

Newsletter of

TAU ARCHAEOLOGY

The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures
and the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archeology

Tel Aviv University | January 2017



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Tel Aviv University | January 2017

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Photo by Yogev Attias

Message from the Chair of the Department and the Director of the Institute



Director of the Institute, Professor Oded Lipschits (left), and Head of the Department, Professor Ran Barkai (right)

The newsletter of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology and the Department of Archaeology and Near Eastern Cultures, Tel-Aviv University, is a great opportunity to present the people, the achievements, the research and publications, conducted in the largest and most dynamic archaeological institution operating in Israel today, both in the quantity and quality of research.

The mission of the Institute and the Department is to study and to teach the archaeology of the Land of Israel, the Levant and the major Ancient Near Eastern cultures (Egyptian, Mesopotamian and Anatolian) in pre- and proto-historic times, in the Bronze and Iron Ages, and up to the classical periods.

The Department and Institute have a world-class faculty that is dedicated to teaching and active research. The senior academic staff combines current scientific methods, theories and practices of the archaeological discipline presenting archaeological thought blended with dynamic archaeological practice. Field archaeology and laboratory examination works hand-in-hand with the decipherment of ancient texts, the understanding of written sources, including biblical studies, and the analysis of finds. The combination of the two sub-departments, Archaeology of the Land of Israel and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures, together with the sections of "Ancient Israel Studies," and the section of "archaeological sciences," together with the international MA program in Archaeology and History on the Land of the Bible, is an unbeatable combination.

The Institute of Archaeology is a self-sufficient research facility with a large staff that provides administrative and scientific assistance, as well as the technical facilities necessary to carry out independent archaeological projects. These activities are sponsored mainly by the Sonia and Marco Nadler Fund and by the Alkow Fund, and in part by the Friends of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University.

Since its foundation, the Institute has been intensively involved in many major interdisciplinary archaeological projects. Excavation of sites such as Tel Apehek-Antipatris, Tel Arad, Tel Beer-sheba, Tel Hadar, Horvat Qitmit, Horvat 'Uza, Tel 'Ira, Tel Jezreel, Tel Gerisa, Jaffa, Kabri, Tel Lachish, Tel Michal and Ramat Rahel has

contributed to a better understanding of the archaeology and historical-geography of biblical Israel. The archaeology of proto-historic and prehistoric periods has been investigated at Nahal Qanah, Nahal Zehora and sites in Sinai. Currently the staff of the Institute is conducting 12 different excavation projects – from the Prehistorical excavation at Qesem Cave to the Crusaders in Arsuf (Apolonia-Arsuf), from Bet Yerah and Tel Megiddo in the north to Timnah, Massada and the Negev highlands in the south, from Ashdod Yam on the Mediterranean coast to Tel Beth-Shemesh and Tel Azekah in the Shephelah, and in the City of David and Kiryath Yearim in the heart of the Judean highlands.

The Institute's research facilities include the archaeozoology, archaeobotany, and metallurgy laboratories. In addition, the services of a pottery restoration workshop, a photography studio and a graphics department are available to all the field archaeologists. Research is encouraged by a comprehensive and well-stocked reference library and a rich study collection of ancient pottery and other finds from major archaeological excavations. The Publications Section, now sponsored by the Friends of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University, was set up in 1973 to enable publication of the results of field investigations carried out under the auspices of the Institute as well as articles dealing with subjects arising from them.

We view archaeology as a relevant, interdisciplinary, and universal discipline. It is our intention to provide an exceptional education in Levantine archaeology and history and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures. Undergraduate and graduate students of the department are trained using state-of-the-art methodologies and techniques to allow them to conduct cutting edge research and provide them with the best tools in order to become future scholars in the different fields of archaeology and history of the ancient world.

We hope that this newsletter will reflect our activities and achievements, our research, teaching, publications and our students, and will present the people who stand behind them. They, after all, are our real treasure.

Ran Barkai and Oded Lipschits

PEOPLE





Ran Barkai

Associate Professor

Ran is currently Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures, at Tel Aviv University. Together with Professor Avi Gopher, Ran co-directs excavations at the Middle Pleistocene site of Qesem Cave. Ran engages with a range of academic fields, and has published extensively on different aspects of Palaeolithic and Neolithic technology, subsistence, cosmology, and lifeways. Fond of elephants, Ran also investigates human-elephant interactions.

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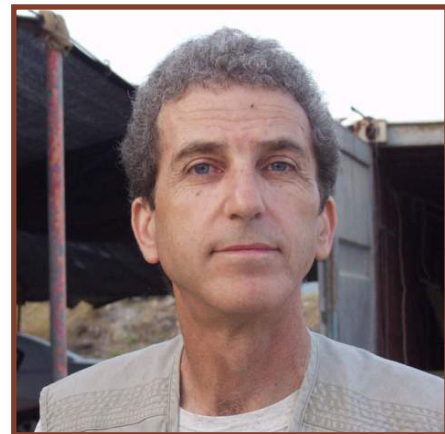


Erez Ben-Yosef

Senior Lecturer

Erez studied archaeology and geology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (B.A., B.Sc., M.Sc.), and archaeology and anthropology at the University of California, San Diego (M.A., Ph.D.). Following his Ph.D., Erez pursued post-doctoral research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, focusing on the ancient copper mines of Cyprus and the application of slag material in geomagnetic research (2010-2011). Currently, Erez is Director of The Central Timna Valley (CTV) Project, a multidisciplinary investigation into Iron Age copper production in the Southern Levant. Erez has authored multiple research papers on archaeometallurgy, archaeomagnetism, and Iron Age archaeology. His research interests include metal production in the Ancient Near East (archaeometallurgy), establishing dating references and other magnetic applications in archaeology (archaeomagnetism), the application of geological techniques and methodologies in archaeology (geoarchaeology), Iron Age Archaeology of the southern Levant, ancient technology and social change, landscape archaeology, and the archaeology and history of Jordan.

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Shlomo Bunimovitz

Associate Professor

Shlomo's ties with the department go back to 1973, when he first began his lengthy career as an archaeologist, initially as a student and later as a teacher and researcher. Interested in both teaching and fieldwork, Shlomo applies insights that originate from social and interpretive archaeology, to the archaeology of the Bronze and Iron Ages in the southern Levant. Shlomo's courses and seminars also encompass Aegean and Cypriote archaeology. Since 1990, Shlomo has co-directed (with Dr. Zvi Lederman) renewed excavations at Tel Beth-Shemesh. The results of the excavations surpassed preliminary expectations, as a series of new finds bear important implications upon a variety of cardinal issues, e.g., Canaanite city-states in the Late Bronze Age, Israelite and Philistine identity, the creation of cultural borders, the emergence of the state in Judah, and the cultural and political history of the Shephelah.

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Yoram Cohen

Associate Professor

Yoram studies the history of the ancient Near East, in particular the period of the Late Bronze Age. More specifically, Yoram's interests center on the history of Syria in the Bronze Age. Yoram has written extensively on the city of Emar and dealt with its chronology, which has repercussions for the entire chronology of the end of the Late Bronze Age. Currently, he is engaged in several research projects such as the historical geography of Syria under the Hittite empire, a provenance study of select scholarly texts (together with Prof. Yuval Goren of Ben Gurion University), and a study of the canonization of cuneiform literature throughout the centuries.

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Alexander Fantalkin

Senior Lecturer

Alexander's main areas of research deal with Near Eastern archaeology and history and the Aegean world, during the 2nd and 1st millennia BCE, within its wider Mediterranean setting. Further to this, Alex deals extensively with questions that concern interconnections such as, state formation in Ancient Israel, biblical archaeology, the Greek presence in the East before the Hellenistic period, Greek and Phoenician colonization, and in particular, chronological synchronization during the Iron Age from the pan-Mediterranean perspective.

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Israel Finkelstein

Professor

Israel is the Jacob Alkow Professor of the Archaeology of Israel in the Bronze and Iron Ages at Tel Aviv University. He is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and is also a "*correspondant étranger*" of the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. Israel is a Laureate of the Dan David Prize in the Past Dimension, Archaeology, 2005. In 2009 he was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture, and in 2010 he received a doctorate honoris causa from the University of Lausanne. More recently, Israel was the winner of the Prix Delalande Guérineau (2014), awarded by the Institut de France, l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. He has been the Director of the Megiddo Expedition since 1992. In 2009-2014 he co-directed the European Research Council-funded project titled "Reconstructing Ancient Israel: The Exact and Life Sciences Perspective."

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Yuval Gadot

Senior Lecturer

Yuval received his Ph.D. from Tel Aviv University in 2004. His dissertation explored the transition between the Late Bronze and Iron Ages in Israel's central coastal plain, noting both continuity and change in the material culture.

Yuval specializes in the archaeology of the Southern Levant, the Bronze and Iron Ages, and his current fields of interest include Jerusalem, environmental and landscape archaeology, household archaeology, and archaeology and the public. Yuval currently heads the Ancient Jerusalem archaeological project, which includes excavations in the City of David, the terraces dating project of the environs of Jerusalem, and the excavation and publication of a number of small rural sites around the city. He is also co-director of The Lautenschläger Azekah Expedition.

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Amir Gilan

Senior Lecturer

Amir Gilan is a senior lecturer in Hittitology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies. Amir received his BA from Tel Aviv University, MA from the FU Berlin, and Ph.D. from the University of Leipzig, with a dissertation on Old Hittite Historiography. Amir's research focuses on the political, religious, and cultural history of second and first millennium Anatolia, Syria, and the northern Levant. Amir has published articles on Hittite history, historiography and literature, mythology and religion, and on cultural contact and the construction of identities in Hittite Anatolia and Neo-Hittite Syria. His book, *Formen und Inhalte althethitischer historischer Literatur* (Texte der Hethiter 29) was published in Heidelberg. Amir's current research is funded by the Israel Science Foundation and includes a history of Hittite kingship, its interlocking with religion, and an investigation of the manifestation of historical consciousness in Hittite Anatolia.

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Avi Gopher

Professor

Avi is a prehistorian who is involved in Paleolithic and Neolithic research. With Prof. Ran Barkai, he is co-director of the Qesem Cave field project. Qesem Cave provides a unique opportunity to execute a wide-range of Late Lower Paleolithic research issues such as radiometric dating, environmental reconstruction, human evolution, lithic technology, and faunal studies. Aside from research at Qesem, Avi is engaged in reconstructing plant domestication, and exploring the beginning of agriculture in the Near East. Avi is currently pursuing long-term projects that consider behavioral/symbolic aspects of the Pottery Neolithic period, and will publish assemblages from Ein Zippori. Looking to 2017, along with Prof. Ran Barkai, Avi plans to examine flint-quarrying sites from the Lower Paleolithic period to the Early Bronze Age.

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Raphael Greenberg

Associate Professor

Rafi's principal research interests include the development of Bronze Age societies, communities, and cultures in the fourth to second millennia BCE, the archaeology of Jerusalem, and the interface between archaeology and social memory in modern Israel. Director of The Tel Bet Yerah Research and Excavation Project, Rafi has been engaged in the publication of the results of eight decades of on-site research. The current focus of his research is the multidisciplinary study of urbanization processes, the emergence of "Khirbet Kerak people" and their relation to the Kura-Araxes communities of the southern Caucasus and south-eastern Anatolia. Between 2000 and 2008, Rafi headed the Rogem Gannim Community Archaeology Project.

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Dafna Langgut

Senior Researcher

Dafna is the Head of the Laboratory of Archaeobotany and Ancient Environments at the Institute of Archaeology. Part of her role is curator of pollen, wood, and archaeobotanical collections of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History of Tel Aviv University. Dafna's research engages with a range of fields, such as archaeobotany, which focuses on the identification of botanical remains in archeological contexts, i.e., utilization patterns for living spaces, agricultural practices, diet, plant usage, ancient gardens, seasonality of site occupation, and wooden implements. In addition Dafna also focuses on paleoclimate and paleoenvironment reconstruction in the Levantine region during prehistorical and historical periods. Through these disciplines, Dafna considers the past relationship between humans and the environment, e.g., human migration out of Africa, the onset of agriculture, de-forestation, settlement history, and pastoralism.

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Oded Lipschits

Professor

Oded is the Director of the Sonia and Marco Institute of Archaeology, co-director of The Ramat-Raḥel Archaeological Project (2004-2010), and co-director of The Lautenschläger Azekah Expedition (since 2010). Oded has authored a numerous number of papers and books, with a focus on the history, economy, and administration of Israel and Judah during the First and Second Temple period, and on biblical books (particularly Ezra and Nehemiah). Building further on his published works, Oded has engaged with online audiences through the development of his online Coursera course, "The Fall and Rise of Jerusalem." Oded's recent publications include, *Ramat Rahel III: Final Publication of Aharoni's Excavations* (with Y. Gadot, L. Freud), *What the Stones are Whispering? 3000 Years of Forgotten History at Ramat Rahel* (with Y. Gadot, B. Arubas, and M. Oeming), and the forthcoming book, *Judah Under Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Rule - A New Look at Its History and Administration in Light of the Stamped Jar Handles*.

