

THE CROWN FAMILY CENTER FOR JEWISH AND ISRAEL STUDIES

Israel Studies

Israel Studies at Northwestern promotes the academic study of the modern state of Israel through rigorous and interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship, and research. Its aim is to study all facets of the modern state of Israel focusing on the history, politics, culture, and economics of contemporary Israeli society as well as on Israeli technological and scientific scholarship. The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies hosts thematic conferences and lectures by visiting academics. In addition, the Center creates opportunities for the public to directly encounter Israeli culture in the form of concerts, shows, and films.

CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC EVENTS



Associate Director Elie Rekhess with Meir Shalev

The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies hosts a variety of Israel Studies conferences and public events. Recent events include:

“Two She-Bears: Reflections on Israeli Society” lecture by the Israeli author, Meir Shalev (November 2016)

A three-day international conference, “Between Baghdad and Haifa: A Tribute to Israeli Author Sami Michael” in collaboration with Heksherim, Ben Gurion University (October 2015)



Sami Michael, Prof. Ella Shoat and members of the audience

Panel discussion, “2015 Knesset Elections: A Shift in Israeli Politics?” (March 2015)

Symposium with the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University, “Gaza and Beyond: Israel, The Palestinians, and the Arab World” (October 2014)

A three-day inaugural international conference, “The Zionist Ideal in Israeli Culture: Dream and Reality” (November 2013)

VISITING SCHOLARS



Prof. Gavison delivers the Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Memorial Lecture in Jewish Civilization

The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies regularly invites senior academics in the field of Israel Studies to serve as scholars in residence at Northwestern. The visiting professors host a series of seminars, courses, public lectures and other public events. In the 2016-2017 academic year we welcomed:

Ruth Gavison, Haim H. Cohn Professor Emerita of Human Rights Law at Hebrew University, member of the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and recipient of the Israel Prize

Danny Peled, Head of the Department of Economics and Senior Consultant to the Vice President and Dean of Research at the University of Haifa in Israel

WATER RESEARCH



2017 Water Symposium

A partnership between the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies and the Water Research Center at the McCormick School of Engineering.

Seminars and Symposia

“Water in Israel and the Middle East: Resilience, Sustainability, and Security” Seminar (2016, 2017)

“Regional Water Sustainability and Resilience” Symposium (2017)

“Geopolitical Conflicts, Technologies Challenges, and Sustainable Solutions” Symposium (2016)

Multinational Research Group

Collaborative research between Northwestern and Israeli scholars on transboundary water challenges in Israel and the Middle East. This project is supported by a grant from the Buffett Institute for Global Studies at Northwestern University.

COURSES



Students at the 2016 Water in Israel and the Middle East seminar

Northwestern undergraduates can select from several courses on Israeli history, society, economics, culture and literature. These courses are housed in Jewish Studies and a number of other Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences departments and programs.

Recent Courses

- Tales of Love and Darkness: Modern Hebrew Literature
- Arabs in a Jewish State
- Women in Traditional Religious Movements
- The Politics of Film in Israeli History
- Religion and Politics in Israel
- Diversity and Ethnicity in Contemporary Israeli Society

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



Students on the Public Health in Israel program at a cultural center in Tel Aviv

Public Health, Diversity, and Social Dynamics in Israel

The program focuses on how Israel's diverse ethnic makeup has shaped social systems, with particular emphasis on health and civil society. Through visits to historical and archaeological sites, medical facilities, and non-governmental organizations, students confront and discuss ways in which the country's rich history influences contemporary issues. This program includes courses and seminars on different aspects of Israel economic, political and social issues and tours in Israel.

Tel Aviv University Exchange Program

Northwestern students have the option of studying abroad at Tel Aviv University for a semester or a full academic year.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



Dr. Yael Dekel explores Israeli literature, particularly the relationship among discourse, social norms, power dynamics and the State.



Dr. Joseph Ringel specializes in the sociology of Judaism and the political and cultural differences of various Jewish communities in Israel, with particular focus on the oft-marginalized Mizrahi Jewry.

NU ISRAELI FILM CLUB



“Late Marriage” screened in October 2016

The NU Israeli Film Club is a collaboration and partnership between the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema and the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. The club aims both to explore Israel's cultural production in film and to initiate scholarly discussion.

Northwestern

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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