



מכון ון ליר בירושלים

THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

معهد فان لير في القدس

**THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE 2020**

The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (VLJI) fosters innovative interdisciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences and develops new ways of addressing questions of global concern that have special import for Israeli society and the region.

Research and public engagement at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute currently take place in four thematic clusters: Israel in the Middle East; Science, Technology and Civilization; Religion and Secularization; and Sovereignty and Globalization. Alongside work in thematic clusters, the Institute fosters a large-scale project promoting gender equality in Israel, and serves as a platform for thinking through and beyond challenges to liberal democracy in our time.

# THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE



In all areas, work at the Institute seeks to break down some of the obstacles to social change by overcoming dichotomies that have become stifling, and suggesting new terms through which to think about contemporary issues. The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute is home to the Polonsky Academy, the leading

international post-doctoral program in Israel, as well as to the Van Leer Institute Press, which publishes leading academic journals in Hebrew as well as key works in cutting-edge social and political thought and Middle East culture, mostly in Hebrew for an Israeli audience. The Institute runs numerous events each week that are free of charge and open to the public.

## AIMS

**TO BE A HUB FOR GROUNDBREAKING IDEAS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**TO PROBE, DEFINE AND SHAPE PUBLIC DISCOURSE BY DISSEMINATING ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT CURRENT TOPICS**

**TO FOSTER INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS**

**TO PROMOTE NEW WAYS OF LIVING TOGETHER IN A DEEPLY DIVIDED SOCIETY AND REGION, AND TO ADVANCE A JUST AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Being Chair of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute gives me great pleasure. I am thrilled that the new strategy, which focuses on the social impact of deep ideas, is now well embedded within the organisation.

In recent years, our partnerships with Yad Hanadiv and Mif'al Hapais have meant stellar work on Arabic and its role in Israeli society - and we have published Arabic literature in Hebrew, to much acclaim.

Our deepening partnership with the Polonsky Foundation has allowed us to found new programs for artists and young people.

Our many new friends in Israel and around the world are making us realise that the work we do is not limited to local issues in Israel, but that our messages, research, and understanding, have broader import, and need to be shared widely and imaginatively.

Our partnership with Haaretz has brought us new audiences and helped us towards our goal of reaching more widely into Israeli society, and I hope we will achieve something similar internationally in the not too distant future.

I am blessed to be working with a wonderful director, Shai Lavi, and superb staff from the most junior to the most senior. Our Polonsky Fellows are full of intellectual excitement and keep us on our toes. We also relish the young intellectuals who come into the Institute in our relatively new summer programme, work all hours, creating bonds amongst themselves even when they come from diverse backgrounds, and bringing themselves to the table in ways that make us all think. That, and the work we are doing with the Jerusalem Film Centre, show that new ways of working bring huge rewards, and open everyone's eyes - exactly what the Institute was created for!

I hope all our supporters will find new ways to get involved, come and listen and take part, and show the world that, in Israel, ideas are without boundaries, and there are always new and creative ways for all of us to be thinking more deeply, and differently.

**RABBI BARONESS  
JULIA NEUBERGER DBE**



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

These are unusual times. Several weeks after Covid-19 began to spread around the globe, many of us are secluded in our homes, protective of our health and the health of our friends and relatives. While first signs of relief are in sight, it is clear that months will pass before "normal" life resumes its course, and that health concerns will be followed by economic hardship. Social solidarity and special attention to the needs of the weaker groups in our society are the call of the day.

VLJI has been quick to respond to this new reality. Most of us quickly adjusted to remote working, and

are carrying on with our research and social engagement, assisted by technology as needed. The commitment of the Institute and the solidarity of our staff, who donated vacation days, made it possible for us to support workers unable to work from home.

In response to the need of the general public for high quality content and interaction, VLJI was one of the first institutions in Israel to launch a live broadcast program. Faithful to our mission to offer new ways of understanding current reality, we broadcast lectures, panel discussions, and interviews with leading Israeli and international voices on the significance of these times, and the lessons we may wish to take with us into the future.

We sense a growing urgency and need for the work that we do and the values that we seek to advance, and we are committed to continuing to develop the research and programs presented in this report. We are grateful as ever for the support and encouragement that we receive from our benefactors and friends, and are especially proud during these hard times to be part of the Van Leer Group and the Van Leer legacy.

