



# Halbert Centre



FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

*Building Bridges*



## Fall 2013

How do Canada and Israel cope with new global challenges? What can the two countries learn from each other from the ways they respond to world affairs? From the global economic meltdown to the Arab Spring, from the resurgence of political protest to the impact of digital technologies on political communication, scholars and policymakers must reassess conventional ways of understanding politics and policy at the domestic, regional and international levels.

In May 2013, scholars from countries as diverse as Canada, Israel, Japan, Russia and the U.S.A. gathered at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to discuss these questions — and multidisciplinary approaches to addressing them — at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies. Sponsored by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies (IACS), the conference was a stimulating and intellectually

challenging opportunity for Israeli and international Canadian Studies scholars to learn from and network with their colleagues.

IACS president Daniel Ben-Natan chaired the conference's opening ceremonies, with greetings from Hebrew University director Prof. Asher Cohen and The Hon. Paul Hunt, Canadian ambassador to Israel. Speakers at the opening session included Yair Seroussi, chairman of the Bank Hapoalim Board of Directors, who discussed "The Israeli Economy: Opportu-



nities and Challenges,” and former Canadian justice minister and attorney general the Hon. Prof. Irwin Cotler, MP, prof. of law emeritus at McGill University. Prof. Cotler talked about “Foundational Principles of Canadian Foreign Policy in the Middle East.”

During the following two days, the 170 participants approached the conference theme from a six different “streams,” each representing a different discipline

or perspective. Scholars from literary, legal, business, communications and media, political science, and sociology and culture challenged and learned from each other as they reassessed conventional ways of understanding world affairs. For each stream, a leading scholar opened the discussion and provided a summary at the conference’s final roundtable session. As well, PhD students who were awarded grants from the Halbert Centre got a chance to present their research projects.

The conference received warm and enthusiastic feedback from both speakers and attendees.

“Looking forward to seeing everyone again at the next conference!”



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1. Canadian ambassador to Israel Paul Hunt (l), and Hebrew University rector Prof. Asher Cohen.



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2. Special greetings by Ambassador Hunt (standing). (l to r) IACS president Daniel Ben-Natan; Hebrew University rector Prof. Asher Cohen; the Hon. Prof. Irwin Cotler, MP, former minister of justice and attorney general of Canada, prof. of law emeritus, McGill University.



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3. Yair Seroussi, chairman of the Bank Hapoalim Board of Directors, speaking about “The Israeli Economy: Opportunities and Challenges,” at the conference opening session. Among the listeners is Halbert Centre director Prof. Nachman Ben-Yehuda (1st row, in black shirt with blue tie).

# Challenges to higher education

## CONFERENCE KEYNOTES WEIGH IN



The keynote session at the 14th Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies dealt with challenges to higher education.

Prof. Janice Gross Stein, Belzberg Professor of Conflict Management in the University of Toronto's department of political science, and director of its Munk School of Global Affairs, spoke about three major challenges to higher education today: globalization, economics, and the digitization of knowledge.

Universities worldwide compete globally for the best students, noted Prof. Stein, at the same time as governmental funding for higher education has declined significantly, forcing universities to privatize and increase revenue by enrolling more students. At the same time, education is becoming increasingly digitized, changing the ways in which universities set criteria for authoritative knowledge.

In light of these challenges, argued Prof. Stein, universities can take one of two approaches: assimilate technological change and digitization of knowledge into existing university platforms, or acknowledge that digitization will drastically change the ways in which universities conduct research and produce knowledge. While the effects on research are already noticeable, Prof. Stein suggested that teaching has been largely unaffected, and argued that it will

have to undergo a digital transformation in order to stay relevant and make the best use of current technology.

Prof. Rivka Carmi, president of Ben-Gurion University, spoke about global financial challenges facing universities today. She used as an example the hiring freeze of tenure-track faculty by Israeli universities — an economic “solution” with serious consequences for the universities' ability to teach.

A more productive strategy, she suggested, would be to mobilize governments to work directly with universities. As real engines of growth and change, universities can realize governments' goals for sustainable development. For example, if the state of Israel wishes to establish connections with the Chinese government, one of the best ways to do so is to establish academic relations that will promote the academic exchange of ideas between faculty members.

