



# **Israel: Balance and Complexity**

**NYC Faculty Crash Course**

**January 9–12, 2018**  
**Kimmel Center for University Life, NYC**

# Program

## **Tuesday, January 9, 2018**

9:30-10:30 "Overview of the Field of Israel Studies – Why the Teaching of Israel in the Academy Matters"

Rachel Fish, Associate Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University

Shahar Sadeh, Director, Faculty Engagement Program, JCRC-NY

10:30-12:30 "Origins of Zionism"

Rachel Fish, Associate Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University

12:30-2:00 Lunch – Introductions

2:00-4:00 "Conflict and Negotiations"

Hussein Ibish, Senior Resident Scholar, Arab Gulf States Institute, Washington DC

## **Wednesday, January 10, 2018**

9:30-11:30 "Narrating the Nation"

Ilana Szobel, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature on the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Chair, Brandeis University

12:00-1:30 Lunch – speaker TBD

2:00-4:00 "Jerusalem and Politics of Space and Planning"

Lior Lehrs, Israel Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at the Taub Center for Israel Studies, New York University

**Thursday, January 11, 2018**

- 9:30-11:30 "Jewishness in Israel"  
David Ellenson, Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies and  
Visiting Professor in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies,  
Brandeis University
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch
- 2:00-4:00 "The State of Palestinian Political Leadership and the Peace Process"  
Ghaith al-Omari, Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute
- 5:30 Cocktails and Screening, "Four Hundred Miles to Freedom"  
Discussion with the film producers and directors Avishai Mekonen and  
Shari Rothfarb Mekonen

**Friday, January 12, 2018**

- 9:00-10:30 "Environment and Peace along Israeli-Arab Borders"  
Shahar Sadeh, Adjunct Instructor at the Earth Institute, Columbia  
University and Visiting Scholar at New York University
- 10:30-10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45-12:15 "Pedagogy of Israel"  
David Ellenson, Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies and  
Visiting Professor in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies,  
Brandeis University
- 12:15-1:30 Lunch and Wrap-up

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# Presenters

**David Ellenson**, Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies and visiting professor in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University

Chancellor-emeritus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Ellenson served as president of HUC-JIR from 2001-2013. A scholar of modern Jewish thought and history, he is recognized for his writings and publications in these fields. He has written extensively on the origins and development of Orthodox Judaism in Germany during the Nineteenth Century, Orthodox legal writings on conversion in Israel, North America, and Europe during the modern era, the relationship between religion and state in Israel, the history of modern Jewish religious movements, and American Jewish life. Ellenson has authored or edited seven books and over 300 articles and reviews in a wide variety of academic and popular journals and newspapers. His book, *After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity*, won the National Jewish Book Council's award as outstanding book in Jewish Thought in 2005.

**Rachel Fish '13**, Associate Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University

Fish completed her doctoral degree in the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies department at Brandeis University in 2013. Her dissertation, "Configurations of Bi-nationalism: The Transformation of Bi-nationalism in Palestine/Israel 1920's-Present," examines the history of the idea of bi-nationalism and alternative visions for constructing the State of Israel. Fish has worked as an educator and consultant in various capacities in the Jewish community and higher education, teaching about Zionism and Israeli history at Brandeis University, UMASS Amherst and the Me'ah Adult Jewish Education program. At Brandeis, she teaches the Myra Kraft seminar on Israel at the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program. In 2015 she held the Rohr Visiting Professorship at Harvard University where she lectured on modern Israel and received the Derek Bok Certificate of Teaching Excellence. She is co-editor, with Ilan Troen, of the forthcoming *Essential Israel: Essays for the Twenty-First Century* (Indiana University Press).

**Hussein Ibish**, Senior Resident Scholar, the Arab Gulf States Institute

Ibish is a weekly columnist for *The National* (UAE) and Now Media, and a monthly contributing writer for *The International New York Times*. He is also a regular contributor to many other American and Middle Eastern publications; many of his writings are archived on his Ibishblog website. His most recent book is *What's Wrong with the One-State Agenda?* (ATFP, 2009). Ibish was included in all three years (2011, 2012 and 2013) of *Foreign Policy's* "Twitterati 100." Ibish previously served as a senior fellow at the American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP), executive director of the Foundation for Arab-American Leadership and communications director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

