

***Canadian Studies in Israel:  
The First Twenty Years***

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Canadian Studies has developed for particular reasons in countries around the world and has resulted in different practices and foci in these countries. In Israel a strong focus of Canadian Studies is found in comparative studies, an approach identified mainly with the Social Sciences. The reasons for this development reflect institutional connections, the research agenda of key participants in the field of Canadian Studies, and an adaptation of Canadian Studies to the Israeli academic and intellectual environment. To highlight the Israeli approach to Canadian Studies, the discussion opens with a brief survey of Canadian Studies in other countries. Attention is paid to the strong interests in Canadian Studies and underlying reasons for their pursuit in different locales. This is followed by a detailed description of the development of Canadian Studies in Israel. The discussion is two-fold: historical—with emphasis on an evolutionary process—and structural—with focus on the elements that have provided the foundations for Canadian Studies in Israel. It is concluded with lessons that may be learned from the Israeli experience of developing Canadian Studies and recommendations for future growth and activity.

## **CANADIAN STUDIES ABROAD AND IN ISRAEL**

### **The International Context**

Canadian Studies has developed in different formats and contexts in various parts of the world. This section reviews Canadian Studies in a broad international framework in an attempt to place Israel within an extensive international context.

Looking at the pursuit of Canadian Studies in different countries, it is understandable that academics in the United States of America should take a special interest in broadening and deepening their understanding of Canada. With the longest shared undefended border in the world and a multitude of linkages, attention is called for. In 2000 there were 60 universities across the United States that had Canadian Studies activities including one institute, 15 centres and 21 programmes.<sup>1</sup>

For other countries, there are often specific reasons for interest in Canada. Mexican academics, for example, developed a growing fascination with Canada's economy and Canadian politics. This began in the mid-1980s with the intensification of Canada's relations with Latin America and was strengthened during the period of negotiations and following the establishment of the tripartite linkage under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in January 1994. This connection has meshed the economies of Canada and Mexico together with that of the United States, and has ramifications on many facets of life in the two countries.<sup>2</sup>

Members of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Canadian Studies have an obvious interest in questions relating to their own and Canada's place in the former British Empire and today's British Commonwealth. Furthermore, the three countries have aboriginal populations and are dealing increasingly with issues of indigenous peoples' rights. Another common denominator is that these countries originally absorbed immigrants from the British Isles and today receive immigrants from all over the globe. In addition, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have found a new connection as members of

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<sup>1</sup> George Sherman and Richard Beach, "The Chill Is Gone: 'Canadian Studies' Catches Fire in the United States," *ACS Bulletin AEC* 16, nos. 2–3 (Summer–Fall 1994): 21–22.

<sup>2</sup> María Teresa Gutiérrez-Haces, "Présentation de l'Association mexicaine d'études canadiennes (AMEC)," *ACS Bulletin AEC* 16, nos. 2–3 (Summer–Fall 1994): 27–28. See also the contents of idem, *Canadá, Un Estado Posmoderno* (n.p.: Plaza y Valdes Editores, 2000).

the Pacific Rim economy.<sup>3</sup>

It is quite common for Canadianists abroad to explore the relationship between their own country and Canada, and aspects of their own country or culture in relation to Canada. British researcher Ged Martin, for example, published his study, *Britain & the Origins of Canadian Confederation, 1837–67*. Japanese researchers Bamba Nobuya and Ohara Yuko published books and numerous articles on Canadian–Japanese relations.<sup>4</sup> Israelis have likewise investigated this avenue. Zachariah Kay has published two volumes—*Canada and Palestine: The Politics of Non-Commitment* and *The Diplomacy of Prudence, Canada and Israel, 1948–1958*—and is currently working on a subsequent volume.

In certain countries, the interest in Canada is not found in sphere of common characteristics, connections, and relations, or from a comparative perspective but rather in divisions of the humanities such as Canadian literature or history. The membership of the Brazilian Association for Canadian Studies has a particularly strong interest in French-language Canadian literature and culture as well as interests in English-language Canadian literature, culture, higher education, distance education and university management, and environmental management. In France, Canadian literature has also been a significant part of Canadian Studies. This is expressed in the content of the Association Française d'Études Canadiennes' semi-annual journal since 1975: 30.5 percent deals with French-language Canadian literature and 21.6 percent with Canadian literature in English.<sup>5</sup>

In India, Canadian Studies began with a strong emphasis placed on English-language Canadian literature. This was a result of “the substantial interest shown by a number of Indian universities in offering M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. courses in Canadian literature/commonwealth literature” and also the lack of library resources. A growing number of younger scholars have taken up Canadian

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<sup>3</sup> Lois Foster, *A Profile of Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand: A Report prepared for the International Council for Canadian Studies* (Australia: ACSANZ, March 1995), 25, 29, 33–40. The study found that the most frequent responses (in descending order) to the specific foci in the respondents' professional activity directed to Canada were Multiculturalism, Native Studies, Regional Studies, and Literary Studies.

<sup>4</sup> Kensei Yoshida, “Canadian Studies in Japan,” in: *Canada and Japan in the Twentieth Century*, eds. John Schultz and Kimitada Miwa (Toronto, Oxford, and New York: Oxford University Press, 1991), 217–18, 248–49.

<sup>5</sup> Association Française d'Études Canadiennes, *Les Vingt Ans de l'A.F.E.C. (1976–1996)*. (Talence Cedex: Association Française d'Études Canadiennes, 1996), 7.

literature as their career choices. French-language Canadian literature tended to be neglected in Indian academic circles due to “non-availability of adequate material in English and also because of lack of translation facilities available in Indian universities.” Politics and sociology are also noteworthy components of Canadian Studies in India.<sup>6</sup> This trend appears to be continuing if the programme of the 1999 Indian Association for Canadian Studies Annual Conference can be considered a yardstick.

In Italy, academic interest in Canada was apparent as early as the 1930s, and included the geographical study by Silvio Zavatti, *La Sfinge Bianca* (The White Sphynx). Canadian Studies in Italy emerged strongly in the 1980s and it appears from the recent publication of *Canadian Studies in Italy/Etudes Canadiennes en Italie, 1995–1996* that there has been a particular interest in four areas: geography, history, francophone Canadian literature, and anglophone Canadian literature.<sup>7</sup>

The general interest in the humanities in most countries is reflected in the content of articles in Canadian Studies associations’ journals. In 1995–1996 Canadian literature took a prominent place, dropping only slightly the following two years.<sup>8</sup>

Victor Konrad, as guest editor of the *Canadian Geographer*, emphasised the contribution of geography to the growth of Canadian Studies internationally. He noted that “in most countries where Canadian Studies thrives, a few geographers are active in promoting the field and establishing associations which further the

<sup>6</sup> Om P. Juneja, “Trends and Future Plans in Canadian Studies in India,” in: *Canadian Studies in Asia*, ed. Alan F.J. Artibise, *Canadian Issues / Thèmes canadiens*, 10, no. 2 (1988): 24–25.

<sup>7</sup> Anne de Vaucher Gravili, Franca Farnocchia Petri, Alessandro Gebbia, and Matteo Sanfilippo, *Canadian Studies in Italy/Études Canadiennes en Italie, 1995–1996* (Rome: Semar, 1996); William Fenton, “Italian Canadianists...Do It Better!” *ICCS Contact* 10, no. 1 (Spring 1991): 13–16.

<sup>8</sup> Content Distribution of Articles in Canadian Studies Associations Journals (percent)

Year/Field	English Canadian Literature	French Canadian Literature	Minority Literature & Linguistics	History	Social Sciences (except History)	Other fields
1995-1996	24	23	N/A	13	40	0
1996-1997	18	12	N/A	11	44	15
1997-1998	18	12	6	11	44	9

Source: International Council for Canadian Studies. *Canadian Studies in the World* (1995–1996, 1996–1997, 1997–1998).

study of Canada. Characteristically, they assume leadership roles in these organizations and in prominent centres in Canadian Studies.” Konrad went on to point to the limited numerical presence of geographers in the memberships of various Canadian Studies associations. Based on data from the International Council for Canadian Studies directory of Canadianists for 1989, he found that in only two associations—the British Association for Canadian Studies and the Association for Canadian Studies in German-speaking Countries—did geographers constitute more than ten percent of the associations’ membership. In most associations, less than five percent of their members were geographers. The three overviews of the contributions of geographers to Canadian Studies in Great Britain, France, and Japan in the 1993 issue of *Canadian Geographer* serve to provide the qualitative descriptions that show the multifaceted and dynamic contributions which were made.<sup>9</sup>

### **The Israeli Context**

Israel stands out among the various international associations for Canadian Studies in the manner its academics have approached the study of Canada. To understand the direction it has taken, the relationship between Israel and Canada is first explored.

The situation in Israel is often reflected in the front-page headlines of Canadian newspapers, while Canada is of limited importance in the Israeli consciousness. Few reports on Canada reach the pages of the Israeli press. What are reported are usually high-profile events such as the 1995 Quebec referendum, particularly noting the slim margin of victory for those opting to remain in the Canadian federation. The 1997 federal elections, on the other hand, received limited coverage. Recently, interest in Canada increased when the Israeli press took note that Vancouver and Toronto were two of the top three on a list of the world’s most liveable cities. All in all, events in Canada tend to be of peripheral

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<sup>9</sup> It is important to note that the ICCS directory provided only a partial list of Canadianists around the world. There are significant differences between the memberships of some associations and their members listed in the directory. For example, the Indian Association for Canadian Studies had 250 members in 1990 but only 75 were listed in the directory. The British Association for Canadian Studies counted nearly 500 members in 1990 but only 244 were listed in the directory. Victor A. Konrad, “Focus: Geographical Contributions to Canadian Studies,” *Canadian Geographer* 37, no. 3 (1993): 258–60; Peter Ennals, “Canadian Studies in Japan,” *ibid.*: 266–69; André-Louis Sanguin, “Contributions Géographiques Françaises aux Études Canadiennes,” *ibid.*: 260–63; Judith P. Wiesinger, “Geographical Research on Canada: Contributions from Great Britain,” *ibid.*: 263–65.

interest to Israelis.

Economically, the two countries are minor trading partners. Canadian exports of goods to Israel accounted for less than one-tenth of one percent of the value of Canada's exports. Imports of goods from Israel made up approximately one-tenth of one percent of all Canadian imports. But with the signing of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement and its coming into force on January 1, 1997, a new era of increased commerce is opening up. There has been a marked increase in mutual trade. Over the years Canadian businesses and entrepreneurs have invested in Israeli companies, established franchises in Israel, and have co-operated with and entered into partnerships with Israeli businesses.<sup>10</sup>

Strong links exist between the Jewish community in Canada and Israel. Despite its relatively small size, the Canadian Jewish community which today numbers about 360,000, has made substantial contributions to the up-building of Israel through its support of various Israeli institutions, charities, and assistance and development projects. This community has also provided political support for the State of Israel.