Hebrew University president Prof. Menahem Ben Sasson closed the keynote session by discussing an apparent conflict faced by universities worldwide: the importance of the distribution of knowledge vs. the importance of research.

Universities must operate both as educational institutions and as research centres, but which should the university prioritize? Prof. Ben Sasson used as an example the historic argument between Albert Einstein and Judah Leon



*Keynote speaker:  
Prof. Janice Gross Stein.*

Magnes, the first president of the Hebrew University. Magnes claimed that the university should be accessible and open to all in order to fully serve its purpose as an educational institution, while Einstein argued that the value of a university lies in its research facilities and investments.

Today, Prof. Ben Sasson argued, Israel's 69 colleges serve the purpose of distributing knowledge in the country. Research, therefore, is a far more important priority for the country's universities. While this focus may not help the universities enroll more students, it will guarantee high levels of high-quality research.

The session was chaired by Dr. Nadine Trajtenberg, associate dean of the School of Economics, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya.

*Please visit [The Halbert Centre website](http://TheHalbertCentre.com) to view the keynote session, as well as the opening session by Mr. Yair Seroussi and The Hon. Prof. Irwin Cotler:  
[www.canadianstudies.huji.ac.il](http://www.canadianstudies.huji.ac.il)*

# Joint Israeli-Canadian Workshops



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## WORKSHOPS IN 2012–13

In the 2012–2013 academic year, the Halbert Centre held four joint research workshops with Israeli and Canadian researchers. The workshops, held at the Hebrew University, are aimed at

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

1. The Hebrew University's Prof. Eran Feitelson and the University of Waterloo's Prof. Paul Kay led the first workshop — **“Governing Water in the Face of Uncertainty”** — in May 2012. Nine visiting Canadians and eight Israelis, as well as graduate students and other observers, participated. The workshop included a field trip to the Old City of Jerusalem to study ancient biblical, Roman and Turkish water features. The

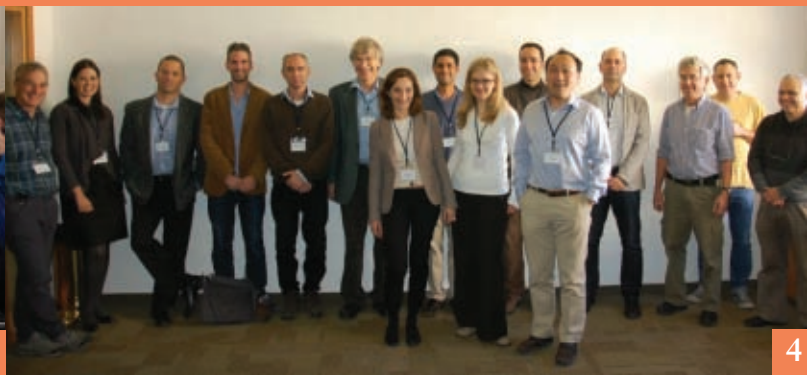
workshop opened discussions about further research collaborations, including an option for post-doctoral interchanges.

2. The second workshop, **“Governing Ethnic Diversity,”** was led by Hebrew University Prof. Assaf David and Prof. Oded Haklai, from Queen's University, in December 2012. Five Canadian and 11 Israeli scholars participated, including graduate students and scholars at early career stages. The first two days of the workshop were dedicated to intensive meetings, paper presentations and discussion of the main theme of the workshop. The third morning and early afternoon were dedicated to a tour for the Canadian scholars to sites of great national and historical significance along the shores of the Dead Sea (Qumran and Masada).

3. The third workshop, **“Equality of Opportunity in Theory and Practice,”** brought together 25 Canadian and Israeli scholars under the guidance of Hebrew University Prof. Shlomi

Segall, Prof. Adina Preda of l'Université de Montréal and McGill University Prof. Iwao Hirose. The December workshop was condensed into two intensive days that focused on the themes of luck egalitarianism, the pattern of distributive justice and the application of equality of opportunity to major spheres of policy such as discrimination and health.

4. In May 2013, the Hebrew University's Prof. Tamar Zilber and University of Alberta Prof. Roy Suddaby led the final workshop: **“Sorting out the Ideational in Institutional Processes.”** Participants included 11 Israeli and Canadian faculty members, as well as nine graduate students who had the great opportunity to present their research projects. Apart from formal discussion groups and presentations, the participants enjoyed a guided tour the Old City.