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Lidar Sapir-Hen

Senior Lecturer

Lidar Sapir-Hen is the head of the Laboratory of Archaeozoology, and curator of Archaeozoological Collections of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History at Tel Aviv University. Working across a range of interdisciplinary fields, Lidar studied Life Sciences at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (B.Sc.), and Ecology/Zoology and Archaeology at Tel Aviv University (B.A., M.Sc, Ph.D.). She specialized in the study of animal remains. Her main research interests include the interaction between humans and animals in the past, social complexity of ancient populations, and aspects of identity and culture as reflected in food production and consumption. Lidar is currently involved in several excavations that date from the early Neolithic through to the Byzantine period.

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Guy Stiebel

Senior Lecturer

Guy specializes in the Archaeology of Classical Palestine and the Near East. He completed his PhD in 2007 at University College London (University of London), Guy focused on “The Military Equipment of Early Roman Palestine in Light of the Archaeological and Historical Sources.” Currently, Guy is focused on research into military archaeology, material culture, and the interface between historical texts and archaeological evidence. In 2017, Guy will recommence excavations at Masada.

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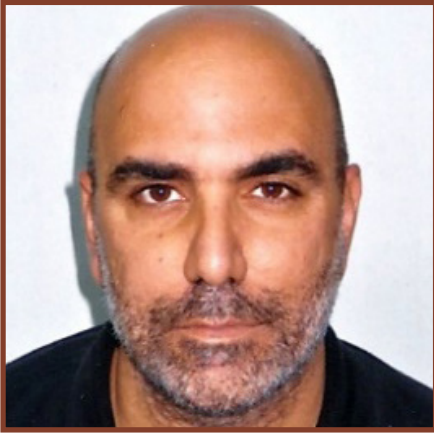
Deborah Sweeney

Senior Lecturer

Deborah was born in England, received a BA in Egyptology and biblical Hebrew at Oxford, came to live in Israel in 1981, and has been teaching courses about Ancient Egypt at Tel Aviv University for twenty years. Deborah’s main interests are women and gender in ancient Egypt, everyday life texts such as administrative texts and letters (her doctorate and later book discuss how ancient Egyptian letters are like a “conversation at a distance”), and the village of Deir el-Medīna (home to the artists and craftsmen who built the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings). Deborah also researches and publishes Egyptian objects from the department’s excavations, and is currently preparing an article about an unusual plaque found at Tel Azekah in 2015.

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Faculty



Oren Tal

Professor

Oren is a Professor of Near Eastern, Classical and Medieval Archaeology, with a focus on the social, political, and economic implications of the material culture of the Ancient Near East. He received his Ph.D. in archaeology from Tel Aviv University in 2002. He served as Chair of the Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures (2010-2013), and is the current Director of the Apollonia-Arsuf Excavation Project (2007-current). Oren is engaged in a variety of studies such as, early indigenous Levantine coinages (Persian and Hellenistic periods), the development of monetary economy, Hellenization and the East, West-Semitic and Greek epigraphy, ancient technologies (glass production and agricultural product processing), and is currently working on the final reports and publication of Apollonia-Arsuf and Mezaad Yeroucham (A Roman- and Byzantine-period Village in the Northern Negev Highlands). Oren's research reflects his efforts to, improve thematic interests, methods, and approaches, use archaeological evidence for historical analysis, and develop new interdisciplinary methods and approaches.

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Emeriti

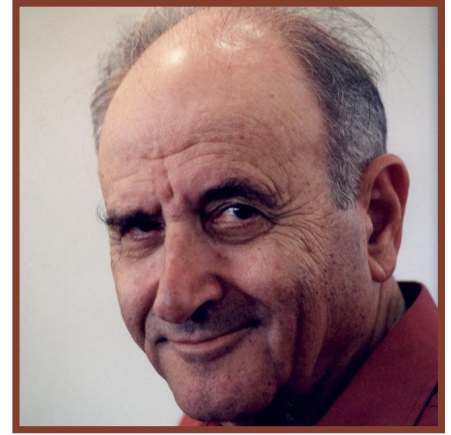


Moshe Fischer

Professor Emeritus

Moshe is a Professor of Classical Archaeology, who has a research focus on the manifestation of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine architecture (and architectural decoration), material culture, and settlement patterns in the Near East. Currently, Moshe is Director of the Yavneh-Yam Excavation, co-director of the Yavneh Map Archaeological Survey, and participant in the Archaeological and Laboratory Research of Marble Importation to Ancient Israel.

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Ram Gophna

Professor Emeritus

Ram's research focuses on landscape archaeology, and the settlement processes of Israel from the Chalcolithic period through the Early and Intermediate Bronze Ages, to the Middle Bronze Age. His current research interests are settlement patterns, urbanization and social change processes during the Chalcolithic and the Early Bronze Age in the central coastal plain of Israel. Along the years he directed several major excavations at Tel Poleg, Tel Dalit and at 'En Besor, and conducted the Map of Lod, Map of Herzliya, and Map of Tel Aviv general surveys.

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Ze'ev Herzog

Professor Emeritus

Ze'ev received his Ph.D. in 1977 from Tel Aviv University, under the supervision of Yohanan Aharoni. His dissertation was entitled "The City-Gate in Eretz Israel and Its Neighbouring Countries." Since then, Ze'ev has directed and published a range of archaeological excavations including, Tel Beer-sheba (1976, 1993-1995), Tel Michal (1977-1980), Tel Gerisa (1981-1995), Jaffa (1997-1999), and was co-director at Tel Arad (2006-2011). Ze'ev was Director of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology Tel Aviv University (2005-2011), and has enjoyed 'Visiting Professor and Scholar' status at the University of Pennsylvania (1978), Harvard University (1984-5, 1989-90, 1996-7), and New York University (2002-2004). Fields of research that are of interest to Ze'ev include, ancient architecture, social archaeology, archaeology of cult, and field archaeology.

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Nili Liphshitz

Senior Lecturer Emeritus

Nili is an expert in the field of dendroarchaeology, dendrohistory, and phellogen activity. She has a series of specialist qualifications from Tel Aviv University, including a B.Sc. in Life Sciences, M.Sc. in Botany, and a Ph.D. in Tree Ecology. She is a fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science, and has cooperated with terrestrial archaeologists for over 30 years, and with nautical archaeologists globally for the last 12 years. Nili's fields of research include wood anatomy, dendrochronology, dendrohistory, tree ecology, tree pathology, cambial and phellogen activity, salt secretion, the history of afforestation, dendroarchaeology of terrestrial sites, dendroarchaeology of shipwrecks and ships, and the reconstruction of past arboreal climax vegetation.

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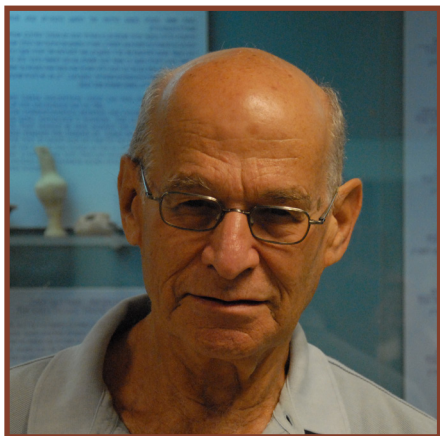


Ze'ev Meshel

Senior Lecturer Emeritus

Ze'ev was the head of the expedition to the site of Kuntillet Ajrud (1974-1976), located in the Sinai desert. His research focuses on the archaeology and history of the Negev desert. Among his many publications are: Kuntillet 'Ajrud: An Iron Age II Religious Site on the Judah-Sinai Border (2012), The flood diversion of Wadi Mejjer - an ancient engineering feat for the protection of the Jericho oasis (2002), Sinai: excavations and studies (2000) and The Water-supply system of Susita (1996).

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Nadav Na'aman

Professor Emeritus

Nadav is a Professor of Jewish History, Member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities (2012), and was Head of the Department of Jewish History (1991-1995), and Kaplan Chair for the History of Egypt and Israel in Ancient Times (2005-2009). Recognized for his contribution to scholarship, Nadav has received the Israel Science Foundation Grant (2003, 2007), the Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi Prize for the History of Eretz-Israel (for *'The Past that Shapes the Present'*) (2004), and The Landau Prize of Miph'al ha-Payis: in The Field of Biblical and Jewish History in the Biblical Period (2006). Nadav received his Ph.D. from Tel Aviv University (1975), and has since worked in the department as researcher, lecturer, and professor (1976-). Nadav's current research interests include, historiography in the ancient Near East and the Bible, the land of Canaan in the Amarna Period, and the history of Israel in the Monarchial Period.

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Benjamin Sass

Professor Emeritus

Benjamin is a Professor of Archaeology who specializes in ancient West Semitic texts, particularly the genesis of the alphabet and its development. In 2003, Benjamin was nominated as *Associé Etranger* en Collège de France, Laboratoire d'études sémitiques anciennes. Benjamin's current project focuses on West Semitic monumental scripts that date to 900-500 BCE. The inscriptions that Benjamin analyze are primarily (though not exclusively) the product of West Semitic states and their rulers, who flourished in the Levant (900 BCE) until their subjugation to the Assyrian and Babylonian empires (730-500 BCE). Though the current research regarding monumental inscriptions is vast, no recent comprehensive study of the monumental script that accounts for new discoveries and insights has been presented. Benjamin's present work will study afresh the script of the West Semitic monumental inscriptions, and their development and chronology in light of recent scholarly contributions and archaeological discoveries.

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David Ussishkin

Professor Emeritus

David has conducted key archaeological excavations as Director at Tel Lachish (1973-1994) and Tel Jezreel (1990-1996), and as co-director at Tel Megiddo (since 1992). David has also served as editor of *Tel Aviv* journal. Several of David's publications are devoted to furthering research into site stratigraphy and development. David has also contributed to the understanding of biblical texts and their relationship to the archaeological record and additional historical texts.

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Jak Yakar

Professor Emeritus

Jak is involved in ethnoarchaeological research, occasional lecturing at symposiums and workshops, as well as publishing the results of his research. Jak's field of research (which combines archaeology and ethnography) places a particular emphasis on the reconstruction of various prehistoric social aspects and structures, subsistence related activities of nomadic and sedentary Epipaleolithic hunter-gatherer societies and Neolithic farmers, and their likely age and gender-based economic organizations in Anatolia. Moreover, Jak is invested in ongoing multidisciplinary investigations that concern the nature of spiritual beliefs, and the manifestation of socio-religious activities in prehistoric material records and art, in Anatolia and neighboring territories, since the Epipaleolithic period.

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Ran Zadok

Professor Emeritus

Ran Zadok specializes in the history and philology of the Fertile Crescent, with a specific focus on Mesopotamia and western Iran, primarily between 1200 and 330 BCE. As indicated by his publications, Ran's research interests are foreign minorities in Mesopotamia during the first millennium BCE, history and historical geography of the Fertile Crescent, and the ethno-linguistic character of the Fertile Crescent in the second millennium BCE. Ran is also involved in research into the ethno-linguistic character of the semitic-speaking population of the Levant in the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods, and ethno-linguistic character of Mesopotamia in the Parthian and Sassanian periods. In addition to this, Ran is focused on connections between the Pre-Hellenistic Fertile Crescent and western Iran, West Semitic (including biblical) epigraphy, lexicography, anthroponymy, and toponymy, Neo-Assyrian texts and archives (with ethno-linguistic and socio-economic implications), and Neo- and Late-Babylonian texts.

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Daniella E. Bar-Yosef Mayer

Research Fellow

Daniella is a zooarchaeologist who specializes in mollusks, and studies both shell and stone beads from archaeological sites. Daniella received her Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2000), and has been an associate of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University since 1992. At present, Daniella is collections manager for palaeontology at The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University, and a research fellow of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University. In 2003 she founded the Archaeomalacology working group of the International Council for Archaeozoology. Her current research projects include the Manot Cave (western Galilee, Israel) and Taforalt Cave (Morocco). Daniella has published over 100 papers on mollusk shells and stone beads from Israel, Sinai, Turkey, and Eritrea.

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Shirly Ben-Dor Evian

Research Fellow

An Egyptologist and archaeologist, completed her Ph.D. at the Department of Archaeology and Near Eastern Cultures in Tel Aviv University. She is the recipient of the Swiss Excellence Scholarship for her post-doctoral work at the University of Lausanne and is currently participating in a Swiss National Foundation research project at the Tel Aviv University. Her research interests include the relations between Egypt and the Levant in the Bronze and Iron Ages as well as the study of Philistines and “Sea-Peoples”. She is currently the curator of Egyptian archaeology at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

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Lente Van Brempt

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Lente studied Art History and Archaeology (BA, MA) at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, and Archaeological Materials at the University of Sheffield (MSc). Her interest in Late Bronze Age Cyprus and archaeometallurgy resulted in her dissertation, *The Production and Trade of Cypriot Copper in the Late Bronze Age—From Ore to Ingot: Unravelling the Metallurgical Chain* at the University of Cyprus (May 2016). This project encompasses the multidisciplinary and comparative study of the metallurgical remains (i.e., slags, technical ceramics, metal scrap, and objects) from various Late Cypriot sites, by means of microstructural and chemical analysis. As a Post-Doctoral fellow, Lente under the guidance of Dr. Erez Ben-Yosef, will study the copper production of Cyprus during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages and compare it to the metallurgical activities in the Levant.

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Meir Edrey

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Meir received his BA from the Departments of Classical Studies, Classical Archaeology and the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures (magna cum laude) at Tel Aviv University. Following this, he continued on a fast-track Ph.D. program at the Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz Germany (magna cum laude). He currently occupies a post-doctoral position at Tel Aviv University, and is a lecturer in the the International Program in Ancient Israel Studies: Archaeology and History of the Land of the Bible.

