



# TAU ARCHAEOLOGY

The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities | Tel Aviv University

Number 5 | Winter 2019

# TAU ARCHAEOLOGY

Newsletter of

The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

Number 5 | Winter 2019

**Editor:**

Alexandra Wrathall

**Assistant Editor:**

Madeleine Butcher

**Graphics:**

Noa Evron

**Board:**

Oded Lipschits

Yuval Gadot

Ido Koch

Nirit Kedem

**Contact the editors and editorial board:**

tauarchaeologynewsletter@gmail.com

**Discover more:**

Institute: [archaeology.tau.ac.il](http://archaeology.tau.ac.il)

Department: [archaeo.tau.ac.il](http://archaeo.tau.ac.il)

**Cover Image:** An artistic rendering of daily excavation life at Tel Azekah, and part of a wider exhibition titled "Bucket Line" by Einat Peled. Drawn and photographed by artist, Einat Peled



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת  
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

ISSN: 2521-0971 | EISSN: 252-098X

---

# Contents

Message from the Chair of the Department and the Director of the Institute	2
Fieldwork	3
Tel Megiddo, 2018   <i>Israel Finkelstein</i>	4
Apollonia-Arsuf Excavation Project, 2018   <i>Oren Tal</i>	5
Tel Azekah, 2018   <i>Oded Lipschits, Manfred Oeming, and Yuval Gadot</i>	6
Tel Ḥadid, Final Publication of 1990s Salvage Excavations and Preliminary 2018 Season Results   <i>Ido Koch</i>	7
Naḥal Repha'im, 2018   <i>Helena Roth and Yuval Gadot</i>	8
Tel Beit Shemesh East: A Salvage Excavation, 2018   <i>Boaz Gross and Orit Tsuf</i>	9
Tell Izṭabba (Nysa-Scythopolis) Excavation Project, Season I–II, 2019   <i>Oren Tal</i>	10
Upcoming 2019 Excavations	11
Spotlight	13
Yuval Gadot   <i>Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures</i>	14
Lidar Sapir-Hen   <i>Senior Lecturer</i>	15
Ido Koch   <i>Senior Lecturer</i>	16
Alexandra Wrathall   <i>International MA Student</i>	17
Yael Frank   <i>BA Student</i>	18
From Armageddon to Azekah: A Summer of Digging in the Field   <i>Jordan Weitzel</i>	19
People	21
Events	57
Publications	65

---

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



*Chair of the Department, Prof. Yuval Gadot (left), and Director of the Institute, Prof. Oded Lipschits (right)*

It is our pleasure to see the release of the fifth issue of the Tel Aviv University Archaeology Newsletter. An initiative that began in 2016, the Newsletter has successfully documented the archaeology community, as well as its exploits, research, and aspirations. In 2016 we launched the first issue as a catalogue of the Department and of the Institute. Today in this 2019 Winter issue, we seek to once again reintroduce the faces of Gilman, become acquainted with those who are now new to the Department and Institute, and check in with the research of those already here.

The 2018 summer and winter semester have seen many changes in our community, as we now welcome Yuval Gadot as Chair of the Department of Archaeology. We each began our journey in scholarship here in these very halls. Oded began his BA in the Department of Archaeology (1985) as did Yuval (1992), and we have since both remained involved in the life of the Department and Institute. Together we have worked as a team before, in the field, the classroom, in research, and now in vision: as we look to the future of our Department and Institute. We would like to thank Prof. Ran Barkai for his unending commitment and tireless efforts over the years, in service to his role as Department Chair. We are also pleased to welcome a new member of faculty, Dr. Ido Koch, who has already begun to connect with students and colleagues throughout the semester. It is always an exciting opportunity for dynamic change when new faculty joins the team, and we look forward to Ido's future contributions. Ido's position is the first result of our collaboration with the Faculty of Arts. This collaboration allows us to expand out curriculum and offers a new dimension to our program.

When one assesses the content of this Newsletter edition, the continued commitment, creativity, and energy of our community is undeniable. In two years we have seen the development and completion of research, wished past students farewell, and welcomed new ones to the fold. It is this momentum and sense of continuity that is our field's greatest strength, and we are excited to see what eventuates during 2019. We hope that you too enjoy this edition of the Newsletter, and find interest and discovery from within its pages.

*Prof. Yuval Gadot*

*Chair, The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology  
and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures*

*Prof. Oded Lipschits*

*Director, The Sonia and Marco Nadler  
Institute of Archaeology*

# FIELDWORK



From the exhibition "Bucket Line," drawn and photographed by Einat Peled

# Tel Megiddo, 2018

Israel Finkelstein

Over the past summer, our team carried out the 13<sup>th</sup> season of excavations at Tel Megiddo. Working across five areas, this season the goal was to primarily deal with Middle Bronze and Iron Age II layers. In two areas (K and S) we reached layers that are representative of the early Middle Bronze Age phases (ca. 1950–1750 BCE). The finds are important for the study of the re-urbanization process in Canaan in the early second millennium BCE. In another location (Area H) we managed to identify the layer related to the “Royal Tomb” that we unearthed in the summer of 2016.

In Area T we excavated below the level of one of the two Assyrian palaces, which was originally unearthed at Tel Megiddo by the University of Chicago Expedition in the 1920s. The dig yielded remains from the Iron IIA and Iron IIB (9<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE). Excavations in Area Z shed new light on the entire system of four super-imposed Iron Age gates at Tel Megiddo. A fragmentary gate, the earliest in the system (Gate 3165), dates to Stratum VIA in the late Iron I, and was destroyed along with the entire city represented by this layer. The famous six-chambered “Solomonic” gate (Gate 2156) was built during the days of Stratum VA–IVB in the Iron IIA. Remains of two additional gates (of four and two chambers) date to the time

of Strata IVA and III (both Iron Age IIB) respectively. During the 2018 season we continued our rigorous radiocarbon and ancient DNA projects.

To discover more about the Tel Megiddo project, and join the team in their future exploits, head online to:

[megiddoexpedition.wordpress.com](https://megiddoexpedition.wordpress.com), Facebook @Megiddo Expedition, or Instagram @the.megiddo.expedition.



The remains of the “Solomonic” gate in Area Z (Photo courtesy of The Megiddo Expedition)



An aerial view of Area S, captured at the end of the 2018 season (Photo courtesy of The Megiddo Expedition)

---

# Apollonia-Arsuf Excavation Project, 2018

Oren Tal

This past July saw the return of the Apollonia-Arsuf Excavation Project, for its XXVI Season. The town and castle of Arsuf have been the subject of extensive and ongoing excavations and research since 1977. The castle is situated at the north-end of the walled town and was built in 1241 CE by a member of the Ibelin family. The castle was later leased (1261 CE) to the Order of St John (Hospitallers) who refortified both town and castle. This occupation continued until their eventual destruction (following a siege) by the Mamluks (March–April 1265). The various phases of construction and modification, recently revealed by archaeological studies, indicate a blend of these two major enterprises. Arsuf thus represents a special case where a nobleman's castle (clearly a secular foundation) was transformed into the stronghold of a military order. As such, it was re-designed to function as a religious institution (in addition to its military purposes), and included modifications of the castle chapel. The extent of the modifications and interventions applied by the Hospitallers after obtaining the lease has yet to be fully evaluated.

The 2018 season resumed work in Area F (Crusader castle) in the framework of an Israel Science Foundation – Personal Research Grant, titled 'Contextualizing the Architectural Language of the Military Orders: Reconstructing the Frankish

Castle of Arsuf in Light of its Recently Discovered Chapel'. The project aims to identify and locate (for the first time) the two religious institutions of Arsuf: the castle chapel and town church. To reinforce the archaeological evidence of our assumption (regarding the location of the Hospitallers chapel), we have launched an excavation along the full length of the façade of the castle's western halls, located below the castle courtyard level.

Our ongoing goals are to uncover the architectural and sculptural elements buried close to the floor level, and expedite the preservation and conservation of the castle's western façade (which will likewise include a means by which we can slow the deterioration of the sea cliff). Retrieving these elements will contribute significantly to the reconstruction of the original layout of the donjon in its later stage under the Hospitallers. It will also facilitate the distinction between different phases of construction. Most importantly it will enable us, for the first time, to propose a reconstruction of the castle chapel based on the analysis of the architectural decorative items of Crusader date found thus far.

To discover more about the Apollonia-Arsuf Excavation Project, head to: [archaeology.tau.ac.il/?page\\_id=4668](http://archaeology.tau.ac.il/?page_id=4668)



A 3D digital model of the castle fortifications (Model by David Zell, [www.see3d.co.il](http://www.see3d.co.il); Image courtesy of Oren Tal)

---

# Tel Azekah, 2018

Oded Lipschits, Manfred Oeming, and Yuval Gadot

The 2018 summer excavation marked our sixth season of excavations atop the mound. Returning to the site after a short break (summer 2017), the team were excited to familiarise themselves with excavation areas, and with the new team. This season we were fortunate enough to have team members from a range of universities, i.e., University of Oldenburg, Heidelberg University, Charles University in Prague, as well as other countries and nationalities, i.e., Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Brazil, Spain, Netherlands, Indonesia, China, and beyond. The goal of the 2018 season was to reopen four areas across the mound, Areas N1, E3 (upper), E3 (lower), and S1.

Area N1 revealed monumental architecture and planning, following the identification of a water channel, agricultural installations, and Iron Age II remains. The architectural finds, alongside a series of special small finds e.g., figurines, ceramic assemblages, have now provided further clarity on the nature of Area N1 during the Iron Age II.

To better define and focus the excavation of Area E, the area was divided into 'upper' and 'lower'. The E3 Upper team

were challenged with assessing the relationship between the slope and the plateau, as well as the relationship between the remains of the Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Hellenistic periods. Similarly in Area E3 Lower, the goal was to further define the nature of the Middle Bronze Age fortifications, and the many forms that the fortifications took on, in later periods.

After several years away from the area, the team returned to Area S1, to further clarify the state of Iron Age II and Late Bronze Age remains. The team were able to complete the excavation of an Iron Age II domestic area, as well as illuminate the extent of earlier excavations of the mound by Bliss and Macalister during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century CE.

Overall the season was a success, as excavators were able to further analyse and reconstruct the site formation processes of the mound, clarify site-wide stratigraphy, as well as contextualise special finds. To discover more about Tel Azekah, head to [azekah.org](http://azekah.org), Facebook [@LautenschlagerAzekahExpedition](https://www.facebook.com/LautenschlagerAzekahExpedition), or Instagram [@azekah\\_excavations](https://www.instagram.com/azekah_excavations).

Join the team next season, July 20–August 15, 2019.



Bucket line in action during the 2018 season (Photo by Benjamin Sitzmann)



---

# Tel Ḥadid, Final Publication of 1990s Salvage Excavations and Preliminary 2018 Season Results

Ido Koch

Over the past academic year, the Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology returned to study the remains of Tel Ḥadid. Work on the final publication of the salvage excavations conducted during the 1990s has greatly progressed. The recovery of important finds (principally regarding the days of the Assyrian colonialism and the forced migration to and from the region) eventually aided in the protection of the site from ultimate destruction during the early 2000s. Nonetheless, the excavation results were never published in English and are, therefore, rarely considered in scholarship. We aim to change this, and to integrate Tel Ḥadid into current scholarly discourse. We hope to conclude this project in the coming few years.

A new expedition began the renewed exploration of Tel Ḥadid, led by Ido Koch (TAU), Eli Yannai, and Daniel Warner (New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary). During our four-week fieldwork season, we focused on the study of the remains of human activity on the surface of the 50 ha site. We probed potential excavation areas, surveyed its surface, and documented dozens of features, i.e., terrace walls and olive presses. Our excavation probe was located to the north of the area excavated during the excavations of 1995–1997. Alexandra Wrathall, Noa Rantzer, (TAU) and Gary Myers (NOBTS) supervised the excavations, which yielded important information regarding the site's formation over the years, and two occupational layers dated to the Persian (6<sup>th</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century BCE) and Hellenistic periods (4<sup>th</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> century BCE).

Our intensive survey of the site's surface was conducted in 35 units, delineated based on topography and manmade features, i.e., roads, terrace walls, or olive orchards. Over 50% of the site has been surveyed, and preliminary results suggest intense human activity during the late Iron Age, the late Hellenistic and early Roman periods, the Byzantine period, and from the Ottoman period through to the Modern era.

Our third track of research includes a digital documentation of all manmade features that reshaped the site across millennia. Omer Ze'evi and Ronnie Avidov documented 170 features, including caves, burials, cisterns, quarries, plot fences, terrace walls, and olive presses. One major group of features is a series of wide walls along the western slope of the high mound, clearly seen in the dirt paths that lead from the lower terrace. These walls possibly create five steps that form the entire slope, thus giving rise to various new questions regarding their function, chronology, and impact on the site formation.

The coming year will be dedicated to additional studies of the remains unearthed at Tel Ḥadid during the 1990s and to the second season of fieldwork (June 2–27, 2019). We plan to excavate two areas that focus on the late Iron Age II settlement remains in the lower terrace, an interdisciplinary study of a complex of wine presses in the lower terrace, and explore a section along the western slope of the high mound—the first time the mound itself will be investigated.

To discover more about Tel Ḥadid, head to [hadidexpedition.org](http://hadidexpedition.org), or Facebook [@Hadid.Expedition](https://www.facebook.com/Hadid.Expedition).



Surveying Tel Ḥadid, 2018 (Photo courtesy of the Tel Ḥadid Expedition)

# Nahal Repha'im, 2018

Helena Roth and Yuval Gadot

A two week excavation was conducted this past spring at Nahal Repha'im, a rural site that dates to the Intermediate Bronze Age (IBA) and Middle Bronze Age (MBA) (ca. 2500–1500 BCE). Previous salvage excavations conducted at the site by Emanuel Eisenberg for the IAA (1980–1985, 1987–1990) exposed 23 different buildings.

The renewed excavations at the site focused on three of the 23 known buildings. Two excavation areas are currently enclosed within the Tisch Family Zoological Gardens (The Biblical Zoo) in Jerusalem (areas 400 and 1100), while the third area (1300) is located directly south of the Gardens' enclosing wall.

The Nahal Repha'im site is key to understanding the society, economy, and political structure of the Judaeen Highlands during the IBA, as it is to this day, the largest and best-preserved sedentary site as yet uncovered. Due to its high state of preservation, the site presents the most complete

picture of the rural sector during the MBA II–III, a sector that comprised the majority of the urban system. Therefore, the site also plays a central role in the reconstruction of the re-organization of society during the development of the primary urban center in Jerusalem.

The project is targeted at accurately dating the settlement at the site during both periods of occupation. The excavation focused on the unexcavated fringes and baulks of the previous IAA project, in order to obtain organic material from secure contexts, for the purposes of <sup>14</sup>C dating. It was for this reason that areas were first meticulously weeded and cleaned. The excavation was then conducted through sections, with an excavation aim to reach floors and occupation levels in previously unexcavated rooms, adjacent to the architectural units uncovered previously. In two of the three areas, clear IBA micro-stratigraphy was noted, and organic material obtained.

The project was hosted and technically supported by the Zoological Gardens and their staff. Helena Roth served as a field director, and Vanessa Linares and Tal Israeli as area supervisors. Scholars and students from the Protestant Theological Faculty at Charles University in Prague participated in two weeks of excavations at the site, as well as in the preliminary processing of the material in the field. The team members of the Czech Republic also participated in the tailor-made afternoon curriculum, including lectures and tours on the subject of the Hinterland of Jerusalem and the Repha'im Valley and the Repha'im Valley in particular.

To discover more on the Nahal Repha'im project, contact Helena Roth at [helenaroth@mail.tau.ca.il](mailto:helenaroth@mail.tau.ca.il)



An aerial view of Nahal Repha'im, currently serving in an animal enclosure at The Biblical Zoo (Photo courtesy of Helena Roth)



The Nahal Repha'im team, including scholars and students from the Protestant Theological Faculty at Charles University in Prague (Photo courtesy of Helena Roth)

# Tel Beit Shemesh East: A Salvage Excavation, 2018

Boaz Gross and Orit Tsuf

A large-scale salvage excavation has been underway at Tel Beit Shemesh since May 2018. The Israeli Institute of Archaeology has executed fieldwork and excavations, on behalf of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University, and the Israeli Antiquities Authority. The project is under the direction of Boaz Gross (TAU), and partnered with Yoram Haimi (IAA).

Tel Beit Shemesh was first surveyed by the British Palestine Exploration Fund in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century CE, and later excavated by McKenzie (1911–1912), and Grant (1928–1933). The Tel Aviv University Tel Beth Shemesh Expedition, under the direction of Shlomo Bunimovitz and Zvi Lederman, excavated at the site since 1990. The Israeli National Road and Infrastructure Company initiated the current salvage excavation to facilitate the widening and leveling of Route 38, a main road that crosses the Judean Lowland (Shephelah) from north to south. In total, over 950 5x5 meter squares will be excavated at the site, 400 of them by Tel Aviv University, and the remainder by the Hebrew Union College.

Excavations have revealed a large and significant settlement on the eastern part of the site, from the Iron Age through to modern settlements. Although the PEF marked and identified the entire area of the Tel as 'Ain Shems long ago, all past excavators focused their attention on the western part, assuming that the settlement limits to the ancient site ended at the road. Yet preliminary soundings, and the ongoing salvage excavation, have revealed that during the 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE, the site shifted to the (then) barren hill to the east, and continued to exist there until the 19<sup>th</sup> century CE.

Finds indicate the site was a Judahite agricultural settlement during the late Iron Age (7<sup>th</sup> century BCE), which appeared to

have a focus on the production of olive oil. This is a surprising discovery, as until now, it was understood that the site was abandoned during the 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE, and suffered a long settlement hiatus. This settlement remained active until the Persian period, and again later during the Hellenistic period (3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE), as testified by impressive structures and massive revetment walls. During the Roman period the site served as a Jewish village, as attested by the discovery of ritual baths (miqveh) and stone vessels. This village settlement likely ended during the Bar-Kokhvah revolt (2<sup>nd</sup> century CE), as indicated by the several hideout tunnel systems that were found.

Monumental architecture from the Late Roman and Byzantine periods (including a unique pottery kiln complex) suggests that the site grew in importance and remained active during the early Islamic period (until the 10<sup>th</sup> century CE). During the Ottoman period, the site was home to a sprawling and dense village (16<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> century CE). The elaborate village went through several phases of alterations and expansions and included a mosque and a Sheikh's tomb that was a local landmark even after the abandonment of the village in the 19<sup>th</sup> century CE.

Despite the magnitude of the project (approx. 150 workers and 20 staff members daily), our goal is to maintain the highest standards of excavation, analysis, and processing. The project provides precious experience to numerous students and archaeologists from Israel and abroad, and we welcome researchers to inquire, visit, and suggest relevant research questions and topics, in order to make the most of this challenging academic and archaeological task.