**PROF. SHAI LAVI**

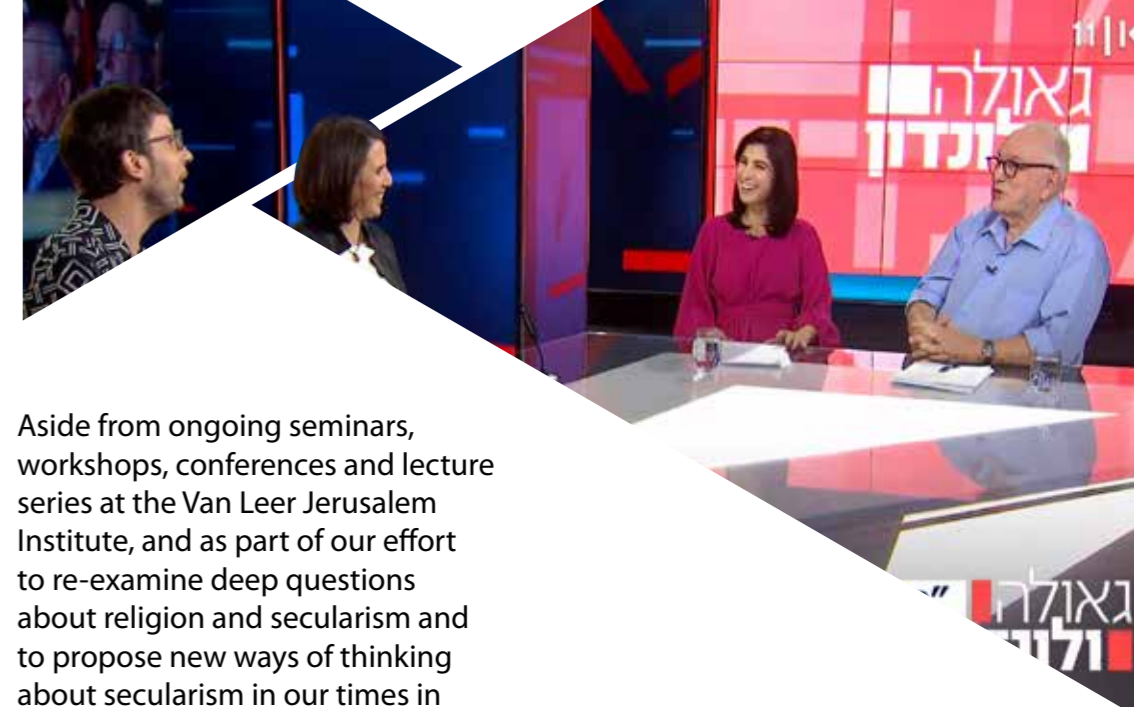


# RESEARCH CLUSTERS AT VLJI

## SACREDNESS, RELIGION AND SECULARIZATION

DR. YOCHI FISCHER

RELIGION AND SECULARISM ARE NOT FIXED AND CONTRADICTIONARY IDENTITIES, BUT ARE BEST UNDERSTOOD AS INTERRELATED AND CO-DEPENDENT PROCESSES OF SACRALIZATION AND SECULARIZATION.



The growing presence of religion in the public sphere has become a reality in many countries. While intellectuals of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century prophesied the gradual decline of religion, today it is clear that religion continues to thrive, sometimes in new forms.

This research cluster focuses on tensions between religion and secularism and the role that new forms of sacredness play in post-secular societies. The topic is especially pertinent for Israel, as ongoing tensions surrounding the Temple Mount suggest, but resonates with developments across the globe, whether it be the fate of ISIS in the Middle East or the growing influence of evangelical movements in the US.

We question the ways in which scholars and the general public view the tensions between religion and secularism. We propose that religion and secularism are not fixed and contradictory identities, but are best understood as interrelated and co-dependent processes of sacralization and secularization. The emergence of new religious forms and the growing presence of religion in the public sphere is an integral part of secular society. Understanding the interdependence of these identities and processes opens new ways of comprehending these tensions and is likely to progress towards resolving them.

Aside from ongoing seminars, workshops, conferences and lecture series at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and as part of our effort to re-examine deep questions about religion and secularism and to propose new ways of thinking about secularism in our times in public discourse, in November 2019 we held a number of simultaneous public events in pubs and cafés in Tel Aviv-Jaffa under the banner "**Secularism in the Bar**". At these events, researchers, philosophers, artists, and writers came together to discuss secularism past and present, in Israel and throughout the world, drawing new audiences into our issues and attracting media attention. We intend to bring similar events to venues in Jerusalem and Haifa.





# GLOBALIZATION AND SOVEREIGNTY

DR. KFIR COHEN LUSTIG

The Globalization and Sovereignty cluster advances original academic research and public engagement that bring together students, scholars, artists, and actors in civil society, to provide an intellectual and practical response to the problems that emerge from a global neoliberal world.

We understand the current crisis, bringing about the rise of right-wing extremism, xenophobia, inaction on climate change, and inordinate levels of inequality, to stem in part from the shift in the 1970s from welfare - and development-state models to neoliberalism.

Our goal is first to study this shift and its consequences for Israel and the world and to make this knowledge available, and second, to promote original research and social programs that could re-invest politics, economics and culture with human social ends grounded in freedom, equality and diversity.

WE ADVANCE HISTORICAL STUDIES THAT TRACE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITALISM FROM THE 1970S, ALONGSIDE CRITICAL RESEARCH WHICH CLARIFIES THE EFFECTS OF CAPITALISM ON SOCIAL RELATIONS, IMMIGRATION, FORMS OF CONTROL AND GOVERNANCE, DIFFERENT WAYS OF LIFE AND THE MAKING OF CULTURE.

Through the work of research teams and groups, we advance historical studies that trace the development of neoliberalism from the 1970s, alongside critical social research that clarifies its effects on social relations, immigration, forms of governance, different ways of life and the making of culture.

When it comes to Israel, we have a special interest in advancing a complex view of history which relates political struggles, group formation, identities and worldviews with Israel's transition in the 1980s from a statist (Zionist) society to a neo-liberal one.



Our historical and social research forms part of a long-term project to advance new humanistic knowledge that caters to the needs of the 21st century and empowers engaged civic life. This includes building global critical knowledge that brings the humanities and social sciences into conversation and that is able to confront today's complex social reality with creative and unconventional interdisciplinary means. Through

our book series "Global Objects" we are considering anew how to construct narratives about subjects that transcend bounded fields of knowledge.

Understanding that unleashed growth increasingly subordinates people's lives to the profit principle, deepens inequality, and harms nature, we work with civil society organizations towards alternative principles and post-capitalist practices that prioritize human flourishing, freedom, and equality.



# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CIVILIZATION

DR. HAGAI BOAS

THE CAPACITY OF HUMANS TO CHANGE NATURE HAS REACHED SUCH A HEIGHT THAT IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH THE NATURAL FROM THE MAN-MADE OR ARTIFICIAL, AND SCIENCE IS UNDERGOING A RADICAL TRANSITION.

In our times, the capacity of humans to change nature has reached such a height that it is not always possible to distinguish the natural from the man-made or artificial, and science is undergoing a radical transition. From seeking to understand and explicate nature, science today self-consciously changes and shapes nature through such means as digital "smart" objects, new reproductive technologies, virtual

surroundings and persons, robotic solutions, and the mapping of the human genome.

There are those who claim that the human impact on nature through science and technology marks a new geological epoch: the epoch of humanity as geological force, known as the Anthropocene.