Meir's research focuses on the Phoenician culture in the southern Levant during the Bronze, Iron, Persian, and Hellenistic periods, with a special interest in their religion and cult, as manifested in the material culture. Currently, Meir examines the changes that Phoenician temples underwent from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period, and the tension between tradition and Hellenization.

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Shai Gordin

Research Fellow

(Funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation)

Shai studied Archaeology, Ancient Near Eastern Cultures, and Assyriology at Tel Aviv University and Berlin (FU) University. Harrassowitz published Shai's thesis on Hittite scribal families and their Late Bronze Age cuneiform writing tradition. He lectured at Haifa and Tel Aviv Universities, and was post-doctoral fellow at Leuven (Belgium) and the Hebrew University. Since 2015 Shai has been a lecturer in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern History at Ariel University, and a research fellow at Tel Aviv University. In recent years, he has focused on the economy, religion, and social interactions within urban communities in Mesopotamia during the late first millennium BCE. Together with colleagues in Leuven and Vienna, Shai set up a portal for cuneiform archival texts of the Neo- and Late-Babylonian periods, which makes the rich historical and economic data of this period available to historians and interested layman alike (<http://nabucco.arts.kuleuven.be/>).

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Ido Koch

Research Fellow

Ido is an archaeologist who focuses on colonial encounters and intercultural discourses during the Late Bronze and Iron Ages in the southern Levant. Following the completion of his Ph.D. at Tel Aviv University (2015), Ido pursued a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Zurich (2015-2016). During both research projects Ido specialized in the archaeology of hegemonic rule and its aftermath. Ido's experience includes field supervision and research in expeditions to Ramat Rahel (2007-2010) and Tel Azekah (2012-2016). Currently, he focuses his research on intercultural interactions and the production and consumption of seal-amulets in the southern Levant.

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Mario A.S. Martin

Research Fellow

Mario is the co-director of the Megiddo Expedition and the Tel Shimron Excavations. He is a distinguished field archaeologist who completed his doctoral work in Egyptology at the University of Vienna with Professor Manfred Bietak. Mario's extensive field experience includes his long-time work at the Austrian Archaeological Institute's expedition to Tell el-Dab'a (Egypt), as well as work at Tel Dor, Jaffa, and Timna (Israel). Mario's main research fields are Egypto-Canaanite relations, Bronze Age ceramics, and ceramic petrography.

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Meirav Meiri

Research Fellow

Meirav uses molecular techniques (primarily ancient DNA) to study genetic variation and population structure of species through time and space. Working with museum and archaeological collections, Meirav extracts DNA from various types of samples. Some of the questions that Meirav seeks to address are related to the evolutionary relationships of species, population movements, and the impact of environmental changes on demography through time and space. Meirav's research projects have focused on the role of climate change in population range shifts in ungulates (such as red deer and moose), turnovers in historic pig populations in the southern Levant, and mobility in the Eastern Mediterranean during the Bronze and early Iron Ages (using the ancient DNA of cattle and pigs).

meirav.meiri@gmail.com



Omer Sergi

Research Fellow

Omer completed his Ph.D. dissertation in 2012 under the supervision of Prof. Oded Lipschits. Omer did his post-doctoral studies (2012–2014) in the Wissenschaftlich-Theologisches Seminar, Karls-Ruprecht Universität Heidelberg (Germany), supported by the Alexander von-Humboldt post-Doctoral grant for outstanding Ph.D. students. During this time Omer was a guest lecturer at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, Heidelberg (2012-2013). As a field archaeologist, Omer has worked as administrator, area supervisor, and researcher with excavations at Ramat Rahel (2004–2010), Abel beth Maacah (2015), and Tel Azekah (since 2012). In 2014 Omer became a research fellow and instructor at the Institute of Archaeology. Omer's fields of interest and expertise are the archaeology and history of the Levant in the Late Bronze and Iron Ages, and Biblical Studies. His research focuses on state formation, the early history of the territorial kingdoms in the southern Levant, and early historiographic writing in Israel and Judah.

omertelaviv@gmail.com



Aviad Agam

Dissertation Title: *Flint Procurement and Exploitation Strategies in the Late Lower Paleolithic Levant: The Case Study of Acheulo-Yabrudian Qesem Cave*

This study examines patterns of flint procurement and exploitation within the lithic assemblages of Qesem Cave. The results will enable a greater understanding of the Qesem hominins' lithic preferences, the extent of the territory they exploited, and the significance of these for the interpretation of the Qesem and Acheulo-Yabrudian lifestyle.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai, Avi Gopher, and Lucy Wilson
aviadkra@post.tau.ac.il



Ella Assaf

Dissertation Title: *Children Always Know: Archaeological Evidence for Knowledge Transmission and Learning in the Palaeolithic Period (between 500-150,000 years BP)*

Ella's research involves aspects of knowledge transmission (that are related to knapping among early humans), and its identification in the prehistoric record. This study endeavors to expand the current understanding of the cognitive abilities of human ancestors and their social relations, while providing a perspective that relates to learning processes that are still identifiable up until today.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Avi Gopher
ellaassa@gmail.com



Kobi Ben-Basat

Dissertation Title: *The Animal World in Mesopotamian Wisdom Compositions*

Kobi's thesis focuses on animals in Sumerian and Akkadian wisdom compositions. His aim is to offer, for the first time, a collection of all animals found in this corpus and offer an analysis of animal metaphors and imagery in Mesopotamian thinking. This is comprehensive work will be based of new and newly published proverbs and longer wisdom works. He will also treat the wisdom composition "The Fable of the Fox" and offer an edition, translation and commentary. This work is central to understand how power relations in the ancient world were provided with animal metaphors of the fox, dog, wolf and lion.

Supervisor: Yoram Cohen
Jacob1@post.tau.ac.il



Miki Ben-Dor

Dissertation Title: *The Causal Association between the Megafauna's Extinction and the Neandertal's Extinction in Western Europe: Application of the Obligatory Dietary Fat Bioenergetic Model*

Miki considers the association between Paleolithic diets and humans' evolutionary and cultural phenomena through a bioenergetic model. The model provides totals of required dietary fat, and compares it with available fat in prey animals. The goal is to identify points of dietary stress for humans, which could lead to extinctions and adaptations, both biological and cultural.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Avi Gopher
bendor.michael@gmail.com



Efrat Bocher

Dissertation Title: *The Regions of Judah and Samaria: Comparative Aspects of Material Culture from the End of the Iron Age to the Persian Period (7th-4th centuries BCE)*

Efrat considers the different aspects of material culture in each region at the end of the Iron Age and the Persian period. Efrat will develop a large corpus of archaeological finds which will characterize the two provinces. Comparing the characteristics of both material cultures, the research goal is the evaluation of the connection (commonalities and dissimilarities) between the two populations.

Supervisor: Oded Lipschits and Israel Finkelstein
efratbocher@hotmail.com



Nadia Bladt Knudsen

Dissertation Title: *Early Bronze Age Zoomorphic Figurines in the Southern Levant: Form, Technology, and Significance*

Based on a corpus of several hundred figurines from well-dated contexts, this study will review formal, technical, and technological aspects of Early Bronze I-III figurines from the southern Levant. The research goal is the interpretation of their significance in relation to animal economies and productive regimes of pre-urban, urban, and migrant communities.

Supervisor: Raphael Greenberg
ganchat3@hotmail.com



Zach Dunseth

Dissertation Title: *The Negev Highlands During the Intermediate Bronze Age (c. 2500-1950 BCE): A Geoarchaeological Perspective*
Zach's research is an integrated micro- and macro-archaeological study of settlement in the Negev Highlands during the Intermediate Bronze Age (c. 2500-1950 BCE). Using three sites as case studies, Zach applies various geoarchaeological methods including micromorphology, petrography, and radiocarbon dating, to reconstruct the subsistence practices, trade, and absolute chronology, of the southern Intermediate Bronze Age phenomenon.

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein and Ruth Shahack-Gross
zdunseth@gmail.com



Meir Finkel

Dissertation Title: *Prehistoric Flint Extraction Sites and Workshops in the Eastern Galilee*
Meir's research combines a wide field survey in the Eastern Galilee with geochemical and quantitative methods. The aim is to report new extraction sites and workshops, and understand their role in the procurement strategies and ways of life during the Late-Lower/Middle Paleolithic and the Neolithic/Chalcolithic periods.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai, Avi Gopher, and Erez Ben-Yosef
finkel2010@gmail.com



Liora Freud

Dissertation Title: *Judahite Pottery in the Transition Phase between the Iron Age and the Persian Period*

Liora specializes in the pottery of the Iron Age. She has several years of field experience, and has produced multiple publications on Iron Age pottery in Judah and the Negev. Following renewed excavations at Ramat Rahel (2004-2010), Liora turned her focus to Persian period pottery, and the transition from the Iron Age, through the Babylonian, and into the Persian period.

Supervisor: Oded Lipschits
freudliora@gmail.com



Avivit Gera

Dissertation Title: *Archaeological Site Design as a Mechanism of Culture Heritage within Culture Landscape*

Avivit's research centers on interpretation and significance. Archaeological "time" is found within the contemporary cultural landscape, which in itself is given to interpretation and must be examined within a contemporary context. As interpretation is a dialogue with the past, archaeological interpretation exists in the gap between the past and the present. Avivit considers "archaeological interpretation" and its impact on historical reconstruction.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits, Nurit Lissovsky, and Guy Stiebel
avivitgera@mail.tau.ac.il



Yoram Haimi

Dissertation Title: *The Archaeological Excavations at the Extermination Camp of Sobibor, Poland*

Yoram has excavated the site of Sobibor for the past eight years, which for the first time has provided invaluable data that enables a reconstruction of the camp and the way it functioned. Above all, Yoram's research is a direct testimony to the Jewish victims and their places of origin, otherwise unattested.

Supervisors: Guy Stiebel and Havi Dreifuss
yoramhai@hotmail.com



Gil Haklay

Dissertation Title: *The Transition to Rectangular Architecture in the Neolithic Levant*

The aim of the research is to examine the Levantine archaeological record of architectural Epipaleolithic and early Neolithic remains, in order to better understand the origin of architectural design as a human behavior and its evolution. The study will facilitate a discussion on the transition from rounded to rectangular architecture, and the role of architecture in Neolithisation processes.

Supervisors: Avi Gopher and Yuval Portugali
gilhaklay@mail.tau.ac.il



Erin Hall

Dissertation Title: *Archaeology of Cult in the Northern Kingdom*

Erin deals with archaeological evidence of cult in the Northern Kingdom (Iron Age IIA-B). She will evaluate new and “old” material, to facilitate a fresh consideration of change and continuity in cult practices. The aim is to examine the organization of cult in the north in contrast to neighboring regions, alongside methodological issues such as, “what makes a cult place?”

Supervisor: Israel Finkelstein
erinhall@mail.tau.ac.il



Elon Heymans

Dissertation Title: *The Early History of Money and Monetary Exchange in the Eastern Mediterranean Iron Age*

This study will attempt to assess the rise and spread of a monetary economy in the eastern Mediterranean region during the Iron Age (ca. 1200-600 BCE), placing it in its social and historical context.

Supervisors: Alexander Fantalkin, Israel Finkelstein, and Irad Malkin
elonheyman@gmail.com



Assaf Kleiman

Dissertation Title: *Border Regions in Northeastern Israel and Southwestern Syria during the 10th and 9th centuries BCE*

Assaf’s research deals with the material culture of the border regions between Israel and Aram, in the timeframe of the 10th-9th centuries BCE. More specifically, Assaf’s research endeavors to explore the cultural interactions between the various social groups that populated these territories during the early first millennium BCE, and their expression in the archaeological record.

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein and Benjamin Sass
iassafk@gmail.com



Sabine Kleiman

Dissertation Title: *“The Potters of the Shephelah: Between Tradition and Innovation”: Technology, Typology, and Symbolism of Pottery during the Bronze and Early Iron Ages*

The research aims to investigate the production, style, and movement of ceramic in the Shephelah during the Late Bronze and early Iron Ages, through a holistic and long-term study of pottery production. The project will utilize the methods of petrography, xeroradiography, and typology, which will provide information about the provenance, production technique, and tradition of the examined ceramics.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits, Yuval Gadot, and Anat Cohen-Weinberger
sabinekleiman@gmail.com



Yitzhak Lee-sak

Dissertation Title: *Reassessment of the Benjaminite Traditions in the Hebrew Bible, in Light of Archaeological Data and Historical Reconstruction*

This research will investigate the available archaeological data of the region of Benjaminite areas, as provided by the results of surface surveys and excavation projects. The research goal is a reconstruction of the history of Benjamin during the biblical periods, achieved through the consideration of historical-critical approaches, reductional analysis, inner-biblical interpretations, and receptive-history perspectives.

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein and Oded Lipschits
leeyitzhak@gmail.com



Eythan Levy

Dissertation Title: *Quantitative Methods for the Study of the Population of Judah in the 8th and 7th centuries BCE*

The aim of Eythan’s project is the application of state-of-the-art statistical and algorithmic techniques to the rich corpus of inscribed Judean material of the 8th-7th centuries BCE, such as ostraca, bullae, seals, and stamped jars. The goal is to obtain quantitative information on First-Temple-period Judean society during its golden age.

