



Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies

at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Environmental Challenges in Canada, Israel and Beyond

13th Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies

The term “environment” encompasses the physical, ecological, social, legal, economic, cultural, political, institutional, technological, and the personal — to name a few. And from June 28 to July 1, 2010, scholars from Canada, Israel, India, Japan, China, Poland, Russia, the United States, Brazil, and Australia gathered at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to share knowledge and perspectives on “Environmental Challenges in Canada, Israel and Beyond.” That was the theme of the 13th Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies, sponsored by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies (IACS).

The theme of climate change and policy surrounding it ran through many of the sessions. David Runnalls, president of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, delivered a stimulating keynote address on

“Canada and climate change: How not to make public policy.” Galit Cohen, from the Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection, gave a talk on “The Environmental Policy of the State of Israel.”

At a four-hour symposium, 11 speakers from different fields were invited to present the ways in which their areas of specialty relate to the environment. The result was an engaging and diverse discussion that encompassed the environment as it relates to Judaism, the Inuit, urban planning, psychology, film, and even environment and eco-criticism and literary studies. Participants responded favourably to the session format, and many remarked that they intended to use it at future conferences of their own.

A special session in memory of Peter Oberlander was particularly moving. Oberlander was one of Canada’s leading urban planners and was the first visiting professor at the Hebrew University’s Halbert Program



Keynote speaker David Runnalls, president of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, at the 13th Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies.

for Canadian Studies, in 1979. Since then, he remained an excellent friend to both the Halbert Centre and the IACS. His wife, leading Canadian landscape architect Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, presented a history of his achievements.

The conference’s final event was a half-day tour of Jerusalem organized

Continued on page 2

Halbert fellowships

Peter Lougheed Fellowship

The Peter Lougheed Fellowship in Canadian Studies 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 2010 recipients are:

- **Emmanuelle Moscovitz**, contemporary Jewry: “Three dissident Dominican priests accelerate the shift of French Canadian society towards support of the Free French movement, ecumenism and minority rights: The pivotal WW2 years”

- **Ohad Raveh**, department of economics: “Asymmetric tax competition, agglomeration economies, and natural resources”
- **Elad Rom**, faculty of law: “Mistake of criminal law”
- **Shana Rosenblatt-Mauer**, department of English: “The hero fantasy in the novels of Mordecai Richler”
- **Sivan Slapak**, department of English: “Across a border and a century: Testimonies of ex-slaves in Canada and the U.S.”

Halbert research exchange program

This year, the Halbert Centre instituted a new exchange program for Hebrew University faculty members. The Halbert Centre Faculty Research Exchange Program (HC-REP) is open to tenured and non-tenured researchers, and is offered twice a year: in the autumn and the spring. This 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. The November 2009 HC-REP recipients are:

- **Mimi Ajzenstadt**, faculty of law: “The criminal justice–public health nexus in neoliberal political regimes: The case of Canada and the implications for Israeli responses to crime”
- **Menahem Blondheim**, department of communication: “Cultural origins of high-tech entrepreneurship in Israel and Canada”
- **Mona Khoury Kassabri**, school of social work and social welfare: “Evaluating a cyber risk and cyber safety educational intervention program”

The March 2010 HC-REP recipients are:

- **Maayan Davidov**, school of social work and social welfare: “Domains of parenting in a Canadian multicultural society”
- **Uri Yanay**, school of social work and social welfare: “Sentencing Aboriginal offenders: The Canadian amendment of the Criminal Code and the Gladue Ruling: The lessons for Israel”



Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies:

Cornelia Hahn Oberlander (second from right), wife of leading Canadian urban planner Peter Oberlander ז"ל, presented a history of her late husband's achievements at a special session of the conference. L to r: Hebrew University law professor (and former Vancouverite) Allen Zysblatt, Amb. Jon Allen, Oberlander, and Clara Hirsh.

