

AICE Conference Participant Bios 2013-2014



Hanan Alexander, University of Haifa
AICE Advisory Board

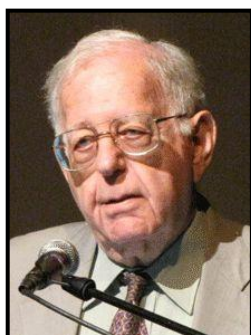
Hanan Alexander is Professor of Philosophy of Education at the University of Haifa where he heads the Center for Jewish Education as well as the International School for Overseas Students. A past chair of Haifa's Department of Education, he is also a Senior Research Fellow in the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Chair of the Executive Board of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem. He served as Editor of the *Religious Education: An Interfaith Journal of Spirituality, Growth and Transformation* and Visiting Fellow in St. Edmund's College and the Center for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies at Cambridge University. Alexander received his undergraduate degree at UCLA and the American Jewish University and earned a Ph.D. from Stanford University. He received his rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. His book *Reclaiming Goodness: Education and the Spiritual Quest* (University of Notre Dame Press 2001) won a 2001-2002 National Jewish Book Award. Professor Alexander was an editor of the *Philosophy of Education Yearbook* for the Philosophy of Education Society (1992) as well as *Ethics and Spirituality in Education: Philosophical, Theological, and Radical Perspectives* for Sussex Academic Press (2004). He is currently editing *Citizenship, Education and Social Conflict* for Routledge Publishers and is working on a new book entitled *Democracy and Distinctiveness: Liberal Education without Neutrality*.



Sharon Aronson-Lehavi, University of California at Berkeley
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Dr. Aronson-Lehavi is a Senior Lecturer of Theatre and Performance Studies at the Department of Comparative Literature, Bar-Ilan University. In 2012 she was appointed as a member of the Israel Young Academy, established by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Aronson-Lehavi specializes in theatre and performance history and theory. She is the author of *Gender and Feminism in Modern Theatre* (Open University Press, 2013, Hebrew); *Street Scenes: Late Medieval Acting and Performance* (Palgrave Macmillan, New Middle Ages Series, 2011); and editor of *Wanderers and Other Israeli Plays* (Seagull Books, In Performance Series, 2009). Her essays have appeared in *Performance Research*, *Theatre Research International*, *Performance and Spirituality*, and other journals and books. Her current research project deals with religious representations in modern experimental theatre and performance. Aronson-Lehavi holds a PhD in Theatre Studies from the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Her awards and distinctions include a Fulbright grant for doctoral studies, a Dan David post-doctoral research award, and the 2012 award for Excellence in Teaching, Bar-Ilan University.

AICE Conference Participant Bios 2013-2014



Shlomo Avineri, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
AICE Advisory Board

Dr. Avineri is a Professor of Political Science at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has also served as Director of Eshkol Research Institute (1971-74); Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences (1974-76); Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1976-77); and Director of the Institute for European Studies (1997 to present). Dr. Avineri has had numerous visiting appointments including Yale University; Wesleyan University; Australian National University; Cornell University; University of California; Queen's College; and Oxford. He has been a visiting scholar at the Wilson Center and Brookings Institute in Washington, DC and at the Institute of World Economics and International Relations in Moscow. Dr. Avineri served as Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1975-77. He also headed the Israeli delegation to the UNESCO General Assembly and in 1979 he was a member of the joint Egyptian-Israeli commission that drafted the Cultural and Scientific Agreement between the two countries. Dr. Avineri is the recipient of many honors and awards including a British Council Scholarship (1961); Rubin Prize in the Social Sciences (1968); Naphtali Prize for the study of Hegel (1977); Present Tense Award for the Study of Zionism (1982); and Israel Prize (1996). His publications include *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx*; *Karl Marx on Colonialism and Modernization*; *Israel and the Palestinians*; *Marx' Socialism*; *Hegel's Theory of the Modern State*; *Varieties of Marxism*; *The Making of Modern Zionism*; *Moses Hess: Prophet of Communism and Zionism*; *Arlosoroff: A Political Biography*; *Communism and Individualism* (co-author); and an historical introduction to the Hebrew edition of Theodore Herzl's Diaries.



Mitchell Bard, American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise
Executive Director

Mitchell Bard is the Executive Director of the nonprofit American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and one of the leading authorities on U.S.-Middle East policy. Dr. Bard is also the director of the Jewish Virtual Library (www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org), the world's most comprehensive online encyclopedia of Jewish history and culture. Bard holds a Ph.D. in political science from UCLA and a master's degree in public policy from Berkeley. He received his B.A. in economics from UC Santa Barbara. Dr. Bard's work has been published in academic journals, magazines and major newspapers. He has written and edited 22 books, including *Will Israel Survive?*, *Myths And Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict* and *48 Hours of Kristallnacht*. His latest book is *The Arab Lobby: The Invisible Alliance That Undermines America's Interests in the Middle East*.