Supervisor: Israel Finkelstein
eythan.levy@gmail.com



Vanessa Linares

Dissertation Title: *Organic Residue Analysis of Small Closed Containers from The Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages: Tel Azekah, Tel Shadud, and Tel Megiddo as a Case Study*
The aim of this research is the application of organic residue analysis on the small closed containers from Tel Azekah, Tel Shadud, and Tel Megiddo during the Late Bronze and early Iron Ages. The goal is to better understand the cultural practices of the local inhabitants, and possible trade networks within the Levant.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits, Yuval Gadot, and Ronny Neumann
vlinares04@gmail.com



Rafael Nezer

Dissertation Title: *Hellenistic Maresha/Marisa: Food Production vs. Food Consumption of the Local Population: An Attempt to Develop an Eco-Agricultural Archaeological Model*
Rafi combines archaeology, ecology, and agriculture to facilitate a comparison between foods produced in the agricultural territory of Maresha/Marisa, and the foods consumed by its inhabitants. The applied methodology combines an estimation of agricultural territory and G.I.S. mapping system, with an estimation of food yields, and can be adapted to a variety of other archaeological sites.

Supervisors: Oren Tal and Amos Hadas
rafaelnezer@post.tau.ac.il



Nir Orlev

Dissertation Title: *Gender, Death, and Rebirth in the Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts*
Nir's research focuses on the corpus of the "Coffin Texts" of the ancient Egyptian elite (ca. 2160-1650 BCE). The aim is to identify how the deceased's sex and gender is affected by the choice of text, and to identify differences between ancient Egyptian perceptions of death, rebirth, and the afterlife of men and women.

Supervisor: Deborah Sweeney
nirorlev@post.tau.ac.il



Yoni Parush Glikman

Dissertation Title: *Recycling Flint in the Palaeolithic: Evidence for Sustainable Human Behaviour in Prehistory (500,000-25,000 years ago)*
This focus of this research is palaeolithic stone recycling between 500-25,000 years ago in the Levant. The purpose of this research is to identify and explore the meaning and significance of lithic recycling in the Palaeolithic, and to provide a basis for a deeper understanding of recycling behaviors.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Avi Gopher
yoniparush@gmail.com



Miriam Pines

Dissertation Title: *The Central Negev in Late Antiquity*
Miri is publishing several Late Antique sites in the Negev, focusing on the different cultural aspects of the period. Exploring the important role of religion in the area, Miri considers the relationship between different peoples (both old to the region and new, Eastern and Western), aspects of economy and diet, roads, and municipal ordinance.

Supervisor: Oren Tal
miriampi@post.tau.ac.il



Débora Sandhaus (Reem)

Dissertation Title: *The Nexus of Cultures: The Central Shephelah (Lowlands) During the Persian and Hellenistic Periods*
Débora's research focuses on the formation of cultural, social, and ethnic identities between the Persian and the Hellenistic Periods in the Central Shephelah (The Lowland). The Shephelah, as a border zone, is a promising area for evaluating this process. Other topics of interest central to this study include household archaeology and pottery of the Classical Periods.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot
debby.reen@gmail.com



Abra Spiciarich

Dissertation Title: *Religious and Socioeconomic Diversity of Ancient Jerusalem and Its Hinterland During the 8th-2nd century BCE: A View from the Faunal Remains*

Abra deals with zooarchaeological and taphonomic analyses to research Jerusalem during the 8th-2nd centuries BCE. Her research focuses on three major themes: the socioeconomic and religious status of Jerusalem, the economic relationship between Jerusalem and its hinterland, and the development of the sumptuary and sacrificial laws in the Hebrew Bible.

Supervisors: Lidar Sapir-Hen, Oded Lipschits, and Israel Finkelstein
abra.spiciarich@gmail.com



Menahem (Chemi) Shiff

Dissertation Title: *Conservation and Archaeology in the Neoliberal Age: Urban Renewal and Identity Construction in Tel Aviv-Jaffa and Jerusalem*

This study examines the uses of antiquities and archaeological remains by current, neoliberal practices, in urban renewal and design. The research will be based on case studies from the historical cities of Jaffa and Jerusalem.

Supervisors: Tovi Fenster and Raphael Greenberg
menache8@post.tau.ac.il



Natalya Solodenko

Dissertation Title: *Use-wear Analysis of Two Late Lower Paleolithic Lithic Assemblages: Case Studies from Revadim Quarry and Qesem Cave*

The purpose of this research is to reconstruct the function of late Lower Paleolithic stone tools by using use-wear analysis and experimental framework. This study will enable the investigation of patterns of site function, specific activities, and the meaning of technological change throughout the Late Lower Paleolithic period in the southern Levant.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Cristina Lemorini
natalya15@gmail.com



Marcio Teixeira Bastos

Dissertation Title: *The Analysis and Spatial Distribution of Roman Provincial Discus Lamps: A Case Study in Syria-Palestine and Africa Proconsularis*

Marcio is completing a double doctorate at both Tel Aviv University and the University of São Paulo. His dissertation deals with the production and distribution of Roman lamps by means of thin-section analysis and comparative research. The social and economic implications of Levantine workshops will be compared to modes of Roman lamp production and distribution by North African workshops.

Supervisors: Oren Tal and Yuval Goren
marcio_quisleu@yahoo.com.br



Lyndelle Webster

Dissertation Title: *Developing a Radiocarbon-Based Late Bronze Age Chronology for Southwest Israel, Using Tel Azekah as a Reference Site*

This project seeks to establish a robust radiocarbon-based chronology for the Late Bronze Age in southwest Israel, which will contribute new data and Bayesian modeling from Tel Azekah. The project will also contribute fresh evidence to key debates, including the Late Bronze to Iron Age transition.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot, Oded Lipschits, and Yann Tristant
yndelle.webster@students.mq.edu.au

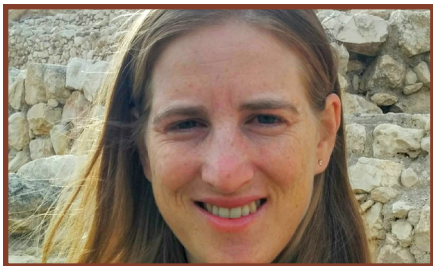


Ariel Winderbaum

Dissertation Title: *The Iron Age IIA Pottery Assemblages from the Ophel Excavations and Their Contribution to the Understanding of the Settlement History of Jerusalem.*

The archaeological excavations at the Ophel (2009-2013), on the southern slopes of the Temple Mount, headed by Dr. Eilat Mazar, uncovered monumental buildings that were in use throughout the Iron Age IIA. Ariel's research explores this formative yet elusive period in the history of Jerusalem, through the rare archaeological finds.

Supervisor: Israel Finkelstein.
ariel.winderboim@mail.huji.ac.il

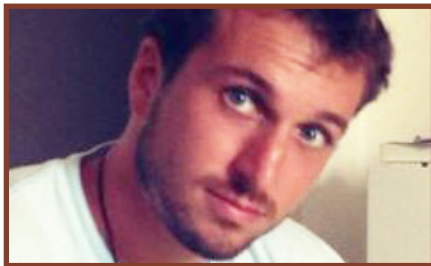


Ayala Zilberstein

Dissertation Title: *"A City with a Wall in its Heart," Issues of Space and Identity in Jerusalem under the Seleucid Rule in Light of the Archaeological Finds from the City of David*

Ayala's research is devoted to the enigma of the Hellenistic Acra, Jerusalem, which has been debated for the past 150 years. The recent dramatic discovery of a massive fortification in the Giva'ti Parking Lot from the 2nd century BCE, alongside weapons *in situ*, has provided unparalleled insight into this period.

Supervisors: Guy Stiebel and Doron Ben Ami
ayala4747@gmail.com

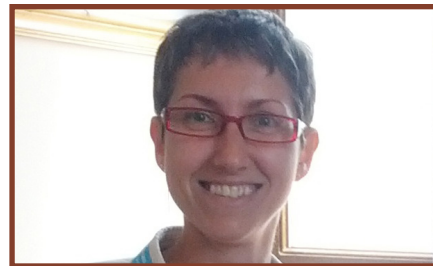


Andrea Zupancich

Dissertation Title: *Understanding the Use of Quina Scrapers at Middle Pleistocene Qesem Cave (Israel), and Its Implication for the Study of the Quina Phenomenon in the Levant and Beyond*

This research focuses on the use of Quina scrapers at Qesem Cave, as investigated through the application of techno-morpho functional, use-wear, and residues analyses. This project aims to provide new insights that will contribute to the study of the early human groups that occupied Qesem Cave 400,000 years ago.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai, Avi Goher, and Cristina Lemorini
a.zupancich@gmail.com



Katia Zutovski

Dissertation Title: *Between the Revolutions: From the Neolithic Revolution to the Urban Revolution in the Southern Levant: A Lithic Perspective*

This research will investigate changes in lithic assemblages that take place between the Neolithic and Urban Revolutions in the Southern Levant. The aim of this research is to explore in what way the lithics may contribute to the understanding of major socio-economic changes that occurred within this timeframe.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Avi Gopher
katiarina81@gmail.com



Elad Aaron

Thesis Title: *Select Titles of Office-holders and Others Professionals during the Late Bronze Age*

Elad's MA thesis collects and provides an analysis of select titles of various office holders and professionals in Ugarit and Emar (chiefly) on the basis of alphabetic and cuneiform sources. The purpose of the work is to supply us with a base for better understanding the society and economy of the Late Bronze Age in the Middle-Euphrates region and the Syrian coast.

Supervisor: Yoram Cohen
eladaaron@mail.tau.ac.il

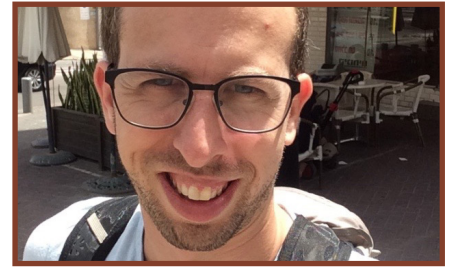


Julia Abramove

Thesis Title: *The Inhabitants of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (10,500-8,250 Cal. BP) site of Yiftahel: An Anthropological, Bio-Archaeological, Cultural, and Social Analysis*

Julia's research focuses on the analysis of the Neolithic population of Yiftahel (ca. 10,000 years old). The study will present anthropological data on the population, its demography, paleo-pathology, and activities. The goal is the evaluation of these aspects within the broader understanding of Pre-Pottery Neolithic populations, during a period of major socio-economic change related to the Agricultural Revolution.

Supervisors: Avi Gopher and Israel Hershkovitz
yuliaabr@post.tau.ac.il



Alon Arad

Thesis Title: *The Analysis of Activity Areas at Tel Beth Yerah, and the Reconstruction of "Khirbet Kerak Ware People" Daily Practice*

This study aims to recognize the spatial and behavioral patterns of a socially distinctive group associated with the Early Bronze Age and Early Transcaucasian Culture at Tel Bet Yerah. By undertaking an in depth examination of the site formation processes and evidence of the material culture, Alon endeavors to present the characteristics of this distinctive group.

Supervisor: Raphael Greenberg
alonarad@mail.tau.ac.il



Nitsan Ben Melech

Thesis Title: *OSL Dating of Lime Kilns in the Judean Hills and Foothills*

The lime industry once held a central role within ancient daily life. Understanding this industry (which to date has received little attention in archaeological research) is at the heart of this study. Nitsan's research will focus on the use of OSL method to address the challenges involved in the dating of limekilns.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot and Erez Ben-Yosef
halo.nitsan@gmail.com



Mordechai Benzaquen

Thesis Title: *The Archaeological Wood Remains of Tel Megiddo: Interpreting Environmental Conditions and Cultural Preferences Through the Analysis of Botanical Remains*

This research involves the identification of charcoal wood remains from recent seasons, and an interpretation of the combined data from all prior seasons. The research aim is to employ the botanical remains from Tel Megiddo, in conjunction with their stratigraphic context, as a means for creating a paleoenvironmental profile for each relevant archaeological period (Early Bronze – Iron Age II).

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein and Dafna Langgut
mordechai.benzaquen@gmail.com



Emily Bischoff

Thesis Title: *On Sheep, Shame, and Sodomy: A Case Study of Purification Rituals in the Hittite Empire*

Emily's research focuses on the analysis of a Hittite Text. The text describes a ritual that absolves the sin of bestiality (KUB 41.11). The research goal is to delve deeper into the Hittite understanding of sin, and the rituals practiced to solve those sins.

Supervisor: Amir Gilan
emilininabischoff@gmail.com

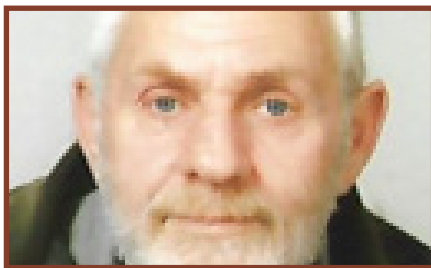


Mark Cavanagh

Thesis Title: *Sustainability of an Industry on the Fringe: A Dendroarchaeological Investigation into Fuel Sources at the Iron Age Copper Smelting Site of Timna Valley*

Mark recently completed his research on fuel sources at Iron Age Timna, an important copper mining and smelting center located in the Arava Desert in southern Israel. The analysis of charcoal, collected from slag mounds located in two nearby metallurgical sites, suggests that the staggering amount of fuel necessitated by the industry had a severe impact on the fragile desert ecosystem.