"Science, Technology, and Civilization" is a research cluster in which we explore the implications of the changes that the era of science and technology, or the Anthropocene, is bringing about in our culture. Our working assumption is that the Anthropocene, while usually considered in the context of climate change, captures a much more essential change in human culture and in how we understand "civilization". The change is marked in many ways: through new understandings of human feelings that are emerging from neuroscience, new self-understandings emerging from new genetic knowledge, new understandings of reality and constructed reality derived from the introduction of virtual reality, and new conceptions of communication stemming from the extent to which our communication is mediated by objects and technologies. Social and political thought comes to include non-human objects – living and non-living – and the Anthropocene



brings ethical and political questions to the table associated with both climate change and with the new world in which humans and nature co-produce.

If nature is losing its essence as an independent force, we ask, and if its matter and form are shaped by human activity and technology, what are the implications for the human body? For medicine? For consciousness? For the non-

human other? For theology? In research groups, public lectures, and original research, we critically and constructively examine these questions, as well as the impact of advanced medical technologies on bioethics, enriching and challenging public discourse on these crucial questions of our times.

Among our higher-impact activities is our current collaboration with the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, in which our research teams are studying two major contemporary issues in Israeli society: the issue of Israel's planned bio-bank, and the issue of surplus pre-embryos in Israeli IVF clinics. Both issues have ethical, legal, and social questions that our interdisciplinary teams are addressing, offering important new perspectives to decision-makers.





# ISRAEL IN AND OF THE MIDDLE EAST

DR. ASSAF DAVID

IS ISRAEL A WESTERN SATELLITE, FOREIGN IN THE REGION, WHOSE PRESENCE HERE IS MERELY GEOGRAPHICAL, OR IS ISRAEL "MIDDLE EASTERN" IN OTHER SENSES?

What is Israel's place in the Middle East? How does the state – and how do its citizens – understand their place in the region? How is Israel, and how are its citizens – perceived by its Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim neighbors? Is Israel a Western satellite, foreign in the region, whose presence here is merely geographical, or is Israel "Middle Eastern" in other senses?

Over recent decades, group and individual identities in the Middle East have become more complex and flexible. There are multiple layers of reality on the ground, and Israel's relationship to its neighborhood is rapidly changing, with understandings of the "self" and the "other" taking on new forms. Yet despite such changes, academic discourse in Israel – like

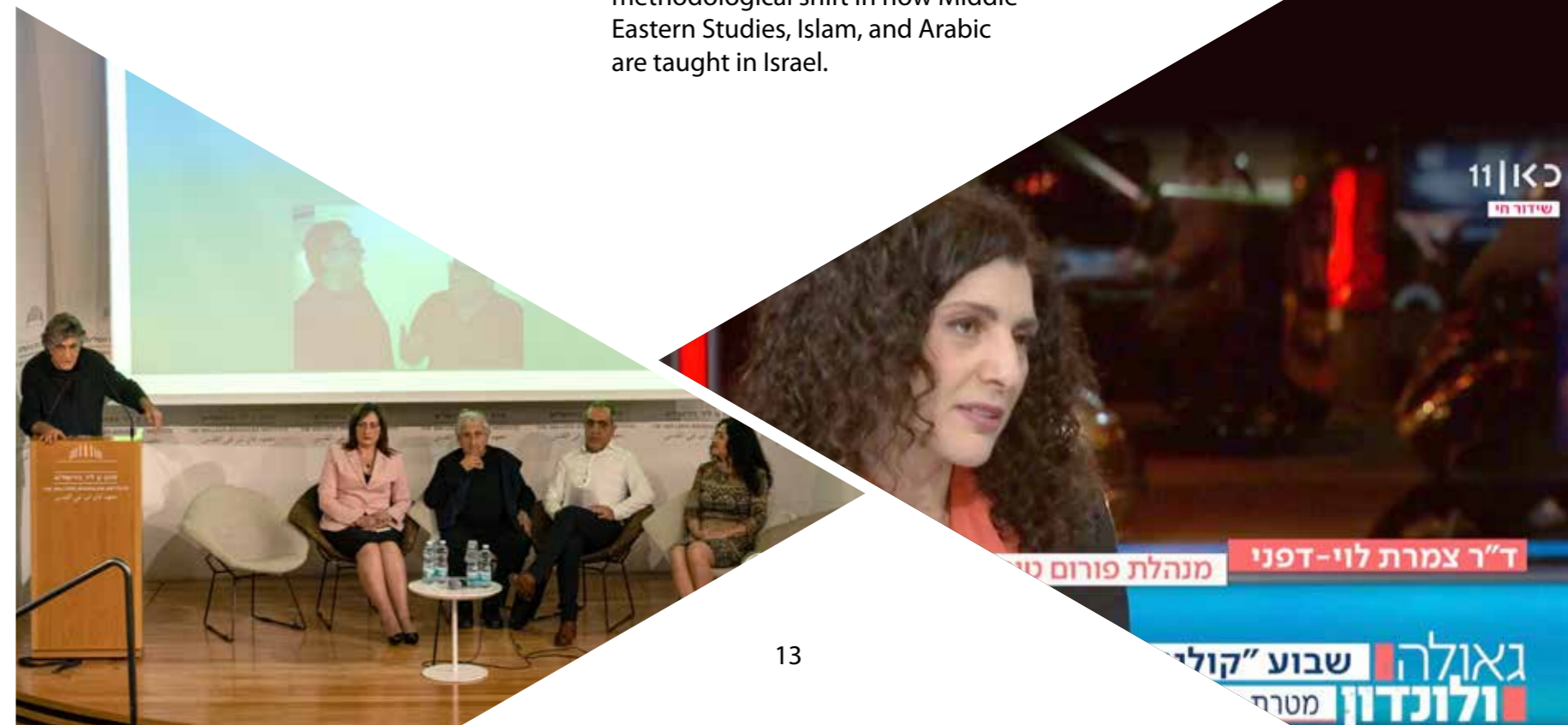
public discourse, professional discourse, and legal discourse – still reflects a fundamental distinction between "us" and "them"; even reflecting the image of the State of Israel as a "villa in the jungle." "Experts in the conflict" and "experts in Arab affairs" refer to the same group of scholars, whereas work which studies Jewish-Arab relations as distinct from the relationship between Israel and its neighbors is all too rare.