**Lior Lehrs**, Israel Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, the Taub Center, New York University

Lehrs wrote his doctoral thesis in the Department of International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His PhD research analyzed the phenomenon of Private Peace Entrepreneurs – private citizens with no official authority who initiate diplomatic correspondence with official representatives from the other side of a conflict in order to promote a conflict resolution process. Prior to his position at the Taub Center, Lehrs was a researcher at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, where he focused on the topic of Jerusalem within Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations and on conflicts in holy sites. He is also a fellow at Mitvim - The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies - and he was a doctoral fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

**Ghaith al-Omari**, Senior Fellow at The Washington Institute, Former Executive Director of the American Task Force on Palestine

Ghaith al-Omari, a senior fellow at The Washington Institute, is the former executive director of the American Task Force on Palestine. Previously, he served in various positions within the Palestinian Authority, including advisor to the negotiating team during the 1999-2001 permanent-status talks. In this capacity he was a participant in a number of negotiation rounds, most notably the 2000 Camp David summit. Between 2001-2006, Al-Omari advised a number of Palestinian leaders including the president and prime minister. He is a frequent commentator in American and international media on Palestinian affairs and the peace process.

**Shahar Sadeh**, Adjunct Instructor, Columbia University Earth Institute, and visiting scholar, New York University

Sadeh's field of research is environmental peacemaking in the Middle East. She is investigating various case studies of the relations between Israel and its neighbors and looks into past and present (governmental and nongovernmental) efforts to establish Peace Parks on their mutual borders. Sadeh received her degrees from Tel Aviv University; her BA from the Political Science Department and her MA from the Sociology and Anthropology Department, writing her thesis about "*The Israeli Environmental NGO's and the construction of the Security Fence*." In 2015 she received her PhD from the Porter School of Environmental Studies at Tel Aviv University. Sadeh is also Director of the Faculty Engagement Program at the Jewish Community Relations Council, New York.

**Ilana Szobel**, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature on the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Chair, Brandeis University

Szobel is assistant professor on the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Chair in Hebrew Literature. Her recent book, *The Poetics of Trauma: The Work of Dahlia*

*Ravikovich* (2013), was published as part of the Schusterman Series for Israel Studies. It examines the work of Dahlia Ravikovich (1936-2005), one of the most significant cultural figures in Israeli society. In her teaching, Szobel presents the challenges posed by gender, war and peace, family structure, economic and cultural dislocation as compelling entry points for the study of Israeli society and culture. On sabbatical in 2016-2017, Szobel taught courses on Hebrew Literature at the University of California, Berkeley.

# Course Bibliography

## **Origins of Zionism - Rachel Fish**

### Required Readings:

- Michael Brenner, *Zionism: A Brief History*, Markus Wiener Publishers 2003  
"From Zionism to Zion"
- Ahad Haam, "The Wrong Way" in Rabinovich & Reinhartz *Israel in the Middle East*

### Recommended Readings:

Michael Stanislawski, *Zionism and the Fin de Siecle: Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism from Nordau to Jabotinsky*, University of California Press 2001:

- Chapter 1 "Cosmopolitanism, Zionism and Assimilation - The Case of Theodor Herzl"
- Chapter 9 "Vladimir Jabotinsky, Cosmopolitan Ultra-Nationalist"

## **Peace Prospects Between Israelis and Palestinians - Hussein Ibish**

- "The Race to Replace Mahmoud Abbas Understanding and Shaping Palestinian Succession," Grant Rumley (FDD, September 2015)
- "Palestinian Succession: An Overview of Institutional Turmoil," Ghaith al-Omari (WINEP, October 2015)
- "The Tragedy of the Palestinians," Hussein Ibish (FPRI, October 2015)
- "Along the Divide," Nathan Thrall (London Review of Books, October 23, 2015)
- "Organized Hypocrisy on a Monumental Scale." Robert Wade (London Review of Books, October 24, 2014)
- "After Fayyad's Visit, What's Next for Hamas?" Mohammed Othman (Al Monitor, December 14, 2015)
- "No Exit? Gaza & Israel Between Wars," International Crisis Group (ICG, 26 August 2015)

## **Narrating the Nation- Ilana Szobel**

### Required Readings:

### Recommended Readings:

## **Jerusalem and Politics of Space and Planning - Lior Lehrs**

### Required Readings:

- Lior Lehrs, "Jerusalem on the Negotiating Table: Analyzing the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks on Jerusalem, 1993-2015," *Israel Studies* 21:3 (2016), pp. 179-205.
- Ron E. Hassner, "To Halve and to Hold: Conflicts over Sacred Space and the Problem of Indivisibility," *Security Studies*, 12:4 (2003), pp. 1-33.

