

**Fall 2016**

## The 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies



*Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, the Halbert Centre's 2016 Bullock Chair, gives the keynote session at the conference's opening ceremonies.*

## RETHINKING DIVERSITY AND MULTICULTURALISM: GLOBAL AND LOCAL CHALLENGES

By Prof. Tomer Broude, conference committee chair  
Hebrew University faculty of law & department of international relations

How does Canada address the significant challenges of balancing liberal values and national interests with the highly diverse composition of its society? Like Canada, Israeli society consists of a wide range of religious, national, ethnic, linguistic and cultural groups and minorities; what can Israel learn from Canada

and its success in promoting inclusiveness and diversity? The ethos of multiculturalism, considered in the last decades as holding great promise, has lost some of its allure, and is facing new pressures due to global events, economic crises, migration and refugee flows. These pressures also

raise concerns about long-term effects for certain community members (such as women and children), inter-group relations and national identity.

In May 2016, scholars and researchers from Canada, Israel and around the world convened at

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*Recipients of Halbert Centre and IACS scholarships, who presented their research at the conference's opening dinner.*

the Hebrew University to discuss these issues from multidisciplinary perspectives at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies. The conference provided an open forum for debating a broad range of multicultural issues in Canada, from city planning and entrepreneurial opportunities for migrants, through religious diversity and policing, to language rights and indigenous histories.

The conference was sponsored by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies (IACS), and supported by the Hebrew University's Aharon Barak Center for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies and the Hebrew University's new Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Research.

IACS president Daniel Ben-Natan chaired the conference's well-attended opening ceremonies, where the Right Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, past president of the University of Winnipeg and former Canadian minister of foreign affairs, gave the keynote speech on "Converging pathways in Canada: Redefining rights and identity." Prof. Asher Cohen,

rector of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Honourable Vivian Bercovici, Canadian ambassador to Israel, provided greetings. The opening night was also an occasion to express gratitude upon her retirement to Daphna Oren, the Halbert Centre's administrative coordinator since its establishment, for her indispensable contribution to Canadian Studies in Israel.

The rich academic program was based on a substantial number of responses to an open call for papers, reviewed academically by the conference committee. In addition to 15 panel sessions, the intensive three-day event included plenary keynote lectures from Profs. Alain G. Gagnon, Benson Honig, Smaro Kamboureli and Priscilla Settee.

One highlight was a plenary roundtable on the multicultural role of universities, focusing on the challenges of diversity in higher education in Canada and Israel. Prof. Menachem Ben-Sasson,

president of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, gave the opening comments for the roundtable, followed by comments and discussion moderated by Michal Barak, executive director of the Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Diversity. Participants included Profs. Stephen Toope, Shauna Van Praagh and Norman Metanis, Israeli peace activist and feminist scholar Leah Shakdiel and Naomi Perl, director of the Mandel Programs for Leadership Development in the Haredi Community.

The conference ended on a high note with a special screening of the 2012 Israeli documentary film *The Lesson (HaShiur)*, which documents multicultural tensions in Israel, primarily between Arabs and Jews. Following the screening, organizing committee member and long-



*IACS President Danny Ben-Natan speaking at the opening session.*

standing IACS member Prof. Danielle Schaub moderated the discussion with the film's co-producer Sigal Landesberg. The conference received very warm appreciation from speakers and attendees.

# 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 2015–16 academic year, the Halbert Centre funded visits by several Canadian professors:



**Prof. Lin Fang**, of the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of

Social Work, was hosted by the Hebrew University's school of social work and welfare, and gave a short course on "Substance abuse: Intervention and prevention strategies."



**Prof. Avigail Eisenberg**, of the University of Victoria's department of political science, was

hosted by the department of international relations, and gave a short course on "Minority rights and identity politics."



**Prof. Randall Morck**, of the University of Alberta's department of finance and statistical

analysis, was hosted by the Hebrew University's school of business, and gave a short

course on "Thirty unanswered questions in corporate finance." Prof. Morck also presented a departmental seminar on "Corruption and market reforms in China" (March 30, 2016).



University of Toronto **Prof. Marla Sokolowski** was invited by Hebrew University

psychology professor Ariel Knafo to present a departmental seminar on "Unravelling gene environment interplay in brain and behaviour" (April 12, 2016).

During the 2016–2017 academic year, the Halbert Centre and the Hebrew University will welcome visiting **Prof. Keir Moulton**, of Simon Fraser University's department of linguistics. Prof. Moulton will be hosted by the Hebrew University's Language, Logic and Cognition Center, and will give a short course on "The syntax-semantics of nominalized clauses."

# Support for visiting Canadian scholars

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

**Prof. Shauna Van Praagh**, of McGill University's faculty of law, was invited by Dr. Benny Porat, of the Hebrew University's law faculty, to give a lecture on "Traditions and normative systems: Intersecting frameworks for law and religion," held in June 2016.