Continued from page 1

by the city's vice mayor, Naomi Tsur. The tour, dubbed “Jerusalem of Green — Transforming the Holy City's Urban Environment,” focused on some of the environmental projects conducted by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

Halbert–Munk Centre post-doc exchange

The Halbert Post-Doctoral Fellowship allows recent Israeli PhDs working on post-doctoral projects in any field to participate in an exchange program with the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto. **Benny Porat**, of the Hebrew University's faculty of law, is the recipient of the 2010–2011 fellowship, for his work on "A Talmudic-conceptual study of the good faith obligation in comparison to Israeli law."

Arie Shachar Fellowship

The Arie Shachar Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University is co-sponsored by the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies. It enables recent Hebrew University PhDs working on post-doctoral projects with significant Canadian content to carry out their research at any university in Canada. The recipient of the 2010–2011 fellowship is **Gadi Heimann**, department of international relations, for his work on "De Gaulle, Canada and the question of Quebec, 1960–1968."

Joint Israeli- Canadian research workshops

The Halbert Centre has recently initiated a joint research workshop series with Israeli and Canadian researchers. The workshops, which will be held at the Hebrew University, aim to strengthen academic ties between Hebrew U researchers and their colleagues at Canadian universities; to promote the exchange and development of ideas and knowledge with Israeli and Canadian content; and to remain at the forefront of the latest developments in academia. The workshops are scheduled to begin during the 2010–2011 academic year.

Graduate student grants for Canadian Studies conferences

This program helps fund travel for graduate students at the Hebrew University presenting papers with substantial Canadian content at a Canadian studies conference abroad. The inaugural grant recipient is **Gabrielle Parent**, of the department of history: "Subjects of interpretation: Second language acquisition by Jesuit missionaries in Northeastern Ontario: 1842–1880." Parent presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association, Concordia University.



Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies: (l to r) Canadians Rox and Ralph Halbert socialize with Haewon Park and her husband, Andrew Kim, president of the Korean Association of Canadian Studies. "It is a major reward for us to see how this conference has grown and developed into one of the field's preeminent meetings."



International scholars at the Halbert Centre

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 academic year 2009–2010, the Halbert Centre hosted professors Naomi Mandel

and Frederic Megret. Prof. Mandel, of the University of Rhode Island, gave a course on “The Canadian Extreme” in the department of comparative literature. Prof. Megret, from McGill University's faculty of law, gave a course on “The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the transformation of Canadian criminal law” in the faculty of law.

In the 2010–2011 academic year, University of Waterloo professor Paul Kay will teach a course on the “Development of water resources in North America” in the geography department. Prof. Goldie Morgentaler, of the University of Lethbridge, will teach a course on “Jewish Canadian Literature” in the department of English.

Public lecture series

The Halbert lecture series addresses Canadian topics and issues before an Israeli academic audience and the general public. In 2010, the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, in partnership with the Israel Association for Canadian Studies, held three public lectures. This year's speakers included:

- **Ambassador Allan Gotlieb**, the longest-serving Canadian ambassador to the United States and former

undersecretary of state for external affairs, and former **Canadian Ambassador to Israel Jon Allen**, who spoke on “Canadian foreign policy issues” (April 8, 2010)

- **Prof. Naomi Mandel**, from the department of English, University of Rhode Island, who spoke on the “Canadian ... Extreme: Contemporary extreme literature from Canada and Québec” (May 23, 2010)

- **Dr. Lisa Katz**, from the Hebrew University's department of English, who gave a lecture entitled “In favour of difference: On translating poetry.” Dr. Katz's talk was part of a book launch for *Irving Layton: Never far from tears*, selected poems translated by Maccabib Malkin and Yoav Vardi, Carmel Publishing, Jerusalem (June 17, 2010).



Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies: Former Canadian ambassador to Israel Jon Allen addresses the 13th Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian studies. IACS president Danny Ben-Natan and Shuli Barzilai, past director of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, look on.