



Fall 2015



Building Bridges

TWO HALBERT MAINSTAYS REFLECT ON THE CENTRE'S INNER WORKINGS

This year, Prof. Rehav (Buni) Rubin, Chair of the Halbert Centre Academic Committee, and Prof. David Cameron, Chair of the Halbert Centre Advisory Committee, were asked to provide their personal insights into the inner workings of the Centre. Their responses are below and on page 3.

LIVING UP TO THE HALBERT CENTRE MISSION



Prof. Rehav (Buni) Rubin, Member, Canadian Chair, Halbert Centre Academic Committee
Photo: Rehav Buni Rubin

When Prof. Nachman Ben-Yehuda, director of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, asked me to act as the Chair of the Centre's Academic Committee, I wanted to understand its vision

and mission. Fortunately, I discovered that this mission can be summarized in one sentence: The centre should build bridges between the Hebrew University and Canadian academia, in all fields of humanities, social sciences, law, education and social work — or, as we call them at the Hebrew University, the non-experimental sciences.

Indeed, this mission is the basic guideline for what we strive to achieve at the Centre in the following channels:

- The Peter Lougheed Fellowship in Canadian Studies supports Israeli MA and PhD students working on a dissertation or thesis that has significant Canadian content.

- The Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Canadian Studies enables recent Hebrew University PhD recipients working on post-doctoral projects with significant Canadian content to carry out their research at any university in Canada.

- The Halbert Centre Israeli-Canadian Academic Exchange Program is designed to facilitate Hebrew University faculty members' study of topics with significant Canadian content and collaboration with Canadian researchers.

- Visiting professorships allow Canadian scholars to teach short-term courses with significant Canadian content at the Hebrew University.

- Joint Israeli-Canadian research workshops are mutually planned and carried out by senior Canadian and Hebrew University scholars and faculty members.

In each of these channels, the Centre publishes a call for papers and employs a full process of evaluation in order to choose only the best proposals. Evaluating these proposals is the main task of the Academic Committee.

Since the proof of the pudding is in the eating, I would like to present some examples of the high level of the achievements that these “bridges” have produced in recent years:

- Among the six recipients of the Arieh Shachar doctoral fellowships, two serve today as faculty members at the Hebrew University, one is at Tel Aviv University, one is at Zefat Academic College, and one is completing her post-doctoral

studies at the University of Toronto, with a wonderful record of achievements.

- Sociology and anthropology scholar Prof. Tamar Elor travelled to Canada to study a shoe-making firm as part of her research. The outcome of this study was published in English in the prestigious journal *American Anthropologist* and in Hebrew in her wonderful book on the anthropology of Israeli sandals.

- One example, and its successful outcomes, combines the visiting professorship program and the joint workshops program. Following his tenure at the Halbert Centre, visiting professor Paul Kay, of the University of Waterloo’s department of environment and resource studies, proposed a joint workshop — “Managing water in the face of uncertainty” — with Hebrew University geography professor

Eran Feitelson. The seminar ran in 2012, with eight Canadians and nine Israelis participating. Based on academic connections that began there, Canadian postdoctoral scholar Dr. Christina Cook came to Jerusalem and participated in a water research group led by Prof. Feitelson. As well, Hebrew University PhD candidate Amit Tubi visited Prof. Robert de Loë at the University of Waterloo; they subsequently co-authored a paper comparing Toronto’s and New Orleans’s recent experiences with floods. I could provide many more examples of the ways in which the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies continues to live up to its mission of building strong academic bridges between Canadian and Hebrew University scholars. Suffice it to say that I am proud of the rigour, vision, and excellence of these academic partnerships.

The current membership of the Halbert Centre Academic Committee at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is:

- **Prof. Rehav (Buni) Rubin** (Chair), Department of Geography
- **Prof. Mimi Ajzenstadt**, School of Social Work & Welfare
- **Prof. Nachman Ben Yehuda**, Department of Sociology & Anthropology
- **Prof. Edit Doron**, Department of Linguistics
- **Prof. Amalya Oliver**, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Public Lectures

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

Prof. Suanne Kelman, Ryerson University, visiting professor at the Hebrew University department of communication

and journalism, gave a public lecture titled “Shooting the messenger: Canada’s mania for secrecy” (November 25, 2014).

Prof. Adam Dodek, University of Ottawa, visiting professor at the Hebrew University faculty of law, gave a public lecture titled “The Canadian override: Constitutional model or

bête noire of constitutional politics?” (January 13, 2015).

Prof. Stephen Toope, director of the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs and the 2015 Halbert Centre Bullock Chair, gave a public lecture on “Israel and the United Nations system” (May 19, 2015).