To discover more on Tel Beit Shemesh, contact Boaz Gross [grossboaz@gmail.com](mailto:grossboaz@gmail.com)



The team at Tel Beit Shemesh (Photo courtesy of Boaz Gross)

---

# Tell Iḏḏabba (Nysa-Scythopolis) Excavation Project, Season I–II, February 10–17, September 2019

Oren Tal

The Tell Iḏḏabba (Nysa-Scythopolis) project is an opportunity to explore high-resolution Hellenistic settlement archaeology, and reassess the formation of the Decapolis. Located close to Beth She'an, Tell Iḏḏabba is one of the key Hellenistic sites in the Southern Levant. The site is the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE Seleucid settlement of the Decapolis city of Nysa-Scythopolis. Probably founded by Antiochos IV in circa 170 BCE and destroyed by John Hyrcanus I in 108/107 BCE, Tell Iḏḏabba provides scholars with a clear chronological frame for the development of the Hellenistic settlement's material remains.

The German-Israeli Foundation (GIF) funded project "Tell Iḏḏabba (Nysa-Scythopolis): High-resolution Hellenistic

Settlement Archaeology and the Reassessment of the Formation of the Decapolis" (with Achim Lichtenberger of the University of Münster) aims at a new and comprehensive archaeological investigation of the site by means of survey, geophysical prospections, and archaeological excavations. The goal of the project is to generate new insights into the nature of the Seleucid settlement, and thereby enlighten the regional-historical situation within which Seleucid engagement transpired. The site is an important location for the study of the Hellenization processes in this part of the Levant, and for the examination of the Hellenistic origins of the Decapolis.



*Hellenistic Ionic capitals in secondary use, at Tell Iḏḏabba (Photo courtesy of Hagi Yohanan)*

# Upcoming 2019 Excavations

In 2019, the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology will continue to dig deeper into the complex past of the region.

Excavation directors usually select their excavation season based on the domestic academic calendar (semester break), international academic calendar (to ensure international scholars and students can participate), and weather conditions at the site (summer excavations, e.g., Tel Azekah and Tel Megiddo, versus winter excavations, e.g., Masada and Timna).

The following are the planned excavations for Winter-Spring 2019:

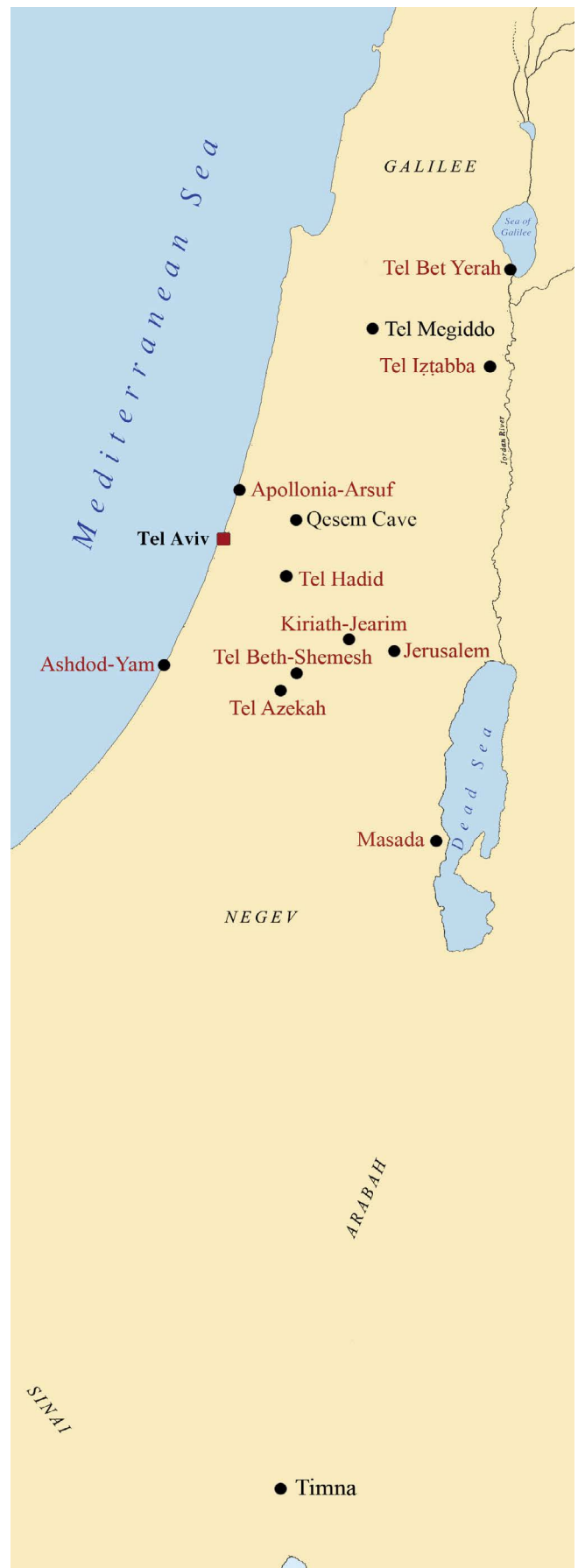
Masada	January 20–February 15
Tel Iẓṭabba (Survey)	February 10–17
Tel Bet Yerah	February 3–21

The following are planned excavations for Summer 2019:

Apollonia-Arsuf	April
Tel Beth-Shemesh	June 6–July 11
Ashdod-yam	July 21–August 17
Kiriath-Jearim	August 5–30
Tel Hadid	June 2–27
Tel Azekah	July 20–August 15
Tel Iẓṭabba (Excavation)	September
City of David	September



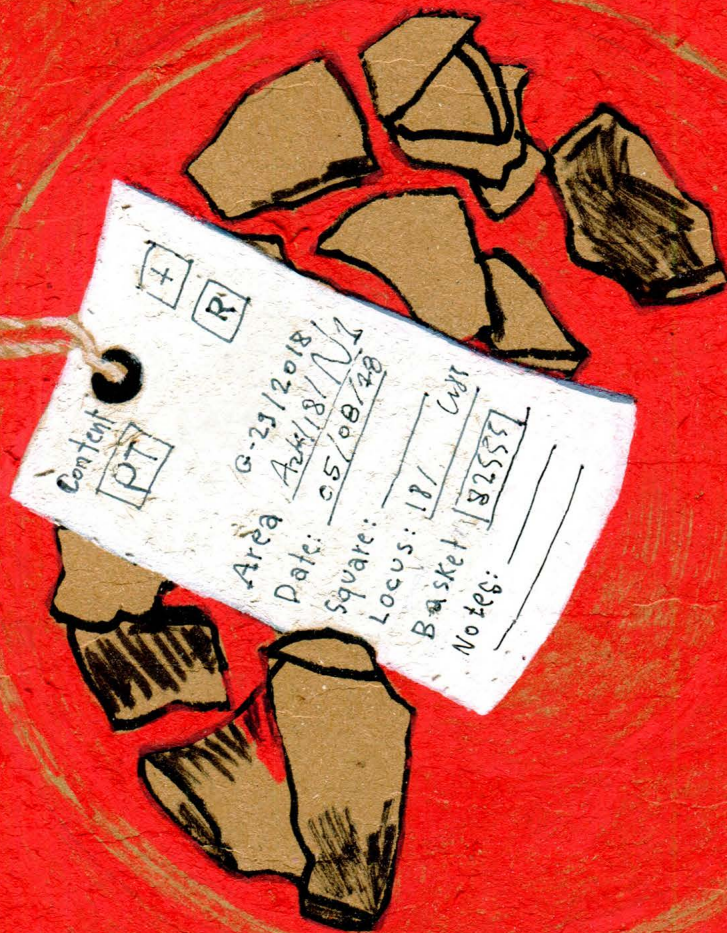
From the exhibition "Bucket Line," drawn and photographed by Einat Peled





From the exhibition "Bucket Line," drawn and photographed by Einat Peled

From the exhibition "Bucket Line," drawn and photographed by Einat Peled



SPOTLIGHT

---

# Yuval Gadot

## Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures

Since September 1, 2018, I have occupied the role of chair of our department. This was, and still is, a very emotional moment for me, and marks a significant milestone in my long journey through archaeology, a journey that began in October 1992, as I launched my own studies in this very same department.

The 1990s were the heyday of the Humanities in Israeli academic life, with thousands of people roaming the corridors of Gilman. Though the generation of teachers who once taught me have mostly retired by now, I believe that one important component has remained the same: a vibrant spirit of innovation and drive to achieve. Yet back in the 1990s, this popular wave also caught me and I soon found myself involved in the newly established Tel Megiddo Expedition. Over time, one thing led to the other and through my work at Tel Megiddo I wrote both my MA and PhD under the mentorship of Israel Finkelstein.

Looking back, I see that the basic skills I developed in my formative years are still the same skills that serve me today, as I lead excavation and research expeditions. As the Chair of the Department I hope I will be able to support and facilitate this very same experience for the next generation

of young students who pursue their studies today. Such an experience will motivate them to learn the very basic skills of contextualized archaeology, equip them to always look behind the stones and pottery they find in search for a greater interpretation, and encourage them to always strive to attempt something they have not done before. It is easy to be satisfied, but our goal should always be to move outside of our comfort zone and explore novel and challenging ideas.

Excavating in Jerusalem and its surrounding since 2005 (as I was invited by Oded Lipschits to lead the field work at Ramat Raḥel) my goal is to continue to integrate my fields of interest: Bronze and Iron Age archaeology, landscape and environmental archaeology, as well as implementing science based methods for asking historical questions, in order to create a holistic picture of this ancient city and its hinterland.

At the end of the day, if there is anything that really gets me going every morning it is the realization that I have no idea what I am going to find today, and no idea what new insights archaeology will be able to offer tomorrow.



Yuval Gadot handling a small find discovered during excavation in Jerusalem (Photo courtesy of Yuval Gadot)



---

# Lidar Sapir-Hen

## Senior Lecturer

Currently, I am a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures, as well as Head of the Laboratory of Archaeozoology at the Institute of Archaeology, and curator of the Archaeozoological Collections of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History.

My academic journey began at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where I completed a degree (BSc) in Life Sciences. During these studies, I was also able to take additional courses in Psychology, Art History, Physics and Archaeology. I found the latter deeply interesting. And so, when searching for a Master thesis project in the Department of Zoology at Tel Aviv University, I was excited to learn that I could practice research in a field that combines both Biology and Archaeology. Working within this discipline would also enable me to work in both the field and the laboratory.

While learning how to identify archaeological animal remains, my MSc thesis focused on prehistoric gazelle hunters at the dawn of animal domestication (Early PPNB). For my PhD, my focus shifted to historical periods (Iron Age to Roman period), where I worked on questions related

to site formation process and socio-cultural changes, as reflected in food ways.

In both degrees, I was a member of the excavation team working at the sites that I studied. This involvement was crucial for my research, and I completed my BA in Archaeology along with my dissertation. During my postdoctoral studies, I was part of the ERC funded project 'Reconstructing Ancient (Biblical) Israel: The Exact and Life Sciences Perspective'. This was when I delved more deeply into questions of ancient identity and social complexity.

Today in my lab, my research-students and I use animal remains as the research tool. As my initial studies focused on Prehistoric and Historic periods, these periods continue to fascinate me today. Research in the lab now spans the Early Neolithic to Late Antiquity. With new projects focused on the impact of animal domestication on the landscape, and on the development of social complexity in historical periods, I believe that collaboration with other experts of various fields of knowledge is critical for archaeological research. Engaging with differing lines of evidence, and communicating this knowledge, helps us deepen our understanding of the human past.



Lidar Sapir-Hen at work in her laboratory (Photo by Sasha Flit)

# Ido Koch

## Senior Lecturer

I am lucky to work in what I like the most—exploring the past. Ever since I was a small child I was fascinated by ancient times, perhaps due to a very early exposure (at age 8) to the TV adaptation of ‘I Claudius’, chronicling the history of the Julio-Claudians in Rome. I considered studying Roman history or the early Middle Ages, but as time passed by, I found myself charmed by earlier periods.

First, I was captured by biblical history, through the mediation of Nadav Na’aman, and later by archaeology, following an invitation extended by Oded Lipschits to join his expedition to Ramat Rahel. Both professors became my mentors during my studies, supervising my MA thesis on the rosette stamped handles from Iron IIC Judah (2009), and my PhD dissertation, which dealt with the local reaction to the Egyptian empire and its downfall during the Late Bronze and early Iron Ages (2015).

While doing my PhD I became deeply concerned with visual culture: what was depicted, what media were used, why specific motifs were chosen while others were neglected, and how “foreign” icons were translated to a local context. As such, it was natural for me to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Zurich (2015–2016) under the supervision of Christoph Uehlinger, where I learnt the importance of a grounded theoretical setting, accurate definition, and self-criticism.

Nowadays, I focus on the Southern Levantine society of the late Iron Age. I am interested in the production and consumption of stamp-amulets and the modification of their iconography during the days of Assyrian hegemony. Another research focus is the impact of Assyria on the local social matrix, in particular changes in demography due to the deportation policy. This interest is stimulated by the ongoing publication project of the salvage excavation at Tel Ḥadid (1995–1997), where finds identified as the remains of a deportee community were unearthed, and the newly commenced excavation project at the site, co-directed with Eli Yannai and Daniel Warner (NOBTS), which began May 2018.

I have the honour to be a faculty member of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures. I work alongside world-renowned scholars, who are talented and most importantly—friendly, and from whom I learn every time we speak. I enjoy collaborating with graduate students, who form part of a wonderful international group that has developed the vivid atmosphere of our department. Last but not least, every class is a delightful experience. I enjoy teaching and engaging in inspiring discussions with students, who embody the promising future of scholarship, one that is waiting for us all.



Ido Koch in his Tel Ḥadid office (Photo by Sasha Flit)

---

# Alexandra Wrathall

## International MA Student

It has been a journey of luck, circumstance, and opportunity that has driven the direction and momentum of my career thus far. A 'millennial', I belong to a generation that is particularly interested in looking forward, whether it is at screens or the progress of technology. Yet for me, the lives of ancient groups (and their remains) have always provided an opportunity to look back, and assess the marvel of the human journey that brought us to the point from which we now stand.

As an Australian native, in 2009 I undertook a Bachelor of Arts (2012), majoring in the history of Egypt and the Near East at Macquarie University, Sydney. My interest in the Near East however only developed after I began to explore biblical history and 'text stratigraphy'. It appeared to me that as religious politics dictates a great deal in the 21<sup>st</sup> century CE, it would stand to explore the origins of such impassioned belief systems. Developing my focus further, I became interested in the way such narratives were constructed and preserved, and completed a Masters of Philosophy (2014), majoring in narratology theory and ancient Near Eastern inscriptions.

In 2012 I was offered the opportunity to excavate with a new project, at Tel Azekah. It was there that I first discovered my passion and interest in the field of archaeology. Completing the field school, I went on to accept the position of Excavation Administrator (2013–2018) and Assistant Supervisor (2013–2016). This great opportunity allowed me to develop my

relationship with the archaeological community at Tel Aviv University, and ultimately move to Israel in 2015 to undertake a second MA.

Following the gentle persuasion of Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot, I relocated and began the International Masters of Archaeology and History of the Near East at Tel Aviv University. Under the supervision of Lipschits and Gadot, I submitted my MA, 'A Pit's Perspective: An Iron Age IIB Assemblage from Tel Azekah, Typology, Chronology, and Context' (2018). During my time at Tel Aviv University, I have had the privilege to participate in a range of projects, in particular Tel Azekah (Supervisor 2018), Tel Hadid (Supervisor 2018), and Masada (Administrator 2017–2018, Assistant 2017, Supervisor 2018). It has also been my great joy to collaborate as Editor of the TAU Archaeology Newsletter (since 2016).

As I look to the future, I am pleased to say it will continue at Tel Aviv University. I will soon embark on a PhD, once again with Lipschits and Gadot, and return to the field in the summer at Tel Hadid and Tel Azekah. My future research will focus on the processing and analysis of Iron Age II material from recent excavations at Tel Beit Shemesh East. Ultimately, it is the generosity of spirit and collaboration that defines the Institute of Archaeology, alongside the warmth of the scholarly community, that has motivated me to continue my studies.



Alex at work in the field at Masada, during the 2017 season (Photo by Sasha Flit)

---

# Yael Frank

## BA Student

I have been drawn to Israel's ancient culture since I was very young, and used to sit around in second hand bookstores, browsing through the different books. In particular, I especially loved "The Carta Bible Atlas" by Yohanan Aharoni, perhaps because I loved reading the Bible so much. While I was reading through the endless lists, which interrupted the fascinating stories in tongue-twisting moments of ambiguous language and wording, I would open the atlas to find the sites listed, reading and painting the ancient roads in my mind as I continued to read. During my adolescence I also began to ponder the question of 'truth' within these stories. Alongside biblical stories and mythology, I explored books that investigated biblical archeology, and sought to combine the two realities into one picture.

A key turning point that challenged my mind and drew me further into archeology were references to the old belief systems of the past populations, as well as the intriguing way

in which mythological stories lay alongside tales of politics, or prophetic dreams together with the histories of kings and leaders. Another point of appeal was the temptation to get closer to the world of these mysterious past peoples that I followed since my childhood to uncover the places where they lived, worshipped, and died.

Currently I am in my first year of archeology studies at Tel Aviv University, and the first and only excavation I have participated in (so far) was the 2018 summer season at Tel Azekah. I am fascinated by the possibility of combining different texts from the ancient Near East with archaeological discoveries, into a complete political, philosophical, and human picture. I aspire to continue to dig through the riddling, fascinating world of biblical archeology, to try and assemble more missing pieces (the material debris with spiritual debris), and to reveal a little piece of the human stories of the ancient land of Israel.



Yael excavating during the 2018 Tel Azekah season in Area E3 Lower (Photo by Benjamin Sitzmann)

---

# From Armageddon to Azekah: A Summer of Digging in the Field

Jordan Weitzel

Without doubt, the highlight of my first year in the International MA program was the time spent excavating in the field. My summer was split between two of the most important excavations in Israel: Tel Megiddo and Tel Azekah.

Tel Megiddo (also known as Armageddon) is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the region. Tel Megiddo has played host to a range of complex events and histories. These events highlight the importance of Megiddo through the ages, as the site is even presented as the setting for the end of days in the Book of Revelation.

At Tel Megiddo I was able to work in the area of the Iron Age gate complex. This “Solomonic” gate has been at the epicentre of the major debates surrounding Iron Age chronology and biblical history. During the excavation season, we dug into the layers below the gate, allowing us to clarify its date and stratigraphic relationship with the rest of the site, and to locate earlier structures. As the flood of tourists peered under the shades at us, I felt incredible knowing I was contributing to one of the major issues in Southern Levantine archaeology.

Yet the best part of the time spent at Tel Megiddo was the chance to work so closely with Israel Finkelstein. Not only did he revolutionize the field with innovative theories and methods, but is also a kind and enthusiastic man who loves to engage with students.

