

February 16, 2018

Dear Representatives of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies,

We would like to express our gratitude for supporting our Workshop and to submit a Report from the event. In this report, we will summarize the Workshop goals, schedule, list of participants, outcomes – what we were able to achieve, lessons learned, and participants' feedback, as well as our plans for the future and follow-up collaborations.

Sincerely,

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REPORT

Teachers and Teaching in the Era of Change

Israeli-Canadian Workshop at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

February 5-7, 2018

The goal of this 3-day Israeli-Canadian workshop, organized at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was to establish collaboration between Israeli and Canadian educators in order to address the questions paramount to both Canadian and Israeli teacher-educators, educational researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners, namely:

1. *How to break the vicious circle of educational reforms and drastic (not always adequately supported) curriculum, technology, and pedagogy changes, in favour of life-long teacher education and meaningful professional development?*
2. *How to bridge educational research, practice, and decision making?*
3. *How to prepare new and support practising teachers, who will be ready to educate the 21st century citizens? And most importantly,*
4. *How to empower teachers to become active participates in educational decision making?*

In order to achieve our goals, we decided to organize a workshop around four themes, each of which would reflect these questions. We also decided to invite scholars, teacher educators, administrators, and policy-makers from Israel and Canada who have experience in this area, as well as those who could help us to examine named questions from different angels.

For example, we invited scholars who (a) had experience with working in the Israeli Ministry of Education (Professors Anat Zohar and Adar Cohen, HUJI); (b) have worked with educational technologies, and designed and examined novel tools and their pedagogical implications (Drs. Nathalie Sinclair and Viktor Freiman, Canada, and Prof. Baruch Schwarz from HUJI); (c) have extensive experience in doing professional development for teaching and supporting teacher learning communities (Ptof. Lily Orland Barak from Haifa University, Professors Bat Sheva Eylon, Ruhama Even, and Ron Blonder, Drs. Ester Bagno and Zahava Scherz, Weizmann Institute of Science; Dr. Yifat Ben-David Kolikant from HUJI); and (d) have extensive experience with teacher education, as well as teacher professional development (Drs. Dragana Martinovic, Rina Zazkis, and Marina Milner-Bolotin, Canada, as well as the colleagues from the Technion (Prof. Shulamit Kapon), Haifa University (Prof. Lily Orland Barak) and Tel Aviv University (Prof. Michal Tabach).

We also welcomed academics in the fields of education, who have studied classroom discourse and student interactions (Prof. Adam Lefstein from the Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva), and from the field of sociology of education (Dr. Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin from Ruppin Academic Centre). Early career researchers, such as Dr. Avi Merzel from HUJI, were also invited. And most importantly, we involved many graduate students from different post-secondary institutions in Israel, who actively participated in the Workshop through presentations and small group discussions. The workshop had 33 participants: 26 from Israel and 5 from Canada. For more information about the workshop, please visit our website (<https://teachingintheeraofchange.wordpress.com/>).

Israeli-Canadian Workshop Teachers and Teaching in the Era of Change

Home February 2018 Workshop Schedule About the Israeli-Canadian Collaboration



Post-Workshop Thoughts



Marina Milner-Bolotin

We are very excited to report that the Workshop exceeded our expectations. There are many reasons for making this claim. First of all, the entire project was a collaboration of three educators who saw the value in collaboration.

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

Workshop Schedule

Detailed Workshop schedule can be found on our web site:

<https://teachingintheeraofchange.wordpress.com/about/> . Design of the Workshop merged presentations with small group discussions and allowed all participants to be heard and to contribute. In addition, the visit to a local school for gifted students (The Mae Boyar High School) organized by Dr. Adar Cohen allowed us to see how Israeli educators engage gifted students who come from different socio-economic areas and family backgrounds. We had two open, plenary talks (Canadian and Israeli speakers). We also had an opportunity to discuss how the school envisions a 21st century learning environment and the role of technology in inspiring student learning. Finally, we concluded the workshop with the session that allowed us to brainstorm and discuss how we can best disseminate the outcomes of the workshop and what areas might be fruitful for continuous collaboration.

List of Participants

Speakers			
1	Esther	Bagno	The Weizmann institute of Science
2	Ron	Blonder	The Weizmann institute of Science
3	Ofra	Brandes	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
4	Adar	Cohen	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
5	Ruhama	Even	The Weizmann institute of Science
6	Bat-Sheva	Eylon	The Weizmann institute of Science
7	Dafna	Fono	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
8	Victor	Freiman	Université de Moncton
9	Shulamit	Kapon	<u>Technion</u>
10	Adam	Lefstein	Ben-Gurion University
11	Smadar	Levy	The Weizmann institute of Science
12	Dragana	Martinovic	University of Windsor
13	Avi	Merzel	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
14	Marina	Milner-Bolotin	University of British Columbia