Supervisors: Dafna Langgut and Erez Ben-Yosef
gordycavanagh@gmail.com



Abraham Cohen

Thesis Title: *Bifaces from the Late Acheulian Site Revadim Quarry: Similarities and Differences in Time and Space*

The aim of Abraham's research is a detailed description and analysis of the bifacial tools that were found in the excavation of Area B, and layer C5 of Area C. The analysis is based on identification of technological, typological, and "life history" characteristics, i.e., renovation, resharpening, and recycling. The research also relates to the possible implications of post-deposition processes.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Ofer Marder
chichocohen@gmail.com



Bar Efrati

Thesis Title: *A Burning Matter: Intra-Site Spatial Analysis of Flint Items around the Hearth at Qesem Cave*

This study deals with an intra-site spatial analysis of flint items in the area of the hearth at Qesem Cave (420-200 ka). The research goal is to discern between the different activities that occurred around the hearth. Analyzing spatial patterns near the hearth will further the understanding of human behavior and the spatial patterns of the Acheulo-Yabrudian cultural complex.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Avi Gopher
barefrati@mail.tau.ac.il



Yelena Elgart

Thesis Title: *Settlement Patterns and Land Use in the Upper Soreq River: The Longue Durée Approach*

Yelena's study focuses on the upper Soreq area, located to the north-west of Jerusalem, which contains a high concentration of agricultural installations and settlements. With the use of landscape archaeology, OSL dating, and the analysis of historical records from later periods, the settlement patterns and land use of the area can be unraveled.

Supervisor: Yuval Gadot
yelenael@mail.tau.ac.il



Rotem Elinson

Thesis Title: *The Physical Potential and the Subsistence Economy in the Jerusalem Hills*

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot and Eyal Ben-Dor
Rotemelinson@mail.tau.ac.il



Laura Farkas

Thesis Title: *Tel Gerisa in the Late Bronze IIA: Determining the Character of the Material Culture of the Site in the Amarna Period*

The site of Tel Gerisa is situated on the central coastal plain. For eleven seasons (1981-1995), excavations were carried out at the site. The aim of this thesis is to provide information on the Late Bronze Age IIA, and the possible Egyptian influence at Tel Gerisa during the Amarna period.

Supervisors: Alexander Fantalkin and Ze'ev Herzog
lauralillafarkas@gmail.com



Shirad Galmor

Thesis Title: *Wild Game and Early Domesticates of the Neolithic Site in Tsomet Ahihud*

Shirad's study has three major objectives: the first, to develop an understanding of site subsistence economy; the second to examine local animal domestication processes through time, and the third, to present an evaluation of the relationship, and the effect animal domestication may have had on the site's immediate environment.

Supervisors: Lidar Sapir-Hen and Tamar Dayan

shiradgalmor@mail.tau.ac.il



Danilo Giordano Rabell

Thesis Title: *Cultural Contact between Mitanni and Southern Canaan during Egyptian Occupation: A Study of Mitannian Cylinder Seals*

Danilo examines the distribution of Mitannian cylinder seals to better understand the historical conditions of Late Bronze Age Canaan. The research focuses on differences between periods of rivalry and cooperation between Egypt and Mitanni; it presents an opportunity to test theories regarding the borders of Egyptian Canaan, and will offer new evidence as to whether these borders were open, or strict.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Amir Gilan
drgiordano.arc@gmail.com



Alexander Glik

Thesis Title: *Military Finds from Jaffa (18th-19th centuries CE): Archaeological Finds versus Textual Evidence*

The port city of Jaffa is situated on the central coastal plain. Recently, several excavations were carried out at the site wherein a great deal of Late Ottoman military material was collected. The aim of the thesis is to provide information on the Late Ottoman military finds from Jaffa, and investigate their correlation with known military events.

Supervisors: Alexander Fantalkin and Gideon Avni

glik1@mail.tau.ac.il



Maya B. Hadash

Thesis Title: *The Cypriot Import Assemblage from Late Bronze Tel Azekah: Chronological, Typological, and Inter-Regional Implications*

Maya's research considers the chronological and typological implications of the Tel Azekah Cypriot pottery assemblage. Central research aims include an examination of the nature of trade in the Ancient Near East and Tel Azekah in relation to various trade networks. This research will view results within the framework of the Late Bronze Age Levant.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot, Oded Lipschits and Assaf Yasur-Landau
maya.hadash@gmail.com



Yehonatan Hershkowitz

Thesis Title: *The Chronology and History of the Sea-land Dynasty*

Yehonatan's MA thesis (co-supervisor Dr Amir Gilan) is concerned with the chronology of the Sea-land Dynasty. The publication of new sources relating to this forgotten and little-known kingdom of lower Mesopotamia invites a re-assessment of its chronology, geography and history. The conclusions of his work have important repercussions regarding the absolute chronology of Babylonia during the Second Millennium in its so-called "Dark Ages".

Supervisors: Yoram Cohen and Amir Gilan
yehonatanh@mail.tau.ac.il



Logan Hunt

Thesis Title: *A Middle Bronze Age Stone Tool Assemblage from Tel Megiddo: Determining Function and Significance for Domestic Life*

Supervisor: Israel Finkelstein
loganahunt@hotmail.com



Sergey Ishoev

Thesis Title: *Andirons and Hearths in the Kura-Araxes Culture and Its Derivatives: Definition, Distribution, and Usage*

The goal of Sergey's research is the analysis of the typology, distribution, and function of fixed and portable hearths, as well as pot-supports or stands. These finds are uniquely associated with the Early Bronze Age and Early Transcaucasian Culture in the Kura-Araxes basin and beyond it, including Khirbet Kerak Ware sites of the Southern Levant.

Supervisor: Raphael Greenberg
sergeyis@mail.tau.ac.il



Eli Itkin

Thesis Title: *Horvat Tov (Bir et-Tayyib): A View on Judah's Southern Frontier in the 7th Century BCE*

Horvat Tov is a large 7th century BCE fort located on the north-eastern border of the Arad Valley, which was excavated for four seasons (1984-1988). The aim of this thesis is to provide a complete and detailed publication of Horvat Tov, and examine Judah's southern border on the eve of its destruction.

Supervisor: Alexander Fantalkin
itkineli@gmail.com



Mati Johananoff

Thesis Title: *Hellenistic Bronze Coins from Side (Pamphylia) in the Southern Levant*

Multiple Hellenistic period bronze coins from Side (Pamphylia) have been unearthed across south Levantine archaeological contexts. The unusual circulation pattern of the coins requires explanation. The thesis uses numismatic, historical, and archaeological data to evaluate their possible connection to the Seleucid military realm, and potential import as small change in military contexts (198-130 BCE).

Supervisors: Alexander Fantalkin, Oren Tal and Donald T. Ariel
johananoff@gmail.com



Christina Jones

Thesis Title: *Inter-Regional Connections during the Late Bronze Age as Reflected through Animal Economy: Tel Azekah, A Case Study*

The goal of Christina's research is the examination of the dietary habits and identities of the residents of Tel Azekah during the Late Bronze Age. The focus of the study is the social and political status of Tel Azekah in the Shephelah region.

Supervisors: Lidar-Sapir-Hen, Oded Lipschits, and Omer Sergi
tinajonesarch@gmail.com



Yafit Kedar

Thesis Title: *Around the Hearth: The Implications of Hearth Location in Paleolithic Caves*

The use of fire by early Paleolithic hominids has been researched for the last few decades. Yafit's research is aimed at the implications of fire drawbacks on the early hominid way of life, such as the location of the hearth in the cave, cave activity organization, and cave selection criteria.

Supervisor: Ran Barkai
yafitkedar@mail.tau.ac.il



David Krouwer

Thesis Title: *Tel Azekah in the Iron Age: A Historical and Archaeological Analysis*

The aim of this research is to better understand the site Tel Azekah during the Iron Age. Research analyses will include the evaluation of relevant textual evidence, as well as an analysis of the archaeological material discovered in past and present surveys and expeditions to the site.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot
dkrouwer@gmail.com



Ben Laugomer

Thesis Title: *Paleoclimate in the Southern Levant During the Bronze and Iron Ages based on Isotop Composition in Soreq Cave Speleothems*

This research project focuses on high resolution climate reconstruction (Bronze and Iron Ages) from speleothems (cave deposits) in the Soreq Cave, Israel. High resolution paleoclimate data enables the discussion of social and climate change on the same time scale, and an understanding of the relationship between humans and their environment during this period in the southern Levant.

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein, Dafna Langgut, and Miryam Bar-Matthews
ben.laugomer@mail.huji.ac.il



Barnea Levi Selavan

Thesis Title: *Animal and Fowl Fat in Nutrition, Archaeology, ANE Texts, Bible, Talmud, and Anthropology*

Recent residue analysis research revealed the presence of animal fat in Late Bronze Tel Azekah storage jars, sparking a discussion on the nature of ancient food and industry usages. Nutrition, archaeology, ANE and Egyptian texts, Bible, Talmud, and anthropology, indicate that fat from grass-fed animals is healthy, diet-critical, versatile, and highly regarded in all societies from prehistory and onwards.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Ran Zadok
barnea@foundationstone.org



David Luria

Thesis Title: *The Nomads of the Southern Levant at the End of the Late Bronze and the Beginning of the Iron Age*

This research project deals with the uprooted, militarized bands and rural populations, during Late Bronze and Iron I Ages in the southern Levant. The aim of the project is an attempt to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the global role these societies played during these periods.

Supervisors: Alexander Fantalkin and Steve Rosen
dudiluria1@gmail.com



Li Mengmeng

Thesis Title: *Archaeomagnetic Dating of the Judean Pillar Figurines*

Mengmeng's research is archaeomagnetic dating of Judean Pillar Figurines, which were popular in Iron Age Judah. Since many of them were found without stratigraphic information, archaeomagnetism offers a significant way to discover their chronological data. The results from finds in clear contexts will provide benchmarks for the geomagnetic curve in the southern Levant.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Erez Ben-Yosef
earsa@126.com

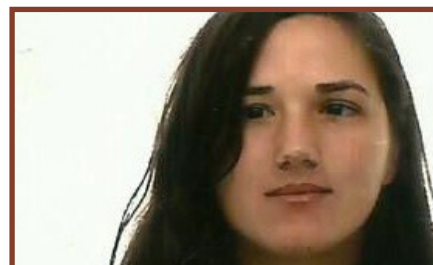


Jonathan Parker

Thesis Title: *Formation of Edomite Complexity: The Southern Perspective*

This study focuses on how the socio-economic pressures of the Arabian Peninsula affected the social transformations of Edomite tribes and territorial-polities in the Transjordan/Wadi Arabah from the c. 13th century until the 7th/6th centuries BCE.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Omer Sergi
jnpwdf@gmail.com



Michal Piasetzky-David

Thesis Title: *Roman-Byzantine Cemeteries and Tombs around Yavne-Yam*

Michal is currently researching unpublished Roman and Byzantine period graves and burial caves, excavated at Yavne-Yam during the 1960s and 1980s. These tombs will be placed into a greater context, and advance the current understanding of the complexity of the Roman and Byzantine Necropolis of Yavne-Yam.

Supervisor: Oren Tal
michal.pitz@gmail.com



Dorit Pomerantz

Thesis Title: *Images of the Wild and the Wilderness in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Sources*

Dorit's MA thesis (co-supervisor Dr Dalit Rom-Shiloni) deals with images of wild animals and beasts as metaphors for waste and destruction in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern sources, in particular, Sumerian and Akkadian literary and historical texts.

Supervisors: Dalit Rom-Shiloni and Yoram Cohen



Tamar Rosenberg Yefet

Thesis Title: *The Origins of the Levallois Method, and Implications for Its Distribution Model*

Levallois is a flake production technology aimed at producing items of predetermined morphology, typically characteristic of the Mousterian (but with roots in the Acheulian culture). In order to understand its origins, Tamar examined two evolutionary models of distribution: diffusion and convergent evolution. The Revadim Late Acheulian prepared core assemblage is used as a case study.

Supervisor: Ran Barkai
tamarros1@yahoo.com



Helena Roth

Thesis Title: *Wood Economy in Early Roman period Jerusalem*

Through the anatomical determination of the charred wood remains obtained from four different excavations in the Lower City of Jerusalem, it became possible to understand the different uses of wood and its trade. Helena's research enables the reconstruction of the surrounding arboreal environment and agriculture, as well as the social stratification of the Lower City.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot and Dafna Langgut
helenaroth@mail.tau.ac.il



Talila Rudin

Thesis Title: *Roman-Byzantine Cemeteries and Tombs around Apollonia/Sozousa: The New Discoveries*

Talila is currently researching unpublished graves and burial caves of the Roman and Byzantine period, which have been excavated in the hinterland of the site of Apollonia-Arsuf since the 1990s. These tombs will be placed into greater context, and advance the understanding of the complexity of the Roman and Byzantine Necropolis of Apollonia/Sozousa.