Strong Academic Links

Departmental seminars



Prof. David Cameron, Chair, Halbert Centre Advisory Committee

My first direct experience of Israel was thanks to the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies. It was 1996, and

I was invited to the Hebrew University and the Centre as a Halbert Fellow for six weeks in the spring. While not at that time a student of Israel or the Middle East, I found my time there unforgettable. I was startled, therefore, but honoured, when I was invited just two years later not only to join the Centre's Canadian Advisory Committee, but to become its Chair, a position I have held with pleasure ever since.

My visit to Israel in 1996 was the first of many, both under the auspices of the Halbert Centre and in connection with some extended policy work I was doing with the Jerusalem Old City Initiative from 2006 to 2012. From January to June 2005, I was a visiting professor at the Halbert Centre.

The Canadian Advisory Committee supports the Centre

and its Academic Committee in the bridge-building efforts described on pages 1 and 2 by Buni Rubin, the Academic Committee Chair. Composed of Canadian academics from across the country, the committee advises its Israeli colleagues on Centre programming and activities, on the design of the major Canadian Studies conferences that are held periodically at the Mount Scopus campus, and on the selection of distinguished fellows and visitors.

The Committee meets annually in the spring in Toronto to perform its tasks, and most members participate in the periodic conferences. Many are active more widely in academic circles in Israel. If the consistently high rate of attendance at the meetings is any guide, Advisory Committee members take their role seriously and enjoy executing their responsibilities, believing that the maintenance and development of strong academic links between scholars and students in the two countries — building bridges — is of capital importance for both.

Some of the Hebrew University visiting professors supported by the Halbert Centre held departmental seminars for advanced students and academic staff of their hosting departments.

Prof. Thanasis Stengos, University of Guelph, visiting professor at the department of economics and finance, presented a departmental seminar on “Structural threshold regression” (January 21, 2015).

Prof. Jeffery Kopstein, University of Toronto, visiting professor at the department of international relations, presented a departmental seminar titled “Why do we read the classics? Or, international relations and comparative politics” (January 28, 2015).

Prof. Ron Gillis, University of Toronto, visiting professor at the department of sociology, presented a departmental seminar on “Managing madness in 19th-Century France: A time-series analysis” (March 16, 2015).

The current membership of the Halbert Centre Advisory Committee is:

David Cameron, Chair, University of Toronto

Ralph Halbert, Founder

Roz Halbert, Founder

Dan Halbert

Irving Abella, York University

Carl Amrhein, Deputy Minister of Health, Alberta

Pierre Ancil, University of Ottawa

Danny Ben-Natan, Israel Association for Canadian Studies

Nicole Côté, Université de Sherbrooke

Irwin Cotler, McGill University

John Courtney, University of Saskatchewan

Bruce Elman, University of Windsor

Noreen Golfman, Memorial University

Frieda Granot, University of British Columbia

Renée Hulan, Saint Mary's University

Janice Stein, University of Toronto

Joe Wong, University of Toronto

Joint Israeli-Canadian Workshops



Prof. Tammar Zilber chats with a workshop participant.



Prof. Michael Lounsbury

WORKSHOPS IN 2014–15

In the 2014–2015 academic year, the Halbert Centre held two joint research workshops with Israeli and Canadian researchers and scholars. The workshops, held at the Hebrew University, are aimed at

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

“Institutions and individual, organizational and field level identities,” was led by Prof. Tammar Zilber, Hebrew University School of Business, and

Prof. Michael Lounsbury, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta (April 2015).

“Constitutionalism in crisis: Multiple dimension,” was led by Dr. Margit Cohn and Prof. Alon Harel of the Hebrew University’s faculty of law, and by Prof. David Dyzenhaus and Prof. Kent Roach of the University of Toronto’s faculty of law (June 2015).

WORKSHOPS IN 2015–16

In the 2015–2016 academic year, the Halbert Centre will host three joint workshops:

1. “Political parties in Israel and Canada: How degrees of centralization and decentralization influence the organization of political parties,” led by political science professors Gideon Rahat

(Hebrew University) and William P. Cross (Carleton University). October 2015.

2. “Typical and atypical development of numerical cognition: Evidence from brain and behaviour,” to be led by Dr. Sarit Ashkenazi (School of Education, Hebrew University) and Prof. Daniel Ansari (University of Western Ontario’s department of psychology & Brain and Mind Institute).

The workshop is scheduled for February 2016.

