Excellence • Innovation • Involvement

VLJI bridges the gap between academic research and social involvement, addressing major challenges in the areas of Israeli Civil Society and Democracy; Jewish Culture and Identity; Advanced Studies in the Humanities and the Social Sciences; Regional Peace and Dialogue; Education; Economic Development; and Social and Gender Equality.

MEDITERRANEAN NEIGHBORS

Our unique focus on the Mediterranean region aims to promote understanding and dialogue between Israel and its surrounding societies with the goal of furthering peace and regional cooperation. In an attempt to contend with political challenges while adopting a critical and independent approach, Mediterranean scholars are spearheading pioneering studies and cross-border projects that challenge assumptions, and deepen the knowledge of what is being done in the region towards mutual recognition, and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, understanding and change.

CIVIL SOCIETY: ARAB SOCIETY IN ISRAEL/ GENDER EQUALITY/ SOCIAL JUSTICE / ECONOMICS/ EDUCATION

Strengthening Civil Society is a key element of promoting democracy and social justice in Israel, and is the basis for forging an egalitarian, pluralistic and tolerant society. Many of our programs are devoted to the development of civil society in Israel. They generate new knowledge and develop practical social models. Our goal is to integrate our findings into the public debate in Israel, involving both decision makers and the public.

JEWSH CULTURE AND IDENTITY

We seek to expand and enhance the understanding of all forms of Jewish Culture and Identity in the contemporary world. We promote dialogue between diverse groups of Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora. Our goal is to foster debate in order to develop a Jewish democratic perspective. Our programs focus on three main themes: Judaism as Culture; Contemporary Jewish Philosophy; and Diversity and Unity in Jewish Life.
ADVANCED STUDIES

We promote a wide range of research programs in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, in order to find cutting-edge ideas that are applicable to social, political and cultural issues. Our challenge is to advance independent research while furthering interchange among scholars in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Programs include research groups, international conferences and workshops, summer programs for junior researchers, books and publications.

THE POLONSKY ACADEMY

An international center for the Humanities and the Social Sciences that connects and supports young international and Israeli scholars. By providing a uniquely stimulating environment, outstanding facilities and full financial support for up to five years, these exceptional scholars are able to further their innovative research for the advancement of human culture.

Commitment to public responsibility and civil ethics have been at the heart of the intellectual and research goals of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (VLJI) for over 50 years. The Institute plays a central role in highly important and socially sensitive fields, touching on the main foci of tension in Israeli society, and has made possible the successful implementation of new approaches and reforms in social justice, education, policy studies, civil empowerment, gender mainstreaming and cultural diversity.

VLJI is a leading center for interdisciplinary advanced study and for social responsibility and involvement. Operating as an incubator for new ideas in the humanities and the social sciences, VLJI conducts independent studies – and on that basis disseminates knowledge and offers practical models and solutions.
THE CAMPUS

In the heart of Jerusalem, adjacent to the President’s residence, lies the campus of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. The campus’s distinctive architecture and physical setting is an inspiring oasis of greenery and restrained elegance. Built around the main garden court, the campus is home to the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Council for Higher Education, and the Israel Science Foundation.

If you want to be part of this important and exciting enterprise, please contact Ms. Danae Marx at +972-2-5605280 or support@vanleer.org.il

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