Supervisor: Oren Tal
talilaru@post.tau.ac.il



Jacob Schreibman

Thesis Title: *Comparison of Mud-Brick Composition as a Possible Basis for Local Chronological Identification*

The objective of the thesis is to investigate whether one can infer reliable differences between various levels of Mud Brick Material (MBM) at a defined finite site. This study is based on observed quantitative changes of the physical composition of the MBM ingredients across time and between periods.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot
schreibman@mail.tau.ac.il



Oron Schwartz

Thesis Title: *Qiryat-Ye'arim Excavation: The Iron Age Remains*

The aim of this thesis is to clarify the nature of the Iron Age occupation Qiryat-Ye'arim. The goal of Oron's research is to present finds unearthed during the salvage excavations of Gabriel Barkay (1995-1996).

Supervisors: Alexander Fantalkin and Gabriel Barkay
oron.schwartz@gmail.com

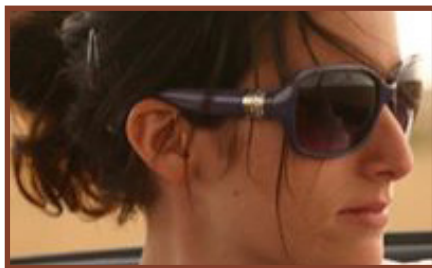


Nitsan Shalom

Thesis Title: *Changes in Settlement Patterns in Judah between the Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods*

Nitsan's research includes the creation of a database of Persian and Hellenistic sites and settlement maps for the different regions of Judah. The database will enable an analysis of trends of continuity or change in each region. This project seeks to explain these trends in light of the major historical events of the 5th-2nd centuries BCE.

Supervisor: Oded Lipschits
nitsans3@mail.tau.ac.il



Noy Shemesh

Thesis Title: *Ornamental, Leisure, and Excessive Water Installations in the Private Space in Roman Palestine*

Noy has focused on a somewhat neglected theme in the archaeology of Roman Judaea/Syria Palestina, namely the use of water in private spaces from Herod's time to the late Roman period. Recent studies have demonstrated the significance of this theme as a tool for the exploration of a given society, its social hierarchy, and moreover, its leisure time.

Supervisor: Guy Stiebel
noysheme@mail.tau.ac.il



Jamie Tiano

Thesis Title: *Analyzing the Ceramic Findings in Tel Gerisa as a Case Study to the Central Coastal Plain Cities at the Late Bronze IIB*

This thesis is an analysis of the ceramic assemblage from the government building (palace) at Tel Gerisa strata 9a-9b (Area C). The analysis is a case study for the economic and commercial systems of the coastal sites during the Late Bronze IIB period, which will result in the provision of a typology, comparative study, and final publication.

Supervisors: Ze'ev Herzog and Alexander Fantalkin
j.tiano1987@gmail.com



Yariv Tivon

Thesis Title: *Private Stelae of Low-Ranking Expedition Members at Serabit el-Khadem*
During the Egyptian Middle and New Kingdoms (1956-1777, 1525-1147 BCE) expeditions were sent Serabit el-Khadem in the Sinai Desert. Hundreds of stelae and stela fragments have been discovered there. The goals of this study is to catalogue 28 personal votive-stelae, and investigate the social status of the people who erected them, by analyzing the stelae's epithets, titles, texts, and votive formulae.

Supervisor: Deborah Sweeney
yarivtibbon@mail.tau.ac.il



Marc Wallace

Thesis Title: *The History of Settlement at Tel Shalaf and the Battle of Eltekeh*

Tel Shalaf is located on the Coastal Plain, near modern Rehovot. Previous surveys have confirmed a strong Iron Age II presence. The prime directive of Marc's thesis is to survey the site, reveal areas for future excavation, define the dimensions of the site during different periods, and clarify the sites' identification.

Supervisor: Alexander Fantalkin
marc.wallace746@gmail.com



Naama Walzer

Thesis Title: *The Intermediate Bronze Age in the Shephelah in Light of Site 248.1*

This research is a crucial step towards a greater understanding of not only the Shephelah during the Intermediate Bronze Age, but also of the transregional processes that occurred during this time frame. This period, which has remained to this day very enigmatic, makes this research and its potential outcomes very exciting.

Supervisor: Israel Finkelstein
naamawal@mail.tau.ac.il



Yoav Weingarten

Thesis Title: *Synchronic and Diachronic Analysis of Ground Stones from Tel Megiddo*
Yoav's thesis focuses on the significance of ground stone tools in mundane activities at Tel Megiddo from the Early Bronze to the late Iron age. The research goal is to utilize synchronic and diachronic analysis to reconstruct behavioral patterns from a *longue durée* perspective.

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein and Erez Ben-Yosef
mightheart@gmail.com



Alexandra Wrathall

Thesis Title: *An Iron Age IIA-IIB Pit Assemblage at Tel Azekah: Analysis of Typology, Chronology, and Context*
Alex's research focuses on the contents of a pit, discovered during excavations at Tel Azekah (2014-2015). Fully restored, the pit includes complete and semi-complete vessels that are indicative of the Iron Age IIA-IIB. The aim of this research is an evaluation of the archaeological context of the pit, and a typological and chronological analysis of the ceramic assemblage.

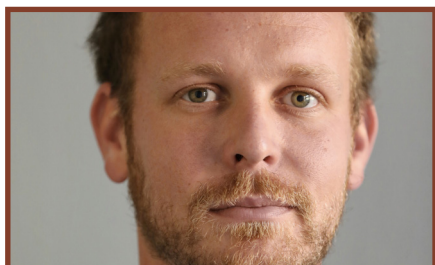
Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot
wrathall@mail.tau.ac.il



Omri A. Yagel

Thesis Title: *Late Bronze Age Copper Smelting Technology at Timna*
Omri's research is aimed at identifying and characterizing Late Bronze and early Iron Age copper smelting activities in the Timna Valley. By analyzing slag from both contexts, Omri is able to characterize the Late Bronze technology in comparison to the later Iron Age technology, thus shedding new light on the evolution of copper smelting in Timna across a 200-year period.

Supervisor: Erez Ben-Yosef
omriyage@mail.tau.ac.il



Omer Ze'evi

Thesis Title: *The Amarna Age in the Shephelah: Analysis of a Late Bronze IIA Pottery Assemblage from Tel Beth-Shemesh*
Omer's research deals with the pottery assemblage from a building in Tel Beth-Shemesh (interpreted as a palace), dated to the time of the El-Amarna archive. The scarcity of 14th century BCE assemblages in the Shephelah and Israel emphasizes the importance of this research. The thesis will deal with pottery typology, spatial analysis, and imports and imitations.

Supervisor: Shlomo Bunimovitz
omer.zeev@gmail.com



Yu Zhang

Thesis Title: *Canaanite Cult Behaviour Under Egyptian Political Hegemony: A View from the Northern Valleys*
Yu's research deals with cult behavior in Canaan under Egyptian political hegemony during the Late Bronze Age. The project seeks to understand how the expression of local Canaanite ritual in the northern valleys interacted with the dominance of Egyptian theology and cult. The study offers an opportunity to gain greater insight into the complexity of cultural interactions.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot and Shirly Ben Dor Evian
zhangyusdu@gmail.com

The International M.A. Program in Ancient Israel Studies: Archaeology and History of the Land of the Bible

The International M.A. Program in Ancient Israel Studies is a unique program. It is offered by the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures of Tel Aviv University, in collaboration with TAU International, and enables international students from around the world to study the Archaeology and History of the Land of the Bible, in the Land of the Bible.

Throughout the duration of the program, students are offered a unique window into the country's engaging and complex past through theoretical classes, field work experience, and guided tours to some of the most renowned excavation sites in Israel (such as Jerusalem, Ramat Raḥel, Tel Megiddo, Tel Hazor, Tel Dan, Tel Beth-Shemesh, Tel Azekah, Tel Beer-sheba, Qumran, Masada, and Caesarea). Students are also offered the opportunity to gain fieldwork experience through a dig in an exciting archaeological excavation conducted in Israel by TAU scholars.

In 2017, students of the archaeology program will excavate at Masada, February 5 – March 3. Students will have the opportunity to learn in the field during the day, and attend specialist lectures and classes in the evening.

To discover more about the program, visit archaeology.tau.ac.il/internationalMA/. To contact a member of the program registration team, email MAarch@post.tau.ac.il. Finally, to stay up to date with the latest developments and program tours, like us on Facebook at [@archaeologyandhistoryofthelandofthebible](https://www.facebook.com/archaeologyandhistoryofthelandofthebible)





אוניברסיטת תל אביב
בעקבות הלא נודע



EVENTS

The 42nd Archaeological Congress in Israel

On April 20, 2016, The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archeology hosted the 42nd Annual Archaeological Congress at Tel Aviv University. Scholars from archaeological institutes throughout Israel, representatives of the Israel Antiquities Authority, students, and archaeology enthusiasts, could choose to sit in one or more of the 60 lectures presented

across 12 sessions. The engaging content represented a vast variety of subjects and topics, from prehistory to modern times, the household to the monumental, the everyday to the ritual and cultic. The congress also provided lecturing opportunities for the next generation of researchers, with two sessions dedicated to student presentations.

“News from the Trenches” New Discoveries and Innovations Conference

On November 3, 2016, The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology held its 6th Annual Conference for New Discoveries and Innovations in Excavations. Scholars, researchers, students, and archaeology enthusiasts from around Israel, were invited to be the first to hear about new discoveries, ideas, and endeavors, fresh from the expeditions of 2016. The two sessions were devoted to sites that range from the Timna Valley in the south, through Jerusalem to Tel Megiddo

in the north. The sites discussed spanned a wide sample of history, with lectures from as early as the lower Palaeolithic at Qesem Cave, to late Bronze and Iron Age Tel Beth-Shemesh and Tel Azekah, to the Hellenistic period in Ashdod-Yam. A particularly noteworthy moment was Dr. Guy Stiebel’s announcement of his plans to return to Masada in 2017 (February 5 – March 3), revealing that the mound has a great deal of archaeological insight that is yet to be revealed.



“Researchers’ Night”

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archeology participated in the Tel Aviv University and European Research and Innovation Commission “Researchers’ Night.” Following the theme of “Games and Gaming,” customized replicas of four ancient board games were designed by the Institute’s graphic studio with the help of the

Institute staff. Children and their parents were thus offered the opportunity to play the game and there by experience the ancient world, first-hand. The adults were given the opportunity to attend a series of lectures given by the Institute staff in the university halls, classrooms, and even the University’s pub!

Friends of the Institute: Scholarship Awards

Scholarship for Excellence in Fieldwork Archaeology 2016

Nurit Rosenfeld

Sabrina Ben-Moshe

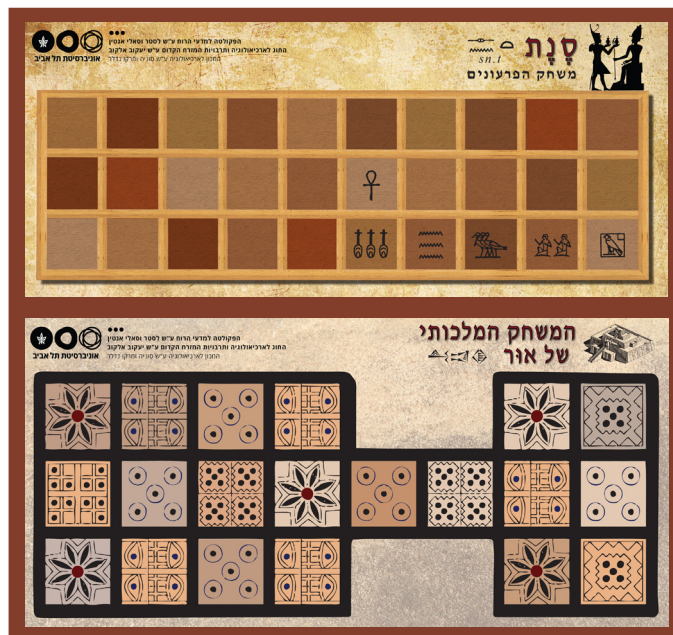
Talia Segal

Chen Waxmen

Deborah Stein

Jacob Schreiban Scholarship

Jacque Zaluda



Replicas of ancient boardgames, designed by Itamar Ben-Ezra



Photo by Yael Tzur

“Researchers’ Night” Scholarly speakeasy

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archeology took part in Tel Aviv University and the European Research and Innovation Commission “Researchers’ Night”. During this event a series of short lectures were given in the campus pub. The first talk, given by Dr. Omer Sergi, exposed the audience to one of the most mysterious episodes of the 1st millennium – the rise of Athaliah to the throne in Jerusalem. The next talk was given by Helena Roth, presented the graffiti and street art along their history, from ancient time until today, and the use of them as markers for personal and group identity. Dr. Yuval Gadot and Omer Ze’evi closed the evening with a vivid presentation of the Late Bronze Age diplomacy reflected in the Amarna correspondence.





RESEARCH

Herod's Exotic and Prestigious Royal Gardens (Israel): An Archaeobotanical Investigation

Dafna Langgut



Figure 1: Aerial view of the Promontory Palace at Caesarea during reconstruction of site, 1995 . Photo by OFEK, Courtesy of Promontory Palace Excavations.

Herod the Great, the Roman client king of Judea, is known as the most important builder in ancient Jewish history, and as patron of a number of colossal building projects throughout his realm and abroad. Archaeological excavations have revealed the presence of gardens in Herod's palaces and monumental buildings, however as is often the case, the plants in these royal gardens remain an enigma. Recently, there was a breakthrough in the study of ancient gardens, when the botanical components of a royal Persian garden were identified at Ramat Rahel (excavated by Lipschits, Oeming, and Gadot).