The movement of population between the countries is limited. Some 45,000 Canadian tourists visit Israel annually, while 75,000 Israelis visited Canada in 2000. The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade estimated that some 15–20,000 Canadians reside in Israel. In 1991 there were 16,770 Israelis by birth in Canada. This does not reflect the actual size of the Israeli community in Canada today, which has grown over the decade and includes Israelis not born in Israel.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Canada's Trade Balance with Israel (for selected years in millions of Canadian dollars)

Year	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000
Canadian exports to Israel	15	115	145	237	315
Canadian imports from Israel	14	62	125	241	597
Canada's trade balance with Israel	1	53	20	-4	-282
Total two way trade	29	177	270	478	912

Sources: John Robert Colombo, ed., *The 1996 Canadian Global Almanac* (Toronto: Macmillan Canada, 1996); Government of Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, "Canada-Israel Bilateral Trade Relations," <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>; Trade statistics for 1992–2001, <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc>.

<sup>11</sup> Israel Central Bureau of Statistics. *Statistical Abstract of Israel 1997*, vol. 48, table 4.5. In 1995, 46,500 and in 1996, 44,400 Canadians by country of residence were registered as tourists to Israel; Statistics Canada, [www.statscan.ca](http://www.statscan.ca); Rina Cohen, "The New Immigrants: A Contemporary Profile," in: *From Immigration To Integration, The Canadian Jewish Experience: A Millennium Edition*, <http://www.bnaibrith.ca/institute/millennium/millennium14.html>, placed the size of the Israeli community in Canada at

Of particular note is the long-standing exchange of students and academics between Israel and Canada. Starting in 1929, Canadians have studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and over the years their presence has been felt at other Israeli institutions. Thousands of Canadian students have enrolled in university and other educational programmes in Israel. A noticeable number of immigrants from Canada have joined the faculties of Israeli institutions of higher education.

The histories of the two countries are marginally intertwined. Canada lent its support to the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine. Canada took an interest in the issues of the internationalisation of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees. Since 1954 Canada has played an active role in various United Nations missions monitoring and supervising cease-fires, troop redeployments, armistice agreements, and peace treaties between Israel and its neighbours. During the 1956 Suez Crisis, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Lester B. Pearson and his colleagues at the United Nations won overwhelming support for an international force “to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities.” Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for spearheading these efforts.<sup>12</sup>

In 1967 Canada, a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council at that time, worked behind the scenes fashioning consensus for Security Council Resolution 242, which called for Israel’s withdrawal from territories in exchange for formal peace treaties and permanent and secure borders. Following the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Canada participated in the resumed UN peacekeeping force in Sinai, and in the United Nations Disengagement Observation Force on the Golan Heights separating Israeli and Syrian forces.<sup>13</sup>

Canada endorsed the Camp David Accords and Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty in the late 1970s, as well as the Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in September 1993. As a reflection of its long-standing reputation for fairness and sensitivity to the concerns of all sides, Canada in 1992 was asked to assume responsibility for the potentially volatile

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between 20,000 to 50,000. Richard H. Curtiss, “Jewish Congress Says World Jewish Population Shrinking,” *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, December 1998, 56, 90 (<http://www.washington-report.org>) mentioned that an estimated 40,000 Israelis reside in Canada.

<sup>12</sup> Zachariah Kay. *Canada & Palestine: The Politics of Non-Commitment* (Jerusalem: Israel Universities Press, 1978); idem., *The Diplomacy of Prudence: Canada and Israel, 1948–1958* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1997).

<sup>13</sup> Brian Morris, “Fifty Years of Friendship: The Canada-Israel Relationship,” May 1998 <http://www.cicweb.ca/canadaIsrael/political/CANISR50.htm>.



multilateral working group on Middle East refugees, a role endorsed by Israel. Canadian experts also participate in meetings of the other multilateral working groups.<sup>14</sup>

With what appears to be an assembly of limited links, there seems to be no obvious reason for the prolific development of Canadian Studies in Israel, which has undergone rapid growth over the past two decades. This came about mainly as the result of the initiatives and promotional activities of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Israel Association for Canadian Studies, and various divisions of the Government of Canada, which fell on fertile ground. Financial support provided by these bodies played an important role in fostering this process. However, it should be noted that from the outset the nature of the research conducted has also facilitated the expansion of Canadian Studies in Israel. The comparative approach, associated largely with the Social Sciences and adopted by many Israeli Canadianists, is the main avenue for this vibrant activity. Likewise, in other fields such as law, education, and social work, researchers have engaged in comparative studies. President of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies (1985–2000) and Director of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, Professor Arie Shachar, in addressing the Japanese Association for Canadian Studies in 1994, pointed to the inherent similarities between Israel and Canada, and the various avenues for research.

Being a geographer myself, I feel it is ludicrous to talk of similarities between the two countries when you think of the huge disparities in terms of their size and reserves. But when we turn our attention to societal issues, then the basic similarities come into focus. Both Canada and Israel are immigrant societies; they are Western democracies, their political and legal systems being based on a strong British heritage. Both economies are moving in the direction of high technology and industrial development and of a significant producer services sector. And in a world rapidly moving into global frameworks, Canada and Israel are very similar in terms of the United States' influence on their economy, society, and culture.<sup>15</sup>

The present paper investigates the growth of Canadian Studies in Israel over the past twenty years, opening with a historical and administrative description of its

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Arie Shachar, "Address before the Japanese Association for Canadian Studies," Tokyo, 12 July 1994.

development Described are the organizations, institutions, and governmental bodies that have played key roles in the process. It is followed by statistical data which charts the extent, nature, and direction of Canadian Studies in Israel. To understand the course taken for this development, the evolution of a Canadian Studies network and the diffusion of Canadian Studies in Israel are examined in two separate sections. The study closes with some remarks on the present state of Canadian Studies and some recommendations for future activity. The bibliography includes works cited in the study and many examples of studies on Canada published by Israeli Canadianists.

## **THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN STUDIES IN ISRAEL**

In 1975 the first findings of the Crown Commission on the State of Canadian Studies in Canada and internationally were published. The Commission, headed by Thomas H. B. Symons, also investigated the situation in Israel. The Commission's report took note of strong evidence of Canadian involvement at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Various plaques adorning the university walls acknowledged Canadian philanthropic efforts. Three university buildings and a garden were then identifiable with Canada by name—Canada Hall, St. Laurent Garden, the Lady Davis Building of the Jewish National and University Library, and Vincent Massey Hall. The Commission also noted the lack of academic Canadian Studies and the scarcity of books on Canada in the university library. Similar situations were found to have existed at Tel Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University. The absence of Canadian content in the curriculum and resources at Haifa University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was considered more understandable since they were newer and less developed universities, both founded in the 1960s. In its report, the Commission outlined the situation at that time and its expectations.

The Commission believes that it is unfortunate that, while Canadians have made substantial contributions to the development of the university system in Israel, they have done almost nothing to encourage the study of Canada in that system. All these universities have Friendship Societies in Canada that are actively working to support them. Indeed, it is these societies that raised most of the money for the [thirteen] buildings [at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem] already mentioned. The Commission recognizes the inherent merit in the initiative that the Societies have taken in the past on behalf of the universities of Israel. At the same time, it feels strongly that they should also place some priority upon supporting programmes and arrangements that will foster Canadian content at these universities as a legitimate field of study. The many contacts that the Commission had with senior university teachers and administrators in Israel indicated clearly that such support would be most welcome. In particular, correspondents pointed to the need for additional library reference material on Canada, for one or two courses devoted exclusively to Canada and for a stepped-up programme of academic exchanges with Canadian universities. The Commission recommends that the Friendship Societies develop a programme of support that will help to meet these important needs and that the proposed Advisory Council on

External Academic and Cultural Affairs examine ways and means to encourage and assist such a development.<sup>16</sup>

Dr. Ralph Halbert, then Vice-President of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, took up the challenge of developing Canadian Studies in Jerusalem. In a letter to Secretary of State John Roberts, Halbert related to the Commission's recognition and emphasis of the need to expand Canadian Studies programmes in major universities throughout the free world. Halbert outlined the merits of the development of such a programme in Israel, particularly at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Israel, one of the world's most stable democracies, with which Canada enjoys excellent relations, lacks such a Programme. It is felt that at this juncture of hopeful developments in the Middle East,<sup>17</sup> and in view of the special interest in Israel by large segments of the Canadian public, it would be most important for the Canadian Government to help establish a Chair in Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel's mother university, was established in 1925 and has grown to become a major university with an enrolment of approximately fifteen thousand students. It has faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Medicine, Agriculture, Law, Science (Mathematics and Life Sciences) among others. It is regarded as one of the foremost institutions of higher learning noted for its high scholastic standards, academic achievements and research.

It regularly enrolls many Canadian students (several hundred to date) in its programmes and has informal ties with several Canadian universities including McGill, Toronto, Carleton, Calgary, Manitoba and British Columbia. An official exchange agreement was recently signed with York University....

Aside from the obvious importance of the establishment of this Chair of Canadian Studies at Israel's major institution of higher learning, the long

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<sup>16</sup> Thomas H. B. Symons, *To Know Ourselves: The Report of the Commission on Canadian Studies*, 2 vols. (Ottawa: Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, 1975), 43–44.

<sup>17</sup> Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem and addressed Israel's Knesset on November 19, 1977. This was the first visit to Israel by an Arab leader and paved the way for direct Israeli–Egyptian peace talks. The Camp David Accords were signed between Israel and Egypt on September 17, 1978. Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty on March 26, 1979.

term objective would be a cultural treaty between Canada and Israel in order to further cultural, educational and scientific relations between the two countries.<sup>18</sup>

Halbert put forward a six-point proposal for developing Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University. The first point suggested the establishment of a permanent chair in Canadian Studies with its \$500,000 cost to be borne equally by the Government of Canada and a philanthropic Canadian family. Second, an annual grant of \$50,000 from the Government for an initial period of ten years was proposed. This would be the same amount the Government expended for the support of the Canadian Studies chair at John Hopkins University and of other such chairs outside of Canada. To ensure the research infrastructure, it was proposed that the Canada Council Book Purchase Programme would contribute \$15,000–20,000 annually for the development of the library collection. The fourth point looked to have funds from the Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship Programme earmarked for the support of Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University. Fifth, Halbert recommended that the Humanities and Social Science Research Council and other research funding agencies support the joint research of Canadian and Hebrew University scholars. The last point sought funding to allow Canadian academics to teach and conduct research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Halbert met with representatives of the Department of Secretary of State and the Department of External Affairs who expressed their respective departmental policies. The establishment of a chair in Canadian Studies was seen as an essential ingredient of the Secretary of State's up-coming visit to Israel. External Affairs, on the other hand, declared that it was not in the position to make any significant contribution due to financial restraints. The Department, though its Academic Relations Division, had made significant contributions to promote Canadian Studies in Great Britain, France, Japan, and the United States in 1975 and in Belgium, West Germany, and Italy in 1976 and its budget did not allow for support beyond these seven countries. Nonetheless it proposed a number of avenues for the support of library collections and travel grants.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Ralph Halbert to Secretary of State, January 5, 1978, Toronto, Ralph Halbert Papers.