In this research cluster we reevaluate Israel's place in the Middle East with this critique in mind. We use Arabic in our work to promote regional thought and to better understand the region and its peoples, which marks a

fundamentally different approach to Arabic from that employed in military or security thinking. In our use of Arabic, through translation of opinions, news, and culture, we seek to strengthen ties between Jews and Arabs based on recognition, understanding, and empathy. We are able to do this work thanks to the platforms the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute provides for establishing and grounding new ways of thinking about complex issues, and for disseminating knowledge and ideas.

Our aim is to bring about deep change in both academic and public discourse. The change in academic discourse will be achieved through a conceptual and methodological shift in how Middle Eastern Studies, Islam, and Arabic are taught in Israel.

The shift in public discourse will be affected by our enriching the public sphere with information and analysis of the region that breaks down current barriers. Our intellectual work supports our work in the public sphere, in which we make complex scholarly knowledge accessible, while bringing Arabic news, literature, and culture translated into Hebrew to the Israeli public.





# LIVING TOGETHER WITHIN AND BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF LIBERAL THOUGHT

PROF. NISSIM MIZRACHI

The question of how to live in a society marked by pluralism is perhaps the most acute political question of the early 21st century. In Israel, issues such as women's prayer, gay pride parades and the integration of Haredi students into academia constantly stir up public discourse and generate lively debate. But the challenge is by no means local.

The question of how to accommodate groups that hold profoundly different views about social justice and the "common good," yet share the same political space, has become critical throughout the world, and the rise of populism attests to the contemporary crisis of liberal democracy that has failed to provide an adequate response to this question.

The crisis of liberal democracy runs beyond politics: it poses a crucial challenge to the social sciences, as they themselves have difficulty in understanding the worldview of disadvantaged groups who, perhaps more than ever, reject the framework of liberal thought. The joint project of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Shahrut dealing with these issues includes two two-year research groups on

**THE QUESTION OF HOW TO ACCOMMODATE GROUPS THAT HOLD PROFOUNDLY DIFFERENT VIEWS ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE "COMMON GOOD," YET SHARE THE SAME POLITICAL SPACE, HAS BECOME CRITICAL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

sociology and political economy, now in their second year, that strive to create alternative visions for the liberal discourse of peace. In Israel's thrice repeated elections in 2019-20, the depth of the problem and the lack of solutions were brought to the fore, and our work in this area drew media attention and new audiences to our events which offered interim ideas that are being developed at the Institute.





## RESEARCH AND POSITION PAPERS

*The Gender Index: Gender Inequality in Israel 2019*  
by H. Tzameret-Kertcher | N. Chazan  
H. Herzog | Y. Basin | R. Brayer-Garb  
and H. Ben Eliyahu.

*Handbook of Organizational Gender Consultation and Intervention* by Zeev Lehrer and Hadass Ben Eliyahu.

*Making Women's Invisible Work Visible: Barriers to the Incorporation of Women into Israel's Labor Market: A Summary Report* by A. Kaplan T. Pfefferman | S. Slonim  
H. Ben Eliyahu | H. Herzog  
N. Chazan | R. Brayer-Garb  
and G. Lipshitz.

related research that changes the terms of public discourse. Following the success of the 2019 research group, the incubator is continuing into 2020, again with 30 young scholars, and among the new concepts that will be addressed by the group are consent, agency, empathy, and political imagination.

Alongside our research and academic work, The "Yoda'at—Israel Knowledge Center on Women and Gender" – led by Prof. Hanna Herzog, Prof. Naomi Chazan and Hadass Ben Eliyahu – which incorporates the annual *Gender Index*, is the most advanced and innovative information hub on women and gender in Israel. Since the launch of its new website in September 2019, the Knowledge Center has become a center for information and a means for numerous institutes, programs, and media outlets to display the state of gender discrimination and the work that needs to be done to overcome gender gaps in a variety of areas. The Knowledge Center models a way in which our conceptual work can be brought to the public, affect public discourse, and generate interest in important topics.

The Gender and Feminism projects at the Institute aspire to re-examine existing paradigms and theoretical conventions in feminist theory and in the academic field of Gender Studies. Our point of departure is that contemporary feminist theory, as well as feminist politics and activism, are facing fundamental challenges, which are threatening our ability to evolve and respond to changes in the social and political world. Concepts and perceptions, such as liberty, choice, and equality, that form the normative basis for feminism, are no longer adequate to describe the multiplicity of gendered experiences and conditions. The Gender and Feminism projects at the Institute are committed to enhancing Israeli democracy and increasing the knowledge foundation that will allow for greater gender equality and social justice.

The *Conceptual Research Incubator* for doctoral and post-doctoral students re-examines feminist concepts in order to encourage innovative and relevant feminist research and political action. In 2019, 30 early-career researchers from institutions across Israel met periodically to undertake this conceptual work together, and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute continued establishing itself as a forum for pathbreaking gender-



# GENDER AND FEMINISM AT VAN LEER

DR. MIRI ROZMARIN  
AND RONNA BRAYER-GARB

THE GENDER AND FEMINISM PROJECTS AT THE INSTITUTE ARE COMMITTED TO ENHANCING ISRAELI DEMOCRACY AND INCREASING THE KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION THAT WILL ALLOW FOR GREATER GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.



# THE POLONSKY ACADEMY

The Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, established by Dr. Leonard Polonsky in 2014, is one of the newest international fellowship programs worldwide, that aims to promote cutting-edge research in these fields.