The reconstruction of the vegetation of this Persian garden (5th-4th centuries BCE) was based on a unique method of extracting fossil pollen grains from ancient plaster found on various surfaces around the garden. I then applied this technique in several of Herod's gardens: the courtyard of the Promontory Palace at Caesarea (Figures 1 and 2), the peristyle garden of the Winter Palace at Jericho, and the three royal gardens identified in Herodium. In order to complete the picture, pollen has also been collected from contexts other than plaster (e.g., planters, garden soils). Wood and charcoal remains have also been identified from relevant contexts.

Preliminary results based on the above methods show some resemblance to other Roman gardens, indicating that Herod displayed plants popular in the western Roman Empire. The study has the potential to shed light on questions such as the use of plants as a status symbol, elite behavior, importation of plants for royal display, and planting and horticultural techniques. Above

all, the study's most important contribution is its demonstration of the different techniques involved in the investigation of the vegetation of ancient gardens: sampling strategies, extraction techniques, and states of preservation in the varied environments of the eastern Mediterranean region (Mediterranean, semi-desert, and desert environments). The Israel Science Foundation funds this research (awarded to Dafna Langgut, Grant no. 997/15).

Figure 2: Bases of colonnade around the courtyard, Upper Palace, Promontory Palace at Caesarea. Plaster samples for preliminary palynological investigation were taken from the bases of these columns. The pollen results show that only one column base included well-preserved pollen grains (marked with red star). The most surprising findings within these pollen assemblages were the high percentages of Cupressaceae, and the occurrence of pollen from the non-local tree *Corylus*.



Exploring Ancient Jerusalem: Excavations in Area D3

Yuval Gadot

In 2013 Tel Aviv University embarked upon a long-term archaeological excavation on the southeastern slopes of the "City of David"/Silwan ridge. The area chosen for excavation is in the vicinity of Areas B, D1, and D3, of Y. Shiloh's excavations, and just above the Kidron's streambed. Baron de Rothschild purchased this plot of land as early as the beginning of the 20th century for the purpose of conducting archaeological excavations. This purchase has since enabled the conduct of scientific research at the site. Within the framework of the new excavations, we aim to expose remains that date from the Early Bronze Age up until Early Roman times. At this stage, research is focused around two main concerns.

The first concern is Jerusalem's Early Roman Landfill: a 7 m. thick layer of debris that covers the western slope of the Kidron from the Temple Mount in the north to the Siloam pool in the south. Previous research had noted the enormous volume of everyday artifacts found in these deposits, i.e., ceramic sherds, bones, seeds and charcoal, chalkstone vessels, coins and metal objects, glass fragments, and more.

Over the course of excavations, it became clear that the landfill is composed of distinct sub-layers that slope sharply downwards from west to east. The character of these deposits posed two major challenges: (1) the steep slope of these layers proved difficult to excavate stratigraphically, and (2) the sheer volume of material culture items that composed the layers was so overwhelming that conventional recovery and registration techniques were impractical. In order to overcome these obstacles (but at the same time collect data in a fashion that would allow

us to study the landfill and its content later on), a specially designed sampling strategy was implemented. It included the strict and meticulous wet and dry sifting of controlled samples. The material remains found in the excavations is currently being studied by a constellation of researchers, while serving as the basis for a number of M.A. degree theses. The results are expected to shed light on everyday behavior, food consumption, and garbage regulation, in Early Roman Jerusalem.

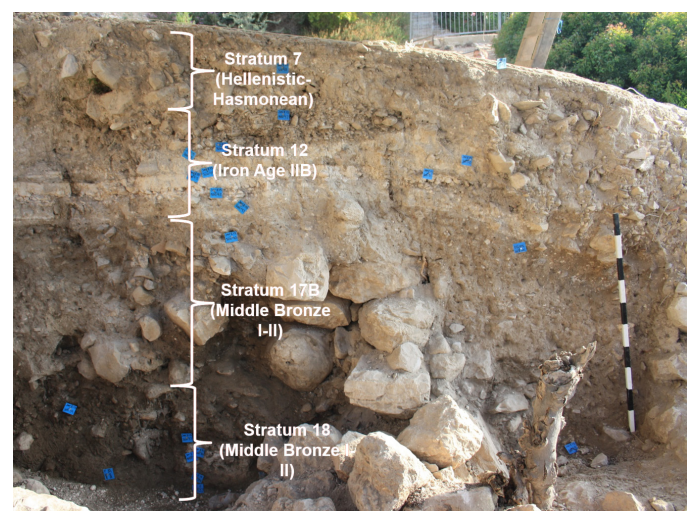
The second central concern with this research is the absolute dating of Jerusalem's stratigraphical sequence, a project that is based on excavating previously unexcavated sections left by Y. Shiloh. This project is directed in collaboration with Dr. E. Boareto and Dr. J. Regev of the D-REAMS Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Archeological Unit, Weizmann Institute of Science.

Fifteen settlement layers, one on top of the other (ranging from the Early Bronze Age up until the Early Roman period) were defined by Shiloh. The initial chronological determination of each stratum and feature was based on a relative chronology that included the dating of the material remains (mostly pottery) and the position of primary archaeological features within the stratigraphic sequence of the area. Such a method is no longer sufficient, particularly in light of the importance of Jerusalem from an archaeological perspective, and the difficulty in standard archaeological dating due to the lack of clear destruction layers. The excavations aim is to construct an absolute chronology by way of retrieval of short-lived organic material that remains viable for ¹⁴C dating.

Figure 1: Area D3 at the end of 2013 season. Note the sloping dump layers, rich with material culture remains (Photo by A. Perets)



Figure 2: Bulk T/5 after re-cleaning, marking the stratigraphy of the Area E as excavated by Y. Shiloh (Photo by Y. Gadot)



Subsistence Economy and Culinary Practices in Jerusalem and Its Hinterland in the Iron Age and Persian and Hellenistic Periods

Lidar Sapir-Hen

Animal remains are the leftovers of past meals, and as such, they reflect various aspects of food choice. The consumption patterns of different societies are related to local environment, culture, ideology, class, and status. The project focuses on subsistence economy and culinary practices in Jerusalem and its hinterland in the Iron Age and in the Persian and Hellenistic periods, with special attention to the relationship between economy, social status, and diet. The time-span under consideration represents a full urbanization cycle of growth (in the Iron Age), decline (in the Persian and early Hellenistic periods), and recovery (in the late Hellenistic period). It also encompasses the period of compilation of biblical texts, as well as as much of the non-canonical Jewish literature.

The study of animal remains is both diachronic and synchronic, and concentrates on detecting two major themes: 1) Economic changes over time: processes of urbanization and ruralization; territorial expansion and decline, and demographic growth and shrinkage. These changes should be reflected in the animal economy, which includes the raising of livestock and its exploitation, as well as hunting habits and fish consumption phenomena. 2) Dietary practices: against the background of textual materials, they may shed light on the cognitive world of the population, and the ideological and theological world of their authors. Cultural affiliations of ancient people should be reflected in the choice of species and/or the methods of their preparation for consumption.

The project includes the study of faunal assemblages from different parts of Jerusalem (representative of different social groups and environments within the city), and assemblages from towns and rural sites in a radius of ca. 10 km from the city. The assemblages are derived from prominent excavations that have been carried out in the city in recent years by the



Figure 2: A. Spiciarich examining archaeological bones under the microscope, recording evidence for bone-surface modifications

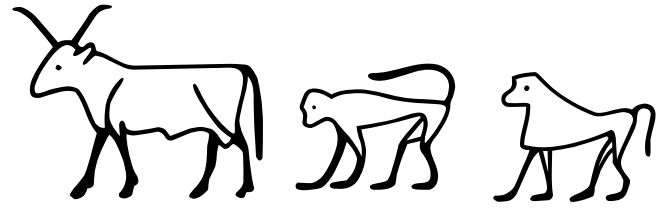
Israel Antiquities Authority, Tel Aviv University, and other institutions and individuals. At the laboratory in the Institute of Archaeology, all assemblages are studied with a unified protocol of identification, recording, and analysis. This protocol makes it possible to conduct a methodologically-sound examination of subsistence and dietary practices in Jerusalem, with its intra-site diversity, and in the city's hinterland, throughout most of the first millennium BCE. Subsequently, the project facilitates the understanding of economic patterns and related social processes in crucial periods in the history of Jerusalem.

Figure 1: Sample from the archaeozoology comparative collection (Photo by S. Flit)



Animal Keeping at Deir el-Medîna

Deborah Sweeney



I have recently completed a project on Animal Keeping at Deir el-Medîna, supported by the Israel Science Foundation. The artists and craftsmen who built the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens (ca. 1500-1070 BCE) were housed in a remote desert village to be near their work, and to keep the project secret. Nonetheless, some village families kept animals to enhance their income and/or diet. I have been investigating practical aspects of animal-keeping at the village, using texts, visual representations, archaeological remains, and comparative material about animal-keeping in ancient Egypt and traditional agriculture elsewhere.

Grazing animals (cattle, sheep, geese) would have been better off nearer the Nile, their care could be delegated to other people, maybe servants, family members who did not work at tomb building, or local farmers. Donkeys were probably kept at the village, because the workmen earned extra income by renting them to the support crew who kept them supplied with water, firewood, fish, etc. Pig skulls were found at the village. Pigs would have been highly useful there because they acted as walking dustbins, disposing of edible rubbish. However, their need for water, especially in the summer (ca. 8-9 litres) would have taken a large gulp from their owner's family water ration (about 96.1 litres, as working adults need 5-10 litres in the heat). Goats thrive in dry environments, as they eat not only grass but also thorns and acacia pods. Doves and pigeons, which live and nest in dry environments, could also have lived at the village.

The leading members of the community predominantly owned cattle, the most expensive animals available. Other members of the community, especially workmen, might own cattle, goats, or pigs. Nobody upgraded their livestock by exchanging several goats for a calf, which could be resold when grown for five times its initial worth, as the risk of losing ones investment was too great. Some people kept animals for pleasure, for example four families owned pet monkeys. Obviously they could not have taken them to work at the royal tomb (since they might have caused havoc), but the monkeys would have provided amusement when they were home for the weekend, and extra work for their wives and sons during the week. One particularly enterprising craftsman, the relief sculptor Ipu, kept a pet baboon. This was probably a difficult pet, since baboons can be aggressive and have huge teeth.

This year I will begin a new project, Brothers at Deir el-Medîna, also supported by the Israel Science Foundation. Fathership, sonship, and inheritance, were key themes in ancient Egyptian culture. Fathers were supposed to transmit their job and inheritance to sons, and sons were supposed to continue their fathers' heritage. Brothers, by contrast, were either represented negatively or ignored. I will use the ample data from Deir el-Medîna to investigate the legal and social obligations between brothers, whether brothers worked together within the tomb-building crew, and how sibling relations were expressed in the decoration of the family tomb and other joint monuments

Figure 1: Deir el-Medîna, Photo from Google Earth



Return to Masada: Excavations of 2017

Masada Shall Not Fall Again?

Guy Stiebel

The celebrated site of Masada, the first Israeli site to qualify for the UNESCO World Heritage List (2001), is situated in one of the most dramatic settings, just off the western shores of the Dead Sea. Masada has functioned as an arena for a range of histories, such as the activity of Herod the Great (who built the extravagant palatial fortress), and as the location of the very last stronghold of the Jewish rebels during the First Jewish War against the Romans.

This coming winter our expedition will return to the field (February 5 – March 3, 2017), for the first time under the auspices of Tel Aviv University. The excavation will offer a unique education opportunity to Tel Aviv University students (BA, and International Masters program), which will include fieldwork exercises, guest lectures, and assessment. The expedition will also host a range of excavation volunteers from around the globe. Volunteers will excavate during the day, and enjoy guest lectures and special guided tours in the

afternoon and evening. A great deal of excitement surrounds the upcoming season, as it will be the first time excavations have resumed on the mountain since 2006.

Though Masada has been subject to several seasons of excavation, a great deal remains to be investigated. The 2017 expedition will invest in the integration of a broad range of archaeological sciences and excavation methods. Among others, we will excavate sections of the rebels' dwellings, and the as yet unexcavated garden of King Herod. Our intention is to further explore a mysterious underground structure that was detected in the earliest aerial photographs of the site (1924). The building has remained hitherto unexplored...

To discover more about archaeology and excavation at Masada, head to our website at masadaexpedition.org, Facebook page (@MasadaExpedition), or email us at masada.expedition@gmail.com.

Masada, Photo by avinoam michaeli [CC BY 2.5 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5>)], via Wikimedia Commons



Timna: Excavations of 2017

The Enigma of “Solomon’s Mines” is Still Unsolved

Erez Ben-Yosef

Timna is one of the best-preserved ancient copper mining districts of the Ancient Near East. Excavations at Timna provide a “field laboratory” for the study of copper extraction technologies and their evolution through time, from the fifth millennium BCE to the first millennium CE. Recently, our team demonstrated that the most intense copper production at Timna occurred during the early Iron Age (peaking in the 10th century BCE), thus rekindling the discussion on possible connections between Solomon’s Kingdom and Arabah copper.