<sup>19</sup> Minutes of Meeting held at the Office of Dr. Ralph Halbert, Toronto, 11 January 1978. Present: Ralph Halbert, Howard Aster and Warren Langford (Department of Secretary of State), John Graham (Department of External Affairs), Jack Jacobson. See also: John W. Graham, "Recent Growth of Interest in Canadian Studies Abroad," *International Perspectives* (September–October 1976): 38–42; George A. Cowley, "The Emergence of Culture as a Facet of Foreign Policy," *ibid.*: 27–32.

In the end the two departments agreed to contribute \$250,000 to endow a Chair of Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University. This most likely reflected the political climate in Canada in 1978 and attitudes towards the Canadian Jewish community and the State of Israel. Duat Farquharson suggested that “Canadian politicians are showing a greater interest than ever in Israel this autumn, especially those whose political future depends on Toronto where lives Canada’s largest Jewish community. The competition to see who can do the most for Israel between Ontario Conservatives and federal Liberals has not escaped the attention of Israel authorities.”<sup>20</sup> The Canadian Government, according to Charles Lazarus, had a broader interest in funding Canadian Studies in Israel:

Canada’s sudden—perhaps unexpected is a better word—emergence as a contributing force to Israel’s cultural and academic life, may not be as surprising as might appear on the surface—if viewed in the framework of strains which have arisen between Jerusalem and Washington over the peace formula. As one prominent Israeli Government official put it, with this Israeli-U.S. “chasm” having developed, Canada is now in the position of moving in to provide the non-political link with North America.<sup>21</sup>

Canadian Secretary of State John Roberts visited Israel in April 1978 to formalize a series of cultural and commercial agreements. There was also a political dimension to his visit. Roberts declared: “We wanted to affirm in the eyes of the world, and particularly in Canadian eyes, the strength of our attachment to Israel. One could even make a case for saying we are Israel’s strongest supporter at present, given the present divergences in opinion between Israel and the U.S.”<sup>22</sup>

During this visit he formally announced the endowment of a chair in Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The cost of the \$500,000 chair was borne equally by the Canadian government and Dr. Ralph and Roz Halbert as outlined in John Roberts’ and Ambassador of Canada Edward G. Lee’s letter of 1 April 1978 to Hebrew University President Avraham Harman (see figure 1). The Political Cabinet under Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau’s government had discussed funding a project in Jerusalem. It decided, despite the

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<sup>20</sup> “Davis, Roberts Get Set for Israel ‘Campaign’” *Montreal Gazette*, 16 September 1978; Marcia Kretzmer, “Canadians are Prominent in Two New Research Chairs,” *Canadian Jewish News*, 7 April 1978.

<sup>21</sup> Charles Lazarus, “Canada-Israel’s Cultural Exchange,” *Montreal Gazette*, 22 April 1978.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

sensitive issue of the status of Jerusalem and Canada's reluctance to recognise it as the capital of Israel to allow this project to proceed.<sup>23</sup>

In the summer of 1978, Daniel Ben-Natan, as National Executive Director of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, on loan from the university in Jerusalem, worked closely with Ralph Halbert to advance the establishment of Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University. Ben-Natan felt that a "Programme" would enable a much wider approach to Canadian Studies than a "Chair" and was able to convince all concerned—the University, the Canadian Government, and the Halberts—to authorize the establishment of the "Programme of Canadian Studies, co-sponsored by the Government of Canada and Ralph and Roz Halbert of Toronto."

The inaugural activity of the Programme of Canadian Studies was held on May 9, 1979 in Jerusalem. Prof. Peter H. Oberlander of the University of British Columbia delivered a lecture on "Human Settlements: A Strategy for Progress."<sup>24</sup> A major academic contact had earlier been established between Oberlander and Prof. Arie Shachar of the Hebrew University through their active participation in Habitat I—the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements—convened in Vancouver in 1976. Their involvement in Habitat culminated in a joint research project dealing with the impact of migration on the evolution of Canadian settlement systems. Out of this common interest in human settlements in Canada and in Israel, Prof. Oberlander was invited to Jerusalem as the first visiting professor of the Canadian Studies programme. Through his discussion of human settlement he linked Canada and Israel in order to set the stage for a continuing and expanding Canadian Studies Programme.

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<sup>23</sup> In the 1979 election campaign, Progressive Conservative Party leader Joe Clark promised to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to move the embassy there. Mr. Clark said: "This foreign policy initiative is only a recognition of the political administrative, demographic and legal realities of Jerusalem in 1979. Jerusalem is and always has been the capital of the Jewish people and the Jewish spirit." Within weeks of the June 1979 election however, Mr. Clark recanted. He appointed former Conservative Party leader Robert Stanfield to investigate the question. In October 1979 Prime Minister Joe Clark accepted Stanfield's recommendation that the government rescind its pledge to transfer the embassy. Clark said: "No action (will) be taken on the location of the Canadian embassy until the status of Jerusalem is clarified within a comprehensive agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours." Canada-Israel Committee <http://web.idirect.com/~cic/publications/agendaCIC/item8.html>.

<sup>24</sup> Professor Peter Oberlander has had a long-term relationship with Canadian Studies in Israel. He was the first visiting professor at the Halbert Programme for Canadian Studies and returned as a short-term visiting professor. He has served on the Canadian Advisory Committee of the Halbert Centre for twenty years.

Figure 1: Letter from John Roberts and Edward G. Lee to Avraham Harman, 1 April 1978.



This was the first and only Canadian Studies programme to be developed in Israel. It was an inter-faculty programme administratively based in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The first director of the programme was Professor Nehemia Levzion, then Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. He served in this position between 1979 and 1981.

In 1981 Professor Arie Shachar, director of the university's Institute of Urban and Regional Studies, became the director of the programme, a position which he holds to the present (2003). Shachar, in the academic sphere, and Ben-Natan, in the administrative-financial sphere, have been the leading and driving forces behind the development of Canadian Studies and its various programmes at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and in Israel. In 1998 Dr. Joseph B. Glass was appointed to the position of Academic Coordinator of the Halbert Centre. The creation of this position enabled expansion of the Halbert Centre's activities.

A steering committee of Hebrew University professors from various faculties and departments is involved in the decision-making process. This Academic Committee approves the annual programme and budget of the Centre and serves as an adjudication committee for grant proposals and scholarships offered by the Centre. A Canadian Advisory Committee comprised of senior academics from various disciplines and from universities across Canada plays an important role in the development of policy. Its members are consulted on various matters such as conference programmes, selection of visiting professors and the holders of the Bullock Chair, and publications. Most of the Advisory Committee members have visited Israel, lectured at the Hebrew University, and become deeply involved in all matters relating to Canadian Studies. Conceptually, the Advisory Committee has provided the academic backbone in Canada for Canadian Studies in Israel. Chairing the Advisory Committee were: Prof. Arthur Kruger (University of Toronto), Prof. David Morley (York University), and Prof. David Cameron (University of Toronto). Each of them left his imprint on Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University.<sup>25</sup>

In 1995 the leadership of Canadian Studies in Israel and Canada and the then Canadian Ambassador to Israel, Norman Spector, collaborated on elevating the status of the Canadian Studies Programme to the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies. To enhance the work of the Centre, matching support was obtained from the Government of Canada and the Halberts to significantly increase the endowment of the Centre. The Centre, which hosts the Canadian Studies programme, quickly became the focal point for all academic and public work on behalf of Canadian Studies in Israel. The Centre fosters research on Canada and

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<sup>25</sup> The Advisory Committee consists of ex-officio members and public members comprising a regional, disciplinary, and gender representation.

promotes the understanding and knowledge of Canadian civilization in all its aspects among Israeli academics and the public at large.

The Hebrew University is also home to the Desmarais Centre for French Culture. Named for Paul Desmarais, one of Canada's leading businessmen and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Montreal-based Power Corporation of Canada, this Centre's mandate also includes the francophone culture of Quebec and other parts of Canada under the larger umbrella of French Culture. For example, in 1999 the Desmarais Centre hosted Quebec-based author Régine Robin. She delivered two lectures, one of which was under the joint sponsorship of the Halbert Centre and the Desmarais Centre, which were attended by academics and members of the public.

In 1985 Ben-Natan initiated the founding of the Israel Association of Canadian Studies (IACS) which subsequently joined the International Council of Canadian Studies (ICCS) in 1986. Like other national and multi-national associations of Canadian Studies, it brings together Israeli researchers, teachers, students, research institutes, public figures, and those interested in deepening their knowledge and research in all Canadian-related fields. This is achieved through fostering academic and other forms of co-operation between Israel and Canada. The IACS supports the study of Canada and its promotion. Professor Arie Shachar was the Association's president while Daniel Ben-Natan was its director. Membership increased to 189 in 1996, becoming the sixteenth national association in size. Today, membership stands at 300. Members of the Association's executive represent major Israeli academic institutions and a variety of disciplines. In 2000, Daniel Ben-Natan was elected president of the IACS and Arie Shachar took on the role of chair of the IACS's academic committee.<sup>26</sup>

The Halbert Centre and the IACS complement each other and co-operate in many of their activities. Together, they biennially hold the Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies. Lectures on Canadian topics are sponsored at various universities and are open to the general public. The two bodies also organize and support a number of publications that highlight research conducted by Canadianists in Israel.

The Government of Canada has played a crucial role in the development of

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<sup>26</sup> Twenty associations for Canadian studies were reported in 1996. The largest was the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States with 1,113 members, followed by the (Canadian) Association for Canadian Studies with 892 members. However, if viewed by the ratio of members per million of the country's population, Israel ranks second among these associations (Ireland 37.9, Israel 32.7, Canada 29.8, the Netherlands 9.5, Venezuela 8.8, United States 4.1, Italy 3.7, India 0.5). *Canadian Studies in the World, 1995–1996* (Ottawa: International Council for Canadian Studies, 1996), 14–15.