Each year, hundreds of applicants apply to the Academy which awards up to six post-doctoral fellowships, tenable for up to five years, to outstanding international scholars working in any field of the humanities and social sciences. In 2019-20, there are 20 Polonsky Fellows engaged in research at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, working on topics as diverse as literature and therapy, democracy and technology, ethics and virtual reality, philosophy of sounds, Ottoman history, 16th century kabbalah and more. The research is conducted both independently and in collaboration with ongoing projects at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

Fellows at the Polonsky Academy are provided with state-of-the-art services for their research, including individual offices, a library, advanced IT, a lecture hall and multiple meeting spaces, all in an award-winning facility on the Van Leer campus, which is itself located in one of the most beautiful neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

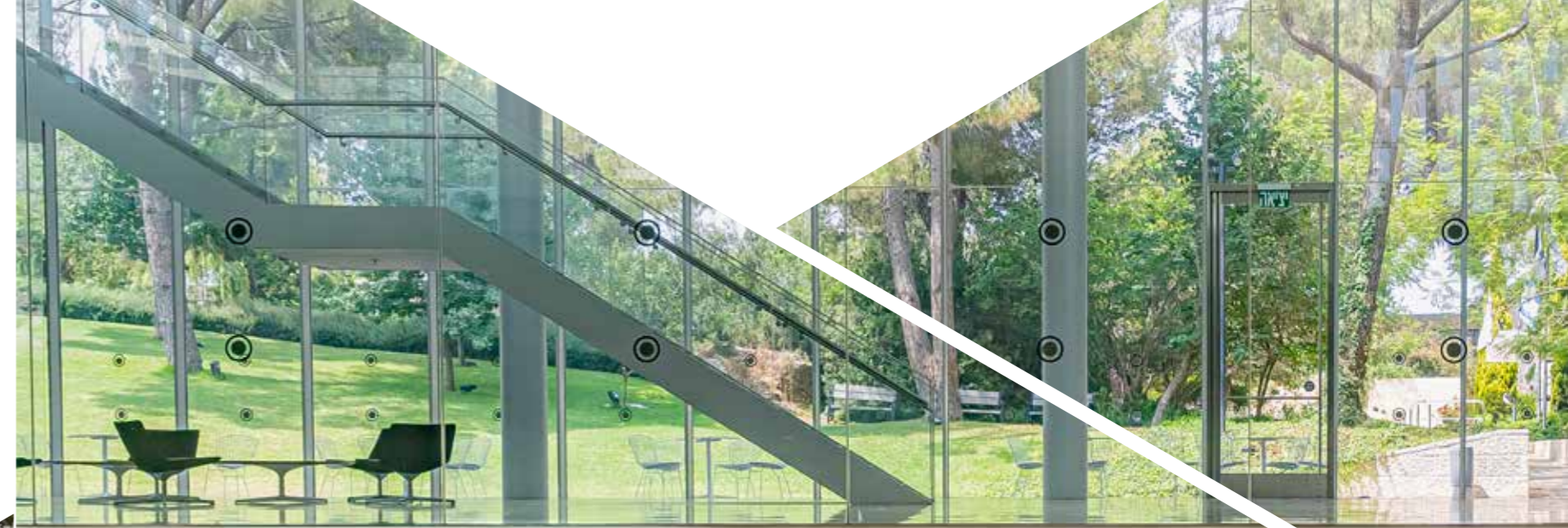


The Polonsky Academy building houses the Van Leer and Polonsky Libraries that together contain over 40,000 books and journals focusing on the humanities and social sciences. In addition, the Libraries hold an important collection on the history of science.

There is also access to an online catalog of the libraries' holdings and subscriptions to online databases.

The libraries are for the sole use of the Polonsky Fellows as well as for Library Fellows, whom we select annually based on their scholarly contributions to research. They include Israeli academics, visiting professors from abroad, journalists, intellectuals, and public figures.

A monthly Library Fellows Seminar enables Fellows to present and share their research with other members of the Library community, and Library Fellows, together with Polonsky fellows, and outstanding scholars from throughout Israel participate in year-long seminars run by our research clusters.





# NEW PROGRAMS AT VLJI

## HAZMAN HAZEH MAGAZINE

ASAF SHTULL-TRAURING, EDITOR

*Hazman Hazeh* (These Times) is a magazine of political thought, culture and science launched in 2018 and published online by the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. The magazine publishes long-form articles and essays by leading scholars and original thinkers from Israel and abroad, aiming to offer new ideas and perspectives on key issues that are, or should be, on the public and intellectual agenda in Israel.

Since its launch, the magazine has established its presence in the

Israeli public sphere as a platform for intellectual discussion and debate. The magazine's articles have been cited by journalists, discussed and debated by researchers and public figures, and have prompted follow-up interviews in the national media. It is currently distributed monthly to 31,000 email subscribers, and there have been almost 500,000 entries to its articles online.

Recent articles in *Hazman Hazeh* have included "Rethinking our Working Premise" by Itzik Pazuelo,

which discusses universal basic income reform in a broad historical and political context, Avraham Sela's article on "The Crisis in the Palestinian National Movement, and the Day After," which urges a shift in how we understand Palestinian nationalism and the Palestinian National Authority today, and Smadar Ben Natan's "Four and a Half out of Two-Hundred and Thirty-One," which sheds light on the history of the military court system and its role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In 2020 the Van Leer Institute is embarking on a collaboration with *Ha'aretz* newspaper that will see issues of *Hazman Hazeh* in print, distributed for free with the newspaper to 86,000 households in Israel.

[www.hazmanhazeh.org.il](http://www.hazmanhazeh.org.il)



## INTELLECTUAL JOURNEYS: A PROGRAM FOR FOSTERING YOUNG INTELLECTUALS

DR. ADAM KLIN ORON

"Intellectual Journeys" is a program incubated at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute to offer a model for 21<sup>st</sup> century liberal arts education in a deeply divided society. The program introduces and immerses fifteen young adults, from diverse and otherwise separated communities in Israeli society, into a world of deep ideas that they enter together. Fellows in the program are taught and mentored by leading Israeli academics and intellectuals during an intensive eight-week summer program, and these teachers and mentors continue to guide the students throughout their first year at university, when, alongside their studies in various fields, each student works on a personal project that relates the humanities to crucial social issues. In their final projects and as graduates of the program, fellows develop their own individual voice, and engage intellectually

with the wider public through writing op-eds, organizing public debates, teaching young adults, or volunteering in NGOs.