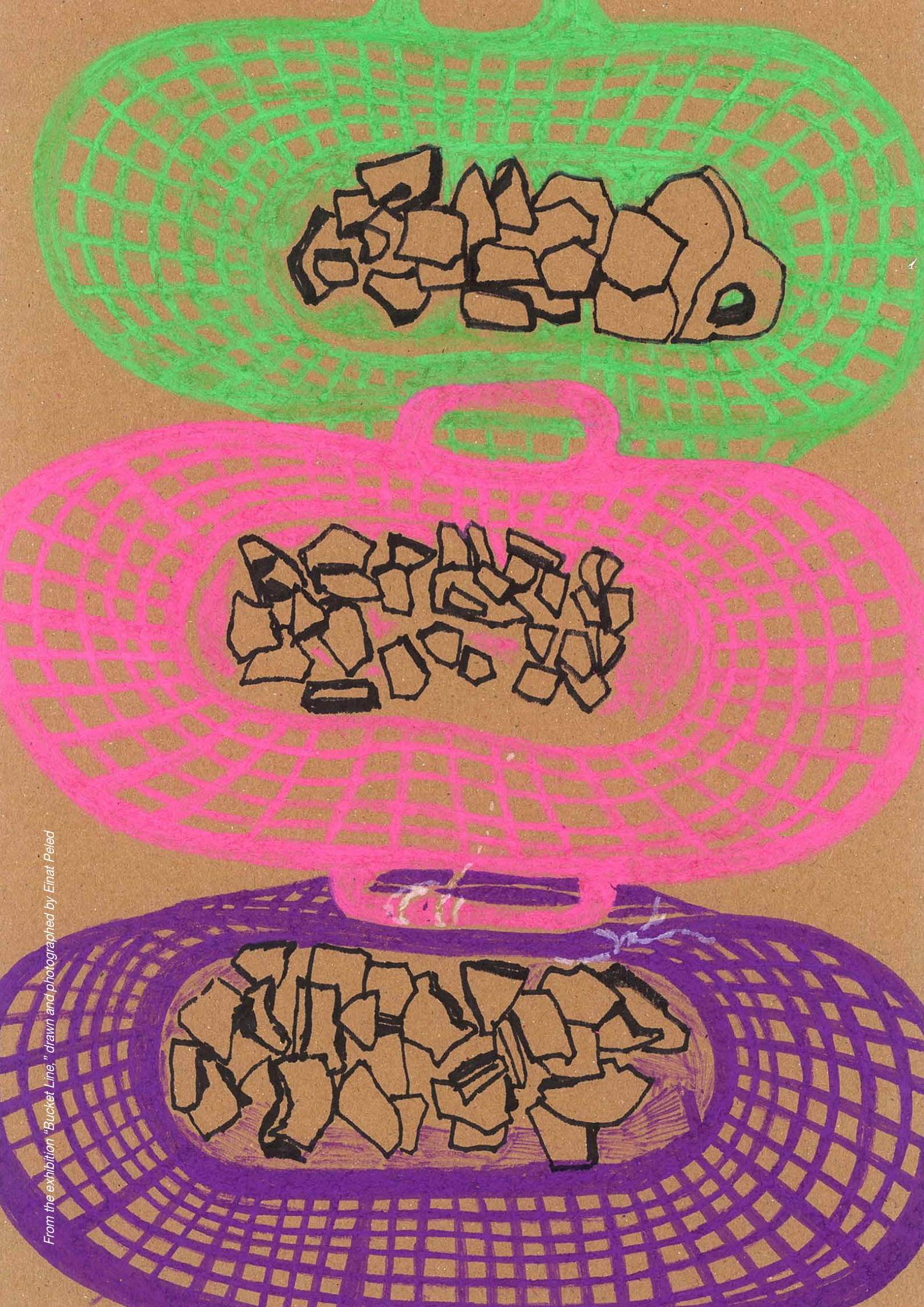
With only a week of rest between, I then head to Tel Azekah for another four weeks of digging. Tel Azekah is a major site situated alongside the Valley of Elah, known from biblical texts as the setting for the battle between David and Goliath. Tel Azekah offers a great opportunity to study the ‘border’ zone between the Judahites and the Philistines. This project also provided quality time for us to spend with Oded Lipschits, the Head of the International Program. Collaborating with Oded outside of the classroom allowed us the chance to get to know him personally.

I was placed in Area S1 under the supervision of Alexandra Wrathall. Alex’s enthusiasm added an element of fun to fieldwork, as everyday it seemed like digging was accompanied by constant laughter. It was probably the most fun I have ever had doing hard manual labour, and a great chance to spend quality time with my classmates. While we had spent a lot of time together in the classroom, I felt as though our time bonding in the field is what solidified our friendships for life.

One of the highlights of choosing to study at Tel Aviv University was the ability to participate in multiple excavations, which practice cutting edge of archaeological methods and research. Each season, Tel Aviv University excavations produce new material from the field, which evolve our understanding of the past. This past summer, I not only studied history, I made it.

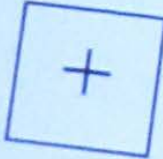


Jordan (upper row, third from the right) and the Area S1 team at the end of the 2018 summer season (Photo by Benjamin Sitzmann)



From the exhibition "Bucket Line." drawn and photographed by Einat Peled

**Content**



G-29/2018

Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

square: \_\_\_\_\_

ocus 18/ \_\_\_\_\_

ske



PEOPLE



### Ran Barkai

Professor

Ran is currently a professor who enjoys the opportunity to research and teach. Together with 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.

[barkaran@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:barkaran@tauex.tau.ac.il)

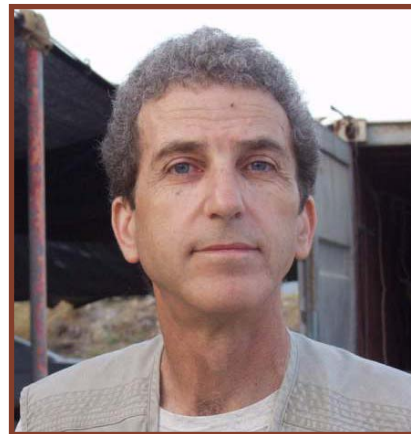


### Erez Ben-Yosef

Associate Professor

Erez studied archaeology and geology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (BA, BSc, MSc), and archaeology and anthropology at the University of California, San Diego (MA, PhD). Following his PhD, 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.

[ebenyose@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:ebenyose@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Shlomo Bunimovitz

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 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.

[bunimov@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:bunimov@tauex.tau.ac.il)





### Yoram Cohen

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, and a study of the canonization of cuneiform literature throughout the centuries. Yoram has also written about Mesopotamian Wisdom Literature. His recent studies have appeared in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, *Antiquo Oriente*, *Altorientalische Forschungen*, *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*, and *Bibliotheca Orientalis*.

[ycohen1@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:ycohen1@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Alexander Fantalkin

Senior Lecturer

Alexander's main areas of research deal with Near Eastern archaeology and history and the Aegean world, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

[fantalk@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:fantalk@tauex.tau.ac.il)



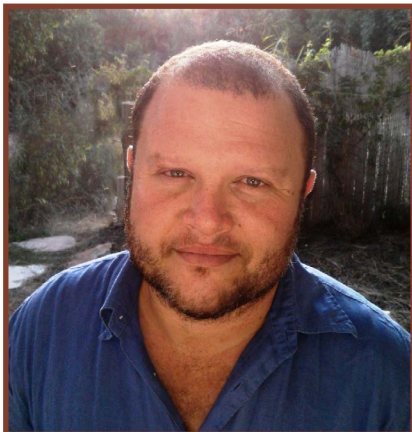
### Yuval Gadot

Associate Professor

Yuval is currently Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures at Tel Aviv University. Yuval received his PhD 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.

[ygadot@gmail.com](mailto:ygadot@gmail.com)



### 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 PhD 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.

[agilan@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:agilan@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Avi Gopher

Professor

Avi is a prehistorian who is involved in Paleolithic and Neolithic research. With 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. In 2017, along with Ran Barkai, Avi examined a series of flint-quarrying sites, that were in use from the Lower Paleolithic period to the Early Bronze Age.

[agopher@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:agopher@tauex.tau.ac.il)

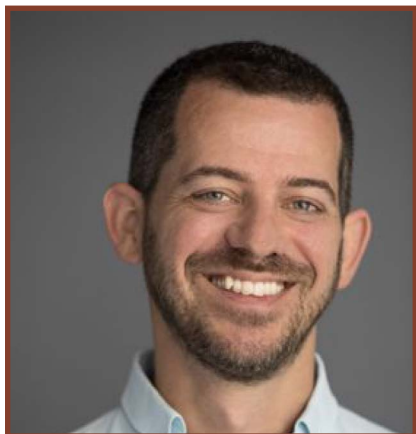


### Raphael Greenberg

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.

[grafi@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:grafi@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Ido Koch

Senior Lecturer

Ido specializes in the archaeology of the Southern Levant during the Bronze and Iron Ages. He received his PhD from Tel Aviv University (2015), and his dissertation dealt with local reaction to the Egyptian colonialism in the Southern Levant during the Late Bronze Age and the societal reorientation following the collapse of the Egyptian empire during the early Iron Age. After completing his PhD, Ido spent a year at the University of Zurich, focusing on the theoretical framework for the study of colonialism and its impact on local societies.

Ido leads the publication of the salvage excavations conducted at Tel Ḥadid during the late 1990s, and since 2018 has been co-director (along with Eli Yannai and Daniel Warner) of the Tel Ḥadid archaeological project. Furthermore, Ido co-directs the final publication of Aharoni's excavations at Tel Arad (with Ze'ev Herzog and Lily Singer-Avitz). His main fields of research include the visual culture of the Southern Levant during the Bronze and Iron Age, seals and amulets in their social context, colonialism, and colonial encounters. Ido currently studies two aspects of the society of Iron Age II southern Levant: forced migrations during the days of Assyrian colonialism and the production and consumption of stamp-amulets.

[idokoch@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:idokoch@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Dafna Langgut

Senior Researcher

A senior researcher at the Institute of Archaeology, Dafna is the Head of the Laboratory of Archaeobotany and Ancient Environments. 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. agricultural practices, diet, plant usage, ancient gardens, seasonality of site occupation and wooden implements. Further to this, 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 and the beginning of domestication.

[langgut@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:langgut@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### 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 numerous papers and books, with a focus on the history, economy, and administration of Israel and Judah during the First and Second Temple period, and biblical books (particularly on 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".

[lipschit@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:lipschit@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Lidar Sapir-Hen

Senior Lecturer

Lidar 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 (BSc), and Ecology/Zoology and Archaeology at Tel Aviv University (BA, MSc, PhD). 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.

[lidarsap@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:lidarsap@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### 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), where he 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 and his archaeological team recommenced excavations at Masada. Excavations during the 2017 and 2018 season focused on three primary areas, and uncovered new information related to the the settlement of the site during the Herodian, First Revolt, and Byzantine periods. The Masada team will return to the site in 2019.

[guystiebel@gmail.com](mailto:guystiebel@gmail.com)



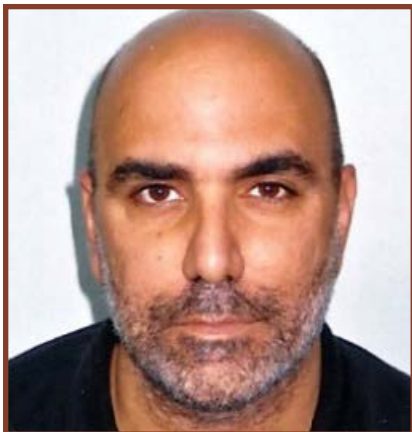
### Deborah Sweeney

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.

[deborahs@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:deborahs@tauex.tau.ac.il)

## Faculty



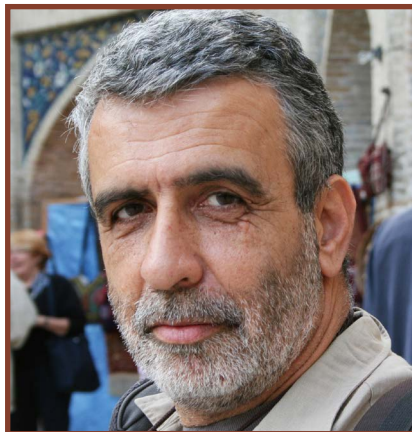
### Oren Tal

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 PhD 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 (since 2007). 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 Mezad 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.

[oriental@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:oriental@tauex.tau.ac.il)

## Emeriti



### Israel Finkelstein

Professor Emeritus

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."

[fink2@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:fink2@tauex.tau.ac.il)

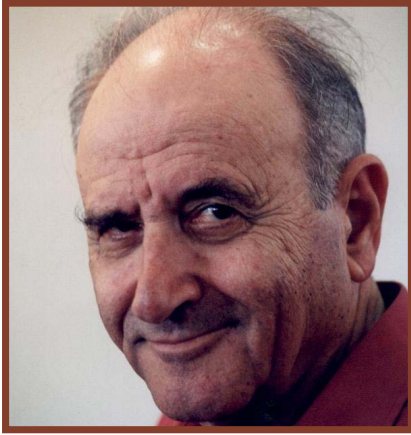


### Moshe Fischer

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.

[fischer@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:fischer@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### 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. Over the years Ram has directed several major excavations at Tel Poleg, Tel Dalit, and at 'En Besor, as well as conducted a number of general surveys such as the Map of Lod, Map of Herzliya, and Map of Tel Aviv.

[gophna@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:gophna@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Ze'ev Herzog

Professor Emeritus

Ze'ev received his PhD 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 (1984–85, 1989–90, 1996–97), 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.

[herzog@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:herzog@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Nili Liphshitz

Senior Lecturer Emerita

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 BSc in Life Sciences, MSc in Botany, and a PhD 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 14 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.

[nili@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:nili@tauex.tau.ac.il)

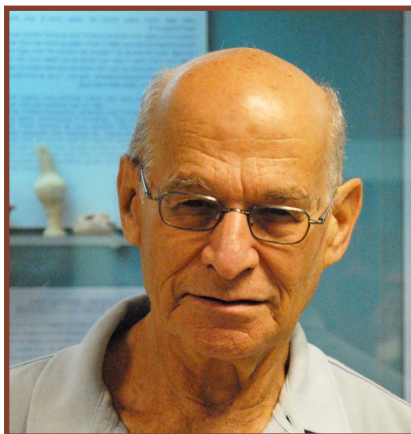


## Ze'ev Meshel

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 Meffer: 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).

[meshel@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:meshel@tauex.tau.ac.il)



## 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 PhD from Tel Aviv University (1975), and has since worked in the department as researcher, lecturer, and professor (1976–2007). 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.

[nnaaman@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:nnaaman@tauex.tau.ac.il)

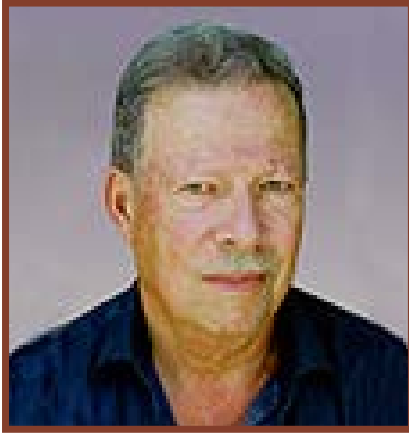


## Benjamin Sass

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.

[sass@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:sass@tauex.tau.ac.il)



## 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 (1992–2014). 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.

[ussishki@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:ussishki@tauex.tau.ac.il)

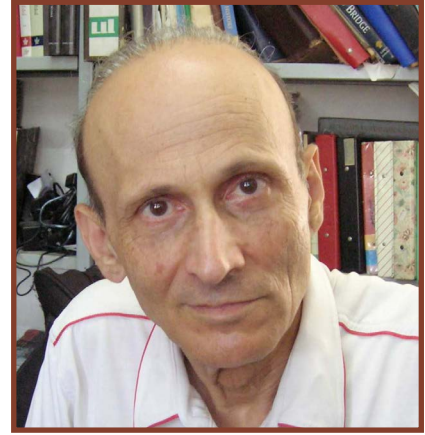


## Jak Yakar

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.

[yakar@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:yakar@tauex.tau.ac.il)



## Ran Zadok

Professor Emeritus

Ran 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.

[zadokr@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:zadokr@tauex.tau.ac.il)





### 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 PhD 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.

[baryosef@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:baryosef@tauex.tau.ac.il)



### Shirly Ben-Dor Evian

Research Fellow

Shirly, an Egyptologist and archaeologist, completed her PhD in the Department of Archaeology and Near Eastern Cultures of 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 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.

[bdevian@gmail.com](mailto:bdevian@gmail.com)



### Meir Edrey

Research Fellow

Meir received his BA from the Department of Classical Studies, Classical Archaeology, and the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures at Tel Aviv University. Following this, Meir continued on a fast-track PhD program from the Institute of Ancient Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology, at the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany. He currently holds a post-doctoral position in the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History (University of Haifa), and is a lecturer in the International MA program, Archaeology and History of the Land of the Bible, at Tel Aviv University. Meir's research focuses on the Coastal Canaanite/Phoenician culture during the second and first millennium BCE. He is especially interested in issues related to ethnicity and identity, as well as religion and cult, as manifested and reconstructed through material remains.

[edrey.meir@gmail.com](mailto:edrey.meir@gmail.com)



### Shai Gordin

Research Fellow

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 a 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 (Funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation). 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>).

[shygordin@gmail.com](mailto:shygordin@gmail.com)



### 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.

[mario\\_antonio@outlook.com](mailto:mario_antonio@outlook.com)



### 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](mailto:meirav.meiri@gmail.com)

## Research Fellows



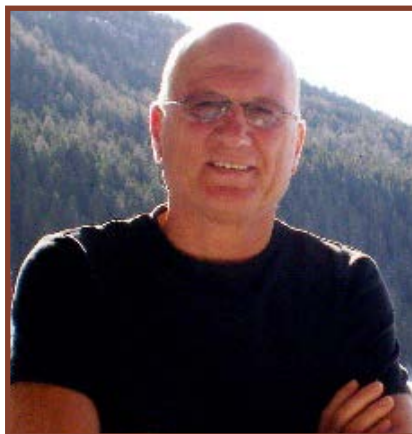
### Omer Sergi

Research Fellow

Omer completed his PhD 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 PhD 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 Raḥel (2004–2010), Abel beth Maacah (2015), and Tel Azekah (2012–2016). 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](mailto:omertelaviv@gmail.com)

## Post Doctorals



### Miki Ben-Dor

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Research Title: *The Causal Association between Humans' Diet during the Paleolithic and their Evolution, Behavior, and Culture*

Evolutionary guided reconstruction of the human diet during the Paleolithic has led to the conclusion that humans evolved as facultative carnivores. Since humans are limited in the amount of protein that they can metabolize into energy, an obligatory consumption of fat must have been a common constraint. Large animals contain more fat than smaller animals. A bioenergetic model that Miki has developed demonstrates that humans were obligated to hunt the largest animals that they could find. As the size of animals declined during the Pleistocene, humans had to adapt physiologically, behaviorally, and culturally, to obtain smaller animals at an acceptable energetic expense.

Advisor: Ran Barkai

[bendor.michael@gmail.com](mailto:bendor.michael@gmail.com)



### Yana Tchekhanovets

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Research Title: *Back to Marda: A Reassessment of the Byzantine Remains in Light of the Renewed Excavations at Masada*

Yana is an archaeologist at the Israel Antiquities Authority who excavates in Jerusalem, and is specialized in the archaeology of Late Antiquity, pilgrimage, and Christian iconography. Yana's PhD thesis focused on The Caucasian Archaeology of the Holy Land: Armenian, Georgian, and Albanian communities between the 4th and 11th centuries CE (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2016). Now Yana's focus has shifted to the archaeological material from the Byzantine period, related to the Byzantine Laura of Marda, which was established on a summit of Masada. Until now, this period has remained on the periphery of research, overshadowed by the impressive Herodian palatial fortress and the remains of the rebels occupation. The current research project, carried out in collaboration with Masada Expedition, aims to consolidate the complete corpus of the Byzantine material evidence discovered at site by the Y. Yadin expedition, the excavations by E. Netzer (1989, with the participation of Guy Steibel in 1995, and early 2000's) and prepare them for publication.