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Boaz Bismuth, Israel Hayom
Foreign Affairs Editor

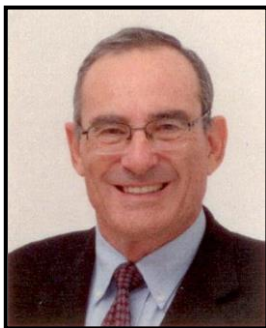
Boaz Bismuth is the Foreign Affairs Editor and commentator of "Israel Hayom", Israel's most widely-read daily newspaper. Prior to his current position Mr Bismuth served as Israeli Ambassador to Mauritania, from 2004 to 2008. He was the Paris correspondent of the daily "Yedioth Ahronoth" from 1990 to 2004, specializing in reporting from war fronts and coverage in and of Arab countries, including hostile ones. Mr Bismuth holds a

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Bar-Ilan University. In 1989 he obtained a Masters Degree in International Relations from Sorbonne University in Paris. In 1990 he obtained a second Masters Degree in African Studies (specializing in cooperation with developing countries). In 2004 he graduated with honors from the Center of Diplomatic and Strategic studies (CEDS) in Paris.



Anat Gilboa
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Dr. Gilboa is an art historian, specializing in early modern art, Jewish and Israeli visual culture. She earned her PhD at Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Her 2003 dissertation examined Images of the Feminine in Rembrandt's Work. She has taught at various universities in Israel, Canada and the US, including Salem State College in Massachusetts, Washington College in Maryland, Georgia State University, and Portland State University. Her most recent teaching position has been at the Nazarian Center for Israel Studies at UCLA.



Eitan Gilboa, Bar-Ilan University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Prof. Gilboa is a world renowned expert on international communication, public diplomacy and US policy in the Middle East. He has published several books and numerous articles, and has won several significant international fellowships and awards. His most recent book is *US-Israel Relations in a New Era: Issues and Challenges after 9/11* (Routledge, 2009). Prof. Gilboa received his B.A. degree in Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and his M.A. and Ph.D.

degrees in Government from Harvard University. He has taught at the Hebrew University and has been a visiting professor in leading American and European universities including Harvard, UCLA, Georgetown, Tufts, the American University in Washington DC and the University of Hamburg. He has also been a senior research fellow at the Rand Corporation, the Center for International and Strategic Studies in Washington, DC, the Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University, and the USC Center on Public Diplomacy. He was a consultant to the Prime Minister Office and the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs, Academic Director of International Studies at the National Defense College, and Chair of the Foreign Service Selection Committee. He contributes op-ed articles to Israeli and international newspapers, and serves as a commentator on television and radio networks.

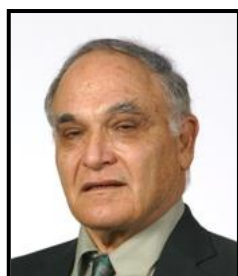
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Leah Kinberg, Wake Forest University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Dr. Leah Kingberg was born and raised in Israel. She has earned her BA in Biblical Studies and Arabic Language and Literature, and her MA in Islamic Studies, both at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She then went on to earn a Ph.D. at The University of Michigan in Islamic studies. She has been teaching at Tel-Aviv University's Department of the History of the Middle East and Africa for the past twenty five years. Her research and writing interests include: The function of dreams in Medieval Islamic literature, Qur'an Hermeneutics, Islam and Judaism, Muslims and Jews, the question of Jerusalem,

Classical Islam in the service of contemporary issues, modern Islamic rhetoric, Islam and gender and the Islamic diaspora.



Moshe Ma'oz, University of Michigan
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Moshe Ma'oz, professor emeritus of Hebrew University's Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Faculty of Humanities, is renowned for his expertise in Arab and Middle East affairs. He is a Hebrew University alumnus and a previous director of the university's Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

Professor Ma'oz is presently a senior researcher at the Institute and a faculty member in its Middle East Unit working with Arab and Israeli researchers, examining the region's political, economic and ideological trends. He has been a visiting professor, scholar and fellow at many leading universities and institutions around the world. He has served Israel's Knesset as an advisor on Arab Affairs, and was a member of official advisory committees that counseled Prime Ministers' Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin. His scholarly works focus on Middle Eastern politics, with several published in Arabic as well as Hebrew and English.