The program is devised and monitored by an international advisory committee, and in its current and second year (2019-20), the intellectual community surrounding the program expanded to include representatives from all of Israel's institutions of higher education.

One aspect of the program that makes it unique within Israel is the extent to which ethnicity and cultural and religious diversity are crucial in the composition of the group and are considered as key intellectual tools for developing a multi-faceted perspective, even while each participant develops his/her unique voice. Our first cohort of alumni have been proactive in their communities and university programs, introducing aspects of this model on a small scale through programs and study groups they have initiated in the spirit of the program.

# THE INTELLECTUAL INCUBATOR FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS

DR. YOCHI FISCHER AND RONNA BRAYER-GARB

The Intellectual Incubator for Documentary Filmmakers at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute was formed in conjunction with the Israeli Documentary Filmmakers Forum and the Jerusalem Cinematheque.

It is a framework for thought and critique about the intellectual, social, and cultural contexts in which documentary films are conceived, produced and received, and it is also a place for developing ideas and for the collaborative work of filmmakers and researchers.

The incubator offers filmmakers an opportunity for more thorough research and for developing the thoughts that underlie their cinematic endeavors.

This initiative is part of a wider decision of the Van Leer Institute to engage with artists and the arts to advance new avenues for the Institute in the development and dissemination of ideas for social change.

The aims of the Incubator are to support the development of ideas and promote cooperation among filmmakers and academic researchers, in order to advance documentary filmmaking in Israel. The filmmakers, who participate in the incubator, and their films, benefit from greater intellectual depth and creative momentum, thus enriching documentary filmmaking in Israel.



## SPOTLIGHTS ON EVENTS

SHULAMIT LARON

Each year, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute hosts hundreds of public events, including lecture series, film screenings, conferences, and more, mostly in the context of the research clusters, and the public-engagement aspect of our work.

In 2019-2020, these public events included "Thinking about the Future," an event which drew 1000 participants from around Israel to hear panels of speakers on the future of such diverse topics as messianism, global realities, scientific and medical technologies, the Anthropocene, religion, the Israeli Left, and more.

Speakers included scholars, public intellectuals, journalists, political figures, and religious leaders, and a diverse audience filled the grounds of the Institute.



**THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE EVENT**  
**"THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE"**  
**3.10.19**



# VAN LEER INSTITUTE PRESS

DR. TAL KOHAVI

Van Leer Institute Press is a publisher of original scholarship. Since its founding thirty years ago, its mission has been to disseminate scholarship of the highest order that promotes critical theory and contemporary thought, as well as honest and committed public discourse on key issues in Israel and beyond. VLIP offers scholarly and nonfiction books, academic journals, and online products that are mainly the outcome of research conducted at the institute. The Press also publishes two leading peer-reviewed journals: *Theory and Criticism* (in Hebrew), and *Journal of Levantine Studies* (in English).

Beyond books, journals, and papers published through the Press, the Institute publishes Maktoob, a book series of translated Arabic language books (together with Yedioth Ahronoth Press) that has published 13 books since 2017, publishes *Hazman Hazeh* online and in collaboration with Ha'aretz newspaper, and publishes Ofek, an online news portal facilitating access to Arabic news and opinion pieces for Israeli readers. Our publications draw media and public attention, and the public is invited to events associated with publications.

Zohar Maor and Yochi Fisher, eds., *Nationalism and Secularization* (Van Leer Institute Press and Magnes Press, 2020).

This compilation presents a broad and complex account of the intertwining of nation and religion, and of nationalism and secularization processes. Leading researchers across disciplines revisit nationalism in distinct social and religious contexts including the English, Turkish, American, Russian, and German, offering new insights on questions of global concern.



Rawiya Burbara ed., *Amputated Tongue: Palestinian Prose in Hebrew*, trans., Maktoob Translators Forum, literary editor, Rachel Perets (Yedioth Ahronoth Books, 2019).

This compilation of Palestinian prose in Hebrew, in the Maktoob book series, is the largest and richest Hebrew-language anthology of its kind, containing 73 stories by 57 authors, bringing to the Hebrew reader otherwise silent voices from Israel-Palestine and modeling a new form of textual dialogue.

Eyal Tevet and Itzhak Galnoor, eds., *Regulation in Israel: Values, Effectiveness, Methods* (Van Leer Institute Press and Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House, 2020).

Eilat Maoz, *Living Law: Police and Sovereignty in an Occupation Regime* (Van Leer Institute Press and Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House, 2020).

Michal Shamir, Hanna Herzog and Naomi Chazan, eds., *Gender Gaps in Israeli Politics* (Van Leer Institute Press and Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House, 2020).

Yonatan Mendel, *Language Out of Place: Orientalism, Intelligence and Arabic in Israel* (Van Leer Institute Press and Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House, 2020).

Samir Naqqash, *Shlomo the Kurd, Me and the Time* (with Afterword by Almog Behar and Yuval Evri), trans., Samira Yosef and Ruth Naqqash Vigiser, ed., Benyamin Rish (Yedioth Ahronoth Books, 2020).

Elias Khoury, *Stella Maris*, trans., Yehousa Shenhav-Shaharabani, ed., Huda Abu Much (Yedioth Ahronoth Books, 2019).

Abu al-'Alaa al-Ma'arri, *Luzumiyyat: Breached Obligations and Debts*, trans., Leah Glassman, eds., Muna Abu Bakr, Mu'taz Abu Saleh, Salih Ali Sawaed (Olam Hadash Press, 2019).