Supervisor: Guy Steibel

[Yanatchk@gmail.com](mailto:Yanatchk@gmail.com)



### Juliette Mas

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Research Title: *The First Half of the 7th Century BCE: Investigating a Missing Stage of Judahite History*

Juliette is dealing with original material unearthed at the site of Kiriath Jearim during the first excavation campaign of the Tel Aviv University and Collège de France joint expedition. Her research focuses on the pre-Iron Age IIB pottery with the aim of better defining the sequence of occupation of the site. Juliette is also studying the Area C pottery dating to the 2nd half of the 7th century BCE. The goal of her research is to bring about an increase in knowledge and understanding of the 7th century in Judah. The evidence from Kiriath Jearim offers the opportunity, for the first time, to phase the transition between the Iron Age IIB and the Iron Age IIC in Judah.

Supervisor: Israel Finkelstein

[juliettemas@hotmail.com](mailto:juliettemas@hotmail.com)



### Livio Warbinek

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Research Title: *Religious and Political Implications of KIN Oracles According to Hittite Sources*

This research project concerns the KIN oracle, a symbolic omen produced by the Hittites. The Hittite-solicited omens included extispicy, augury, the “Bed” oracle, the “Hurri-bird” oracle, the “Snake” oracle, and the KIN oracle. The proposed research aims to investigate two main (but connected) issues that concern the KIN oracles in Late Bronze Age Anatolia, i.e., the political and historical context in which an oracle could have played a decisive role; as well as the religious interactions of the MUNUSŠU.GI between the KIN oracles and magic rituals. In order to answer the two main research questions, the expected results are, on one hand, an integrated philological interpretation of the KIN oracle, and on the other, an elaborate analysis of the religious and historical symbolism.

Supervisor: Amir Gilan

[livio.warbinek@gmail.com](mailto:livio.warbinek@gmail.com)



### **Aviad Agam** (aviadkra@tauex.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *Flint Procurement and Exploitation Strategies in the Late Lower Paleolithic Levant: the case study of Acheulo-Yabrudian Qesem Cave*

Aviad's study examines patterns of flint procurement and exploitation within the lithic assemblages of the Acheulo-Yabrudian Qesem Cave (ca. 420,000 and 200,000 years ago) during its occupation history. This study includes macroscopic research of archaeological and geologic material, extensive geological survey of potential flint sources, petrographic analysis of flint thin sections, and the geochemical analysis of both archaeological and geologic samples. The results of this study can inform on issues such as familiarity with the landscape, patterns of movement and transportation of lithic materials, and techno-economic organization of early humans.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai, Avi Gopher, and Lucy Wilson (University of New Brunswick)



### **Ayala Amir** (ayalaalbeck@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Beyond the Visible: Burial Offerings in the Second Millennium BCE in Light of Residue Analysis of Ceramic Vessels*

This research deals with burial customs and grave goods in the second millennium BCE, based on residue analysis of ceramic vessels recovered from tombs. Organic matter that decomposes leaves organic residues, biomolecular components of the original material, preserved in the wall of the vessel. Residue analysis method enables the identification of these components by their extraction, separation and identification using GC/MS (gas chromatography/mass spectrometry) instrument. The application of this method will enable a deeper understanding of burial customs and the 'cult of the dead' among ancient cultures.

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein and Yuval Gadot



### **Ella Assaf** (ellaassa@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *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 today.

Supervisor: Ran Barkai



### **Débora Aymbinderow** (Debi80a@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Economy and Society in the Shephelah during the Iron Age II in Light of the Olive Oil Industry in the Sorek Valley*

This study examines the development of the olive oil industry in the Shephelah during the 8th and 7th centuries BCE, in the historical context of the Neo-Assyrian hegemony across the Southern Levant. The project focuses on the technological developments in olive oil extraction processes, alongside the establishment of the olive oil production center at Tel Miqne/Ekron, where 115 olive presses were discovered—the largest olive oil production center discovered in the ancient Near East. The main objective of this study is to analyze the implications of these developments on the society of Judah and Philistia, with an emphasis on economic specialization and centralization.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Ido Koch



### **Jacob (Kobi) Ben-Basat** (noykob@walla.co.il)

Dissertation Subject: *Animal Proverbs in Mesopotamian Wisdom Literature*

Jacob explores and examines the nature of animal imagery in various text genres, such as fables, proverbs, myths, and disputation poems. One of the central chapters of this dissertation includes a new edition of the mock-epic “The Series of The Fox”.

Supervisor: Yoram Cohen



### **Nitsan Ben-Melech** (halo.nitsan@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *From Wild-Scape to Landscape: Human Impact on the Landscape in the Highlands of Jerusalem.*

This research is concerned with human involvement in the natural environment, and the processes which led to the shaping of the landscape as we know it today. The study will target several areas in Jerusalem’s highlands, where evidence of past human activity has been identified. Through the application of techniques from several disciplines (such as OSL) for dating finds, and micro-archaeology for the identification of type of crops cultivated in the area, this research aims to gain a greater understanding of the palimpsest process that occurred in the highlands for centuries, and during which the natural wild-scape gradually changed into a human-designed landscape.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot and Dafna Langgut



### **Efrat Bocher** (efratbocher@hotmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *The Regions of Judah and Samaria: Comparative Aspects of Material Culture from the End of the Iron Age to the Persian Period (7<sup>th</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Israel Finkelstein



### **Nadia Bladt Knudsen** (ganchat3@hotmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *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



### **Liora Bouzaglou** (liora.bouzaglou@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Imperial Archaeology, Provincial Archaeology: The Levant during the Neo-Assyrian Domination. Stratigraphical and Ceramic Reevaluation of the Iron Age IIB (8<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE)*

This PhD research project deals with chronological, typological, petrological and technological issues concerning the sub-phasing of the Iron Age IIB. It is hoped that the research will disentangle matters relative to local ceramic production and consumption in an imperial context, as well as a deeper understanding of the impact of the Assyrian occupation on the Levantine territory.

Supervisors: Alexander Fantalkin and Pascal Butterlin (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)



### **Mark Cavanagh** (gordycavanagh@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Coping with Hyper-Arid Conditions: Sustainability and Seasonality in the Ancient Mining District of Timna*

Mark's research is aimed at the development of a comprehensive understanding of the relationship shared between the hyper-arid environment of the Timna Valley (located in the Arava Desert) and the ancient communities that exploited the copper-rich minerals found there. Focusing on micro-botanical remains such as wood, charcoal, and pollen, Mark will examine how people coped with the harsh desert environment for the sake of copper production, beginning with the earliest evidence of human occupation in the Chalcolithic and continuing into later and more intensive periods of industrial activity, namely the Late Bronze and Iron Ages. Aspects of resource management, seasonality, and trade connections will be considered, as will the environmental effects of the metallurgical activities.

Supervisors: Dafna Langgut and Erez Ben-Yosef



### **Bar Efrati** (barefrati@mail.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *On the Shoulders of Giants: Theoretical Aspects and Archaeological Evidence for the Existence and Manifestation of Ready-Made Concepts and Techniques during the Palaeolithic Period*

*Ready-made* is a term known from modern art, as it describes art created from the modification of objects that already have/had a non-art function. This research aims to develop a theoretical framework according to which concepts and techniques of ready-made existed before modern times, and specifically during the Palaeolithic period, as a mode of perceiving and interacting with the world. The theory is examined on what Bar argues to be a technological manifestation of this world view: the phenomenon of collecting modified patinated flint items made by past-human-societies, and their further modification and recycling to new tools by later groups.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Avi Gopher



### **Meir Finkel** (finkel2010@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Prehistoric Flint Extraction Sites and Workshops in the Eastern Galilee*

Meir's research focuses on the study of Lower and Middle Paleolithic and Neolithic/Chalcolithic flint extraction and reduction (E&R) sites from the Galilee. The research integrates a diverse data set, such as field surveys (in the areas of Nahal Dishon and Mt. Achbara), a geochemical analysis (aimed at correlating tools from habitation sites in the Northern Galilee and Hula Valley to the E&R sites), weight measurements of flint nodules, debitage and tools that enable the assessment of reduction 'efficiency', as well as excavations related to E&R site formation. Altogether, this study provides an in-depth and multifaceted understanding of the prehistoric flint extraction and reduction phenomena in the Levant.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai, Avi Gopher, and Erez Ben-Yosef



### **Avivit Gera** (avivitgera@mail.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *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, Guy Stiebel, and Nurit Lissovsky (Techion-Israel Institute of Technology)



### **Matan Goldblatt** (matanchic@hotmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Legal Bypasses in the Ancient Near East: Legal and Social Aspects*

Matan's studies demonstrate how people in the ancient Near East used legal instruments (e.g., contracts and wills) to bypass the undesirable results of legal and religious rules. This research touches upon various aspects of law in the ancient Near East, such as the nature of (mostly customary) law, popular perceptions of law, and changes to it. This study also explores instances of legally 'cheating' the gods in the ancient Near East.

Supervisor: Yoram Cohen

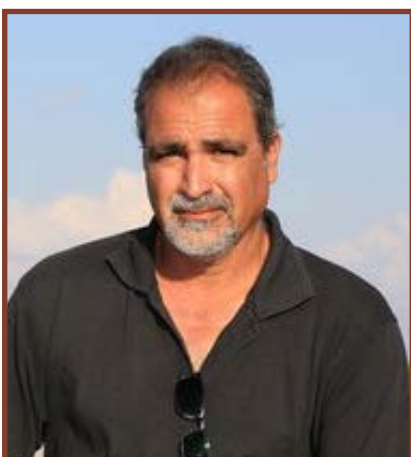


### **Boaz Gross** (grossboaz@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *The Development of Public Archaeology in Israel: From the "Isreal Department of Antiquities and Museums" to the "Israel Antiquities Authority"*

Boaz's research is aimed at an investigation of the development of public archaeology in Israel. In this case, 'Public Archaeology' refers to the archaeological work conducted by the State, or for the State's needs. This includes mostly, but not only, salvage excavations and the statutory system of governing antiquities and elements of cultural heritage. These activities comprise most archaeological fieldwork in Israel, and are performed primarily by the Israel Antiquities Authority, and its predecessor, the Department of Antiquities and Museums. Boaz's research examines several case studies to follow the changes and developments in this system and will seek to understand the cultural and social reasons for change.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot and Assaf Selzer (University of Haifa)



### **Yoram Haimi** (yoramhai@hotmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *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





### **Gil Haklay** (gilhaklay@mail.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *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



### **Erin Hall** (erinhall@mail.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *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



### **Elon Heymans** (elonheyman@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Argonauts of the Eastern Mediterranean: The Early History of Money in the Eastern Mediterranean Iron Age*

This study deals with the rise and spread of a monetary economy in the eastern Mediterranean region during the Iron Age (ca. 1200–600 BCE), and seeks to place it in its social and historical context.

Supervisors: Alexander Fantalkin, Israel Finkelstein, and Irad Malkin



### **Eli Itkin** (itkineli@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Between the Empires: The Southern Coastal Plain of Israel and the Western Negev from the Iron Age IIB until the Persian Period*

Eli’s research deals with the imperial influences on the southern coastal plain and the western Negev from the Iron Age IIB until the end of the Persian period. These regions (also known as ‘Philistia’) played a major role under the rule of the Neo-Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian empires. The study examines the stratigraphy, architecture, and ceramic assemblages from various published and unpublished sites within the region, in order to identify direct and indirect imperial influences during the periods in question. The research draws from world-system and post-colonial theories, in order to view the history and culture of the region from a *longue durée* perspective.

Supervisor: Alexander Fantalkin



### **Yafit Keder** (yafitkedar@mail.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *Around the Hearth: The Implications of Hearth Location in Paleolithic Caves*

Hearths were used at Paleolithic cave and rockshelter sites. Her research is centred on the possible negative impact of the use of fire within closed spaces, such as caves. One of the major negative byproducts of fire is smoke, which influences human health and may (for a short period) even prevent cave occupation. In this study she proposes a basic air circulation model based on thermodynamics to represent smoke ventilation in caves. She applies the model to demonstrate that hearth location was crucial in allowing humans to occupy prehistoric caves, when using fire on a regular basis.

Supervisor: Ran Barkai



### **Shua Kisilevitz** (shua\_kisilevitz@hotmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Cult in Judah in the Iron Age IIA: The Temple at Moza as a Case Study*

This study aims to understand the framework of cult in the region of Judah during the Iron Age IIA via the analysis of the temple at Moza and its associated cultic paraphernalia. Located in the Jerusalem region, the site has been identified as an administrative center that served as a royal Judahite granary during the Iron Age IIB-IIC (ca. 8<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> century BCE). Yet the construction of a monumental temple complex as an addendum to the administrative center at Moza (previously constructed during the Iron Age IIA) illuminates a complex geo-political network, and indicates the existence of local entities in the region during this formative period.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Israel Finkelstein



### **Assaf Kleiman** (iassafk@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Border Regions in Northeastern Israel and Southwestern Syria during the Early Iron Age (ca. 1150–750 BCE)*

Kleiman's dissertation deals with the archaeology and history of indigenous communities in northeastern Israel and southwestern Syria during the Iron Age I–II. With the emergence of Aram-Damascus and Israel on the stage of history, these communities constituted the border regions of the two kingdoms, and their territories were a fertile ground for military conflicts and rapid political shifts. Hitherto, no comprehensive attempt to sketch the archaeology and history of these regions has been conducted, though their narratives were embedded within the political history of the elites of Damascus and Samaria. Studying the settlement and cultural processes that occurred in these regions contributes to the understanding of border regions in the Ancient Near East and illuminates the history of forgotten populations.

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein and Benjamin Sass



### **Sabine Kleiman** (sabinekleiman@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *"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 ceramics 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 (Israel Antiquities Authority)



### **Yitzhak Lee-sak** (leeyitzhak@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *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

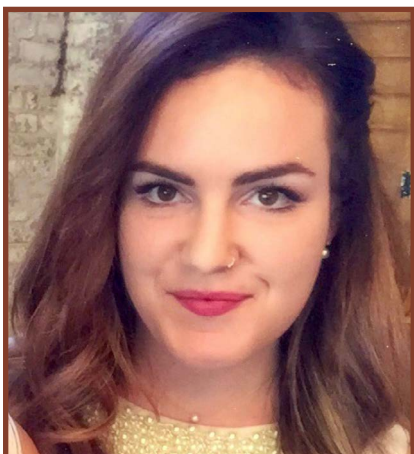


### **Eythan Levy** (eythan.levy@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Chronology of the Iron Age in the Levant: A Computational Approach*

This research project proposes to address current debates related to Iron Age chronology in the Levant through a computational approach, with the aid of specialized algorithms.

Supervisors: Israel Finkelstein, Alexander Fantalkin, and Eli Piasezky



### **Vanessa Linares** (vlinares04@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Organic Residue Analysis of Small Ceramic Vessels During the Middle Bronze and Late Bronze Ages.*

This research aims to investigate trade systems and materials within the Levant during the Middle Bronze and Late Bronze Ages (16<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE) by means of analyzing the content of small ceramic containers using organic residue analysis (ORA). ORA is a scientific technique that can aid in the recognition of traces of long-gone materials. The extraction and identification of ancient residues from clay vessels, which were used to store and transport traded goods, can serve to expose molecules of materials that have perished and may therefore reveal traded materials that would have otherwise remained an enigma. This study will concentrate on small ceramic vessels found at sites such as Tel Azekah, Tel Shadud, and Tel Megiddo.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits, Yuval Gadot, and Ronny Neumann (Weizmann Institute of Science)



### **Flavia Marinelli**

Dissertation Subject: *Small Tools and Elephant Exploitation during the Lower Paleolithic: Test Cases from Italy and Israel*

This research project is focused on the techno-morpho-functional and the use-wear analysis of Italian and Levantine sites of the Lower Paleolithic, characterized by the presence of small tools and elephant remains such as, Fontana Ranuccio, Cava Pompei, Colle Avarone, Campogrande (located in the Lazio region, Italy), and Revadim (Israel). Through techno-morpho-functional and use-wear analysis, the research aims to clarify the role of small tools in the *hominins* daily life, understand the functionality of small tools related to their form, and clarify the probable connection between the production and use of small tools and the exploitation of mega herbivores, such as elephants.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Cristina Lemorini (Department of Classics, “Sapienza” University of Rome)



### Rafael Nezer (rafaelnezer@tauex.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *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 (Volcani Center)



### Willie Ondricek (wondricek@uhl.ac)

Dissertation Subject: *The Ceramic Voice of Copper Exploitation in the Timna Valley: Late Bronze–Iron Age*

The primary aim of this research is to reach a deeper understanding of the entities that exploited the copper resources in the Timna Valley during its production peak during the Late Bronze–Early Iron Age, through an analysis of ceramics. Several ceramic assemblages collected during the Central Timna Valley Project excavations and surveys (2013–2018) await further analyses. In addition to the new material, ceramic assemblages from earlier research in the region were never thoroughly examined nor adequately published, inviting reevaluation. The focus is a detailed study of the provenance, manufacturing techniques, and date of the ceramic assemblage of Site 34 (Slaves Hill).

Supervisor: Erez Ben-Yosef



### Nir Orlev (orlevnir@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Gender, Death and Rebirth in the Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts*

The beliefs in rebirth and in the ability to achieve an eternal existence in the afterlife were key components of the ancient Egyptian religion, and thus shared by all. However, it seems that an individual's sex and gender had a significant effect on how he/she achieved and experienced the afterlife. Nir's research studies the gender-based differences in the Coffin Texts, the first known Egyptian funerary texts to be used by non-royal elite men and women. Through this research Nir hopes to gain a deeper understanding of the effect of gender on Egyptian views regarding men's and women's death, rebirth, and afterlife. Preliminary results were presented recently in at the Current Research in Egyptology conference held in Prague.

Supervisor: Deborah Sweeney



### Yoni Parush Glikman (yoniparush@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *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



### **Miriam Pines** (m.pines87@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *The Central Negev during the Roman and Byzantine Periods: Rehovot-in-the-Negev as a Case Study*

Various studies have been dedicated to the major late antique sites of the Central Negev, yet most were focused on a single site, and resulted in technical excavation reports. Furthermore, the Roman and Byzantine horizons were seldom dealt with in depth. Considering the lack of treatment of the site of Rehovot-in-the-Negev (Arabic: Kh. Ruḥeibeh) and its periphery, this study with its integrated approach, has the potential to greatly advance the research of the Central Negev and its towns, as well as contribute greatly to our knowledge concerning the Byzantine societies of the Southern Levant.

Supervisors: Oren Tal and Zeev Weiss (Hebrew University)



### **Helena Roth** (helena.marg@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Society and Economy during the Intermediate and Middle Bronze Ages in the Northern Judaeen Highlands*

The study focuses on the reconstruction of economy, social organization, and political structure between in the Northern Judaeen Highlands (ca. 2500 and 1500 BCE). Material from Nahal Repha'im (a rural IBA and MBA II-III site) will be analyzed, employing methods of 'household archaeology' and technological analyses of pottery production. MBA material from ancient Jerusalem (alongside select sites of the periphery) will also be analyzed, in order to investigate the urban system from both of its sectors: the city and the rural hinterland.