15	Lili	Orland-Barak	Haifa University
16	Baruch	Schwarz	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
17	Nathalie	Sinclair	<u>Simon Fraser University</u>
18	Michal	Tabach	Tel-Aviv University
19	Ruth	Waldman	The Weizmann institute of Science
20	Rina	Zazkis	Simon Fraser University
21	Anat	Zohar	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Additional participants (graduate students are highlighted)			
22	Rotem	Abdu	<u>Levinsky college</u>
23	Christa	Asterchan	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
24	Miriam	Babichenko	miriam.babichenko@mail.huji.ac.il
25	Svetlana	Chachashvili-Bolotin	Rupin Academy
26	Aviv	Cohen	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
27	Enas	Easa	The Weizmann institute of Science
28	Yael	Edelman	The Weizmann institute of Science
29	Omer	Gaits	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
30	Elina	Lustov	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
31	Maya	Resnick	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
32	Vered	Resnick	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
33	Michal	Valter	Wizemann Institute of Science

Workshop Outcomes

There are many outcomes of the Workshop and we have no doubt, many of them will reveal themselves in the future. So far, we can categorize the immediate outcomes into three major categories:

- 1) **Establishing collaborations and getting to know each other at a personal level.** First of all, the Workshop organizing committee consisted of two Canadian and one Israeli scholar. If not for the Workshop, the connection between us might not have happened. Establishing this collaboration opened new opportunities for us. As a result of this collaboration, three of us have decided to collaborate on two other projects. We have also submitted two papers to the International Conferences and submitted a follow-up grant application to the Fields Institute in Toronto. This was a very fruitful experience for us as scholars and colleagues. Second, the Workshop helped establish collaborations among other schools. For example, Dr. Dragana Martinovic and Dr. Ruhama Even have both been involved in the work of the Fields Institute of the Research in Mathematical Sciences in Toronto. However, while they read each other's work, they had never had an opportunity to get to know each other personally. This workshop provided this opportunity. The same can be said about Dr. Milner-Bolotin and Dr. Shulamit Kapon and Yifat Ben-David Kolikant and Viktor Freiman. And these are only three examples of many others.
- 2) **Deciding to disseminate educational research discussed in the Workshop in an edited book by Springer.** The presentations from the Workshop would be published in

an edited and peer reviewed book published by Springer. According to a timeline we created during the Workshop, the book will be published by the mid-2019. Based on the received abstracts, we have already submitted a proposal to Springer and received their approval for this book. Workshop Organizers will serve as book editors.

- 3) **Applying for additional funding in Canada to continue our collaborations and establishing ongoing collaboration among Israeli and Canadian researchers.** There was so much interest among the Workshop participants and the colleagues who could not attend (e.g., from Canada), that we decided to apply for additional funding to conduct a follow-up workshop at the University of British Columbia (UBC), in Canada. We have already submitted our application to the Fields Institute to partially fund a Symposium that we plan for 2019, and will submit another one to the Peter Wall Institute at UBC, as well as to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – for the Collaboration Grant, as well as additional research funding. In these applications for funding, it is very important to show that we have started our collaboration. The Workshop was instrumental in that.

Participants' Feedback and Lesson Learned

As the Workshop organizers who have put so much time and effort into its fruition, we are somewhat biased in evaluating its success. However, we have received so much positive verbal feedback, that we felt that the Workshop exceeded our expectations. During the last day of the Workshop, the participants did not want to leave after the event was over (despite being in a very hot room, as the outside temperature almost reached 20°C). Here is a sample of some written feedback we received from Workshop participants via email.

Dr. Zahava Scherz from the Weizmann Institute wrote:

Dear Yifat, Dragana, and Marina

I would like to congratulate you for the interesting, mind opening and friendly meeting you organized. I enjoyed very much the lectures, the discussions and the informal professional conversations. The visit in Boyar school was also very inspiring for me. I felt so proud to find that such an educational initiative exists in Israel.

Prof. Michal Tabach from the University of Tel Aviv wrote:

Dear Yifat, Marina and Dragana,

Thank you for this opportunity to meet new colleagues and share ideas.

The mixed expertise was refreshing!

In addition to receiving a lot of positive verbal feedback during the workshop, to collect more objective feedback and allow everybody to have a say, we conducted an online anonymous post-Workshop survey. Out of 35 Workshop Participants, we received 11 responses, which is a 31% response return rate. Based on this feedback it looks like for many of the participants, the Workshop not only met, but exceeded their expectations. For example, Figures 1 and 2 show the summary of their responses to the questions about their expectations and their rating of the quality of the Workshop respectively.

To what extent where your expectations met?