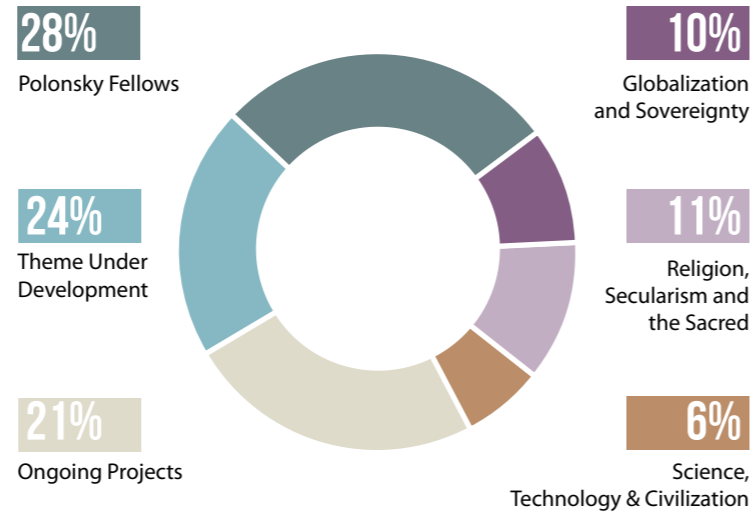
## RECENT BOOKS FROM THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

Journal of Levantine Studies

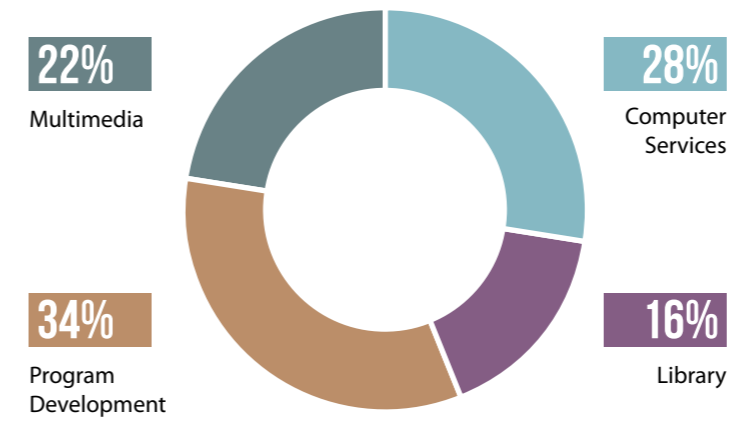
# FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DATA (2019)

Financial data refers to CPA's report for 2019

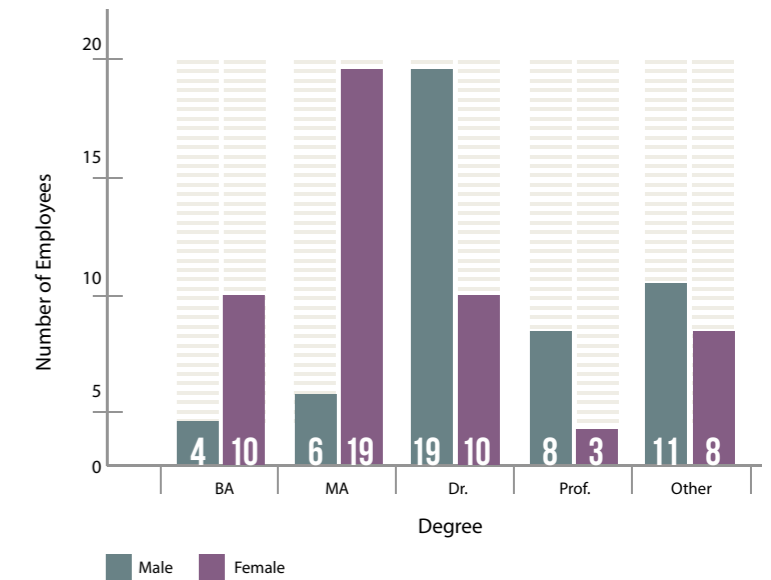
## RESEARCH COSTS (ILS 17,496,000) BY UNITS



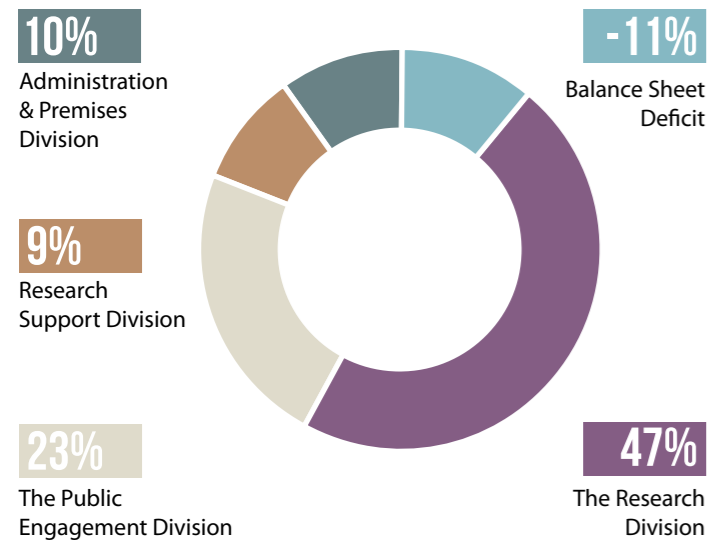
## RESEARCH SUPPORT COSTS (ILS 3,453,000) BY UNITS