History professor **Yolande Cohen**, from L'Université du Québec à Montréal, was invited by Prof. Harvey Goldberg, president of the

Israeli Anthropological Association (IAA) to give a keynote address at the IAA's annual conference.

University of Toronto law and philosophy professor **Arthur Ripstein** was invited by Prof. Ori Herstein, of the Hebrew University faculty of law, to participate in a symposium on Prof. Ripstein's new book, *Private Wrongs* (June 2016).

**Prof. Erica Lehrer**, from Concordia University's history department, was invited by Prof. Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, dean of the faculty of social sciences and the department of sociology and anthropology, to give a lecture on the topic of "Going home: Familiarity, memory and atmosphere in German and Israeli museums," at a workshop that will take place in January 2017.

# Joint Israeli-Canadian workshops 2015–16

In the 2015–16 academic year, the Halbert Centre held three joint research workshops, hosting Israeli and Canadian researchers and scholars. The workshops, held at the Hebrew University, were 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. The workshops were:

1. **“Political parties in Israel and Canada: How degrees of centralization and decentralization influence the organization of political parties,”** led by Prof. Gideon Rahat, department of political science, Hebrew University, and Prof. William P. Cross, department of political science, Carleton University (October 2015).
2. **“Typical and atypical development of numerical cognition: Evidence from brain and behaviour,”** led by Dr. Sarit Ashkenazi, School of Education, Hebrew University, and Prof. Daniel Ansari, department of psychology & Brain and Mind Institute, University of Western Ontario (April 2016).
3. **“Globalization, internationalization and the governance of higher education in Canada and Israel,”** led by Prof. Gili Drori, department of sociology and anthropology, Hebrew University, and Prof. Glen A. Jones, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (May 2016).



## Public lectures



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

**Robert Lantos**, a well-known Canadian producer, participated in the premiere screening of his most recent production, *Remember*, followed by a discussion. The event took place at the Jerusalem Cinematheque (April 5, 2016).

Journalism professor and teaching Chair **Prof. Marsha Barber**, of Ryerson University's faculty of communication and design, gave a reading of her poems followed by a discussion (May 17, 2016).

History professor **Yolande Cohen**, of L'Université du Québec à Montréal, gave a public lecture at the Hebrew University on “Sephardic Jews in Canada: From memory to history” (June 7, 2016).

# 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.



*Alon Zoizner*

In 2016–17, the fellowship was awarded to political science scholar Alon Zoizner, for his research proposal “Individual-level and system-level moderators of political agenda-setting.”

## Halbert Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The Halbert Post-Doctoral Fellowship is sponsored by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies. It 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. This fellowship is currently awarded every two years.



*Yael Efron*

In 2016–17, the fellowship was awarded to Yael Efron from the faculty of law, for her research proposal “Remembering ourselves forward: Transforming worldwide and religious conflict through neuroscience and arts-based methods.” Dr. Efron will be conducting postdoctoral studies at the University of British Columbia.

## Israeli-Canadian Faculty Collaboration Grant

The Halbert Centre’s Israeli-Canadian Faculty Collaboration Grant 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 2016–17 recipients are:

**Prof. Eran Razin**, Hebrew University geography department, and **Prof. Matti Siemiatycki**, University of Toronto department of geography, for their proposal “Checks and balances in planning decentralization: Lessons from Ontario and British Columbia.”



*Eran Razin*



*Matti Siemiatycki*



*Ruth Pat-Horenczyk*



*Michael Ungar*

**Prof. Ruth Pat-Horenczyk**, Hebrew University School of Social Work, and **Prof. Michael Ungar**, Dalhousie University Resilience Research Centre, for their proposal “Shielding youth from radicalization: A prosocial initiative to build resilience.”

# ISRAEL THROUGH DIFFERENT EYES

2016 Bullock Chair Dr. Lloyd Axworthy reflects on his visit to Israel



In May, during a two-week stay at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and throughout Israel, I had the opportunity to see the country with different eyes.

My previous visits to Israel were all short, political or diplomatic, and lacking in the time to take in the rich experiences of the country's cultural, scientific, economic and community life — in particular the depth and significance of Israel as a religious site to three of the world's great

faiths. It gave me a chance to better understand the roots of my own Christian beliefs and their intertwining with the Jewish and Muslim traditions.

We know from constant media attention that religion can be a cause of conflict. But I also witnessed the common ground of our religions and the shared importance they have to so many around the world. One has only to visit the amazing archaeological exhibit at the Israel Museum,

sponsored by the Bronfman family of Canada, to recognize that ancient history in all its phases points to a fundamental universalism, and how the politics of power of every era have masked that reality.