Tikva Meroz-Aharoni, San Diego State University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Dr. Meroz-Aharoni earned her Ph.D. Magna Cum Laude in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures from Columbia University. Her thesis was on Natan Alterman's love poetry and the influence of Europe on his early writings in Hebrew. She has been a theater critic as well as a literary critic and a lecturer of contemporary Hebrew literature at Ashkelon Academic College. Currently she is a director at the Ministry of Culture and Sports and a Board Member of "The Agnon House" in Jerusalem. She has received many academic awards and grants for her writings.

AICE Conference Participant Bios 2013-2014



Adi Portughies, Vanderbilt University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Dr. Adi Portughies's field of interest is the political history of Israel, as well as the collective memory of Israeli society. His PhD dissertation, completed in 2008 at the Department for Jewish History at Bar Ilan University under the supervision of Prof. Judith Baumel Schwartz, deals with trends in politics and public opinion in Israel during the years 1967-1982, focusing on the ideological and radical left movements. Through his research, Dr.

Portughies argued that Israeli history is not necessarily a product of wars but rather a part of the contemporary history as a whole. He is also a Recipient of the Israeli Planning and Budgeting Committee Rotenstreich Fellowship for outstanding students for PhD degrees. Since 2006, Adi Portughies has lived in the Negev with his family. He promotes Jewish-Bedouin tourism in the desert, takes part in public committees and tags Griffin Vultures from time to time.



Maurice Roumani, George Washington University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Professor Maurice M. Roumani, born in Benghazi, Libya, is a Senior Lecturer in Political Sociology and the Middle East, and founder and Director of the J.R. Elyachar Center for the Study of Sephardi Heritage at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. A graduate of Brandeis University, the University of Chicago and the University of London, he has held teaching and research positions at the Hebrew University, Bar-Ilan University,

George Washington University, the University of Maryland, Harvard University and the University of Rome. His fields of interest are: International Relations, Minorities, Middle East and North African Politics, Islam and Judaism. He is the author of many articles and books among which are: *From Immigrant to Citizen: The Contribution of the Army to National Integration*; *The Jews from Arab countries: A neglected Issue*; and *Ethnicity, Integration and the Military* (edited with Henry Dietz and Jerrold Elkin). His forthcoming book deals with the history of Libyan Jewry between 1938 and their final exodus in 1967. He serves on the international board of Religioni e Societa, a quarterly of Social Sciences of Religion published in Italy.



Zach Scheinerman, American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise
Publicity Director

Zach is the Publicity Director at AICE. He is from Hartford Connecticut and was a teacher for preschoolers with autism in Southington, CT before spending six months in Israel working for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He graduated from Connecticut College and earned a degree in Psychology.

AICE Conference Participant Bios 2013-2014



Yuval Sinai, Yale University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Prof. Yuval Sinai, will be a Schusterman Visiting Professor of Jewish law at Yale University, 2013-14, and will teach sources about modern applications of Jewish Law in the state of Israel at the Yale Judaic studies and Middle east programs and at the Yale Law school. Prof. Sinai is an Associate Professor of Jewish Law and Civil Procedure, and Director of the Center for the Application of Jewish Law (ISMA), Law School, Netanya Academic College, Israel. Prof. Sinai served as a Visiting Professor at McGill University, Canada (2007-2008, 2013), and also teaches at Bar-Ilan U. Law School. He is the Vice-Chair, Israel Committee, Jewish Law Association. His research interests are Jewish law, civil procedure, evidence law, comparative law, and tort law.



Michelle Stein Teer, Media Trainer

Ms. Michelle Stein Teer is an expert in Communications, specializing in speaking to an audience and in front of a camera. She assists people in developing their communication skills in English and Hebrew in any situation. She is a lecturer of Journalism and Communications Unit and International Communication Center at Bar-Ilan University and was selected as an outstanding professor in 2006. She also teaches business communication at the Entrepreneurship Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, and trains senior and junior faculty from all disciplines on teaching skills. She has also written the Biographer Ralph Klein - Coach (2000), and the book "Acting for Film School" (2003).