In our return to the site in 2017, our goal is to tackle this intriguing question, in addition to several other issues related to the society that operated the mines. We will explore the influence that this group had on geopolitical processes in the southern Levant, during the rise and development of local kingdoms, i.e., Edom, Ammon,

Moab, Philistia and Ancient Israel. In addition, our project is engaged in questions that relate to the archaeometallurgy of copper, including mining and smelting technologies. Smelting was one of the most complex technologies of the past (the “High-Tech” of the Iron Age), which can be deciphered through the use of various analytical tools in the field and the laboratory.

The study of ancient technologies and their role in the society of Timna will characterize related social processes, and enable a greater understanding of technological evolution and innovation. Such a study will provide a deep-time perspective on phenomena that all of us are familiar with, from living in a time of rapid technological revolutions.

To discover more about Timna, please visit archaeology.tau.ac.il/ben-yosef/CTV/, Facebook page (@CentralTimnaValleyProjectCtv), or email centraltimnavalleyproject@gmail.com.

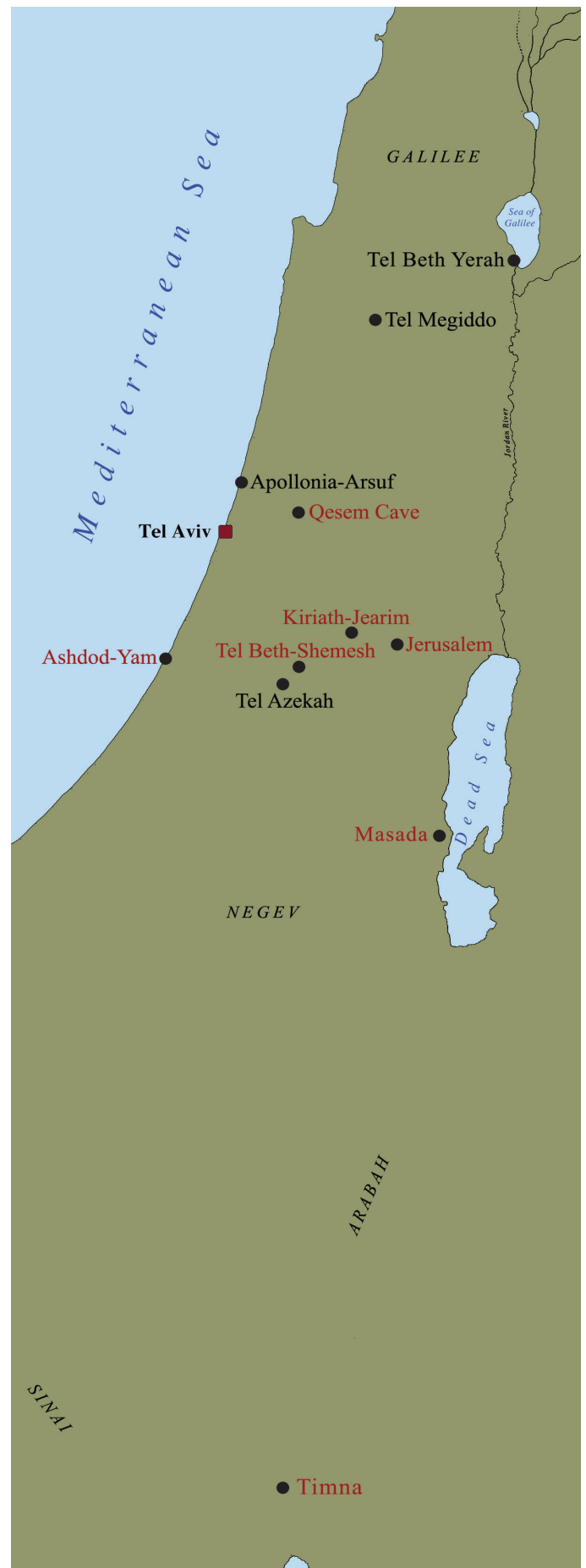
Timna Valley, Photo by Erez Ben-Yosef/CTV



Upcoming Excavations

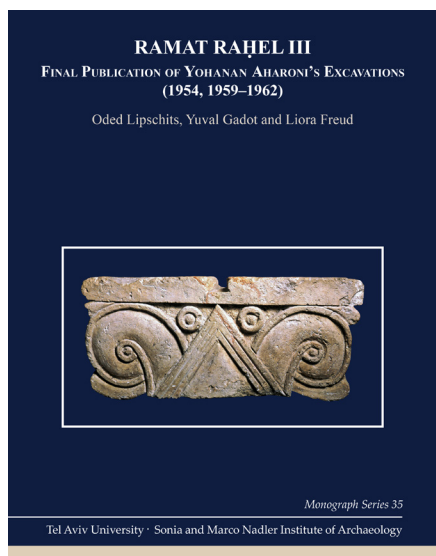
In 2017, the The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology will be digging deeper into the past of the country. Here are our planned excavations:

Central Timna Valley	February 4–10
Masada	February 5–March 3
Jerusalem	May 6–20
Ashdod-Yam	July 9–August 6
Kiriath-Jearim	August 7–September 1
Tel Beth-Shemesh	To be announced
Qesem Cave	To be announced



PUBLICATIONS





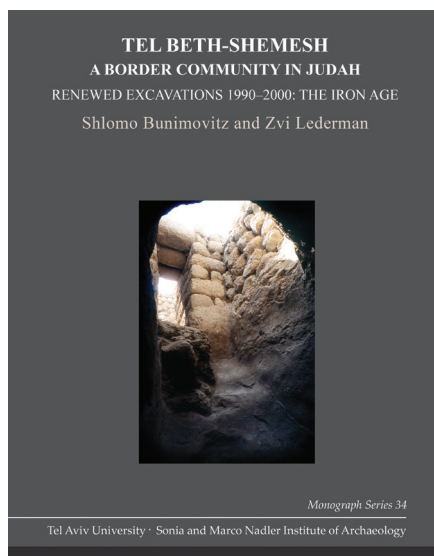
Ramat Raḥel III: Final Publication of Yohanan Aharoni's Excavations (1954, 1959–1962) (2 Vols.)

Monograph Series No. 35

Oded Lipschits, Yuval Gadot and Liora Freud
2016

This two-volume report brings to full publication the results of Yohanan Aharoni's 1954, 1959–1962 archaeological excavations at the site of Ramat Raḥel. Volume I offers the reader detailed architectural plans and field photos as a base for a sound and meticulous evaluation of the site's stratigraphy and architecture. It poses an integrative approach that emphasizes well-contextualized pottery assemblages for the dating of the various architectural units.

Volume II is devoted to the full publication of thousands of finds from the diverse periods of settlement, which attest to the site's importance throughout history. Thus, this publication of Ramat Raḥel is a welcome addition to scholarly literature on the history and archaeology of Judah during the Iron, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic periods.

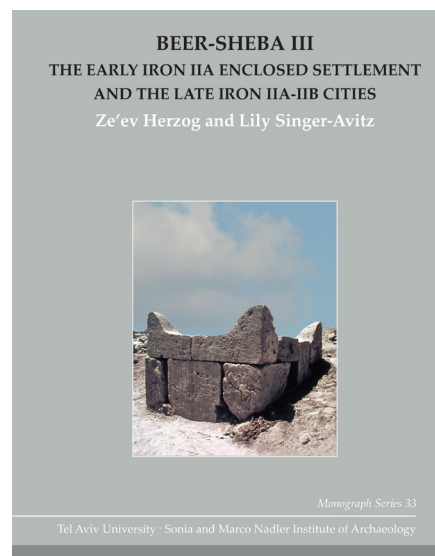


Tel Beth-shemesh: A Border Community in Judah Renewed Excavations 1990– 2000: The Iron Age (2 Vols.)

Monograph Series No. 34

Shlomo Bunimovitz and Zvi Lederman
2016

Located at the geographical meeting point of three cultural entities (Canaanites, Philistines, and Israelites) Tel Beth-Shemesh is an ideal site for the investigation of geopolitical, social, and cultural dynamics at a border zone. Applying the interpretive methods of anthropology and archaeology of borders, the renewed excavations at Tel Beth-Shemesh provide novel insights, i.e., “a view from the border,” into major topics in the Iron Age archaeology of the southern Levant. The results of the first decade of the renewed excavations are presented contextually under four main themes: the Iron I peasant community on the Philistine border; the Iron IIA transformation of the site into a state administrative center characterized by monumental architectural enterprises; the Iron IIB olive-oil producing town; and a previously unknown short and unsuccessful attempt to resettle the site in the twilight of the Assyrian domination in the southern Levant.

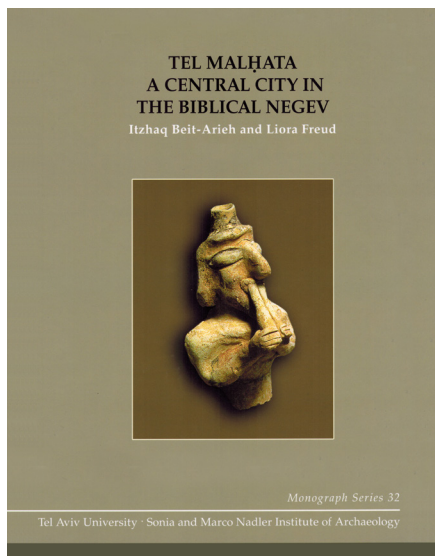


Beer-sheba III: The Early Iron IIA Enclosed Settlements and the Late Iron IIA-IIB Cities (3 Vols.)

Monograph Series No. 33

Ze'ev Herzog and Lily Singer-Avitz
2016

The excavations at Tel Beer-sheba, carried out under the auspices of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University, were the highlight of Yohanan Aharoni's vast research program in the Beer-sheba Valley. After a lengthy process of analyzing the excavations in the storerooms of Tel Aviv University's Institute of Archaeology, and digging through the endless documentary material amassed, the full data is now proudly presented. This work is offered not merely as a final report, but as a starting point for further scientific inquiry into the abundant architectural, artifactual, and ecofactual data from Tel Beer-sheba. The three volumes are a profusely illustrated and essential resource for anyone interested in the history of Judah, the Beer-sheba Valley, the site itself, and life during the Iron Age in the southern Levant.



Tel Malhata: A Central City in the Biblical Negev (2 Vols.)

Monograph Series No. 32

Itzhaq Beit-Arieh and Liora Freud
2015

Tel Malḥata is an 18 dunams mound located in the eastern sector of the Arad–Beer-sheba Valley. The mound is generally identified with biblical Moladah, although other identifications have been suggested. The Arabic name of the site, Tell el-Milḥ (“Hill of Salt”), is apparently indicative of its association with the production and distribution of salt from the Dead Sea practiced in more recent times. The two volume report consists of 23 chapters that guide the reader through six strata of civilization, from the Middle Bronze Age through to the early Byzantine period.

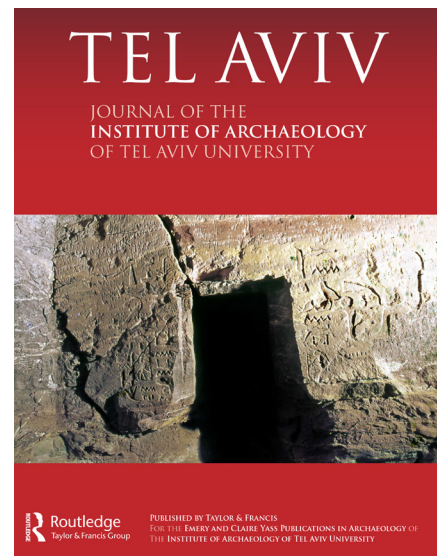


An Early Islamic Industrial Site at Ramla (South) The 2008 Excavation Season

Salvage Series No. 9

Elisabeth Yehuda and Yitzhak Paz
2016

The ninth volume of Salvage Excavation Reports unites the results of the excavation of an early Islamic industrial site at Ramla (south). Situated approximately 500m south of the modern city of Ramla, the 2008 excavation was directed by Y. Paz, E. Yehuda, and T. Harpak. The six-week project revealed parts of a large, densely built-up area with a rich material culture. E. Yehuda and Y. Paz are authors of the report, with contributions by N. Amitai-Press and R.E. Jackson-Tal. The excavation finds and stratigraphy were primarily assigned to the Late Byzantine and Early Islamic periods. The unique architectural remains identify the site as an industrial complex, which, to date, is unparalleled in the history of excavations in Israel.



Tel Aviv: Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University

Volume 43, Number 2, 2016

‘Ain Joweizeh: An Iron Age Royal Rock-Cut
Spring System in the Naḥal Refa’im Valley,
near Jerusalem

Daniel Ein Mor and Zvi Ron

Ethnicity at Elephantine: Jews, Arameans,
Caspians

Karel van der Toorn

Hatshepsut at Serabit el-Khadim: Historical
Implications of Documented Finds from the
Archives of the Tel Aviv University Expedition
Yosef Mizrachy

Rethinking Tel Achziv: An Iron II Architectonic
and Ceramic Sequence from Southern Phoenicia
Assaf Yasur-Landau, Michael D. Press and
Eran Arie

Burial Caves from the Late Bronze and Iron
Ages at Horvat Lavnin in the Judean Shephelah
Eitan Klein and Itzhaq Shai

The Settlement of Tel Hebron in the Hellenistic to
Byzantine Periods: New Numismatic Evidence
Yoav Farhi and David Ben-Shlomo

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