## **Jewishness in Israel - David Ellenson**

### Required Readings:

- D. Ellenson "Jewishness" in *Israel: Israel as a Jewish State*"
- Donniel Hartman, "Renewing Jewish Identity in Israel;" Ruth Calderon, "Tel Aviv and the Flowering of Jewish Renewal;" and Naamah Kelman, "Seeding the Field of Jewish Renewal," in "Jewish Renewal in Israel," *Journal of Jewish Communal Service* 85:1 (2010), pp. 73-83.

### Recommended Readings:

- Harvey Goldberg, "How Do We Know When a Society is Changing? Reflections on Liberal Judaism in Israel," in Moskowitz, Sharot, and Shokeid, *Toward an Anthropology of Nation Building and Unbuilding in Israel* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2015), pp. 215-228.
- Dov Zakheim, "Transforming Israel's Chief Rabbinate," *Conversations* 17 (2013), pp. 81-114.

## **The State of Palestinian Political Leadership and the Peace Process - Ghaith al-Omari**

### Required Readings:

- Ghaith al-Omari, "[Governance as a Path to Palestinian Political Rejuvenation](#)" in Beyond Islamists and Autocrats Essay Series (The Washington Institute, January 2017)
- Ghaith al-Omari, "[Palestinian Succession: An Overview of Institutional Turmoil](#)" in Research Notes, no. 28, (The Washington Institute, October 2015)
- Hussein Agha and Ahmad Samih Khalidi, "[The End of This Road: The Decline of the Palestinian National Movement](#)", *The New Yorker* (August 6, 2017)



## **Environment, Conflict and Peace Building - Shahar Sadeh**

- Avner De-Shalit, "From the Political to the Objective: The Dialectics of Zionism and the Environment", *Environmental Politics* v4:1 (Spring 1995)
- Stuart Schoenfeld, "Type of Environmental Narratives and their Utility for Understanding Israeli and Palestinian Environmentalism," *Palestinian and Israeli Environmental Narratives*, York University, 2005.

## **Additional Recommended Readings**

- Anne B. Shlay and Gillad Rosen, *Jerusalem: The Spatial Politics of a Divided Metropolis* (Polity Press, 2015)
- Michael Dumper, *Jerusalem Unbound: Geography, History, and the Future of the Holy City* (Columbia University Press, 2014)
- Hillel Cohen, *The Rise and Fall of Arab Jerusalem Palestinian politics and the City Since 1967* (Routledge, 2011)
- Menachem Klein, *Jerusalem: The Contested City* (C. Hurst & Co. Publishers, 2001)
- Roger Friedland and Richard Hecht, *To Rule Jerusalem* (University of California Press, 2000)
- Avineri, Shlomo, *The Making of Modern Zionism: Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State* (London, 1981)
- Bein, Alex, *The Return to the Soil: A History of Jewish Settlement in Israel* (Jerusalem, 1952)
- Gorenberg, Gershon, *The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements, 1967-1977* (New York, 2006)
- Kark, Ruth, ed., *The Land that became Israel: studies in historical geography* (New Haven, 1990)
- Khalidi, Walid, ed, *All That Remains: The Palestinian Villages Occupied and Depopulated by Israel in 1948* (Jerusalem, 2006)
- Katz, Yossi, *The "business" of settlement: private entrepreneurship in the Jewish settlement of Palestine, 1900-1914* (Jerusalem, 1994)
- Near, Henry, *The kibbutz movement: a history*, 2 vols, (Oxford, 2006 and 2008)
- Kedar, B. Z., *Looking Twice at the Land of Israel: Aerial Photographs of 1917-18 and 1987-91* (Jerusalem, 1991).
- Neumann, Boaz, *Land and Desire in Early Zionism* (Waltham, MA, 2011)
- Rotberg, Robert I., *Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict: history's double helix* (Bloomington, IN, 2006)

- Sensor, Dan and Saul Singer, *Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle* (New York, 2009).
- Shafir, Gershon, *Land, Labor, and the Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 1882-1914* (Cambridge, 1989)
- Shapira, Anita, *Land and Power; the Zionist resort to force, 1881-1948* (New York, 1992)
- Shimoni, Gideon, *The Zionist Ideology* (Waltham, MA, 1995), ch. 8.
- Stein, Kenneth, *The Land Question in Mandatory Palestine, 1929-1936* (Ann Arbor, 1976)
- Troen, S. Ilan, *Imagining Zion: Dreams, Designs, and Realities in a Century of Zionist Settlement* (New Haven, 2003)