## WORKSHOPS IN 2013–14

In the 2013–2014 academic year, the Halbert Centre will host five joint workshops:

**1. “Child and Youth Care Research and Training: Challenges and Opportunities,”**

led by Profs. Anat Zeira (Hebrew University School of Social Work) and James Anglin (School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria), October 2013.

**2. “Enhancing Cross-Sectorial Strategic Innovation Policy: Focus on the Israeli Healthcare Innovation System,”**

led by Profs. Amalya Oliver (Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University), Janice Gross Stein (Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto), and Dr. Leonid Bakman, of the Israel Science Technology & Innovation Policy Institute, March 2014.

**3. “The Role of Cultural Identity in Promoting Success among Aboriginal Youths in Canada: Implications for Minority Youths in Israel,”**

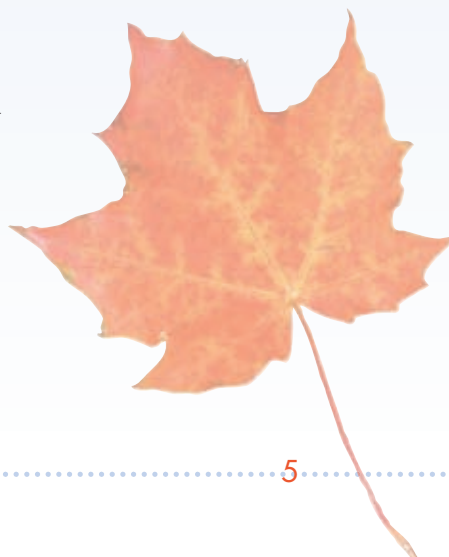
led by Profs. Charles W. Greenbaum (Department of Psychology, Hebrew University) and Jacob A. Burack (Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, McGill University), April 2014.

**4. “Nationalism(s) as a Historical Factor in the Political Life of Canada and Israel,”**

led by Profs. Alexander Yakobson (Department of History, Hebrew University) and Pierre Ancil (Department of History, University of Ottawa), April 2014.

**5. “The Role of Cross-Sector Partnerships in Strengthening Civil Society in Canada and Israel: Examining Collaborations among Government, For-Profit, Nonprofit and Philanthropic Actors,”**

led by Drs. Itay Greenspan and Michal Almog-Bar (School of Social Work & Welfare, Hebrew University), Prof. Hiller Schmid (Director, Center for the Study of Philanthropy in Israel) and Prof. Agnes Meinhard (Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University), June 2014.



# Public Lectures

The Halbert public lecture series addresses Canadian topics and issues before an Israeli academic audience and the general public.

On June 10, 2013, **Prof. Josip Novakovich**, of the Concordia University English department, gave a fascinating lecture on “Found in Translation: A Literary Voyage from Croatia to Canada.” During his lecture,

Prof. Novakovich read excerpts from his book *Apricots from Chernobyl* and took questions from the audience about his work and creative writing.

Prof. Shuli Barzilai, of the Hebrew University’s English department, chaired the event, which was attended by Croatian ambassador to Israel Pjer Šimunović.



## HALBERT FELLOWSHIPS

### Peter Lougheed Fellowship

The Lougheed Fellowship supports MA and PhD students at the Hebrew University working on a dissertation or thesis that has significant Canadian content. Recipients receive funding to collect data in Canada, meet Canadian experts in their field and/or take advanced courses at Canadian universities.

The 2013–2014 Peter Lougheed Fellowship in Canadian Studies was awarded to Amit Tubi, from the geography department, for his research proposal: “Vulnerability and Adaptation to Floods in Canada’s Largest City: Conflict, Cooperation and Institutional Capacity.”

### Arie Shachar Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The Arie Shachar Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University is co-sponsored by the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and the IACS. It enables recent Hebrew University PhDs working on

post-doctoral projects with significant Canadian content to carry out their research at any university in Canada.

The 2013–14 fellowship was awarded to Alexander Rosenblatt, from the department of musicology, for his proposed work on “Music of Indigenous Anglicans in British Columbia, Canada: Codes of Cultural Identity.”