Supervisor: Yuval Gadot



### **Tamar Rosenberg-Yefet** (Tamarrosy@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Technological Innovations and Cultural Transmission Processes among Prehistoric Societies in an Evolutionary Perspective: The Levallois Method at the end of the Levantine Lower Paleolithic*

The Levallois method is a flake production technology aimed at producing items of predetermined morphology, typically characteristic of the Mousterian (but with roots in the Acheulian cultural complex). The Levallois method's unique history of research, as well as recently excavated sites (attributed to the emergence of the technology during Late Lower Paleolithic times), poses a rare opportunity to examine mechanisms of invention, distribution, and assimilation of technological innovation. The main research database originates from 'prepared cores' and their waste from the Late Acheulian site of Revadim, and the newly discovered site of Jaljulia

Supervisor: Ran Barkai



### **Débora Sandhaus (Reem)** (debby.reen@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *The Nexus of Cultures: The Central Shephelah during the Persian and Hellenistic Periods*

This research aims to address questions regarding the relation between material culture and human behavior, and between the physical and cultural space of social expression. The Central Shephelah as a border zone between different political entities is a promising area for evaluating the encounter between different people and the symbolic dimension of material remains and its function in this relationship. Ultimately, this study will reevaluate a central chapter of Judean and Idumean history, from the Persian to the Hasmonean occupation. Yet this time, this dynamic will be explored through the material remains of the inhabitants of the rural hinterland, an echo of the common people.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot



### **Abra Spiciarich** (abra.spiciarich@gmail.com)

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

Abra deals with zooarchaeological and taphonomic analyses to research Jerusalem during the 8<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> 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



### **Jacob Schreibman**

Dissertation Subject: *Changes in Mud-Brick Composition as a Chronological Tool and an Indicator of Population Densities in Multi-Layer Mounds*

The study will focus on the capabilities of identifiable changes of mud-brick material within an historical age, viewed as a continuous time-dependent variable. These parameters (established in an earlier study) enable the exploration of this phenomenon as an applicable calibration chart which may serve as an additional time-compass during excavations, and during the historical interpretation process. The goal is to also explore whether or not previous findings are not only endemic to Tel Azekah, but rather represent a universal generic phenomenon.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot and Oded Lipschits



### **Nitsan Shalom** (nitsans3@mail.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *The Babylonian Destruction of Judah: Macro and Microarchaeological Analysis of Destruction Layers*

This research includes the analysis of destruction or abandonment contexts (that date to 586 BCE) through the use of macro and microarchaeological tools, such as residue analysis and paleomagnetism. The primary context of interest are destruction layers recently excavated in Jerusalem, as well as other recently published assemblages. The aim is to answer questions related to the nature of the destruction in the capital of Judah: was the city really razed to the ground, or was the physical destruction intended to only disable the city as a center of power? What may we learn from this about the physical manifestation of “destruction” as described in textual sources? This work will hopefully shed further light on our understanding of textual evidence and historical perceptions vis-à-vis past realities.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot

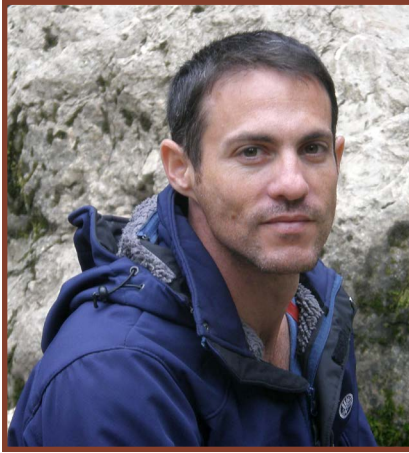


### **Natalya Solodenko** (natalya15@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *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, through the application of use-wear analysis and experimental frameworks. This study will allow for the detailed investigation of patterns related to site function, specific activities, and the meaning of technological change throughout the Late Lower Palaeolithic period in the Southern Levant.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai and Cristina Lemorini (Department of Classics, “La Sapienza” University of Rome, Italy)



### **Nahshon Szanton** (nahshon.sz@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Jerusalem's Urban Fabric Under the Roman Procurators (6–66 CE) in Light of the Archaeological and Historical Evidence*

Until recently, few of Jerusalem's building projects could be attributed to the Roman procurator rule in the Province of Judea (6–66 CE), let alone monumental structures. Nahshon's excavation in the Tyropoeon Valley aids in the dating of the Stepped Street, and was likely one of the largest-scale building projects undertaken in the city. The Stepped Street is not alone, as there are several building projects associated with this phenomenon. Nahshon's dissertation focuses on Jerusalem's urban development in the days of the procurators. This study includes aspects of mobility and the senses, and considers an integration of archaeological finds alongside historical, rabbinical, and Christian textual sources.

Supervisors: Guy Stiebel and Joe Uziel (Israel Antiquities Authority)



### **Marcio Teixeira Bastos** (marcio\_quisleu@yahoo.com.br)

Dissertation Subject: *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 (Ben Gurion University)



### **Yariv Tivon** (yariv.tiv@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *The Foremen of Deir el-Medina*

Deir el-Medina was an isolated village located at Thebes. Crews of workmen from the village, supervised by foremen, constructed and decorated the tombs of Kings and Queens in the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens (ca. 1550–1069 BCE). This study focuses on the foremen who were appointed by the vizier and held the highest political power in this community. By analyzing various documents and personal letters, (e.g., Papyrus Salt 124), the study will explore their social and institutional contacts with the workmen as well as with the vizier, the scribes, and others, in this place and outside.

Supervisor: Deborah Sweeney



### **Yoav Vaknin** (yoav.vaknin@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *Synchronization of Destruction Layers from the Iron Age in the Southern Levant through the Application of Archaeomagnetism*

Yoav's intention is to measure the direction and intensity of the magnetic field, recorded in features and artifacts that were exposed to fire, and thereby compare archaeological strata from various sites. For example, from burnt mud bricks from Lachish III, it is possible to determine the direction and intensity of the magnetic field as it was in 701 BCE. An identical field recorded in other finds reinforces the assumption that they were burnt around 701 BCE. This research tests finds that were burnt and recovered *in situ* i.e., burnt mud bricks, cooking installations, furnaces, and any burnt sediment or artifact.

Supervisors: Erez Ben-Yosef and Oded Lipschits

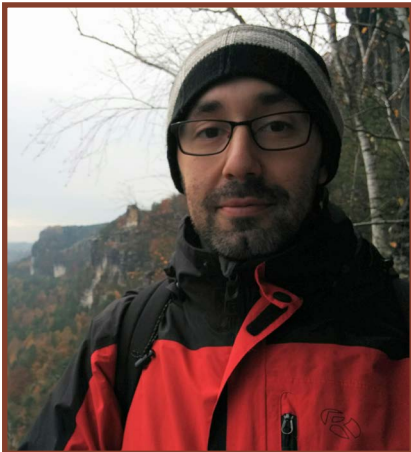


### **Daniel Weinberger** (danielw@israntique.org.il)

Dissertation Subject: *Public Archaeology in Israel*

This research project intends to deal with the practice of presenting archaeological data and its interpretations to the public as well as the involvement of different communities in archaeological field-projects.

Supervisors: Rafi Greenberg and Alexander Fantalkin



### **Ariel Winderbaum** (ariel.winderboim@mail.huji.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *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



### **Omri Yagel** (omriyage@mail.tau.ac.il)

Dissertation Subject: *Technology and Trade: Copper Exploitation during the Late Bronze and Iron Age in the Southern Levant*

Following the establishment of a new chronology for copper production in the Southern Levant, this ongoing research aims to shed new light on the micro-scale internal evolution of copper smelting technologies in the region as well as identifying the target markets for the precious copper. In addition to this, the research contributes greatly to the expansion of comparative data sets of chemical and isotopic analysis of ore, slag and metal objects, which form the basis of technological and provenance studies, thus paving the road for future research.

Supervisor: Erez Ben-Yosef



### **Ayala Zilberstein** (ayala4747@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *"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 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE, alongside weapons *in situ*, has provided unparalleled insight into this period.

Supervisors: Guy Stiebel and Doron Ben Ami (Israel Antiquities Authority)





## Andrea Zupancich (a.zupancich@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *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 residue analyses. This project aims to provide new insights that will contribute to the study of the early human groups that occupied Qesem Cave ca. 400,000 years ago.

Supervisors: Ran Barkai, Avi Gopher, and Cristina Lemorini (University of Rome "La Sapienza").



## Katia Zutovski (katiarina81@gmail.com)

Dissertation Subject: *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



From the exhibition "Bucket Line," drawn and photographed by Einat Peled



### **Dana Ackerfeld** (danaackerfeld@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *Plaster Floors of the Southern Levantine Pre Pottery Neolithic: Functional, Social, and Conceptual Aspects*

Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB) settlements in the Southern Levant are known for their lime-plaster white floored buildings. The period is also known for the Agricultural Revolution. The unique and intense use of lime-plaster in architectural environments/landscapes, in mortuary contexts (plastered skulls), and in other media such as sculpture, vessel-making and more, can be a key to unravel the PPNB changing mindsets. Dana's thesis is aimed at inspecting two major aspects: first, the dynamics of functional change in lime plastered floors (Nahal Yarmut 38 as a case study) based on their material characteristics/composition and use, and second, their social and conceptual aspects based on their architectural and archaeological contexts.

Supervisor: Avi Gopher

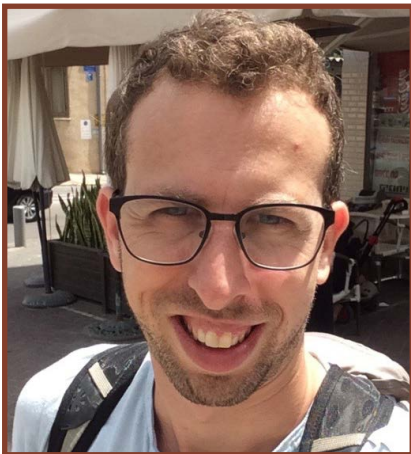


### **Chen Antler** (chenantler@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *The Metal Assemblage of Shu'afat: A Test-Case Study into the Cultural Material of 'Orine' Toparchy between the two Jewish Revolts*

This is a techno-typological and social study of the metal assemblage excavated by the IAA at Shu'afat, Jerusalem. This case-study aims to shed light on transitional periods, via the examination of this single-tiered settlement (70–132 CE). This period is enigmatic and crucial as it rests between the destruction of the Second Temple and the complete destruction of the Jewish settlement during the Bar-Kochba revolt. This unique reality takes hold in every aspect of day-to-day life and is reflected in the material remains of the site, i.e., economic, agricultural, social, hierarchic, artistic, and theological.

Supervisor: Guy Stiebel



### **Alon Arad** (alonarad@mail.tau.ac.il)

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 Beth 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



### **Kfir Arbiv** (shor12@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *Jerusalem's North West Fortifications at the End of the Second Temple Period: Renewed Examination in Light of the Recent Excavations at the "Russian Compound"*

The research aims to examine the nature of military architecture in Jerusalem, and characteristics of siege warfare during the Early Roman period. Doing so supports the reconstruction of the urban layout of Jerusalem during the late Second Temple period, and of impact of the Roman conquest during the Great Revolt (70 CE). This study stems from recent discoveries at the "Russian Compound" Jerusalem, where the remains of a fortification element were found along with some 84 ballista balls. This discovery provides unique (and tangible) evidence of a battlefield that has not yet been encountered (to date) in the excavations of Jerusalem.

Supervisor: Guy Stiebel

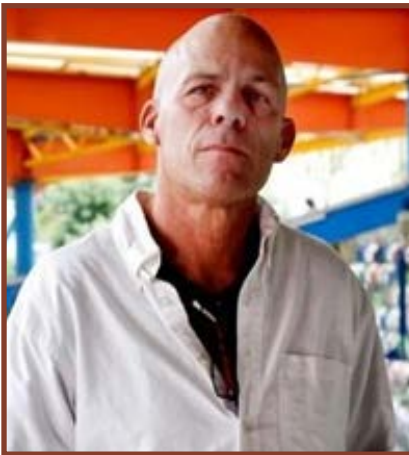


### **Shmuel Clark** (clark.samuel@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *The Sargon Geography*

The “Sargon Geography” is an enigmatic text which describes in detail the geography of the Ancient Near East. Shmuel is currently analyzing this text, and utilizing digital mapping for the plotting of each place named therein. The goal of this research is to determine the geographical accuracy of the text’s descriptions, the identities or locations of a number of unknown places named in the text, and the potential motivating reasons behind the text’s composition.

Supervisor: Yoram Cohen



### **Eyal Halfon** (eyalhalfon@gmail.com)

Thesis Subject: *The Material and Consciousness Influence of Animal Disappearance on Hunter-Gatherers, Past and Present*

The central issue of Eyal’s work revolves around the question of how the decline and extinction of large animals have influenced, and continue to influence, the humans who are dependent on them. More specifically, this relates to questions such as, what happened when there were no more Mammoth bones in Arctic Siberia? How did the extinction of Elephants impact social structures of the Acheulian culture in the Levant? What is the connection between new family ties and Caribou decline in North Labrador? And what can we learn from present day hunter-gatherer’s knowledge about past, and future, animal extinctions?

Supervisor: Ran Barkai



### **Hanan Drawshi** (hanandrawshi@mail.tau.ac.il)

Thesis Subject: *Society, Religion, and Politics in the Landscape: Mount Zion as a Landmark in the Landscape and Space*

This study deals with Mount Zion, Jerusalem, and the way in which it has served as a landmark in the religious and political history of Jerusalem for thousands of years. The research focuses on five significant periods of mountain inhabitancies. Identification and analysis of these changes will be done through the investigation of these subjects in different strata, i.e., environment and topography, mountain history of historical development and connection to tradition, archaeological excavations, landscape of sacred geography and landmarks, and literature of pilgrimages.

Supervisor: Yuval Gadot



### **Lloyd Dreilinger** (lloyd@mail.tau.ac.il)

Thesis Subject: *Give Me the Silver: The Payment of Tribute by the Kingdom of Judah During the Neo-Assyrian Period*

As an Assyrian Vassal Kingdom during the 100 year period between the late 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE, the Kingdom of Judah had ongoing tribute obligations to its Assyrian overlords, which were generally paid in the form of silver, valuable resources, or luxury items. Tribute payments were normally harsh and failure to pay could lead to severe consequences. This thesis explores the nature of these obligations, how they were satisfied, and the overall economic response of the Kingdom in light of such tribute responsibilities.

Supervisor: Oded Lipschits



### **Shirad Galmore** (shiradgalmor@mail.tau.ac.il)

Thesis Title: *An Analysis of the Faunal Remains at the Neolithic Site of Ahihud (North): Hunters, Herders, and What Lies Between Them*

This study presents the archaeozoological analysis from the Early Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (EPPNB, 10,500-10,100 BP) layers of 'Ahihud' (North). Excavation of the material was under the direction of Yacob Vardy and Yitzhak Paz (IAA). The aim of an archaeozoological analysis is to understand the economic basis of the site's inhabitants, as well as its human-animal relations that during this period, are unique as they directly precede the development of livestock husbandry. This study offers a rare opportunity to further our understanding of animal subsistence economy in the Southern Levant, during this pivotal point of human history.

Supervisors: Lidar Sapir-Hen and Tamar Dayan

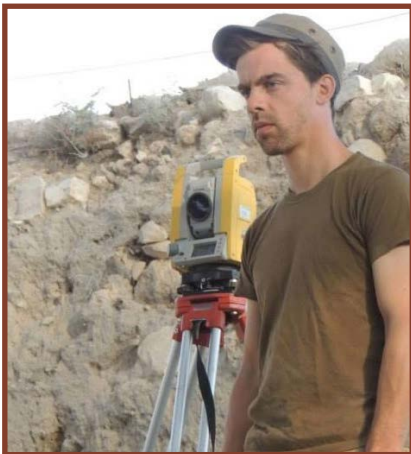


### **Roni Hoofien** (ronihoor@mail.tau.ac.il)

Thesis Title: *The Tel Azekah Bead Assemblage: A Means for Analysis of Trade and Cultural Connections from the Early Bronze Age to the Hellenistic Period*

The goal of the study is the exploration of whether or not typological, structural, and production processes of beads can assist in the dating and description of an archaeological site. A corpus of 222 beads recovered at Tel Azekah (2012–2015) was dated to periods spanning the Early Bronze Age to Hellenistic period. The large variety of raw materials from which the beads were made, as well as their shapes and production techniques, allow for a clear interpretation as to the social and economic status of the population that lived at Tel Azekah.

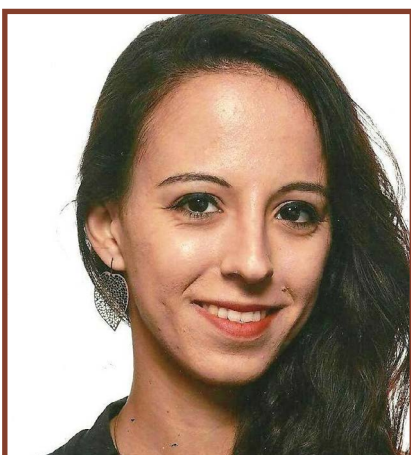
Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Daniella Bar-Yosef Mayer



### **Logan Hunt** (loganahunt@hotmail.com)

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

Supervisor: Israel Finkelstein



### **Linoy Namdar** (linoyn6@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *The Human-Animal Relationship during the Late Neolithic period in the Southern Levant*

Linoy's research focuses on human-animal relations at the sites of Ahiud, Yiftahel, and Motza, with emphasis on the animal economy, and the possible identification of the emergence of secondary-products of animal exploitation. This archaeological research is based on a consideration and analysis of livestock exploitation patterns, hunting activity, and the changes in pigs' body size during the Late Neolithic period.

Supervisor: Lidar Sapir Hen



**Jonathan Parker** (jnpwdf@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *Determining Whether the Kingdom of Edom Pre-dates the Advent of the Neo-Assyrian Empire*

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 ca. the 13<sup>th</sup> century BCE until the 7<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Omer Sergi



**Dorit Pomerantz** (dorit.pomerantz@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *Wild Mammals Outside of the Civilized World in the Hebrew Bible and Mesopotamian Literature*

In the Bible as well as ancient Near Eastern literature, the relationship between man and wild animals has played a central role within narratives. Such a dynamic has affected the emotional understanding of texts, and offered ancient writers the opportunity to use symbolic messages. Dorit's research examines the representation of wild mammals outside of the civilized ancient Near Eastern world, through the study of written sources.

Supervisors :Dalit Rom-Shiloni and Yoram Cohen



**Noa Ranzer** (noarantz@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *Object Biography: Production, Distribution, and Function of Middle and Late Bronze Age Scarabs in the Ayalon and Yarkon Basin*

Noa's research focuses on the integration of scarabs, a common Egyptian seal and amulet from the second and first millennia BCE, into the material culture of the Southern Levant during the Middle and Late Bronze Age. Following Kopytoff's theory of 'Object Biography', she examines the process of scarab manufacture through the use of 3D scans, and the various contexts in which they were found. This is done in order to develop a better understanding of the relations between the Egyptians and local groups, and of the specific uses scarabs had in the Tel Aviv region.