3. “Globalization, internationalization and the governance of higher education in Canada and Israel,” to be led by Profs. Gili Drori (Hebrew University department of sociology and anthropology) and Glen A. Jones (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto). The workshop is scheduled for May 2016.

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 2014–2015 academic year, the Halbert Centre funded visits by five professors:



Prof. Jeffery Kopstein, of the University of Toronto's department of

international relations, was hosted by the Hebrew University's international relations department, and gave a three-week course on "Civil-Military Relations."

Prof. Suanne Kelman, of the Ryerson University journalism department, was hosted by the Hebrew University's communications department for a four-day visit, during which she presented her research.



Prof. Adam Dodek, of the University of Ottawa faculty of law, gave a course on "The Supreme Court of Canada and Canadian constitutionalism," hosted by the Hebrew University faculty of law.



Prof. Ron Gillis, of the University of Toronto sociology department, was hosted by the Hebrew University's sociology department and taught a course on

"Cities, social pathology, and deviance service centres."



Prof. Thanasis Stengos, of the University of Guelph department of economics and

finance, was hosted for a short visit by the Hebrew University's economics department, and discussed his research on econometric theory — in particular non-parametric econometrics — with the department's research students.

During the 2015–2016 academic year, the Halbert Centre and the Hebrew University will welcome three visiting Canadian professors:

Prof. Lin Fang, of the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, will be hosted by the Hebrew University's school of social work and welfare, and will give a short course on "Substance abuse: Intervention and prevention strategies."

Prof. Avigail Eisenberg, of the University of Victoria's department of political science, will be hosted by the department of international relations, and will give a short course on "Minority rights and identity politics."

Prof. Randall Morck, of the University of Alberta's department of finance & statistical analysis, will be hosted by the Hebrew University's school of business, & will give a short course on "30 unanswered questions in corporate finance."

SUPPORT FOR VISITING CANADIAN SCHOLARS

The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies supports visits by prominent Canadian scholars to the Hebrew University.

University of Toronto political science professors **Janice Stein** and **Emanuel Adler** were invited by Hebrew University international relations professor **Arie Kacowicz** to participate in the "International conference: The relevance of regions and area studies in a globalized world," held in December 2014.

The Honourable Justice **Rosalie Silberman Abella**, Supreme Court of Canada, was invited to participate in the Minerva Center for Human Rights Conference on "Women's international rights in contested public spaces," which took place in February 2015. Justice Abella was also invited to participate in the Hebrew University law faculty panel "A dialogue with justices: A panel of Supreme Court Justices from the U.S.A., Canada and Israel," in September 2015.

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.

In 2015–2016, fellowships were awarded to three recipients from the Federmann School of Public Policy and Government:

Keren Borenstein-Nativ for her research proposal, “The institutionalization of proliferation of regulatory affairs departments in the banking sector: A comparison between Israel and Canada.”

Lauren Abecassis-Kandravy for her research proposal, “An examination of the understanding of levels of poverty and inequality in Canada and their effects on policy preferences.”

Inbar Mizrahi for her research proposal, “The development of the Canadian rating regime: The winners and losers.”

Arie Shachar Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The Arie Shachar Post-Doctoral Fellowship was co-sponsored by the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Halbert Centre for Canadian

Studies and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies. It enabled recent Hebrew University PhD recipients working on post-doctoral projects with significant Canadian content to carry out their research at any university in Canada.

Since the original funding commitment has been concluded, no fellowship was awarded for the 2015–2016 academic year. However, given the past success of the fellowship, it has been decided that the Halbert Centre will continue to provide a postdoctoral fellowship in Canadian Studies once every two years.

Halbert Post-Doctoral Exchange Program at the Munk Centre, University of Toronto

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 University of Toronto.

The 2015–2016 fellowship was awarded to three candidates:

Amy Birkan, department of Jewish thought, for her research proposal, “The limited scope of victimhood in rabbinic law: The plaintiff must distance himself from harm.”

Avigail Ferdman, school of public policy, for her research proposal, “A distributive justice theory for public goods: Between multiculturalism and social divisions in Canada and Israel.”

Mor Mitrani, department of international relations, for her research proposal, “The international community — What are you talking about?”

Faculty Israeli-Canadian 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. Offered once each semester, it is open to tenured and non-tenured researchers at the Hebrew University

The 2015–2016 recipients were: Political science professor **Daniel Schwartz**, for his research proposal, “The moral rights of geographical discovery: Canada, Franklin and the Northwest Passage.”

Social work professor **Mona Khoury-Kassabri**, for her research proposal, “Motivations for cyber bullying: A longitudinal and multi-perspective inquiry.”