### Faculty Israeli-Canadian Exchange Program

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

The April 2012, November 2012 and April 2013 recipients were, respectively, Prof. Lilach Nir, from the political science department; Prof. Moshe Haviv, from the department of statistics; and

Dr. Ilan Benshalom, from the faculty of law.

- Prof. Nir visited Montreal during March 2013. Her stay was devoted to preparation for and preliminary fielding of an international experiment on “Attention to Negative News: Universal vs. Culturally Sensitive Accounts,” funded by a grant from the Halbert Centre.

- Prof. Haviv visited the University of British Columbia for two weeks in August. He began work with his host, Prof. Martin Puterman, from the Sauder School of Business, on their research project “Priority in Queues for Vaccination in Canada.”

- During his stay in Canada, Dr. Benshalom plans to meet and work with law professors Benjamin Alarie and David Duff from the universities of Toronto and British Columbia, respectively. Dr. Benshalom’s research seeks to provide a coherent answer to how policymakers should tax natural resource extraction activities in more distributive and equitable ways.

# Visiting Professors



*Canadians at Hebrew U: (l to r) Canadian professors Josip Novakovich, Benson Honig, and Dominique Robert all taught courses at the Hebrew University in 2012–13.*

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

During the 2012–2013 academic year, the Halbert Centre funded visits by three professors:

- Concordia University English Prof. Josip Novakovich, a finalist for the 2013 Man Booker International Award, was hosted by the English department and gave a course on “Trends in Canadian Literature: Study by Creative Writing.”
- Prof. Dominique Robert, of the University of Ottawa's department of criminology, was hosted by the law faculty and gave a course on “Technology and Justice.”
- Prof. Benson Honig, of the McMaster University DeGroote School of Business, was hosted by the sociology department and gave a course on “Entrepreneurship from a Diverse University Base.”

During the 2013–2014 academic year, the Halbert Centre will welcome two visiting professors:

- Prof. Peter Benson, of the University of Toronto's faculty of law, will give a law course on “John Rawl's Theory of Justice: An Introduction.”
- Prof. Robert Schwartz, of the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health's Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, will give a course on Canadian public health approaches to tobacco and alcohol control at the Hebrew University's Faculty of Medicine.

## SUPPORT FOR VISITING CANADIAN SCHOLARS

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

- In January 2013, acclaimed author, political philosopher, and TV commentator Prof. Michael Ignatieff gave the second annual lecture in memory of Prof. Edna Ullman-Margalit.

Prof. Ignatieff is professor of practice at Harvard's Kennedy School and Chancellor Jackman Professor of Human Rights Policy at the University of Toronto, where he teaches political science and law at the Munk School of Global Affairs, the School of Public Policy and Governance, and the Faculty of Law.

- In March 2014, Prof. Adrienne Chambon, of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and Social Welfare, University of Toronto, will be hosted by the school of social work. Prof. Chambon will be giving a course on “Claiming Spaces for Women and Children in the Early 20th Century.”
- The Hebrew University faculty of law's Institute of Criminology will host Prof. Patricia Brantingham, director of the Institute for Canadian Urban Research, as part of “Crime Security and Social Control,” an annual conference in memory of Prof. Israel Draffkin (May 12, 2014).

# Bullock Chair



The James R. Bullock Visiting Chair in Canadian Studies was established in 1995 in honour of its namesake. Its goal is to invite prominent Canadian authors, scientists, scholars and policy-

makers to Jerusalem in order to enhance the field of Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University and in Israel. Bullock Chairs are selected on the basis of excellence in their respective areas of specialization and their ability to strengthen and deepen the relationship between Canada and Israel.

The 2013–2014 Bullock Chair was awarded to Dr. Alain Beaudet, MD, PhD. Dr. Beaudet is the president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). He headed the Montreal Neurological Institute's functional

neuroanatomical laboratory, where he pursued basic research into the action mechanisms and role of neuropeptides in the central nervous system, the control of intracellular receptor trafficking and its involvement in neuron signalling and new pain therapies. Dr. Beaudet has written more than 175 original articles and some 40 monographs and book chapters. In 2011, he became a Knight of the National Order of Quebec, the highest honour awarded by the government of Quebec.

Dr. Beaudet will visit Israel in March 2014.

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

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



**The Canadian Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

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