Supervisors: Yuval Gadot and Ido Koch



**Zvi Smith** (zvismith@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *Divine Manifestations in Ancient Mesopotamia*

Zvi's research is focused on the exploration of the manifold ways in which deities appeared to people in ancient Mesopotamia. He is particularly interested in the imbuing of objects (statues) or natural bodies (stars) with divine personality, and how these were conceived of as relating to people and society.

Supervisor: Yoram Cohen



### **Elisa Vanzetti** (elisav@mail.tau.ac.il)

Thesis Title: *Persian-Period Metal Jewellery in the Southern Levant: An Artistic and Technological Comparison to Late Iron Age II Jewellery*

The aim of the study is to examine whether or not Persian period metal jewellery exhibited a continuation of the production methods, material selection, and artistic motifs and styles of the Late Iron Age II, or if instead, represents a new phenomenon. A second research focus is the examination of Persian period metal jewellery as a local stylistic phenomenon, or alternatively, a broader 'International Style' of its time. The research is centrally executed by way of developing a data base of Persian period metal jewellery, and its comparison to material of the Iron Age II.

Supervisor: Oren Tal



### **Naama Walzer** (naamawal@mail.tau.ac.il)

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 remains enigmatic to this day, makes this research and its potential outcomes very exciting.

Supervisor: Israel Finkelstein



### **Alexandra Wrathall** (alexandra@scribalhabits.com.au)

Thesis Title: *'A Pit's Perspective' An Early Iron Age IIB Pottery Assemblage from Tel Azekah: Typology, Chronology, and Context*

The recovery of a ceramic assemblage from a pit in Area T2 at Tel Azekah provided new data for the analysis of the Iron Age II. Alex's research is an analysis of material's the context, typology, and considers the archaeological and historical implications of both. The results of Alex's research indicate that it is now possible to further clarify the nature of the Iron Age IIB in the Shephelah.

Supervisors: Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot



### **Omer Ze'evi** (omer.zeev@gmail.com)

Thesis Title: *The El-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), which is currently dated to the time of the El-Amarna archive. The scarcity of 14<sup>th</sup> century BCE assemblages in the Shephelah and wider region emphasizes the importance of this research. The thesis integrates pottery typology, spatial analysis, and the theoretical and sociological implications of imports and imitations, into a holistic analysis.

Supervisor: Shlomo Bunimovitz

---

# PhD Graduates 2016–2018

## 2016

Name	Title	Supervisors
Dr. Uzi 'Ad	Settlement in the Southern Coastal Plain ("Philistia") during the Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods (from the last third of the sixth century until the mid-second century B.C.E.)	Prof. Moshe Fischer
Dr. Mark Iserlis	Khirbet Kerak Ware and Local Ceramics at Tel Bet Yerah in the Early Bronze III	Prof. Yuval Goren Prof. Raphael Greenberg
Dr. Ido Koch	Southwestern Canaan During the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age	Prof. Nadav Na'aman Prof. Oded Lipschits
Dr. Yael Rotem	The Central Jordan Valley in the Early Bronze Age I and the Transition to Early Bronze Age II: Patterns and Processes in a Complex Village Society	Prof. Raphael Greenberg
Dr. Daniel Mirkin	Aspects of Inter-Relations Between Land and Sea During the Crusader Period: Crusader Seamanship in the Southern Levant	Prof. Oren Tal Prof. Y. Kahanov

## 2017

Name	Title	Supervisors
Dr. Hai Ashkenazi	Southern Levantine Early Bronze Age III: Society, Social Power, and Ideology	Prof. Raphael Greenberg

## 2018

Name	Title	Supervisors
Dr. Miki Ben-Dor	The Causal Association between the Megafauna's Extinction and the Neanderthal's Extinction in Western Europe: Application of the Obligatory Dietary Fat Bioenergetic Model	Prof. Ran Barkai Prof. Avi Gopher
Dr. Haya Zommer	Food for Thought: Cannibalism in the Archaeological Record	Prof. Ran Barkai



Tel Azekah (Photo by Benjamin Sitzmann)

# MA Graduates 2016–2018

## 2016

Name	Title	Supervisors
Nicolas Benenstein	Mezad Yeroucham – A Roman and Byzantine Site in the Northern Highlands	Prof. Oren Tal
Mark Cavanagh	Sustainability of an Industry on the Fringe: A Dendroarchaeological Investigation into Fuel Sources at the Iron Age Copper Smelting Sites of the Timna Valley	Dr. Dafna Langgut Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef
Li-Or Golan	Gold Earrings as Ethnicity and Gender Markers in Roman Palestine (1 <sup>st</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> centuries CE)	Prof. Moshe Fischer
Erin Hall	Hoarding at Tel Megiddo in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I	Prof. Israel Finkelstein Prof. Benjamin Sass
Mati Johananoff	Hellenistic Bronze Coins from Side (Pamphylia) in the Southern Levant	Prof. Oren Tal Dr. Alexander Fantalkin
Tamar Rosenberg Yefet	The Origins of the Levallois Method and Implications for its Distribution Model	Prof. Ran Barkai
Noa Shatil	The Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods Pottery from the Renewed Archaeological Excavations at Tel Azekah: Typology, Chronology, and Identity	Prof. Oded Lipschits
Craig Smitheram	OSL Dating of Timna's Copper Mines: Insights on Technological Evolution and Social Organization	Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef
Vanessa Workman	The Fabric of Copper Production: The Textile and Cordage Artifacts from Iron Age Timna	Dr. Orit Shamir Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef
Omri Yagel	Late Bronze Age Copper Smelting Technology at Timna: Site 3 as a Case Study	Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef

## 2017

Name	Title	Supervisors
Emily Bischoff	On Sheep and Sodomy: Understanding Bestiality in the Hittite Anatolia	Dr. Amir Gilan
Nitsan Ben-Melech	Dating Ancient Lime Kilns with Optically Stimulated Luminescence: Case Studies from the Judean Hills and Foothills	Prof. Yuval Gadot Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef
Eyal Dechner	Jews & Christians at Diocaesarea- Sepphoris Cultural Interaction between Jews and Christians as Reflected by Ritual Practice and Religious Way of Life from the Days of the Gallus Revolt until the Islamic Conquest (351 CE – 614 CE)	Prof. Moshe Fischer
Yelena Elgart	Settlement Pattern and Land use Along Upper Soreq Valley: A Long Term Perspective	Prof. Yuval Gadot
Joshua Errington	Processes in the Site Formation of Tel Azekah: From the Early Bronze Age Until the Hellenistic Period	Prof. Oded Lipschits
Yehonatan Hershkovitz	The History, Chronology and Geography of the First Sealand Dynasty in Southern Mesopotamia during the Mid-Second Millennium BC	Prof. Yoram Cohen Dr. Amir Gilan
Sergey Ishoev	Andirons and Hearths in the Kura-Araxes Culture and its Derivatives: Definition, Distribution and Usage	Prof. Raphael Greenberg
Christina Jones	Inter-Regional Connections During the Late Bronze Age as Reflected through the Animal Economy: A Case Study of Tel Azekah	Dr. Omer Sergi Dr. Lidar Sapir-Hen Prof. Oded Lipschits
Ben Laugomer	Paleoclimate in the Southern Levant During the Bronze and Iron Ages based on Isotope Composition in Soreq Cave Speleothems	Prof. Israel Finkelstein Dr. Dafna Langgut Dr. Miryam Bar-Matthews
David Luria	Uprooted, Militarized Bands and Rural Populations During Late Bronze and Iron I Ages in Southern Levant: Challenging the Scarcity of Evidence	Dr. Alexander Fantalkin
Michal Piasetzky	Graves and Burials at Yavne-Yam During the Roman and Byzantine Periods	Prof. Oren Tal
Hagar Reshef	A Matter of Taste: Taste Preferences and its Impact on Human Diet and Behavior in the Paleolithic Era Elephants as a Case Study	Prof. Ran Barkai
Sarah Richardson	The Origin, Use, and Implications of A Late Production Kit from Tel Azekah	Prof. Oded Lipschits



Name	Title	Supervisors
Helena Roth	Wood Economy in Jerusalem during the Early Roman Period	Dr. Dafna Langgut Prof. Yuval Gadot
Talila Rudin	Roman-Byzantine Cemeteries and Tombs around Apollonia/Sozousa: The New Discoveries	Prof. Oren Tal
Nitsan Shalom	Changes in the Settlement Pattern in Judah between the Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods	Prof. Oded Lipschits
Noy Shemesh	Aesthetic Water Installations in the Private Spaces of Israel during the Roman Period	Dr. Guy Stiebel
Yariv Tibon	Private Stelae of Low-Ranking Expedition Members at Serabit el-Khadem	Dr. Deborah Sweeney
Yitzhak Vassal	Archaeomagnetic Research of Ancient Near Eastern Fired Clay Tablets: The Hattusa Archive as a Case Study	Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef

## 2018

Name	Title	Supervisors
Yulia Abramov	The Inhabitants of the Middle and Late Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (ca. 10,000 – 9,000 Cal BP) site of Yiftahel: An Anthropological, Bio-Archaeological, and Cultural Analysis	Prof. Israel Hershkovitz Prof. Avi Gopher
Barbara Astafurov	Stages of the Conversion to Christianity of the Rural Settlements in the Province of Palaestina Prima in the Fourth – Seventh Centuries CE: The Territory of Beth Guvrin/ Eleutheropolis as a Case Study	Prof. Moshe Fischer
Mordechay Benzaquen	The Arboreal Remains of Tel Megiddo: Interpreting Environmental Conditions and Cultural Preferences through the Analysis of Botanical Remains	Prof. Israel Finkelstein Dr. Dafna Langgut
Zhixia Chen	From East to West: Chinese Ceramics Found in Israel from Early Islamic to Crusader Periods	Prof. Oded Lipschits Prof. Asaf Goldschmidt Dr. Edna Stern
Abraham Cohen	The Handaxes from Late Acheulian Revadim Quarry: Similarities and Differences in Time and Space	Prof. Ran Barkai
Sean Dugaw	A New Typology of Arrowheads from the Late Iron Age and Persian Period and its Historical Implications	Dr. Guy Stiebel Prof. Oded Lipschits
Bar Efrati	A Burning Matter: Intra-Site Spatial Analysis of Flint Items Around the Hearth at Qesem Cave	Prof. Avi Gopher Prof. Ran Barkai
Laura Farkas	Tel Gerisa in the early Late Bronze Age: Determining the Character of the Site in the Late Bronze I and IIA through an Evaluation of the Ceramic Remains from Stratum 10	Dr. Alexander Fantalkin Prof. Ze'ev Herzog
Alexander Glik	Military Finds from Jaffa (18 <sup>th</sup> –19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries CE): Archaeological Finds versus Textual Evidence	Dr. Alexander Fantalkin
Maya B. Hadash	The Cypriot Assemblage from Late Bronze Age Tel Azekah: Chronological, Typological, and Inter-Regional Implications	Prof. Oded Lipschits Prof. Yuval Gadot Prof. Assaf Yasur Landau
Yael Hochma	Archaeomagnetism of Rhodian Amphorae Stamped Jar Handles: Contribution to the Study of Hellenistic Jerusalem	Prof. Oded Lipschits Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef
Eli Itkin	Horvat Tov (Hirbet et-Tayyib): A View on Judah's Southern Frontier in the Seventh Century BCE	Dr. Alexander Fantalkin
Yafit Keder	Around the Hearth: Health Implications of Hearth Location in Paleolithic Caves	Prof. Ran Barkai
Danilo Rabell Giordano	Cultural Contact between Mitanni and the Southern Levant During Egyptian Occupation: A Study of Mitannian Cylinder Seals	Dr. Amir Gilan Prof. Oded Lipschits
Jacob Schreiber	Comparison of Mud Bricks' Composition as Complimentary Basis for Chronological Identification	Prof. Oded Lipschits Prof. Yuval Gadot
Oron Schwartz	The Iron Age in Light of Qiryat-Ye'arim Excavation (1995)	Dr. Alexander Fantalkin
Marc Porter Wallace	The History of Settlement at Tel Shalaf and the Battle of Eltekeh	Dr. Alexander Fantalkin
Alexandra Wrathall	'A Pit's Perspective' An Early Iron Age IIB Pottery Assemblage from Tel Azekah: Typology, Chronology, and Context	Prof. Oded Lipschits Prof. Yuval Gadot

# Scholarships

The students and staff of the Department and of the Institute are grateful for the generous scholarships and grants awarded by donors, foundations, and research funds. Such funding is essential to continued research and development in the study of archaeology and ancient Near Eastern cultures.

## BA

Shai Berk	Friends of the Insitute of Archaeology
Noam Kodesh	Friends of the Insitute of Archaeology
Amit Etya	Friends of the Insitute of Archaeology
Kamal Morad	Friends of the Insitute of Archaeology

## MA

Naama Walzer	Israeli Institute of Archaeology
Maayan Hemed	Friends of the Insitute of Archaeology
Alma Azaryahu	Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology
Yafit Keidar	Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology



Yafit Keidar and Yuval Gadot (Photo by Hai Ashkenazi)



Maayan Hemed and Yuval Gadot (Photo by Hai Ashkenazi)



Kamal Morad and Yuval Gadot (Photo by Hai Ashkenazi)

# EVENTS



Lighting of Hanukkah candles in Gilman Building, Photo by Sasha Flit

# New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and Its Surroundings: The 12th Annual Conference

Yuval Gadot

October 10–11, 2018

New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and Its Surroundings is an annual academic conference organised by the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University together with the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University. The conference possesses a high academic and public profile, as each year new findings, as well as cutting edge research concerning Jerusalem's archaeology and history are presented.

This year the first day of the conference was hosted by the Israel Museum, and was devoted to presentations of new inscriptions from Jerusalem. Most importantly, the presentation included the newly discovered stone column that was incised with an inscription that included the name ירושלים Jerusalem. This is perhaps the earliest attestation for the name written with all letters including the letter י. The second day was held at the Hebrew University and was devoted to themes such as art and ideology, burial practices, village life around

the city, and the nature of the city during the Late Roman period. Several staff and students represented the Tel Aviv University archaeology department and Institute, including Ido Koch who spoke on glyptic finds from Iron Age Jerusalem, Na'ama Waltzer who co-authored a paper on settlements dating to the Intermediate Bronze Age, Sabine Kleiman who co-authored a paper on Iron I peripheral sites in the Shephelah, Yuval Gadot and Liora Freud who co-authored a paper on Iron IIB–IIC economic activities around Jerusalem, Maier Edrey who co-authored a paper on a village dating to the Crusader period found north of Jerusalem, and Nahshon Szanton who co-authored a paper on the rebuilding of Jerusalem by the Romans after its destruction in 70 CE. As is customary, the conference proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2018 were fully published in a peer-review article collection, and made available to the community on day one of the conference.

## News from the Trenches

Alexandra Wrathall

October 18, 2018

Once again, students and scholars met at the Gilman Building for the annual Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology 'News from the Trenches' conference. The conference is a rare and unique opportunity for scholars of various periods and focus, to share the results of the varied archaeological projects. Such summaries allow attendees to grasp the broad range of research and scholarship that is active within the department.

This year was especially dynamic as those in attendance of session one heard of work from Masada (Guy Stiebel), Tel Ḥadid (Ido Koch), Yarmut 38 (Avi Gopher, Katia Zotovski, Anna Erike-Rose, Hai Ashkenazi, Hila May), Ḥorvat Tevet (Omer Sergi), Alona (Dafna Langgut), Tel Bet Yerah and Al-Sinnabra (Rafi Greenberg).

Following the first session, session two provided dynamic lectures on the City of David Western Slope (Yuval Gadot and Yiftah Shalev), Tel Beit Shemesh (Boaz Gross), Dishon Valley (Meir Finkel, Avi Agam, Ran Barkai, Avi Gopher, Erez Ben-Yosef), Tel Azekah (Oded Lipschits), and Tel Megiddo (Israel Finkelstein).

**הידושים בחפירות המכון לארכאולוגיה 2018**  
**יום חמישי, 18 באוקטובר, גילמן 223**

16:00–15:45  
התכנסות ובידוד קל

16:15–16:00  
ברכת ראש המכון לארכאולוגיה  
מרופ עזר לימשיץ  
הלווקת מלונת על ידי ראש החוג לארכאולוגיה  
מרופ יובל גדות

17:45–16:15  
**מושב ראשון**  
"ירצה האדם – יהמר את המדבר לנג מורח": הידושים מעונת 2018 במצדה  
גיא סטיבל

תל חדיד: פרסום סופי של חפירות ההגלה משנות ה-90 ותוצאות ראשוניות מעונת 2018  
עידו קוק

על בתים ועל מותם בתקופה הנאווליתית - מבט מהאתר ירמות 38  
אבי נופר, קטיה וזוטבסקי, אנה אייזיק-רוד, חי אשכנזי, הילה מאי

חפירות הנהלה בתל בית שמש: יתרונות, חסרונות והמתכות ב"מנה-פרויקט"  
עומר סרגי

עלנזה: שחזור חלקות כפרית מתקופת הברזל בסביבות ירושלים – שילוב בין מקרו ומיקרו ארכאולוגיה  
דבנה לנט

בית ירח ואל-צניברה: חפירות חדשות, שימור ומוחקר  
רפי גרינברג

18:15–17:45  
הפסקת קפה

19:30–18:15  
**מושב שני**  
ממצאים חדשים מתקופת הברזל והמתקופות הפרסית וההלניסטית במדרון המערבי של עיר דוד  
יובל גדות ויפתח שלו

חפירות הנהלה בתל בית שמש: יתרונות, חסרונות והמתכות ב"מנה-פרויקט"  
בועז גרוס

תוצאות ראשוניות מחפירת שתי עמדות חניכה וסיונות  
פרויקטיות במסמכים הדישון, לגיל עליון  
מאיר מינקל, אביעז אגם, רן ברקאי, אבי נופר, ארז בן יוסף

"הידושים מתחילים להתחבר":  
הידושים מעונת החפירות השישית בתל עזקה  
עזר לימשיץ

GROUND ZERO של הארכאולוגיה המקראית:  
שערי מגידו בתקופת הברזל  
ישראל פינקלשטיין

---

# American School of Oriental Research

Alexandra Wrathall

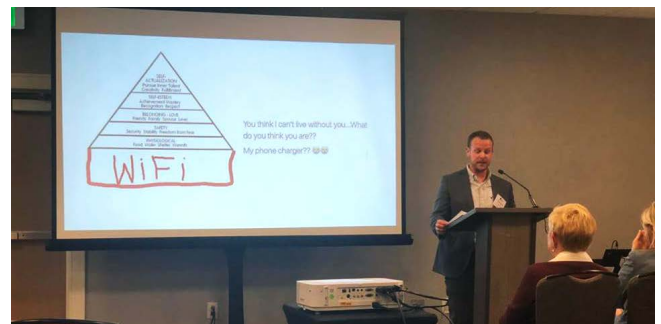
November 14–17, 2018

The annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research met this past year in Denver, Colorado. Thanks to presentations from scholars and students from Tel Aviv University, the research and work of the Institute and Department was well represented. Several students from Tel Aviv University were in attendance, with presentations from Omer Ze'evi, Eli Itkin, Vanessa Linares, Abra Spiciarich, Erin Hall, Eythan Levy, Eli Piasetzky, Shua Kisilevitz, and Yael

Hochma. Several faculty members were also in attendance with presentations from Yuval Gadot, Oded Lipschits, Israel Finkestein, Shlomo Bunimovitz, Lidar Sapir-Hen, Mario Martin, and Ido Koch. Lectures focused on recent developments in the archaeology of the ancient near east, and the conference provided an ideal platform for students and scholars from across the world, and across disciplines, to collaborate and connect.