11 responses

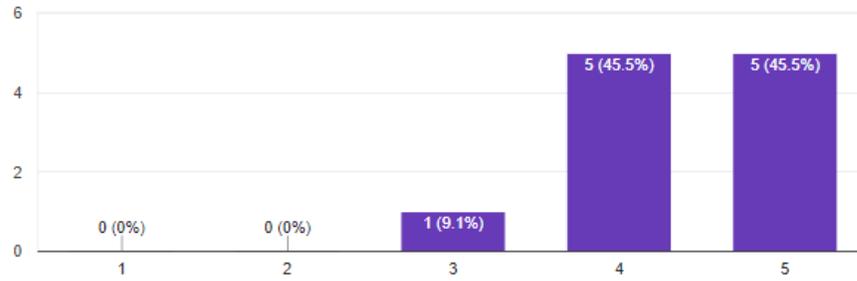


Figure 1: Summary of Workshop participants' responses to the anonymous online survey question.

How would you rate the quality of the workshop?

11 responses

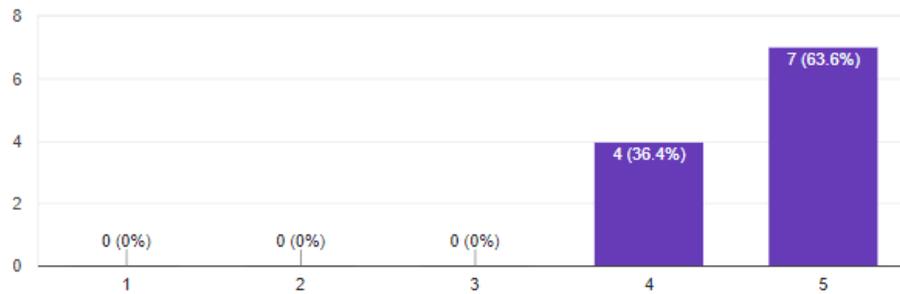


Figure 2: Summary of Workshop participants' responses to the anonymous online survey question.

In addition, Workshop participants also provided very thoughtful and useful suggestions for the future (Figure 3).

Please add your comments (what did/didn't you like and suggestions for improvements).

11 responses

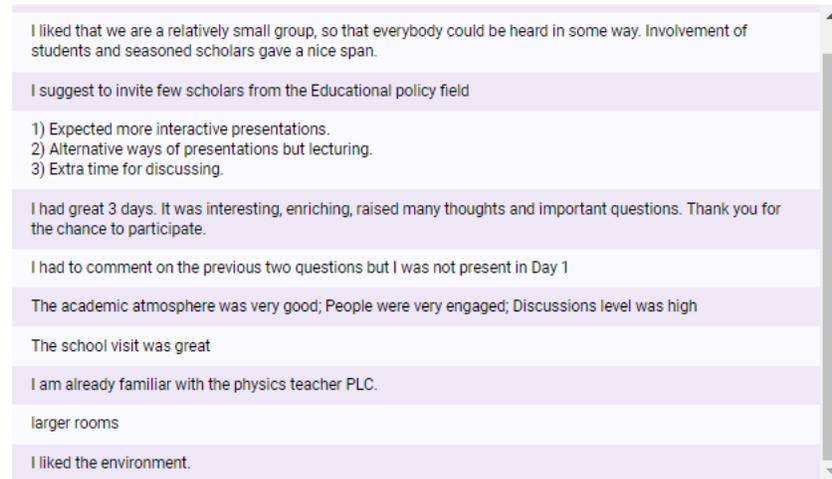


Figure 3: Summary of Workshop participants' responses to the anonymous online survey question about suggestions for improvements.

Future Plans

As a result of the Workshop, we decided to do the following:

- 1) Produce an edited book with the papers from the Workshop (published by Springer), to be edited by the Workshop organizers.
- 2) Apply for the Fields Institute Grant (General Science Activity Proposal) in Toronto, to support a follow-up workshop at UBC in Canada (<http://www.fields.utoronto.ca/resources/proposals-and-applications>).
- 3) Apply for the Peter Wall Institute Grant at UBC, to support a follow-up International Roundtable at UBC in Canada (<https://pwias.ubc.ca/program/international-research-roundtables>)
- 4) Prepare and apply for the SSHRC grants: Insight Development Grant (http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/insight_development_grants-subventions_de_developpement_savoir-eng.aspx, deadline is in October 2018) – to support a long-term collaboration, and SSHRC Connections Grant, to support a follow-up collaborative workshop in Canada (http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/umbrella_programs-programme_cadre/connection-connexion-eng.aspx due May 1, 2018)
- 5) Consider organizing a follow-up workshop at HUJI in few years, so Israeli scholars who were not able to come to Canada would be able to participate, and we can expand and support our collaboration.

Finally, on behalf of the Workshop participants (Figure 4) and all of us in the Organizing Committee, we would like to thank The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies for providing us

with such a special opportunity. We especially would like to thank Mrs. Diana Munayer who was very helpful along the way, and the staff of the Beit Maierdorf and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who supported us.



Figure 4: A group photo of some of the event participants (not all of them were able to participate in all three days, so this photo doesn't include everybody). Photos from the Workshop (will be available until March 31, 2018):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cj9e4ZpPP3tDyyWjqRQSWMJQ6-vh0Y1z?usp=sharing>

Submitted by the Workshop Organizers,

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