My travels also convinced me of the importance of a serious re-think of Canadian-Israeli relations. So much of Canadian perceptions have been and are defined solely by the Israel-Palestine issue. While important, this focus masks the potential for much more active engagement between Canada and Israel.

What's missed is the myriad of relationships between family, friends, business and academe. It became increasingly clear to me that these budding networks are the basis for building active

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## HALBERT POST-DOCTORAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM AT U OF T'S MUNK CENTRE

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. Two candidates were awarded the fellowship in 2016–17:

**Amy Birkan**, for her research proposal “On the plaintiff’s responsibility to avert harm in rabbinic law, Roman law, and the common law.” Dr. Birkan also received the fellowship in 2015–16.

**Amit Sheniak**, for his research proposal “Cyberspace as a ‘border zone’: Establishing sovereignty and coercion in cyberspace in Israel, the United States and China.” Unfortunately, Prof. Sheniak was unable to accept the fellowship this year.

engagement and innovative cooperation on sustainable practices between our respective universities, private businesses, foundations and civil-environmental groups. This kind of cooperation can in turn pay political dividends in furthering Israel's security issue, and offering Canada answers to our own water negligence in our small and remote northern communities.

Water is the increasing currency of the world, becoming more vital than any other resource. While water is already becoming an area of common Canadian-Israeli interest, there is now a much broader agenda. Water or lack of it is becoming the driver for conflict, mass migration and the destruction of ecosystems. In addition, an increasing number of the people escaping from the Sahel region of North Africa are forced to leave because of the interminable drought spreading throughout the region. Canada has plenty of water

but needs to manage it better. Israel has world-class water technology and know-how.

At a meeting I attended in Oslo earlier this year, a veteran Arab politician spoke of the need for regional collaboration to work on the water-shortage issue. One important way to reduce the pressure on migration, he said, is to come to grips with the water deficit. Surprisingly, he emphasized that any form of regional response around the Mediterranean basin must include Israel, because it has the proven technology. He noted that the European Union got its start by focusing on common regional policies on coal and steel.

Could water partnership be one, very tangible, way to realize Canada's stated purpose of international re-engagement? We could use our diplomacy, bridge-building and development assistance as a third-party aide in forming a water partnership that

includes Israel as a valued player, while planting a foundation for regional cooperation and helping to reduce the migrant pressure on the Mideast and Mediterranean regions and in Europe.

This is the kind of global engagement that can involve — and should involve — Canadian businesses, our university and college sector, and the work of NGOs. It goes beyond the traditional government-to-government connections and opens the way for an inclusive network approach to our international role. It would demonstrate government action on a vital sustainability issue. And it would show a further commitment to meeting the refugee crisis. This kind of multi-tasked foreign-policy would demonstrate that Canada can be a friend to Israel not just through words and rhetoric, but through constructive action.

## The Bullock Chair

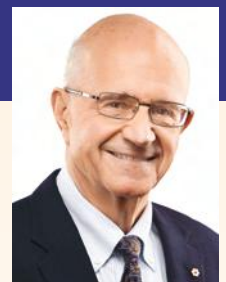
The James R. Bullock Visiting Chair in Canadian Studies was established in 1995 in honour of its namesake, the Canadian businessman and philanthropist. Its goal is to invite prominent Canadian authors, scientists, scholars and policymakers to Jerusalem in order to enhance the field of Canadian studies 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 2016 Bullock Chair was awarded to Canadian politician, statesman and academic The Hon. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy PC, OC, OM. Dr. Axworthy 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.

He visited Israel during May 2016.

The 2017 Bullock Chair was awarded to The Hon. Frank Iacobucci, who will visit Israel in 2017. Mr. Justice Iacobucci, an expert in business and tax law, served as a Puisne Justice on the Supreme Court of Canada from 1991 to 2004.



*The Hon. Frank Iacobucci*



*Joining the tribe of happy retirees: Longtime Halbert Centre administrative coordinator Daphna Oren has retired after close to 30 years in her position. The Halbert Centre expressed its deep gratitude to Daphna during the opening ceremonies of the 15<sup>th</sup> International Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies. The Halbert Centre is excited to welcome Diana Munayer as our new administrative coordinator.*

After close to 30 years as the Halbert Centre's administrative coordinator, Daphna Oren decided in 2016 to take early retirement. Daphna served under three directors of the Centre, as well as with the different presidents of the Israel Association for Canadian

Studies. Her devotion, loyalty, care, professionalism and pleasant personality will be fondly remembered and missed. We wish Daphna a long, happy and healthy retirement — may all her wishes and expectations be fulfilled.

After an extensive search, the Centre has welcomed Diana Munayer as its new administrative coordinator. We wish Diana the best of luck and look forward to working with her!

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

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



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