Students past and present of Tel Aviv University presenting at the annual ASOR meeting (from left: Abra Spiciarich, Zach Dunseth, Omer Ze'evi, and Sarah Richardson. Photo by Yuval Gadot)



Omer Ze'evi presenting his research on a Late Bronze IIA pottery assemblage from Tel Beth Shemesh (Photo by Ido Koch)

# Society of Biblical Literature

Alexandra Wrathall

November 17–21, 2018

Several scholars again returned to the North American Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, this year hosted in Denver, Colorado. This year was particularly exceptional, following a celebratory conference session 'Between Biblical Research, Archaeology and History,' held in dedication of Nadav Na'aman's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The session saw colleagues and past students present papers in honour of Nadav's lifetime of work, and included presentations from Oded Lipschits (Tel Aviv University), Ehud Ben Zvi (University of Alberta), Konrad Schmid (Universität Zürich),

Michael Jursa (Universität Wien), Anne Caubet (École du Louvre), Ido Koch (Tel Aviv University), Israel Finkelstein (Tel Aviv University), Thomas Römer (Collège de France and University of Lausanne), and Shuichi Hasegawa (立教大学 Rikkyo University). Naturally, attendees also heard from the honoree himself, Nadav Na'aman (Tel Aviv University). The session was a rare and special opportunity for a range of Nadav's past students to honour their teacher, and for scholars across the world to celebrate his lasting contribution to scholarship.



The speakers from the celebratory session in honour of Nadav Na'aman (Photo provided by Ido Koch)

# Yahudu Seminar

Shai Gordin

November 28, 2018

The second Yahudu seminar organised by Wayne Horowitz and Shai Gordin was held at Tel Aviv University on the 28th of November 2018. The aim of the monthly gathering is to consider the important corpus written in Akkadian from the town of Yahudu, “Jerusalem” in Babylonia, which deals with the lives of exiled Judeans and their neighbours on Babylonian soil. In general, it seeks to discuss the lives

of foreigners in the Ancient Near East and the interactions and integration patterns of different communities across the ancient world. The seminar attracted participation from both Israel and abroad (via Skype). The November meeting held in Tel Aviv featured Shai Gordin and Ran Zadok, who presented their current research on rural archives in the Babylonian setting during “Achaemenid domination”.

# Artist Einat Peled and Her “Bucket Line”

Alexandra Wrathall

This past summer (July–August), artist Einat Peled joined the excavation team at Tel Azekah as research for her latest exhibition. The team at Tel Azekah were delighted to host Einat, as she spent the week moving between different areas and capturing daily life. It was a rare and special opportunity for excavators to see some of Einat’s work in progress, and view archaeology through the eyes of the artist. While observing area’s of excavation and pottery wash, Einat astutely noticed the central role of buckets to routine excavation. As such, it should be unsurprising that Einat’s final exhibition of her summer works is titled “Bucket Line.”

This past November, The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology was delighted to host one of the early shows of Einat’s final collection. The exhibition was a part of Tel Aviv Illustration Week 2018, and later was also shown at the Geological Museum in Ramat Hasharon. The exhibition

included drawings from Tel Azekah, created via direct observation, and an additional 50 works that were created later that show a day of work from sunrise to pottery wash. Students, scholars, and excavators appreciated the occasion to enjoy the dynamic and diverse nature of the exhibition, and recognise familiar places, people, and activities.

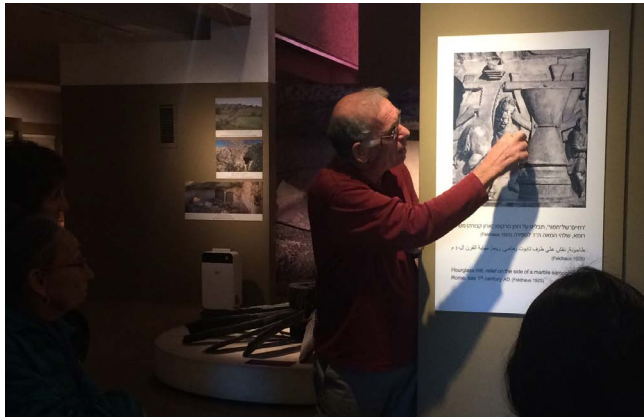
To discover more about Einat’s work, head online to [www.einatpeled.com](http://www.einatpeled.com), or Instagram @[einat.peled](https://www.instagram.com/einat.peled)



# International Women's Club: Archaeology Lectures

The theme of the 2018 Lecture Series is: **Tel-Aviv and the Surroundings**.

During the semester break (February 2019) the IWC will present four lectures (January 15–February 5) that address differing topics related to the theme of Ancient Religions. Following this, the series will continue to explore the surroundings of Israel during the ancient periods.



The group from the IWC enjoying a tour the Bible Lands Museum, led by Dr. Eythan Ayalon (Photo provided by Noa Ranzer)

The second semester will continue with the annual theme, and attendees will hear from: Alexander Fantalkin, Aviad Agam, Bar Efrati, Amir Golani, Yiftah Shalev and many more. The IWC will also offer four tours in the region of Tel-Aviv. People are most welcome to join the program or to take part in some of the lectures and tours.

Lectures take place in Gilman Building, Room 282, at 9:00 AM. Registration for the entire semester is available before the first lecture, March 5, 2019. Alternatively, it is possible to subscribe to each lecture individually.

For further information please visit our website, [www.iwcarchaeology.com](http://www.iwcarchaeology.com)

Coordinator: Noa Ranzer

Contact: 054-5906573, noarantz@gmail.com

Registration for the semester: 8am, Tuesday March 5, 2019

Location: Gilman Building, Room 282, Tel Aviv University

Lectures: 9:00–11:30 (with a half-hour break)

Semester Price: 400 NIS (individual) or 750 NIS (per couple)

Cost for a single lecture: 50 NIS

## March 2018

### Summer Semester Theme: Tel Aviv and the Surroundings

Date	Lecturer	Title
05/03/19	Alexander Fantalkin	Archaeology of Tel Aviv during the Iron Age: Re-discovering the Iron Age Fortress at Tell Qudadi at the Mouth of the Yarkon River.
12/03/19	Ido Koch	The Yarkon/Ayalon Basin and the Assyrian Colonialism
19/03/19	Oren Tal	Apollonia-Arsuf: The Site, its Hinterland, and Greater Periphery
26/03/19	Amir Golani	Beyond Just Pretty Objects: Jewelry's Significance in the Ancient Near East
02/04/19	Yiftah Shalev	From Tyrian Dor to Sidonian Ashkelon: Southern Phoenicia during the Persian Period
09/04/19	Election Day (No Lecture)	N/A
16/04/19	TBA	TBA
30/04/19	Assaf Kleiman	Aphek in the Sharon and Israel's Expansion into the Central Coastal Plain.
07/05/19	Yoram Haimi	TBA
14/05/19	Aviad Agam	Watching the River Flow: Acheulian Lifeways and Decision-Making at Late Acheulian Jaljulia (Israel)
21/05/19	Bar Efrati	Greater Than the Sum of its Parts: A Review of the Late Lower Palaeolithic Site of Qesem Cave, Central Israel (420-200,000 BP)
28/05/19	Amnon Bar Or	"To Forget Erases Nothing" Preserving Jaffa: A Toolbox for Conservation in Jaffa Creates Memory Disorder
04/06/19	Vladimir Avrutis	"His eyes shall be red with wine..." A Thousand Years of Winemaking in Holy Land
11/06/19	TBA	TBA

# Upcoming Events

## The Annual Aharoni Symposium

February 21, 2019

Language: Hebrew

Location: Room 223, Gilman Building, Tel Aviv University

Organizers: Prof. Yuval Gadot and Prof. Oded Lipschits



## Conferences Abroad, 2018

Name	Location	Conference/Workshop	Date	Contribution
Ella Assaf	Paris, France	XVIII World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: Learning to Knap by the Fire-place: Identifying Knowledge Transmission Mechanisms through Techno-spatial Analyses at Middle Pleistocene Qesem Cave (Assaf E., Efrati B., Barkai R. and Gopher A.)
	Turin, Italy	NeanderART 2018	August	Presentation Title: The Colorful World of the Qesem Cave Inhabitants: On Flint Pebbles and their Significance in the Levantine Lower Paleolithic (Assaf E.)
	Turin, Italy	NeanderART 2018	August	Session Title: On Colorful Stones and Animal Bones: Human Selection, Collection and Use of Exceptional Materials for Tool Making in the Palaeolithic (Assaf E. and Romagnoli F)
Aviad Agam	Paris, France	XVIII World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: The peculiar presence of handaxes at Acheulo-Yabrudian Qesem Cave, Israel: A Geoarchaeological Perspective (Agam A., Wilson L., Barkai R. and Gopher A.)
Miki Ben-Dor	Rome, Italy	1 <sup>st</sup> International Conference "Dogs Past and Present - an Interdisciplinary Perspective"	November	Presentation Title: Who Domesticated Wolves at the End of the Pleistocene?
Bar Efrati	Tel Aviv, Israel	Objects, Senses and Eternal Life	May	Presentation Title: Objets Trouvés and concepts of Readymade in the Palaeolithic Period (Efrati B.)
	Paris, France	XVIII World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: The Story of Colorful 'Old' Flaked Items: Collecting and Using Fully Patinated Flaked Items at Qesem Cave, Israel (Efrati B., Parush Y., Gopher A. and Barkai R.)
	Turin, Italy	NeanderART 2018	August	Presentation Title: Found Objects before the Readymade: Selecting and Collecting Fully Patinated Colorful Blanks for Scraper Shaping at Lower Palaeolithic Qesem Cave, Israel (Efrati B.)
	Catalunya, Spain	Excavations in the Toll-Teixoneres Caves (Middle Palaeolithic)	August	Volunteer
	Paris, France	Excavation at Ormesson (Middle-Upper Palaeolithic)	August – September	Volunteer
Erin Hall	Denver, USA	ASOR 2018 Annual Meeting	November	Presentation Title: "Middle Bronze and 'Solomonic' Gates at Megiddo"
	Denver, USA	Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)	November	"The Archaeology of Sanctuaries in Ancient Israel and the Concept of Cult Centralization"



Name	Location	Conference/Workshop	Date	Contribution
Eli Itkin	Denver, USA	ASOR 2018 Annual Meeting	November	Presentation Title: Horvat Tov: A View on Judah's Southern Frontier in the Seventh Century B.C.E
Yafit Keder	Paris, France	XVIIIe World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: Where There's Fire, There's Smoke: Reconsidering Air Circulation and Hearth Location at Paleolithic Cave Sites. (Kedar Y. and Barkai R.)
Shua Kisilevitz	Denver, USA	ASOR 2018 Annual Meeting	November	Presentation Title: Considerations on the Study of Cult near Jerusalem: A View from Tel Moza
Assaf Kleiman	Leipzig, Germany	Writing and Re-writing History through Destruction	May	Presentation Title: Destruction, Memory and Political Transformations in Iron Age Hazor
	Leipzig, Germany	Palace-Clan Relations in their Ancient Near Eastern Context	November	Presentation Title: Storage Jars, Inscriptions and Stamp Impressions: An Archaeological Perspective on Palace-Clan Relations in the Kingdom of Israel
Sabine Kleiman	Munich, Germany	11th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität,	April	'Disaster in Context. Investigating a Late Bronze Destruction Layer at Tel Azekah'
	Mainz, Germany	'Temples, Synagogues, Churches and Mosques. Sacred Architecture in Palestine from the Bronze Age to Medieval Times. Scientific Conference of the German Society for the Exploration of Ancient Palestine Including Lectures on Recent Excavation Projects' Erbacher Hof	November-December	"Development and Change of Sacred Architecture. Cult Practices in the Late Bronze and Iron Age Southern Levant"
Flavia Marinelli	Nice, France	"Beyond Use-wear Traces: About Tools and People" AWRANA Meeting 2018	May – June	Poster Title: Small Tools within Mode 2 Technology in the Lower Palaeolithic of Italy: Use-wear Analysis of the Chipped Stone Tools Assemblage of the Latium Site of Fontana Ranuccio (Italy) (Marinelli F., Lemorini C., Zampetti D. and Parenti F.)
	Paris, France	XVIIIe World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: Small Tools within Mode 2 Technology in the Lower Palaeolithic of Italy: Use-wear Analysis of the Chipped Stone Tools Assemblage of the Latium Site of Fontana Ranuccio (Italy) (Marinelli F., Lemorini C., Zampetti, D. and Parenti F.)
Yoni Parush	Paris, France	XVIIIe World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: The Story of Colorful 'Old' Flaked Items: Collecting and Using Fully Patinated Flaked Items at Qesem Cave, Israel (Efrati B., Parush Y., Gopher A. and Barkai R.)
	Paris France	XVIIIe World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: The Significance of Small Flakes Production at Qesem Cave (Israel) through a Techno-typological, Functional and Chemical Analysis (Parush Y., Venditti F., Gopher A. and Barkai R.)
Tamar Rosenberg Yefet	Paris, France	XVIIIe World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: Acheulian Shortcuts and the Use of Handaxes to Produce Predetermined Items: Two Case Studies from Late Acheulian Revadim and Jaljulia (Israel) (Rosenberg-Yefet T., Shemer M. and Barkai R.)
	Arizona, USA	Cultural Evolution Conference	October	Presentation Title: Where can We Draw the Line between Individual Learning and Cultural Transmission: The Case of the Levantine Lower Paleolithic Levallois Method (Rosenberg-Yefet T., Barkai R. and Lamm E.)
Helena Roth	Prague, Czech Republic	Pots and People? A Story of Identity	December	Lecture Title: Mobile Communities and Urban Societies in the Southern Levant during the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Millennia B.C
	Prague, Czech Republic	Pots and People? A Story of Identity	December	Lecture Title: Understanding the Rise of Jerusalem - Ceramic Studies and Spatial Analyses of Nahal Rephaim
Débora Sandhaus	Boston, USA	AIA and SCS Joint Annual Meeting	January	Presentation Title: Decoding Behavioral Patterns through Material Culture: The Local Reaction to Hellenic Ideas in 2nd Century Israel's Lower Shephelah
	Milano, Italy	The Enoch Seminar	June	Presentation Title: Drawing Borders in the Fringe, The Central and Southern Shephelah during the third and Second Centuries BCE
Natalya Solodenko	Nice, France	"Beyond Use-wear Traces: About Tools and People" AWRANA Meeting 2018	May-June	Poster Title: Late Lower Palaeolithic Tools in Action: Preliminary Results of Amudian Assemblage from Qesem Cave, Israel (Solodenko N.)

Name	Location	Conference/Workshop	Date	Contribution
Abra Spiciarich	Ankara, Turkey	International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ)	September	Paper Title: Reassessing Zooarchaeology's Approach to the Biblical Foodways and Taboos
	Denver, USA	Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)	November	Presentation Title: Three Years Chewing the Cud: Historical, Archaeological, and Literary Reflections on the Dietary Prohibitions of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14
	Denver, USA	Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)	November	Paper Title: Animals' Economic Role in the Temple and Market as Reflected in Zooarchaeology and the Bible
	Denver, USA	ASOR 2018 Annual Meeting	November	Paper Title: Birds in Transition: Bird Exploitation during the Late Bronze, Iron I, and Iron II
Flavia Venditti	Nice, France	"Beyond Use-wear Traces: About Tools and People" AWRANA Meeting 2018	May – June	Poster Title: A Ready-to-use Small Cutlery Toolkit: Planned and Integrated Subsistence Behaviour at Qesem Cave (Israel) (Venditti F., Barkai R. and Gopher A.)
	Paris, France	XVIII World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: The Significance of Small Flakes Production at Qesem Cave (Israel) through a Techno-typological, Functional and Chemical Analysis (Parush Y., Venditti F., Gopher A. and Barkai R.)
	Paris, France	XVIII World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Poster Title: Understanding the Function of Small Flakes from Late Acheulean Revadim, Israel (Venditti F., Aviad A. and Barkai R.)
	Paris, France	The XVIII World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Session Title: Small Tools Big Problems. Production, Action and Function of Small Tools through Prehistory (Rocca R., Bourguignon L., Aureli D., Da Costa A. and Venditti F.)
	Jerusalem, Israel	The Annual Meeting of The Israel Prehistoric Society	November	Presentation Title: A Functional Study of Small Flakes Produced by Means of Lithic Recycling from Late Acheulean Revadim, Israel (Venditti F.)
Omer Ze'evi	Denver, USA	ASOR 2018 Annual Meeting	November	Presentation Title: Imitation vs. Entanglement: The View from Tel Beth Shemesh
Andrea Zupancich	Nice, France	"Beyond Use-wear Traces: About Tools and People" AWRANA Meeting 2018	May - June	Presentation Title: Quina Scrapers' Edge Delineation as Evidence of Adaptation and Specialisation in the Levantine Acheulo Yabrudian and European Middle Palaeolithic (Zupancich A., Bourguignon L., Lemorini C., Texier P.-J., Baena J., Barkai R. and Gopher A.)
	Paris, France	XVIII World Congress of the UISPP 2018: Exploring the World's Prehistory	June	Presentation Title: On the Use of Levantine Acheulean Bifaces: A View from Revadim Quarry and Jaljulia (Israel) (Zupancich A., Shemer M. and Barkai R.)
	Catalunya, Spain	The 24 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 2018 "Reflecting Futures"	September	Session Title: "The Head and The Hand": Skills, Learning and Knowledge in Prehistoric Productions (Forte V. and Zupancich A.)

