Council, and a member of the boards of Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

Mr. Barton is one of the founders of FCLT Global (Focusing Capital on the Long Term), and has co-authored four books, including Talent Wins, published in 2018. He is an adjunct professor at Tsinghua University, Beijing. He is the recipient of eight honorary doctorates, from the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia and the University of Edinburgh, among others.

He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a BA Honours in economics and has a M.Phil in Economics from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

Mr. Barton will visit Israel in May 2020.
VISITING PROFESSORS

The Halbert Centre offers funding to visiting professors to teach courses with significant Canadian content at the Hebrew University’s faculties of humanities, social science and law, and in the schools of social work and education.

During the 2018–2019 academic year, the Halbert Centre and the Hebrew University hosted Thomas Schneider, professor of Egyptology and Near Eastern Studies at the University of British Columbia. Prof. Schneider was invited by Prof. Orly Goldwasser, head of Egyptology at the Hebrew University’s Institute of Archeology. Prof. Schneider gave a public lecture on “Who invented the order of our alphabet?” and participated in a workshop on “Loanwords in Ancient Egyptian.”

During the 2019–2020 academic year, the Halbert Centre and the Hebrew University will welcome four visiting Canadian professors:

Prof. Ruth Panofsky, of the Ryerson University English department, was invited by Prof. Ruben Borg, head of the Hebrew University’s English department. Prof. Panofsky will give a one-day seminar on the shifting landscape of Canadian publishing from the 20th century to the present, and a guest lecture on her current research into women’s participation in 20th century Canadian publishing (December 2019).

Prof. Robert Schwartz, of the University of Toronto’s School of Public Health, was invited by Prof. Raanan Sulitzeanu-Kenan, head of the School of Public Policy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Prof. Schwartz will offer a two-credit course on policy program evaluation in the master’s program in public policy (April 2020).

Prof. Sari Graben, of the Ryerson University law faculty, was invited by Prof. Tomer Broude, academic director of the Hebrew University’s Minerva Human Rights Centre, to teach an intensive course on Indigenous law and property, focusing on the Canadian experience.

Prof. Stéphane Mechoulan, of the School of Public Administration at Dalhousie University, was invited by Prof. Badi Hasisi, director of the School of Criminology at the Hebrew University, to teach a course on “The sources and elements of discrimination in the American criminal justice system.” He will also deliver a talk to the faculty and meet their full-time students.

Halbert Fellowships

Peter Lougheed Fellowship
The Lougheed Fellowship supports MA and PhD students at the Hebrew University working on a dissertation or thesis that has significant Canadian content. Recipients receive funding to collect data in Canada, meet Canadian experts in their field, and/or take advanced courses at Canadian universities. The fellowship is co-sponsored by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies.

The 2019–2020 fellowship was awarded to Rachel Zeliger, from the Hebrew University faculty of law, for her research on “Prophet and loss? Triggers that precede the enactment of national laws regulating the foreign funding of non-profit organizations in high-income economies.”

Halbert Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Canadian Studies
The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and the Halbert Exchange Programme at the University of Toronto provide an annual Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Canadian Studies at the University of Toronto.

The 2019–2020 fellowship was awarded to Doron Ella, from the Hebrew University department of international relations, for his research proposal “Chinese foreign direct investments as a security and economic threat: A comparative study of special regulatory agencies.”
The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies supports visits by prominent Canadian scholars to the Hebrew University

Prof. Jennifer Jenkins, department of applied psychology and human development at the University of Toronto, was invited by Hebrew University psychology professor Ariel Knafo-Noam to give a talk at the IIAS conference on “Moral development: New directions in research on children’s values and moral emotions and behaviours” (July 2018).

Prof. Karen Eltis, of the University of Ottawa faculty of law, was invited by Dr. Tamar Berenblum, from the Federmann Cyber Security Center at the Hebrew University, to participate in the centre’s annual conference “AI: Law and policy” and in their bi-weekly seminar program. Prof. Eltis gave a talk entitled “The impact of AI on constitutional rights and their enforcement: A Canadian perspective” (November 2018).

UBC geographer Prof. Juanita Sundberg was invited to the Hebrew University by Prof. Dan Miodownik and Dr. Tal Nitsan from the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations. During her visit, Prof. Sundberg participated in a workshop entitled “Borders, walls, and other possibilities: Theorizing gender in conflicted spaces” and gave a lecture on “Gender at the US-Mexico Border” (February 2019).

Prof. Margaret Kohn, from the University of Toronto’s political science department, was invited by Hebrew University political scientist Dr. Avigail Ferdman to meet with the department’s graduate students and give a lecture on “Solidarism: The philosophical case for the right to the city” at the department of political science (March 2019).

UBC international relations professor Kathryn Harrison was invited by Dr. Lior Herman, of the Hebrew U international relations department, to give a talk to students in the department’s energy and decision-making group on “The comparative politics of carbon taxes” (April 2019).

Prof. Gershon Hundert, from McGill University’s department of Jewish studies, was invited by Hebrew University Yiddish scholar Dr. Ofra Dynes to give a public talk entitled “Which is the merchant here and which the Jew? Ber Birkenhal of Boleslaw’s self-presentation.” Prof. Hundert met with a select group of graduate students from the Yiddish studies program, the department of Jewish history and contemporary Jewry, and the history department (June 2019).

Prof. Leslie Greenberg, of York University’s psychology department, gave a talk on “Emotion-focused therapy: The transforming power of affect,” at the Hebrew University’s school of social work. Prof. Greenberg was invited by Hebrew University social work professor Dr. Ben Shahar (June 2019).

University of Toronto geographer Prof. Matti Siemiatycki gave a lecture to the Hebrew University geography department’s environmental research group on “City-building through innovative public-private partnerships.” Prof. Siemiatycki was a guest of Hebrew University geography professors Gillad Rosen and Itay Fischhendler (June 2019).
Artists and Egyptology

The Halbert Centre Public Lecture Series addresses Canadian topics and issues before an Israeli academic audience and the general public.

The Halbert Centre hosted two public lectures during the 2018–2019 academic year:


Canadian-Israeli artist Lezli Rubin-Kunda, of the faculty of architecture and town planning at the Technion, gave a lecture entitled “Talks with Canadian artists about place and practice” (January 2019).

Faculty Israeli-Canadian Academic Exchange Program

The Halbert Centre Faculty Israeli-Canadian Exchange Program is designed to facilitate scholarly exchanges on topics with significant Canadian content between Hebrew University faculty and researchers affiliated with recognized institutions of higher education in Canada. It is open to tenured and non-tenured researchers at the Hebrew University.

The 2018–2019 grant was awarded to psychology professors Maya Tamir (Hebrew University) and William Cunningham (University of Toronto) for their proposal “Precious anger: Prejudice shapes evaluations of emotions.”

The 2019–2020 grant was awarded to Prof. Ariel Knafo-Noam and Dr. Anat Perry from the Hebrew University department of psychology, and Prof. Jennifer Jenkins from the University of Toronto’s department of applied psychology and human development. Their proposed project title is “Are there positive effects of having a sibling with a disability? The development of theory of mind and empathy in children.”

For more information about the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies please visit: http://canadianstudies.huji.ac.il