Gerald Steinberg, Bar-Ilan University
CLSFF/AICE Advisory Board

Gerald Steinberg chairs the Political Studies Department at Bar Ilan University and is the Executive Director of NGO Monitor. He specializes in Israeli political developments (including contributions to "Israel at the Polls" series), and Middle East diplomatic and security issues. He works with a number of international organizations, including NATO, UN University, OSCE, and SIPRI; participates in track-two workshops and in the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism ICCA; and is the founder of the Program on Conflict Management and Negotiation at Bar Ilan University. Recent academic publications include "NGOs, Human Rights, and Political Warfare in the Arab-Israel Conflict"; "Europe's Failed Middle East Policies"; "Uncivil Society: Ideology, Human Rights, and Antisemitism"; and "The UN, the ICJ and the Separation Barrier: War by Other Means" (Israel Law Review). He is also completing research examining the credibility of human rights organizations during the 2006 Lebanon war, under the auspices of the Israel Science Foundation. His op-ed columns have been published in *Wall St. Journal* (Europe), *Financial Times*, *Ha'aretz*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Jerusalem Post*, and other publications. He has appeared as a commentator on the BBC, CBC, CNN, and NPR.

AICE Conference Participant Bios 2013-2014



Miri Talmon, Smith College
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Miri Talmon is a scholar of media culture, cinema, and television, who specializes in Israeli cultural history and comparative approaches to Israeli and American culture. She has lectured in universities all across Israel and in America. Talmon's Ph. D. was awarded by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Communication and Journalism, her B.A and M.A by Tel-Aviv University (Linguistics, Comparative Literature, Film and Television). She is the author of *Israeli Graffiti: Nostalgia, Groups and Collective Identity in Israeli Cinema*, which was published by Haifa University Press and The Open University Press in 2001. She is the –editor, with Yaron Peleg, of the anthology “*Israeli Cinema- Identities in Motion*”, published in 2011 by the University of Texas Press. Talmon's research focuses on popular media culture-both in the Israeli and American contexts, mostly film and television, on identity politics in the media and on representations of cultural history in the media and the arts.



Joshua Teitelbaum, Tel Aviv University
AICE Advisory Board

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Dr. Joshua Teitelbaum took his B.A. in Near Eastern Studies at UCLA and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Middle Eastern History at Tel Aviv University. He is the author of two acclaimed books: *Holier Than Thou: Saudi Arabia's Islamic Opposition* (Washington Institute for Near East Policy), and *The Rise and Fall of the Hashemite Kingdom of Arabia* (New York University Press), a study of the early modern history of Saudi Arabia. He has published numerous scholarly articles on the modern Middle East and his work has also appeared in *The New Republic* and *The Jerusalem Report*. Dr. Teitelbaum is a Senior Research Fellow at Tel Aviv University's prestigious Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, where he studies the politics and history of Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries, as well as Palestinian issues.



Israel Waismel-Manor, Stanford University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Dr. Israel Waismel-Manor is a political scientist at the School of Political Sciences at the University of Haifa. My research and teaching focus on biopolitics, political behavior, public opinion, and political communication, across campaigns and elections in Israel and the United States. He earned a B.A. in political science from the Hebrew University at Jerusalem (1996) and a Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University (2005). His work has been published in such journals as the *Journal of Communication*, *International Journal of Press and Politics*, *New Political Science*, *The International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Political Communication*, *Political Behavior*, *PS: Political Science and Politics* and *European Neuropsychopharmacology*. His work has been featured in various media outlets including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Times*, the *Huffington Post*, and the *Jerusalem Post*, among others.

AICE Conference Participant Bios 2013-2014



Michael Widlanski, University of California at Irvine
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor

Dr. Michael Widlanski is a specialist in Arab politics and communication whose doctorate dealt with the Palestinian broadcast media. He is a former reporter, correspondent, and editor, respectively, at the New York Times, The Cox Newspapers-Atlanta Constitution, and The Jerusalem Post. He also has served as a special advisor to Israeli delegations to peace talks in 1991-1992 and as Strategic Affairs Advisor to the Ministry of Public Security, editing secret PLO archives captured in Jerusalem.



Itzik Yarkoni, BOMAH
Founder and Executive Director

Mr. Yarkoni earned his BA in Communication at Sapir College in Sderot, Israel. He joined the Ayalim Association as a student and helped establish Yachini, the first student village in the Western Negev. During his studies, he taught young Ethiopian-Israelis in the city of Netivot. While living in Yachini, a moshav near Sderot, he experienced countless rocket attacks launched from the Gaza Strip. In order to raise awareness about the intolerable situation in Sderot, Mr. Yarkoni joined the Sderot Media Center as Director of Marketing and New Media. After more than three years with the SMC, Mr. Yarkoni came to UC Irvine as an emissary of the Jewish Agency. There he found that students had to deal with blatant anti-Israel hostility on campus. When he realized that skewed media coverage was causing many Jewish parents to hesitate to send their children to the school, he launched an initiative to create the first social media team at UCI. As with the SMC's Israeli students, Mr. Yarkoni worked to empower American students to effectively use social media to tell their personal stories to the world at large.