University of Toronto delegation visits Hebrew U



Prof. Meric Gertler



Hebrew U meets U of T:

(L to R) Prof. Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, dean of social sciences, Hebrew University; Prof. Dan Breznitz, co-director of the Innovation Policy Lab and Munk Chair of Innovation Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto; (partially hidden) Prof. David Levi-Faur, head of the Federmann School of Public Policy and department of political science, Hebrew University; Prof. Meric Gertler, president, University of Toronto.

In April, University of Toronto president Prof. Meric Gertler visited the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as part of a special delegation from U of T. Prof. Gertler met with prominent scholars from the Hebrew University, as well as with graduate and post-doctoral students. During his time at the Hebrew University, Prof. Gertler participated in a round-table discussion on “Universities and cities: Innovation, economic development and entrepreneurship.”

Among the participants and key speakers were:

Prof. Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, dean of the Hebrew University faculty of social sciences

Prof. Eran Razin, director of the Institute of Urban and Regional Studies, and head of Floersheimer Studies

Halbert Centre academic director **Prof. Rehav Rubin**, Hebrew University department of geography

Avigail Ferdman and **Amy Birkan**, two recipients of the 2014–2015 Halbert Exchange Post-Doctoral Fellowship at University of Toronto’s Munk School, and

Gidon Jakar, one of the 2014–2015 recipients of the Peter Lougheed Fellowship in Canadian Studies.

Bullock Chair

The James R. Bullock Visiting Chair in Canadian Studies was established in 1995 in honour of its namesake, the Canadian businessman and philanthropist. Its goal is to invite prominent Canadian authors, scientists, scholars and policymakers to Jerusalem in order to enhance the field of Canadian studies at the Hebrew University and in Israel. Bullock Chairs are selected on the basis of excellence in their respective areas of specialization

and their ability to strengthen and deepen the relationship between Canada and Israel.

The 2015 Bullock Chair was awarded to Prof. Stephen Toope, past president of the University of British Columbia and current director of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, who visited Israel during May 2015. Please read his report on the following page.

The 2016 Bullock Chair was awarded to Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, who will visit Israel in May 2016.

Dr. Axworthy, P.C., O.C., O.M., is a Canadian politician, statesman and academic. He served as Canadian minister of foreign affairs from 1996 to 2000. He also served as president and vice chancellor of the University of Winnipeg from 2004 to 2014.

“INFORMATIVE & CHALLENGING IN THE BEST WAY”

Visiting Bullock Chair Prof. Stephen Toope reflects on his visit to Israel



Prof. Stephen Toope (r)
with Halbert Centre director
Prof. Nachman Ben-Yehuda

From May 9 to 22, I visited Israel as the Bullock Chair in Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University. Although this was my seventh visit to the country, I gained new insights. In conversations with colleagues from the departments of political science, international relations and law at the Hebrew University, I was treated to a variety of perspectives on the evolution of Israeli society, current

Israeli politics and Israel's international relations. I will say that the mood in these conversations was chastening. The sense that Israel was deeply divided in its politics and even in its aspirations was pervasive. Although the economy is thriving in many parts of the country, many Israeli colleagues talked of areas and groups being “left behind.” In addition, there was very little hope that any serious “peace process” could be expected in the short to medium term.

On a productive visit to the coast, I met with colleagues at Tel Aviv University and with former Israeli Chief Justice Aharon Barak and his wife, Elisheva Barak, former vice president of the National Labour Court. They were, as always, encouraging and inspiring.

I gave a public talk on “Israel and the United Nations organization,” in which I argued that although Israelis have every reason to be frustrated with the unbalanced criticism of their country that continues to flow from the UN's General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, the criticism reflects the existing structure of international relations. The UN is “us”; it is the world that currently exists. In addition, where it counts

— namely, in the Security Council — Israel's experience with the UN System has been more positive.

I predicted that criticism would remain significant, not because Israel's “hasbara” (public diplomacy) has been weak, as is often asserted by Israeli politicians, but because there are, and have long been, genuine disagreements between successive Israeli governments and Israel's friends around the world on important matters of policy. Settlement policies on the West Bank over many years are the best and most troubling example. I urged Israelis not to take international friendships for granted. They are the very stuff of diplomacy, and will be even more important as the pressures mount for the recognition of Palestinian statehood. The government of Israel cannot afford to ignore, or to distance itself, from UN debates, especially in the Security Council, where Israel should focus its diplomatic efforts.

Altogether, the visit was informative and challenging in the best way. The welcome was warm, and I would like to thank the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies for hosting me so generously.

For more information about the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies please visit:

<http://canadianstudies.huji.ac.il>



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