Canadian Studies in Israel. Funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade directly and through the International Council for Canadian Studies has been a major source of support of Israeli activities in Canadian Studies.

The Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv has played a significant role in the advancement of Canadian Studies. The ambassadors over the years have taken an active interest in the various activities of the IACS and the Halbert Centre. They have addressed audiences and graced various Canadian Studies lectures and conferences with their presence. The embassy and its staff have worked at great ease together with the IACS and the Halbert Centre on various projects. The genuine partnership which has developed over twenty years has resulted in raising the profile of Canada in Israel and the expansion of Canadian Studies.

Canadian politicians and their speeches delivered before Halbert Centre and IACS audiences have contributed to boosting the recognition and profile of Canadian Studies in Israel. The keynote speaker at the 7th Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies in 1998 was the President of the Privy Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Honourable Stéphane Dion. In his speech, entitled "The Canadian Ideal," he outlined why he had "chosen the cause of a united Canada, to the point of accepting Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's invitation to leave academia and work alongside him for Canadian unity." He elaborated upon the important place which Quebec, occupies among those reasons.<sup>27</sup> Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Honourable Elinor Caplan delivered the keynote address at the 8th Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies in 2000 on the topic of "Canadian Immigration Policy." Other politicians to address Israeli audiences included Premier Bob Rae of Ontario (see below) and Premier Ralph Klein of Alberta. Klein addressed the symposium "Doing Business with Canada: Towards a Free Trade Agreement Era between Canada and Israel" which was held in Tel Aviv on June 25, 1995. His speech focused on "Global Trade Opportunities."<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Stéphane Dion, "The Canadian Ideal," Notes for an address before the Israel Association for Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, June 28, 1998 <http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/aia/docs/english/press/speeches/19980628.htm>; "In Jerusalem, Minister Dion Highlighted All That Quebecers and Other Canadians Have in Common and All That a United Canada Has to Offer the World," Canada NewsWire, June 29, 1998, <http://www.newswire.ca/releases/June1998/29/c7448.html>

<sup>28</sup> Israel Association for Canadian Studies, Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce, and Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies Symposium "Doing Business with Canada—Towards a Free Trade Agreement Era between Canada and Israel," Tel Aviv, 25 June 1995. See also Government of Alberta Press Release, "Mid-East Mission Gets Results," 20 September 1995, <http://www.nadc.gov.ab.ca/acn/199509/2938.html>

On April 10, 2000, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien visited the Mount Scopus campus of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem during his twelve-day Middle Eastern tour. Hebrew University President Prof. Menachem Megidor bestowed upon the Prime Minister an honorary doctorate: “Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa.” The Prime Minister’s keynote address dealt mainly with the multifaceted Canada–Israel relationship. He spoke of ties of family, history, and shared values between Canada and Israel. With regard to Canadian Studies in Israel, he referred to:

...ties that are embodied by the Israel Association for Canadian Studies at [=and] the Halbert Centre of this university. One of the finest Canadian Studies Associations outside Canada. I am pleased that Ralph Halbert and representatives of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University are here with us.<sup>29</sup>

This distinguished recognition of Canadian Studies in Israel by Prime Minister Chrétien boosted its profile significantly both in Israel and in Canada.

The International Council for Canadian Studies, under the patronage of the Governor General of Canada, is devoted to the advancement of Canadian Studies around the world. The activities of this registered, non-profit organization are supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, funds donated by various corporate sponsors and revenues from the administration of different government programmes. The ICCS “promotes study, research, teaching and publication about Canada in all academic disciplines. Within this general mandate, the ICCS has identified three major objectives and priority areas: promotion of scholarly activities; creation of an international community of Canadianists; and communication of the results and public awareness.”

Israeli representatives have played an active role in the ICCS. The Executive Council, meeting once a year, is responsible for establishing the direction and policies of the ICCS. It is composed of a president and one representative from each member association. The leadership of Canadian Studies in Israel played major roles in the leadership of the ICCS. Daniel Ben-Natan was president of the ICCS for the years 1993–1995, while Arie Shachar and Joseph Glass also served

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<sup>29</sup> Jean Chrétien, “Speech at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,” 10 April 2000, [http://pm.gc.ca/cgi-win/pmo\\_view.dll/ENGLISH](http://pm.gc.ca/cgi-win/pmo_view.dll/ENGLISH); Catherine Cohen, “Canadian-Israelis Flock to See PM Chretien Feted in J’lem,” *Ha'aretz* (English Edition), 14 April 2000, p. A9; Viva Sarah Press, “Chretien: PA [=Palestinian Authority] Shouldn’t Declare State Unilaterally,” *Jerusalem Post* (internet edition), 11 April 2000, [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)

on the ICCS's Executive Committee.

There are no Canadian Studies programmes at other universities but some research centres do deal with various aspects, particularly Canada's Jewish community. At Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Center for the Study of North American Jewry deals with Canadian Studies in a narrow context. Founded in 1990, it promotes interdisciplinary research on the Jewish communities of the United States and Canada and its dissemination.<sup>30</sup>

The infrastructure for Canadian Studies has been laid down over the past twenty years. The focal points of activity are the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies. They organize and provide the facilities for a variety of academic activities in Canadian Studies in Israel.

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<sup>30</sup> "Center for the Study of North American Jewry [Ben-Gurion University of the Negev]," <http://www.bgu.ac.il/research/profile> 1994/95.



## **ANALYSIS OF CANADIAN STUDIES ACTIVITIES**

Israeli academics with an interest in Canadian Studies are drawn from a broad range of disciplines. A number of indicators have been used to assist in identifying the fields of activity and propagation of Canadian Studies in Israel. Based on the listings in the ICCS International Directory, the top fields of Israeli Canadianists' interests are political science, history, sociology and anthropology, geography, and literature.<sup>31</sup> This is followed by the arts, communication, law, education, social problems and services, and education. (See Graph 1) This differs greatly from the situation in other Canadian Studies associations. In the German-speaking countries, from the beginning of the 1980s through to the early 1990s literature and linguistic accounted for some 40 percent of the associations' membership followed by geography with between 14 to 22 percent, depending upon the year.<sup>32</sup>

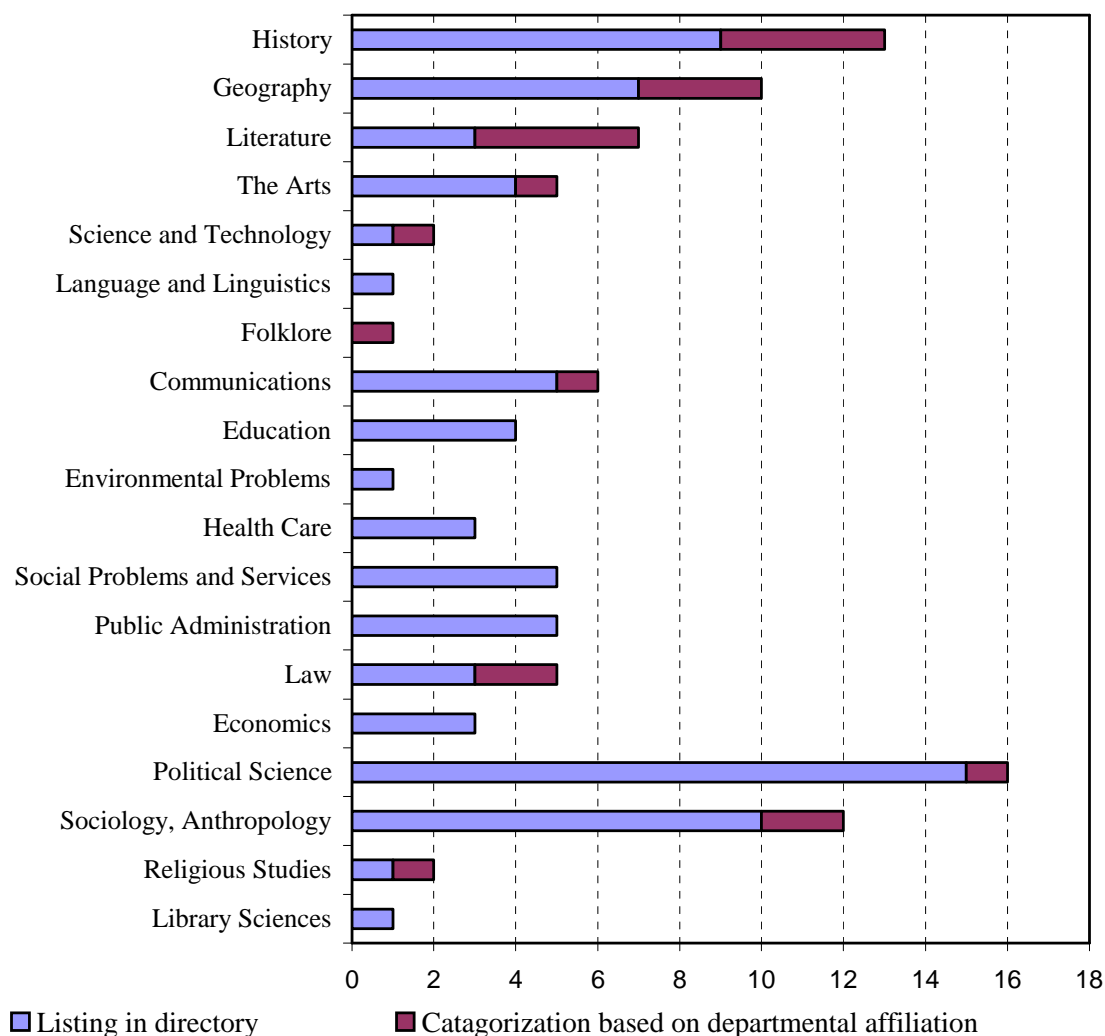
There are two sources of funding designated to assist Israeli researchers. Although not all Israeli academics conducting research on Canada have applied for or received funding from either of these sources, some insight may be gained by looking at the fields of activity of those who have been awarded grants. The first, the IACS Research Grant, offers annual grants open to all Israeli scholars. A committee of IACS members representing various disciplines and academic institutions judge each proposal on the basis of its academic merit. Since 1988/89 forty-four researchers have received financial assistance to pursue their respective studies on Canada. The distribution according to field of academic research<sup>33</sup> included: social studies, 23; humanities, 11; law, 3; natural sciences, 2;

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<sup>31</sup> Those listed in the directory were sent questionnaires in which respondents were requested to list their areas of interest. Listed with each entry were up to three categories of interest, but for most only one or two categories were provided. In certain instances when no category was given, one was assigned to the entry based on the researcher's departmental affiliation.

<sup>32</sup> Rainer-Olaf Schultze and Maria Frühlald, "Canadian Studies in German-speaking Countries: The State of the Art," *Kanada-Studien* 13 (1992): 28–38.