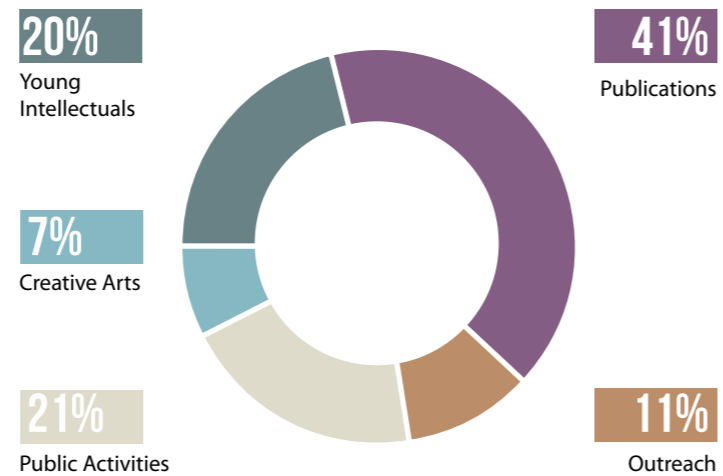
## EMPLOYEES BY DEGREE AND GENDER



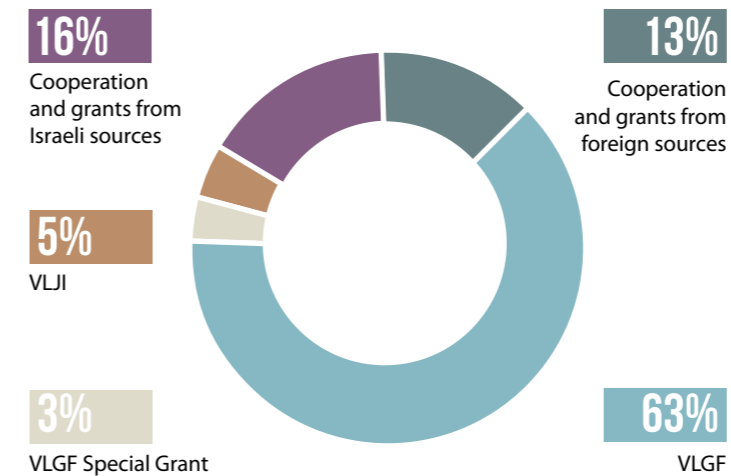
## EXPENDITURE ACCORDING TO MAIN CATEGORIES TOTAL BUDGET 2019: ILS 29,072,000



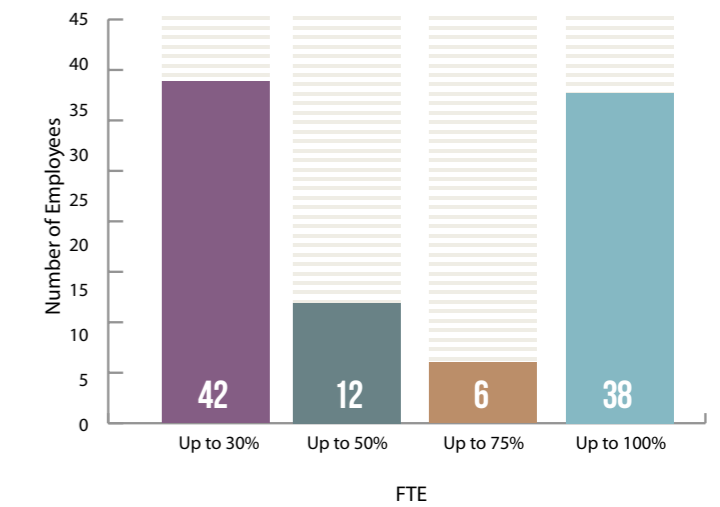
## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COSTS (ILS 8,490,000) BY UNITS



## MAIN SOURCES OF INCOM TOTAL BUDGET 2019: ILS 29,072,000



## NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY FTE TOTAL FTE: 51.2





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# THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE 2020

## THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE 2019-2020

The VLJI was established thanks to the vision and generosity of the Van Leer family of the Netherlands. The Institute is grateful to the Van Leer Group Foundation for its ongoing support and commitment to the legacy of the Van Leer family. The Institute also gratefully acknowledges the Polonsky Foundation and our other philanthropic partners, without whom its wide range of projects and activities would not be possible.

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tel: +1-703-532-2516

karenm@menidoris.com

To learn about opportunities to support the work of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, please contact:

Meirav Jones at meiravj@vanleer.org.il

tel: +972-2-560-5222

fax: +972-2-561-9293



## OUR 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 houses the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute's two buildings – its original building designed in the 1960s by Reznik Architects and Povzner Architects,

and the building of the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences inaugurated in 2013 – as well as the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Council for Higher Education, and the Israel Science Foundation which were all included in the original campus design. The original building of the Van Leer Institute houses offices for scholars, a press, a library, a large auditorium, and a smaller conference room, as well as extensive public areas for meetings and for interaction among scholars, cultural figures, employees, and the hundreds of visitors who attend events at the Institute each week.



five seminar rooms, an advanced research library, a cafeteria that serves the entire campus, a 145-seat auditorium, a multi-purpose hall, administrative offices, a fitness room, and expansive foyers. The building won Israel's 2015 Design Award in the Public Buildings and Architectural Lighting categories, with the judges noting the beauty and uniqueness of the building: "Restraint, integration and transparency characterize the new wing of the Van Leer Campus

... Light, a sense of levitation, and dialogue between interior and exterior produce a feeling of tranquility and support the desire to learn, explore and understand." In 2015 the building was chosen by Archilovers as "Best Project" of 50,000 projects considered. In 2018, Bracha and Michael Chyutin won the prestigious Rechter Prize for planning the Polonsky Academy building.

The Polonsky Academy building, the second building of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and the newest Van Leer's campus, was designed by Chyutin Architects, both to fit in with the campus and its environment and also to preserve the skyline and to adhere to the highest green standards. Its total area is 7,200 square meters, on four levels. In addition to thirty rooms for fellows, it has



**Editors** Dr. Meirav Jones and Daniel Jonas  
**Photos** Tamar Abadi, Daniel Jonas and Nahariel Leader  
**PR** unik Daniel Jonas  
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**THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE**  
**43 JABOTINSKY STREET**  
**JERUSALEM**  
**[VANLEER.ORG.IL](http://VANLEER.ORG.IL)**  
**TEL. 02-5605222**