<sup>33</sup> Since the distribution of university departments by their respective faculties and schools varies among different universities, the distribution in this paper is based on that of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



**Graph 1. Israeli Canadianists' Fields of Interest**

architecture, 1; education, 1; and others, 3.<sup>34</sup>

Beginning in 1979 the Halbert Centre has promoted joint research between Hebrew University faculty and Canadian academics. The first project, conducted by Prof. Peter Oberlander of the University of British Columbia and Prof. Arie Shachar of the Hebrew University’s Institute of Urban and Regional Studies, was entitled “The Dynamics of Settlement Systems: A Comparative Analysis of Canada and Israel.” It succeeded in bringing together a substantial number of senior and junior researchers from Canada and Israel on a subject of mutual

<sup>34</sup> Others include assistance for projects outside academia, for example, Doron Erel’s photographic exhibit “Modern Inuit Life in the Canadian Arctic” in 1993.



interest. Since 1985/86 the Halbert Centre annually offers researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem funding and promotes joint research with partners in Canada. To date, the Academic Committee has selected thirty-eight proposals and has awarded the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies Joint Research Grant to teams of Israeli and Canadian collaborators. The breakdown of the academic fields of the Hebrew University researchers receiving the grants is: social sciences, 17; social work, 4; education, 4; medicine, 4; humanities, 3; law, 3; agriculture, 1; occupational therapy, 1; and natural sciences, 1.

Based on the above distributions, there is an obviously high proportion of researchers engaged in the social sciences. In a series of interviews with various professors, they indicated particular fields that were of mutual interest to Canadian and Israeli scholars. Ernie Lightman, a professor of Social Work at the University of Toronto, stressed the strong basis for comparison in the aspects of social welfare. Janice Keefer-Kulik, a professor of Canadian literature at the University of Guelph, saw the study of immigrant writing and literary expressions of multiculturalism as avenues of mutual interest. They include general themes such as the literature of displacement and post-modern margins. Bruce Elman, a law professor at the University of Alberta, drew attention to Israeli interest in various aspects of Canadian constitutional law. Israeli jurists and lawmakers consider recent Canadian experience in developing its constitution a source of inspiration since both countries have legal systems based on the British tradition. This direction for research falls within the framework, which Canadian Ambassador to Israel Edward G. Lee envisioned at the inauguration of the Halbert Programme in Canadian Studies in 1979, with the programme functioning as a “forum for the exchanges on our two countries’ experiences in nation-building.”<sup>35</sup> Geographers have also found particular fields of shared interest. Eran Razin of Hebrew University and André Langlois of University of Ottawa studied the role of ethnic groups in entrepreneurship in both countries (see bibliography).<sup>36</sup> Yehuda Gradus of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev took an interest in frontier development, comparing Israel’s arid southern frontier (the Negev) with the cold Canadian Yukon. Many other avenues for comparative research have been identified.

As expected, a number of Israeli researchers have focused their attention on Canada’s Jewish community. This is one avenue for investigation that the Halbert

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<sup>35</sup> Statement by Canadian Ambassador Edward G. Lee at the Inaugural Ceremony for the Programme of Canadian Studies, Hebrew University, May 9, 1979.

<sup>36</sup> Eran Razin and André Langlois have published six articles together.

Centre has fostered over the years.<sup>37</sup> Geographers Yossi Katz of Bar-Ilan University together with his partner John C. Lehr of the University of Winnipeg have investigated Jewish rural settlement on the Canadian prairies. Their fruitful joint research has examined other religious and ethnic groups in an attempt to understand the relationship between cultural variables and adaptation to this rural environment. The author of this study, Joseph Glass, has been investigating the growth of Zionism in Canada and Canadian Jewish migration to the Land of Israel before 1948. Two other examples show another direction of research, namely the comparison between Canada and a third country. Haim Avni looked at the impact of immigration and industrialization policies in Canada and Argentina on the formation of these two Diaspora communities. Avni also taught a comparative history course on the Canadian and Argentine Jewish communities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry. Haim Genizi of Bar-Ilan University developed a course entitled "The United States, Canada, and the Holocaust." His recent research has focused on the Anglican Church of Canada and its attitudes to the Holocaust and Israel. Both Genizi and Avni developed these courses with funding provided through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and administered by the ICCS Faculty Enrichment Programme. Its mandate, detailed below, is to assist in the development of courses with at least fifty percent Canadian content at universities outside Canada.

Not all research conducted by Israeli Canadianists is in comparative studies; a few Israeli specialists focus exclusively on Canada. For example, Danielle Schaub of Haifa University's Oranim College has produced numerous articles focusing on diverse aspects of Canadian writing. Her findings have been presented and well-received at Canadian Studies conferences. She has introduced a wide selection of Canadian literary works in the various English literature courses she has taught. Her students have gone on to conduct research in the field of Canadian literature, presenting their findings at conferences.

The above example is not the norm. The limited number of specialist focusing exclusively on Canada is partially due to the low ranking of regional or area studies on the academic agenda of universities in Israel. Other regions in closer proximity and with stronger ties to Israel, such as the Middle East, Europe, and the United States, have obviously received much greater attention in Israeli academic circles. Training of Israeli academics toward specialization in Canadian

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<sup>37</sup> On November 28, 1979 the Hebrew University's Programme of Canadian Studies held a forum on "Perspectives on Canadian Jewry" with the participation of Dr. Seymour Mayne of the University of Ottawa, Prof. Gerald Tulchinsky of Queens University, and Dr. Gideon Shimoni of the Hebrew University.

Studies poses certain difficulties. Students still do not see this regional concentration as being greatly important. Few courses with strong Canadian content are offered at Israeli universities despite the marked increase of interest over the past few years. Due to the limited number of Canadian Studies courses, few Israeli undergraduate and graduate students are exposed to material dealing with Canada. Therefore, even fewer Israeli students conduct research exclusively on Canada. At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Halbert Centre is attempting to ameliorate the situation. Likewise, the Faculty Enrichment Programme has played an active role in increasing the number of courses on Canada offered at Israeli institutions of higher learning.

The increase in the number of Canadian Studies courses at Israeli institutions is the result of two factors: courses and lectures by visiting professors in Canadian Studies from Canada and other countries, and the training of Israeli academics. The Faculty Enrichment Programme (FEP), sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and administered in Israel by the IACS in co-ordination with the Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv, is designed to increase the knowledge and understanding of Canada abroad by allowing academics in institutions of higher education to travel to Canada for up to five weeks. These scholars use their time to gather information and consult with their colleagues in Canada in order to develop one or more courses on Canada, which they will give as part of their regular teaching load. Altogether seventy-two Israelis have been awarded FEP funding. Their academic affiliation was as follows: Tel Aviv University, 17; Bar-Ilan University, 14; Haifa University, 13; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 11; Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 10; Tel Aviv School of Management, 2; The Technion, 1; the Open University, 1; and the Wingate Institute, 1. Thus, through this programme, some twenty Canadian Studies courses should be offered at Israeli academic institutions annually. The recipients of the FEP awards were drawn from a broad range of disciplines, with faculty affiliations in social sciences 34; humanities, 18; medicine and health sciences, 3; natural sciences, 3; education, 3; law, 2; social work, 2; and unknown, 5. Five departments stood out: sociology and anthropology, 10; geography, 10; history, 9; political science, 6; and literature, 5.

Israeli scholars have another avenue open to them to expand their knowledge of contemporary Canadian issues. The ICCS, in affiliation with Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, offers the Summer Seminar in Canadian Studies. This intensive week-long course enables Canadianists from around the globe to hear lectures by leading scholars, to engage in academic discussions, and to meet prominent personalities who have shaped Canadian government policy. This programme provides contemporary researchers with a well-rounded background on Canadian issues and furnishes teachers of Canadian

Studies courses with a broader understanding of diverse Canadian topics. Two Israelis, including the author of this study, have participated in these annual seminars, finding them invaluable for further research and teaching.

Canadian Studies are expanding rapidly in Israel. A growing numbers of Israeli academics have placed this field on their research and teaching agendas, some of them have specialized in Canadian Studies. This is expressed in the growing competition for the various sources of funding. There is a notable increase in the number of applicants for IACS Research Grants, the FEP, and the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies Joint Research Grant. More Canadian Studies courses are now offered in Israel and there is a clear increase in the number of publications dealing with Canada produced by Israelis. Additional avenues for the pursuit of Canadian Studies are being created. More formal agreements are being concluded for co-operation between Israeli and Canadian universities. The ICCS and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade have developed additional programmes to cultivate Canadian Studies outside of Canada. In all, it appears that with the expanding number of programmes designed to encourage Canadian Studies, this field will continue to expand in Israel over the coming years.

## **THE EVOLUTION OF A CANADIAN STUDIES NETWORK**

The promotion of Canadian Studies embodies the development of an academic network between Israeli scholars and Canadianists in Canada and abroad for intellectual cross-fertilization and co-operation. This is brought about through visiting professorships, Canadian Studies conferences, and joint research projects. In certain cases, an association between an Israeli academic and a Canadian academic was developed outside the framework of Canadian Studies programmes.<sup>38</sup> It has been found that these programmes have facilitated the strengthening of existing bonds. This has led to productive joint and individual research and strong personal relationships between Israeli and Canadian scholars.

The Halbert Centre sponsors visiting fellows to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for both long-term visits (a full academic year or a semester) or short-term visits (one to three months). During their stay in Jerusalem some of the visiting Canadian scholars give a departmental and/or a public lecture, meet with Israeli and other colleagues, engage in research, and some teach one or two courses. The call for candidates from Canadian universities draws a large and varied cross-section of academics. Their motivation to spend time in Israel stems from their desire to learn from the situation in Israel, to experience the country, and some even return to Israel again and again to discover Israel for extended periods of time. The Advisory Committee in Canada and the Academic Committee in Jerusalem, while assessing the candidates' academic merit and teaching experience, take into account the needs of the various academic departments at the Hebrew University.

The committees have tried to ensure that as many departments as possible benefit from the visits and teaching. Thirty-five long-term visitors spent time at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem between 1978/79 and 1996/97 with the exception of 1990/91 (the year of the Gulf War). All but two were from Canada itself. The Canadians represented fourteen different universities throughout the country from Memorial University in the east to the University of British Columbia in the west. As expected, the majority (twenty of thirty-three) were from Central Canada (southern Ontario and southern Quebec). This spatial distribution facilitated the development of a wider range of connections. These

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<sup>38</sup> The Academic Director of the Canada—Israel Foundation for Academic Exchanges, Prof. Eugene Rothman, took an active role in promoting the exchange of Israeli and Canadian academics from various disciplines.

visiting scholars were affiliated with seventeen different departments from the faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Schools of Law and Social Work (see Appendix 1a).

Twenty-eight short-term visiting professors were invited by the Halbert Centre to speak and conduct research in Jerusalem. During their one- to three-month stays, they usually addressed an Israeli audience and met with their local counterparts (see Appendix 1b).

Recently the James R. Bullock Revolving Chair in Canadian Studies was established at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Each year a prominent Canadian academic will lecture at the university. This chair will raise the number of Canadian scholars visiting annually, thus increasing the exposure of Canadian Studies and fostering greater interaction with local academics.

Bilateral agreements have been developed between the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a number of Canadian universities. The Halbert Centre has been responsible for the development and administration of four of these agreements. The Halbert Exchange Programme promotes the exchange of faculty between the University of Toronto and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Although not specifically designed to promote Canadian Studies, one consideration for the selection of a Canadian visiting scholar is his/her ability to promote Canadian Studies. This programme has also brought over post-graduate students and it is hoped that this will lay the foundation for long-term and lasting connections and co-operation. Other exchange programmes have been developed with the University of Calgary, University of Ottawa,<sup>39</sup> and University of Waterloo. Additional bilateral agreements exist between the Hebrew University and other Canadian universities, but other Hebrew University offices administer them. For example, the Academic Secretary's office is responsible for student exchange with York University. New agreements with additional universities in Canada are presently being negotiated.

The success of visiting Canadian scholars in developing connections with their Israeli counterparts and vice-versa is dependent upon both parties. For example, David Cameron, a visitor from the University of Toronto's Department of Political Science during the months of May and June 1996, felt that he had benefited greatly, both professionally and personally, from his visit. While in Jerusalem, he developed contacts with other visiting scholars who were in the city

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<sup>39</sup> Ms. Roni Blum, a Hebrew University of Jerusalem Ph.D. candidate, is an example of a young scholar whose dissertation research, entitled "Tant Sauvage Que François: French Immigrant Nativisation in Nouvelle-France, 1608–1663," was advanced through research in Ottawa and meeting with University of Ottawa faculty as part of the exchange programme.

at the same time—Bruce Elman of the University of Alberta, Peter Oberlander of the University of British Columbia, and Gregory Mahler of the University of Mississippi.<sup>40</sup> Connections were established with local scholars including Jonathan Bligh, William Klassen of the École Biblique, Joseph Glass of the Hebrew University, and Asher Ben Gera of Kibbutz Beit Keshet.<sup>41</sup>

An academic conference, by its nature, is an intellectual interchange. At these meetings, academics present their ideas and findings, discuss them with colleagues, and have the opportunity to develop personal relations. The IACS and the Halbert Centre have organised conferences in Israel since 1985. Funding the accommodations and sometimes subsidising the travel expenses of Canadianists from Canada and elsewhere, the IACS and the Halbert Centre, through these forms of assistance, present a varied group of academics to the Israeli audience. The Cultural Personalities Exchange Programme has served to bring over many more Canadian academics to Israel.<sup>42</sup> (The discussion of Canadian Studies conferences is expanded upon in the following section.)

The IACS has facilitated the meeting of Canadian and Israeli scholars at conferences in Israel and Canada. When funding is available, the IACS subsidises the attendance of Israeli scholars who are members of the Executive Committee at conferences in Canada and those sponsored by other national associations for Canada Studies. Assistance has also been provided to Canadianists to participate in various conferences in Israel. The purpose of this form of assistance is twofold: to enhance the awareness of Canadian Studies in Israel among the international community; and to foster the development of connections between Israeli Canadianists and their counterparts globally.

Researchers in Israel and Canada have joined forces in order to conduct research on Canada. The Halbert Centre provides financial support for Hebrew University of Jerusalem researchers to pair off with Canadians and carry out

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<sup>40</sup> Mahler was president of the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States and teaches at Kalamazoo College, Michigan. During his stay in Jerusalem in the spring of 1996, he taught a course on “Comparative Federalism: Canada in a Comparative Perspective.”

<sup>41</sup> Report of David Cameron, Halbert Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, April–May 1996.

<sup>42</sup> The Cultural Personalities Exchange Programme is a Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade sponsored programme. Its was designed to enable foreign Canadian Studies associations to invite Canadian “personalities” to participate, as lecturers or resource persons, in Canadian Studies conferences, meetings, colloquia, or on tours in one or more country.

studies on Canada. There are other sources of funding and establishing links with Canadian research teams. For example, Haifa University's Gabriel Weimann received the Government of Canada Ministry of Multiculturalism research grant together with Conrad Winn of Carleton University. That same year, Weimann and Thomas Gabor of the University of Ottawa were awarded the Solicitor General of Canada research grant.

Today there is a well-developed network linking Canadianists in Israel with their counterparts in Canada and abroad. With the existing programmes and the continuing connections and collaboration, it appears that this network will continue to expand and intensify and lead to stronger links and deeper ties.



## **DIFFUSION OF CANADIAN STUDIES IN ISRAEL**

The diffusion of Canadian Studies depends on infrastructures developed at Israeli academic institutions and activities designed to increase awareness among scholars and students. The basis for this process is the establishment of a large and varied collection of Canadian books, journals, and other research and instructional material. Public lectures draw the attention of the general public and the local academic community to various Canadian issues and themes. Canadian Studies conferences also serve as a venue for increasing awareness. Courses with Canadian content assist in bringing information about Canada to a more focused audience. Altogether these avenues for diffusion serve to attract students, members of the academic community, and the general public to Canadian Studies, some of whom go on to engage in research on Canadian topics.

Funding has been made available for the establishment of Canadiana collections at Israeli university libraries. During Secretary of State John Roberts visit to Israel in 1978, he donated 250 books covering works of Canadian novelists, scholars, and scientists in both official languages of Canada to the Jewish National and University Library.<sup>43</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, with the Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv serving as its conduit, has continued to contribute books to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem libraries. Other Canadian visiting dignitaries have bestowed books about Canada on university libraries. In 1993, Premier of Ontario Bob Rae presented the Hebrew University of Jerusalem with thirty-two books on Canada. Often, guest academics present the Halbert Centre and the university libraries with their own and other works. University of Ottawa professor and author Seymour Mayne gave the Hebrew University library some of his own writings, as well as supplementing the collection of Canadian Jewish writers. Through the offices of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, individual donors have contributed books and funding for expansion. The IACS has also presented the university libraries of the

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<sup>43</sup> Marcia Kretzmer, "Canadians are Prominent in Two New Research Chairs," *Canadian Jewish News* (7 April 1978). A unique situation exists in Israel, where the national library is also a university library located on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Most of the Canadiana collection, however, has been deposited at the Bloomfield Library for the Humanities and Social Sciences on the university's Mount Scopus campus.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev with books on Canada. The Halbert Centre, in partnership with the Government of Canada, has expanded the Canadiana collection at the Hebrew University. In 1991/92 there were 2,140 books on Canada on the shelves of this university's libraries. As of January 1998 the collection stood at some 6,500 volumes (not including the Faculty of Agriculture Library, the Medical Library, and the Sciences Library). The libraries also subscribe to some seventy Canadian academic journals.<sup>44</sup> In addition, the Hebrew University map library has also expanded its collection of Canadian atlases, maps, and satellite photographs.

The collections of other Israeli universities on the subject are also growing. An estimated 700 volumes are found on the shelves of Bar-Ilan University Library. Some 2,200 volumes dealing with Canada are in the collections at the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Law Libraries at Tel Aviv University. There are some 3,900 volumes at Haifa University, including its Medical Library, some 1,300 volumes at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and over 300 at the Open University's Library. Today with the computer linking of university and other major libraries, researchers at Israeli universities have easy accessibility to these resources through inter-library loan.

The Internet has also become an important resource for up-to-date information about Canada. It is being used by instructors preparing lectures on Canada and by students working on class assignments. For example, the 1997 federal election results were used in the first class in the course "A Regional Geography of Canada" as the basis of a discussion of Canadian regionalism. This rapid transmission of information has transformed both the teaching and study of Canada. Students are now able to complete various assignments by gathering information from Internet web sites in Canada, including many newspapers, magazines, and journals, Statistics Canada, and various federal and provincial government ministries. Visual and audio information transferred via the Internet enables students a glimpse and a sound of Canada.

The Halbert Centre and the IACS sponsor public lectures on various Canadian topics each year (four in the 1993 calendar year, six in 1994, nine in

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<sup>44</sup> The statistics were compiled by Naomi Landau, Canadian Studies librarian at the Bloomfield Library for the Humanities and Social Sciences at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In coming to these number Ms. Landau made it clear that there are many difficulties and obstacles in obtaining exact figures due to differences in cataloguing from one university to another, from one departmental library to another, and variations in procedure over time. Not all Canadian literary works are included in these totals since cataloguing does not relate to the national origin of the author nor its Canadian content.

1995, six in 1996, seven in 1997, four in 1998, six in 1999, and five in 2000). The lecturers include short-term and long-term visiting professors in the Canadian Studies programme as well as lecturers on the Cultural Personalities Exchange Programme. Departments or institutes at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem often co-sponsor these lectures. This allowed for the expansion of the mailing list drawing upon a larger potential audience. This resulted in the higher profile of Canadian Studies in the various departments, the university as a whole, and the public.

The Halbert Centre and the IACS send invitations to members of the IACS (some 300 in all) and advertise the lectures in the local Hebrew and English press. In addition, the respective departments and centres co-sponsoring the lectures publicize them among their faculties and other interested parties. Lectures have drawn audiences of from twenty to over one hundred persons, including university professors, students, Canadians living in Israel, and interested members of the Israeli public.

These public lectures cover a very broad range of Canadian topics and current issues. Detailed are some examples of lectures that provided Israeli audiences with insight into one contemporary Canadian issue, Federalism. In 1992 professor of political science John Courtney of the University of Saskatchewan gave a talk entitled “House Divided: Canada’s Constitutional Impasse.” In May the following year three visiting professors gave their respective perspectives in a symposium on “The Future of Canada: Renewal and/or Breakup, Perspectives.”<sup>45</sup> In December 1993 Ontario Premier Bob Rae gave his viewpoint in a talk on “Current Challenges of Canadian Federalism: The Ontario Perspective.” In 1995, shortly after the Quebec referendum, Desmond Morton, director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, gave Israelis an overview with his lecture: “The Past, Present, and Future of Quebec–Canada Relations.”

Since 1988 the Halbert Centre and the IACS have hosted a biennial conference on Canadian Studies in Jerusalem. Prior to this, small conferences were held annually.<sup>46</sup> Each conference has a central theme (Canadian Literature

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<sup>45</sup> The three participants were: Professor Morris Altman, Department of Economics, University of Saskatchewan; Professor Benjamin Levy, Faculty of Education, University of Winnipeg; and Professor Sally Zerker, Department of Political Science, York University.

<sup>46</sup> The conferences were: “Planning in a Period of Turbulence and Uncertainty,” Jerusalem 1984; “The Experience of Multi-Ethnic Societies: Issues and Policies,” Jerusalem 1985; “Cultural Identities and Global Communication,” Jerusalem and Ottawa 1986; “Ethnicity and Social Policy,” Vancouver 1987, together with the Centre for Human Settlements at University of British Columbia.

and Ethnicity, for example, in 1994) as well as other sessions on a variety of Canadian themes. The conferences attract Israeli and Canadian scholars as well as Canadianists from other countries. In 1996, there were thirty-six presenters—twenty-three from Israel, eleven from Canada, and one each from Ireland and the United States. In 1994, there were forty-seven presenters—twenty-four from Israel, twenty from Canada, two from the United States, and Ireland. The 8th Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies in 2000 had over 200 participants. Half of them were Israelis, one-third came from Canada, and the rest of the participants from various countries including India, the United States, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. One hundred papers were presented at the conference.

In addition, specialized conferences have been organized. Three, dealing with legal issues of common interest to Israelis and Canadians, have been held in Jerusalem. In 1988 the theme was “Racial Incitement and the Law: Canada and Israel”; in 1992 it was “Chartering Human Rights”; and in 1994 “The Nature and Legitimacy of Judicial Review.” These conferences have attracted high-profile academics and jurists such as Chief Justice Antonio Lamer of the Supreme Court of Canada and Chief Justice Meir Shamgar of the Israeli Supreme Court who were honorary co-chairs of the second conference. This high level of attraction in areas of mutual interest is an expression of the important lessons that can be gained through comparison of Canadian and Israeli approaches to different legal issues.

In the year following the announcement of the opening of negotiations for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement in November 1994, the IACS and the Halbert Programme, together with the Israel–Canada Chamber of Commerce and Industry, held two one-day conferences on the subject. Businesspersons, government representatives, and academics discussed the future prospects of increased bilateral trade and investment.

The conference programmes are published in the local newspapers (*Jerusalem Post* and *Ha'aretz*), inviting the general public to attend. Following the conferences, selected papers have been published in edited collections. The Hebrew University's academic Magnes Press has published ten volumes (until 2002) and is responsible for their distribution. This is part of the project for the promotion of Canadian Studies in Israel.

The Halbert Centre and the IACS have played an important role in the publication of articles and books in Canadian Studies. Three series of Canadian Studies papers are published in Israel. Beginning in 1985 the Halbert Centre and the IACS have published an occasional paper series, with nineteen such published to date that highlight the works of visiting and Israeli scholars. The two have published three research reports in the second series. In 1998 a third series was initiated presenting the texts of Halbert Centre lectures. The Halbert Centre and

the IACS have also provided financial assistance for a number of books published by Israeli researchers (see bibliography).

Canadian Studies courses in Israeli academic institutions are promoted in three ways: 1) The Government of Canada, through the Faculty Enrichment Programme, provides funding for the development or expansion of courses with at least 50 percent Canadian content taught at Israeli institutions of higher learning; 2) Visiting professors or academic exchange programmes bring Canadianists from Canada and other countries to teach at Israeli universities; 3) Hebrew-speaking Israeli university faculty members teach courses with Canadian content as part of their regular curriculum.

Starting in 1986/87 the Government of Canada supported travel to Canada and accommodation for Israeli academics preparing courses on Canada. That year Richard Sherwin of Bar-Ilan University's Department of English and Shlomo Hasson of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Department of Geography met with colleagues in Canada with the purpose of developing course curriculum and collecting resources. The following year both taught Canadian Studies courses at their respective institutions.

In 1987/88, the Faculty Enrichment Programme (FEP) was formalized. Annually, between six to ten faculty members from Israel's institutions for higher education have received funding allowing them to develop Canadian Studies courses, or those with at least 50 percent Canadian content. Their home institutions commit their faculty to teach three Canadian Studies courses over a six-year period. As a result, the teaching of Canada has expanded into the curricula of five universities and a number of colleges in Israel. Examples from two universities are detailed below.

At Bar-Ilan University a growing number of Canadian Studies courses are offered. Some were the direct result of Faculty Enrichment Programme funding, while others expressed the research interests of the university faculty. Canadian content was also found in courses on North America. In 1997/98 Yossi Katz of the Department of Geography for the first time taught "Issues in the Historical Geography of Eretz Israel and Canada during the Modern Period." (In 1990/91 Katz had taught a course on the historical-geography of western Canada together with visiting professor John C. Lehr.) In the same department, David Grossman taught a survey course on the geography of North America, a topic dealt with seven times over the past twenty years. Eliezer Tauber of the History Department offered a new course, "The Study of Foreign Intervention in the Middle East: The Case of Canada." Other departments at Bar-Ilan University have also offered Canadian Studies courses. In the English Department, Richard Sherwin instructed courses on Canadian Literature and included Canadian writers and poets in the syllabi of "World Poetry in English" and "Jewish Writers in English." In addition,

Margaret Atwood's writings are regularly taught in this department, usually by more than one faculty member. In the coming years Quebec literature will be introduced into the department's teaching by a 1999 awardee of the Faculty Enrichment Programme. The Political Science Department offered a course on the foreign policy of the United States and Canada.<sup>47</sup>

At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, nine Canadian Studies courses have been identified for the 1997/98 academic year. Only one, "A Regional Geography of Canada," had exclusively Canadian content. Three courses (two offered in the School of Social Work and one in the Department of Geography) looked at Canada as one component in a comparative perspective. Three courses in the Department of Geography used many Canadian case studies and examples to illustrate general processes in physical geography. The lecturer had taught at the University of British Columbia and conducted research in Canada before joining the faculty of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Another course offered in the English Department discussed the works of three twentieth-century women writers, including Margaret Atwood. The Institute of Contemporary Jewry offers a number of core courses on the contemporary Jewish world and included one on North American Jewry. The Canadian component of this course is quite limited.<sup>48</sup>

The development of Canadian Studies courses has also had spin-offs. Instructors often order or return to Israel with teaching materials and other resources that not only benefit their students, but also the wider academic community. For example, Batia Eisenwasser-Jancourt of Haifa University's Art Department received FEP funding in 1995/96 to develop a course called "Understanding Painting and Drawing in Contemporary North American Art." She brought back from Canada a collection of slides of works by Canadian artists, specifically those of four First Nation artists, eight West Coast artists, and four East Coast artists. In her report to the Faculty Enrichment Programme she drew

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<sup>47</sup> E-mail correspondence between the author and Professor Richard E. Sherwin, 11 February, 24 and 26 March 1998.

<sup>48</sup> The Canadian Studies courses offered at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1997/98 were: "Identity and Development: Wolff, Lessing, and Atwood," Shuli Barzilai, English Department; "Modern Welfare States: Developments and Reassessments," Avraham Doron, John Gal, and Eli Frenkel, School of Social Work; "International Migration," Eli Frenkel, School of Social Work; "A Regional Geography of Canada," Joseph B. Glass, Department of Geography; "Introduction to Hydrology," Marwan Hassan, Department of Geography; "Water Resource Management," Marwan Hassan, Department of Geography; "Drainage Basins and Sediment Balance," Marwan Hassan, Department of Geography; "The Contemporary Jewish World: North American Jewry," Eli Lederhendler, The Institute of Contemporary Jewry; and "International Migration and Urban Change," Eran Razin, Department of Geography.

attention to the diffusion of information about these artists' styles, approaches, aesthetic sensibilities, and cultural backgrounds. "Needless to say, all of the art faculty (who have no special knowledge in Canadian Art) use the contemporary art slides as resource material and therefore show many of the Canadian slides as part of their teaching programme to art students during their studio classes."<sup>49</sup>

Visiting faculty or exchange programmes have provided a rich variety of courses. For example, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jean Briggs of Memorial University taught "The Eskimo of Canada: Culture and Socialization," in 1980/81. Bruce Elman of the University of Alberta taught "Introduction to Canadian Law" and "The Canadian Charter of Rights and the Criminal Justice System" in 1995/96, to give but a few examples.

There is one limitation connected to courses offered by visiting faculty that need be addressed, namely, the language of instruction. Very few of the visiting Canadian professors are able to teach in Hebrew, and courses presented in English or French often draw fewer Israeli students, particularly on the undergraduate level. Some students do not feel themselves sufficiently proficient in these languages to take the courses. It is often foreign students or new immigrants who are more proficient in one of Canada's official languages who attend these courses. The language barrier necessitates the training of Israeli lecturers, particularly for the teaching of Canadian Studies courses in Bachelor of Arts programmes and the new Israeli colleges.

In 1996/97 a visiting professor at the Halbert Centre, Harold Heft of the University of Western Ontario, taught the course "Canadian Literature" within the framework of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Department of English Literature. A prerequisite for students in this department is a high level of proficiency in English. Thus, language in this case was not a barrier. Heft outlined his teaching experience:

The most rewarding professional aspect of my visiting professorship at Halbert Centre was the contact with my students in the two courses that I taught for the Department of English, a graduate course in Canadian Literature and a Creative Writing course. Both courses were extremely popular, attracting more students than the enrolment limits would accommodate and forcing me to expand the existing limits (which I did not mind doing). In both courses, I found the students to be motivated, highly intelligent and enthusiastic. The Canadian Literature course was, I believe, the *raison d'être* of my visit, and I was pleased that the students responded

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<sup>49</sup> Fax from Batia Eisenwasser-Jancourt, Haifa, to the Canadian Studies Faculty Enrichment Programme, Jerusalem, 18 May 1997.

so well to the material. One of the pleasant surprises of the course was that the students were extremely interested in early Canadian writing, particularly the explorer and settlement narratives of the 18th and 19th centuries. I believe that part of the reason why my students were so interested in this material has to do with the fact that Israel, too, is a young society in the process of settling, and students could fully identify with these texts. I also brought into the course a number of important Jewish Canadian authors, with whom many of the students could identify. Among the most important texts we examined was A.M. Klein's *The Second Scroll*, one of the most important Zionist novels to have been written outside of Israel. Students were interested in this novel, and discussed at length the differences in which Israel is seen from the outside and from the inside (which taught us a great deal about the Canadian romanticization of Israel).<sup>50</sup>

An important contribution made by the visiting professors is the inspiration and nurturing of young scholars in Canadian Studies. Contact between Israeli graduate students and visiting professors often continues after they return home. This fertilization process has led to long-term contacts and the production of numerous research studies and publications. Heft described his experience:

Most importantly, several of my students in this course became so enthusiastic about the study of Canadian Literature in Israel that they are searching for ways to continue their work on the subject in their future graduate studies. I think that this is the best possible result of any visiting professorship, and I hope that they are able to find the resources to continue their work.<sup>51</sup>

It is apparent that Canada has moved into the academic agendas of a growing number of Israelis. More and more Israeli students are exposed to Canadian content in university courses. This has piqued their curiosity and in certain cases resulted in their pursuing additional Canadian courses or engaging in research on Canadian topics. Israeli Ph.D. students have begun to examine Canadian topics at

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<sup>50</sup> E-mail from Harold Heft, London, Canada to Arie Shachar, Jerusalem, 28 October 1997. The tone of Heft's description of his experience in teaching Canadian Studies in Israel differs from that of R. Douglas Francis as outlined in "Some Reflections on Teaching Canadian Studies in Japan," *ACS Bulletin AEC* 16, no. 2-3 (Summer-Fall 1994): 1, 20.

<sup>51</sup> E-mail from Harold Heft, London, Canada to Arie Shachar, Jerusalem, 28 October 1997.



universities in Israel and Canada. Junior and senior academics have found an interest in Canadian issues, incorporating them into their teaching and research programmes. In all, the study of Canada has taken hold in the Israeli academic world. This is quite an achievement, starting from next to nothing in the 1970s and expanding into all academic institutions and at all levels.



## **CONCLUSIONS**

Canadian Studies has undergone very rapid growth in Israel over the past twenty years. The rate of growth has accelerated during the past five or so years and it appears that it will continue. The study outlined the unique reasons for the interest in Canadian Studies at Israeli institution of higher education. The basic structural conditions have also been created for a successful Canadian Studies or area studies programme and they include:

1. Strong academic leadership.
2. Solid financial foundations for the development and sustaining of an area studies program.
3. The willingness of a major university to allow for the development of a particular area study program.
4. Strong involvement of senior faculty in developing an area studies program and promoting it.
5. An on-going effort to network with other researchers and programs at universities in the area of study and in other countries.
6. Strong involvement in the international or umbrella organizations of the area studies. (For example, The Israel Association for Canadian Studies involvement in the International Council for Canadian Studies).
7. Outreaching to the academic community and the public through public lectures, conferences and publications.
8. Emphasis on research funding on a regular basis with the purpose of raising the level of interest in the particular area studies.

9. The creation and nurturing of a new generation of young scholars in the particular area studies by providing support at an early stage in their careers (graduate and post-graduate).
10. The building up of area studies resources in libraries, archives and other repositories. This includes linkages to electronic information resources.

## **TOWARDS THE FUTURE: THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS**

This study of the first twenty years of Canadian Studies in Israel saw both its nativity and its coming-of-age. At this juncture, we can look to the future and try to anticipate some of the directions that Canadian Studies will take as it grows, expands, and deepens in the next twenty years.

- With the increasing number of junior faculty taking an interest in Canadian Studies (often having received Faculty Enrichment Programme and Faculty Research Programme grants) together with the higher priority that has been given to teaching about Canada, a significant expansion can be foreseen in the number of courses on Canada to be taught in Hebrew by local faculty in all Israeli universities and colleges.
- As interest in the teaching and researching of Canada grows and takes deeper root, a likely development will be the establishment of a chair (or even chairs) in Canadian Studies at one of the universities in Israel (most probably at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem).
- With the growth in courses already offered on the undergraduate level, there is a possibility that a graduate degree programme in Canadian Studies will be developed at an Israeli university in order to provide the proper framework for the multi-disciplinary study of Canada.
- With Canadian Studies taking a more prominent place on the Israeli academic agenda, there will most likely be a growth in the number of Canadianists (mainly from Canada) visiting Israel in order to lecture and teach and also to work together with their Israeli colleagues on projects relating to Canada. The result will be a regular stream of Canadianists visiting Israel and taking part in the deepening of research and teaching of Canada in Israel.
- As more Israeli scholars become involved in Canadian Studies in Israel, a regular stream of Israeli scholars will conduct research in Canada and spend their sabbaticals at Canadian universities working together with Canadian experts in their fields.
- With the foundations already having been laid for the financial support of research by graduate students and post-doctorates in Canadian Studies and the growing interest in studying aspects of Canada, a regular stream of Israeli graduate students and post-doctorates will visit Canada in order to further their research on Canada and to establish future networks with Canadian scholars.

- With the growing interest in Canada within academic circles and by the general public, the Canadian Studies programme will reach out beyond the established confines of Canadian Studies into the areas of Canadian culture, encouraging research, production, and performance in academia in various media or facets of cultural activity.
- As the economic ties between Israel and Canada continue to expand, there will be a reaching out by Canadian Studies into the realm of business by supplying academic research that will enhance the economic links between Israel and Canada.
- Having already seen the need and interest of Israeli officials in Canadian Studies as a source of information and insight into Canada, Canadian Studies will develop into a “home base” for Israelis who will be officially representing Israel in Canada (i.e., embassy and consulate staff, Jewish Agency representatives) allowing them to gain a broader and deeper understanding of Canada prior to their departure.
- Canadian Studies will expand into new areas, particularly the facilitating of a greater penetration of Canadian culture into Israeli society through the support of cultural exchanges, exhibits, and the translation of Canadian works.

With all these potential directions for the development of Canadian Studies in Israel over the coming years, it is important to stress that expansion is dependent upon the continued financing of Canadian Studies and even a growth in its financial base. But most important is the on-going commitment and enthusiasm of Canadianists in Israel, who in the past and present have made Canadian Studies in Israel both vibrant and viable. Their continued engagement in Canadian Studies will ensure the further growth of Canadian Studies in Israel in the years to come.

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**APPENDIX 1:**

**VISITING PROFESSORS TO THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM**

**A) Long term visiting professors (term or full year)**

Academic Year	Name	Home University	Hosting Department
1978/79	Peter Oberlander	University of British Columbia	Geography and Urban and Regional Studies
1979/80	John Vanderkamp	University of Guelph	Economics
1980/81	Jean Briggs	Memorial University	Anthropology and Sociology
1980/81	Michael Brown	York University	Contemporary Jewry
1980/81	Jacob Siegel	University of Toronto	Management Studies
1981/82	Robert Paine	Memorial University	Anthropology
1982/83	Arthur Siegel	York University	Political Science
1982/83	Martin Robin	Simon Fraser University	Political Science
1982/83	David Morley	York University	Geography
1983/84	Khyyam Paltiel	Carleton University	Political Science
1983/84	Jean Guiot	University of Ottawa	Business Administration
1984/85	Albert Rose	University of Toronto	Social Work
1985/86	Morton Posner	University of Toronto	Business Administration
1986/87	David Parry	University of Toronto	Theatre
1987/88	Gerald Gold	York University	Sociology
1987/88	Melvyn Fuss	University of Toronto	Economics
1988/89	Bruce Elman	University of Alberta	Law
1988/89	Cyril Levitt	University of Toronto	Sociology
1989/90	Irwin Cotler	McGill University	Law
1991/92	Howard Irving	University of Toronto	
1992/93	Morris Altman	University of Saskatchewan	Economics
1992/93	Benjamin Levin	University of Manitoba	Education
1992/93	Sally Zerker	York University	Political Science

1993/94	Roland C.C. Cuming	University of Saskatchewan	Law
1993/94	Michel Martiny	University College, Cork	French
1993/94	Frank Lewis	Queens University	Economics
1994/95	Herbert Kariel	University of Calgary	Geography
1994/95	Kenneth W. Meadwell	University of Winnipeg	French
1995/96	Bruce Elman	University of Alberta	Law
1995/96	Judith Cohen	University of Toronto	Music
1995/96	Gregory Mahler	University of Mississippi	Political Science
1996/97	Robin McGrath	Memorial University	Anthropology
1996/97	Harold Heft	University of Western Ontario	English
1996/97	Michal Ben-Gera	Government of Ontario	Political Science

**B) Short term visiting professors (one to three months)<sup>53</sup>**

Year	Name	Home University	Departmental Affiliation
1984/85	Henry Best	Laurentian University	History
	A. Brodt	University of Ottawa	Business Administration
	E. Cameron	University of Toronto	Literature and Languages
1987/88	John Courtney	University of Saskatchewan	Political Science
1991/92	John Courtney	University of Saskatchewan	Political Science
	R. Durocher	University of Montreal	History
	D. Dewitt	York University	Strategic Studies

<sup>53</sup> Not all the dates of the short term visiting professors stay in Israel were identified.

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1996/97	Robert Fulford	University of Toronto	
	P. Howitt	University of Western Ontario	
	David Knight	Carleton University	Geography
	V. Korbinsky	University of Calgary	Anthropology
	D. Latouche	McGill University	Political Science
	J.P. LeGoff	Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (Montreal)	Political Science
	David Ley	University of British Columbia	Geography
1989/90	Jack R. London	University of Manitoba	Law
	P. Lovejoy	York University	History
	Seymour Mayne	University of Ottawa	Literature
	Brian M. Massam	York University	Geography
	P. Merkley	Carleton University	North American Studies
	Maureen A. Molot	Carleton University	Political Science and International Relations
1984/85	William Nicholls	University of British Columbia	Religious Studies
	Peter Oberlander	University of British Columbia	Geography and Regional Studies
1984/85	Alan Orenstein	Trent University	Cultural Studies
1984/85	Paul Rosen	Carleton University	Political Science
1984/85	Eugene Rothman	Carleton University	History
	M. W. Steinberg	University of British Columbia`	English
	Gladys Symons	E.N.A.P. (Montreal)	Sociology
	G. Therien	Universite de Quebec	Semiotics
	Gerald Tulchinsky	Queens University	History
1992/93	Nelson Wiseman	University of Toronto	Political Science
1984/85	Sally Zerker	York University	Economics

Publications in the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and Israel Association for Canadian Studies Research Series:

No. 1: Boaz Tsairi, *The Impact of Bill C-31 on the Moricetown Indian Band*, (1990).

No. 2: Danielle Schaub, *Fictional Worlds of Disintegration: Mavis Gallant's Short Stories*, (1994).

No. 3: Gabriel Liphshitz, *Regional Disparities, Immigration, & Internal Migration: The Canadian Case in the Theoretical Context*, (1996).

No. 4: Arza Churchman and Rachel Kallus, *Women's Safety in the Urban Environment - The Canadian Experience and its Applicability to the Israeli Context*, (2001).

No. 5: Joseph B. Glass, *Canadian Studies in Israel: The First Twenty Years*, (2003).



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