# PUBLICATIONS

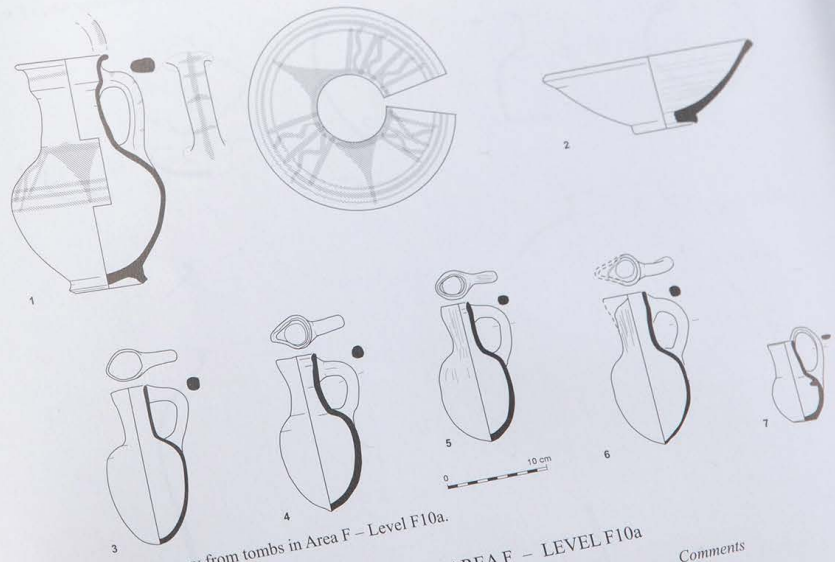
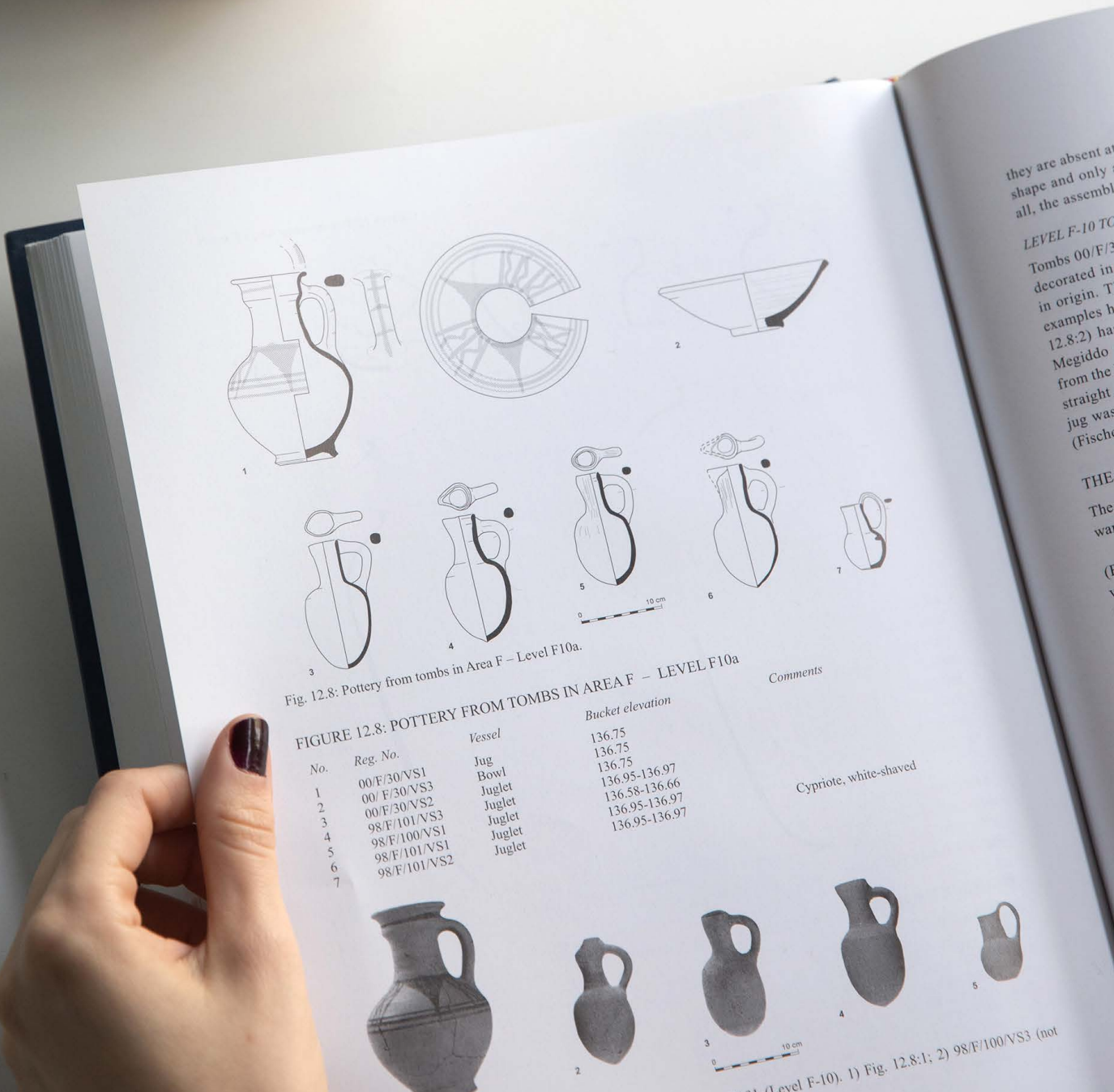


Fig. 12.8: Pottery from tombs in Area F – Level F10a.

**FIGURE 12.8: POTTERY FROM TOMBS IN AREA F – LEVEL F10a**

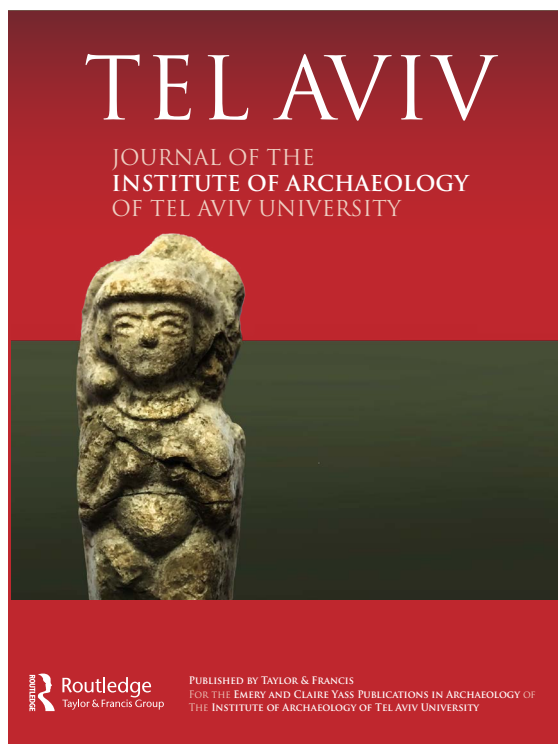
No.	Reg. No.	Vessel	Bucket elevation
1	00/F/30/VS1	Jug	136.75
2	00/F/30/VS3	Bowl	136.75
3	00/F/30/VS2	Juglet	136.75
4	98/F/101/VS3	Juglet	136.95-136.97
5	98/F/100/VS1	Juglet	136.58-136.66
6	98/F/101/VS1	Juglet	136.95-136.97
7	98/F/101/VS2	Juglet	136.95-136.97

Comments  
Cypriote, white-shaved



## Tel Aviv:

Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University



Volume 45, Number 2, 2018

Aniconism and Theophoric Names in Inscribed Seals from Judah, Israel and Neighbouring Kingdoms

Mitka R. Golub

Small Flake Acheulian: Further Insights into Lithic Recycling at Late Acheulian Revadim, Israel

Aviad Agam and Ran Barkai

The Fortification Wall of Tel Erani: A Labour Perspective

Omer Shalev

Was the Egyptianized Pottery Cache from Megiddo a Foundation Deposit of Megaron Temple 4040? Response to Matthew J. Adams

David Ussishkin

Notes on the Megiddo Glass Figurine in the Istanbul Archaeology Museums

Gonca Dardeniz

Early Iron Age Tombs in Northern Israel Revisited

Gunnar Lehmann and Oz Varoner

Interregional Trade in the Roman Period: A Diachronic Study of Common Kitchen Ware from Hippos of the Decapolis

Mecheal Osband and Michael Eisenberg

Tel Aviv is available online at:

[www.tandfonline.com/loi/ytav](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ytav)

## Faculty Publications: May–December, 2018

### Nebuchadnezzar: History, Archaeology, and Memory

Yoram Cohen



## Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel

1  
Volume 7  
2018

### Nebuchadnezzar: History, Archeology, and Memory

Yoram Cohen  
Editorial

**Jonathan Ben-Dov**

Nebuchadnezzar: Seeing Twice Double in Babylonia and the Levant

**Rocio Da Riva**

Neo-Babylonian Rock-cut Monuments and Ritual Performance. The Rock Reliefs of Nebuchadnezzar II in Brisa Revisited

**Michael Jursa and Shai Gordin**

The Ousting of the Nūr-Sins. Micro-historical Evidence for State-Building at the Neo-Babylonian Empire's "Augustan Threshold" during the Reign of Nebuchadnezzar

**Dan'el Kahn**

Nebuchadnezzar and Egypt: An Update on the Egyptian Monuments

**Daniel M. Master**

Nebuchadnezzar at Ashkelon

**David S. Vanderhooft**

"Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, My Servant": Contrasting Prophetic Images of the Great King

**Ran Zadok**

People from Countries West and North of Babylonia in Babylon during the Reign of Nebuchadnezzar II

This issue of *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* is dedicated to the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar II (602–562 BCE). It contains seven papers by Jonathan Ben-Dov, Rocio Da Riva, Michael Jursa and Shai Gordin, Dan'el Kahn, Daniel Master, David Vanderhooft and Ran Zadok. The papers deal with the man and his deeds as documented in contemporaneous records, monuments, inscriptions and archaeological remains, and as reflected in later sources. The papers are concerned with the actuality and the aftermath of Nebuchadnezzar's campaigns to the West and the political, social, and ideological structuring of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.

Each paper of this volume treats one or several aspects of Nebuchadnezzar's impact on the ancient Near East from the beginning of his reign and beyond. When considered together, they are to be viewed as a substantial contribution to our understanding of a watershed-event in the history of ancient Israel, and a renewed appreciation of one of the momentous periods in the ancient Near East.

These papers were delivered at a symposium entitled, 'Nebuchadnezzar: History, Archaeology, and Memory' held at Tel Aviv University on 27 April 2017, under the auspices of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology and the Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures. Yoram Cohen and Oded Lipschits organized the symposium.

- Agam, A., Barkai, R. 2018. Elephant and Mammoth Hunting During the Paleolithic: A Review of the Relevant Archaeological, Ethnographic and Ethno-Historical Records. *Quaternary* 1/1: 3.
- Agam, A., Barkai, R. 2018. Small Flake Acheulian: Further Insights into Systematic Lithic Recycling at Late Acheulian Revadim, Israel. *Tel Aviv* 45/2: 170–192.
- Agam, A., Wilson, L. 2018 accepted. Blind Test Evaluation of Consistency in Macroscopic Lithic Raw Material Sorting. *Geoarchaeology*.
- Ashkenazi, D., Gitler, H., Stern, A. and Tal, O. 2018. Archaeometallurgical Characterization and Manufacturing Technologies of Fourth Century BCE Silver Jewelry: The Samaria and Nablus Hoards as Test Case. *Metallography, Microstructure, and Analysis* 7/4: 387–413; DOI: 10.1007/s13632-018-0454-1.
- Barkay, G., Tal, O., and Fantalkin, A. 2018. Towards the Identification of Nob: A Biblical Priestly Town. *Eretz Israel* 33 (Staiger Volume): 92–97 (Hebrew with English Summary).
- Cohen, Y. 2018. An Old Babylonian List of Sheep Body-parts (BM 29663). In: Panayotov, S.V.; L. Vacín., eds., *Mesopotamian Medicine and Magic. Studies in Honor of Markham J. Geller*. Leiden/Boston: 131–148.
- Cohen, Y., and Anor, N. 2018. The Oil Omens from Hattuša: An Investigation of the History and Transmission of a Babylonian Divination Compendium. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 77: 195–206.
- Davidovich, U., Ullman, M., Langford, B., Frumkin, A., Langgut, D., Yahalom-Mack, N., Abramov, J., and Marom, N. 2018. Distancing the Dead: Late Chalcolithic Burials in Large Maze Caves in the Negev Desert, Israel. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 379: 113–152.
- Dunseth, Z., Finkelstein, I., and Shahack-Gross, R. 2018. Intermediate Bronze Age Subsistence Practices in the Negev Highlands, Israel: Macro- and Microarchaeological Results from the Sites of Ein Ziq and Nahal Boqer 66. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 19: 712–726.
- Fantalkin, A. 2018. Neo-Assyrian Involvement in the Southern Coastal Plain of Israel: Old Concepts and New Interpretations. In: Faust, A. and Zelig Aster, S., eds. *The Southern Levant under Assyrian Domination*. Winona Lake: 162–185.
- Finkelstein, I. 2018. *Hasmonean Realities behind Ezra, Nehemiah and Chronicles: Archaeological and Historical Perspectives*. Atlanta
- Finkelstein, I., Adams, M. J., Dunseth, Z. C., and Shahack-Gross, R. 2018. The Archaeology and History of the Negev and Neighboring Areas in the Third Millennium BCE: A New Paradigm. *Tel Aviv* 45: 63–88.
- Finkelstein, I., and Langgut, D. 2018. Climate, Settlement History and Olive Cultivation in the Iron Age Southern Levant. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 379: 153–169.
- Finkelstein, I., and Romer, T. 2018. *Aux Origins de la Torah: Nouvelles Rencontres, Nouvelles Perspectives*. Paris.
- Finkelstein, I., Romer, T., Nicolle, C., Dunseth, Z.C., Kleiman, A., Mas, J., and Porat, N. 2018. Excavations at Kiriath-Jearim Near Jerusalem, 2017: Preliminary Report. *Semitica* 60: 31–83.
- Gadot, Y., and Bocher, E. 2018. The Introduction of the “Open-Courtyard Building” to the Jerusalem Landscape and Judean-Assyrian interaction. In: Farber Z. I. and Wright, L. J., eds. *Archaeology and History of Eight-Century Judah*. Atlanta: 205–228.
- Gadot, Y., Elgart-Sharon, Y., Ben-Melech, N., Davidovich, U., Avni, G., Avni, Y., and Porat, N. 2018. OSL Dating of Terraced and Pre-Terraced Landscape: Land Transformation in Jerusalem’s Rural Hinterland. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 21: 575–583.
- Gadot, Y., Kleiman, S., and Lipschits, O. 2018. A Tale of Two Cities: Tel Azekah and Tel es-Safi/Gat during the Late Bronze Age. In: Shai, I., Chadwick, J.R., Hitchcock, L., Dagan, A., McKinny, C., and Uziel, J., eds. *Tell it in Gath. Studies in the History and Archaeology of Israel Essays in Honor of Aren M. Maeir on the Occasion of his Sixtieth Birthday*. (Ägypten und Altes Testament 90). Münster: 206–222.
- Gilan, A. 2018. The Ewe that was a Scapegoat Bride: A New Look at The Hittite Bestiality Purification Ritual KUB 41, 11+. *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* 108: 226–234.
- Gilan, A. (in print). The Hittites and Their Past – Forms of Historical Consciousness in Hittite Anatolia. In: Baines, J., van der Bloom, H., Chen, Y., and Rood, T., eds. *Historical Consciousness and the Use of the Past in the Ancient World*. Sheffield.
- Gilan, A. (in print). Religious Convergence in Hittite Anatolia – The Case of Kizzuwatna. In: Collins, B.J., and Blakely, S., eds. *Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean* (Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religions 2). Atlanta.
- Hunt, L., Martin, M.A.S., Finkelstein, I., and Weiner, S. 2018. A Powder Preparation Kit from the Middle Bronze Age at Megiddo, Israel: Tools and Raw Materials. *JAS Reports* 21: 667–678.
- Junge, A., Lomax, J., Shahack-Gross, R., Finkelstein, I., and Fuchs, M. 2018. Chronology of an Ancient Water Reservoir and the History of Human Activity in the Negev Highlands, Israel. *Geoarchaeology* 33: 695–707.
- Kleiman, A., and Finkelstein, I. 2018. The Date of Building 338 at Megiddo: Eppur Si Muove! *Israel Exploration Journal* 68: 50–55.
- Koch, I. 2018. *The Shadow of Egypt: Colonial Encounters in Southwest Canaan During the Late Bronze and the Early Iron Age*. Jerusalem (Hebrew).
- Koch, I. 2018. The Egyptian–Canaanite Interface as Colonial Encounter: A View from Southwest Canaan. *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 18: 24–39.
- Koch, I. 2018. Introductory Framework for Assyrian–Levantine Colonial Encounters. *Semitica* 60: 367–397.
- Koch, I. 2018. A New Look at Late Iron Age Glyptics from Judah and Jerusalem. In: Uziel, J., Gadot, Y., Zelig, O., Peleg–Barkat, O. and Gutfeld, O., eds. *New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and its Region* (Collected Papers) Vol. XII Jerusalem: 29–46 (Hebrew).

- Koch, I. 2018. Late Iron Age I Southwestern Canaanite Multi-Facet Stamp-Amulets: Innovative Imagery and Interpreted Egyptian Heritage. In: Shai, I., Chadwick, J.R., Hitchcock, L., Dagan, A., McKinny, C. and Uziel, J. eds. *Tell it in Gath: Studies in the History and Archaeology of Israel Essays in Honor of Aren M. Maeir on the Occasion of his Sixtieth Birthday* (Ägypten und Altes Testament 90). Münster: 632–652.
- Koch, I. and Sapir-Hen, L. 2018. Beersheba–Arad Valley during the Assyrian Period. *Semitica* 60: 431–456.
- Langgut, D. 2018. Late Quaternary Nile Flows as Recorded in the Levantine Basin: The Palynological Evidence. *Quaternary International* 464: 273–284.
- Langgut, D. 2018. A Review on a Special Issue of Quaternary Science Reviews (2016, Volume 136, Elsevier, 256p.): “Mediterranean Holocene Climate, Environment and Human Societies”. *Mediterranean Historical Review* 33: 128–131.
- Langgut D., Almogi-Labin A., Bar-Matthews M., Pickarski N., and Weinstein-Evron M. In Press. Evidence for a humid interval at ~56–44 ka in the Levant and its Potential Link to Modern Humans Dispersal out of Africa. *Journal of Human Evolution* 124: 75–90.
- Lipschits, O. 2018. *The Age of Empires: History and Administration in Judah in Light of the Stamped Jar Handles (Between the 8th and the 2nd Centuries BCE)*. Jerusalem (Hebrew).
- Lipschits, O. 2018. Abraham zwischen Mamre und Jerusalem. In: Brett, M., and Wöhrle, J., eds. *The Politics of the Ancestors. Exegetical and Historical Perspectives on Genesis 12–36 (FAT)*. Tübingen.
- Lipschits, O. 2018. Was ist falsch an einer Ehe mit der Tochter von Barsillai, dem Gileaditer? Eine Studie zur Polemik gegen die Familie von Hakkoz in Esra und Nehemia. In: Oeming, M., ed. *Ahavah – Die Liebe Gottes im Alten Testament*. Heidelberg: 195–212.
- Lipschits, O. 2018. The Changing Faces of Kingship in Judah under Assyrian Rule. In: Gianto, A. and Dubovský, P., eds. *Changing Faces of Kingship in Syria-Palestine 1500–500 BCE (AOAT 459)*. Münster: 116–138.
- Lipschits, O. 2018. Judah under Assyrian Rule and the Early Phase of Stamping Jar Handles. In: Wright, J. and Farber, Z., eds. *Archaeology and History of Eighth Century Judah (Borowski Volume)*. Atlanta: 337–355.
- Lipschits, O., Gadot, Y., and Oeming, M. 2018. Five Seasons of Excavations at Tel Azekah: Expectations, Finds and Surprises. *Qadmoniot* 156: 84–99 (Hebrew).
- McKinny, C., Schwartz, O., Barkay, G., Fantalkin, A., and Zissu, B. 2018. Kiriath-Jearim (Deir el-‘Azar): Archaeological Investigations of a Biblical Town in the Judean Hill Country. *Israel Exploration Journal* 68: 30–49.
- Mizrahi, S., Freud, L., Gellman, D. and Gadot, Y. 2018. What Kind of Village is This?: Structures and Agricultural Activity in Northwestern Jerusalem in the Seventh Century BCE. In: Uziel, J., Gadot, Y., Zelinger, O., Peleg–Barkat, O. and Gutfeld, O., eds. *New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and its Region (Collected Papers) Vol. XII* Jerusalem: 191–213. (Hebrew)
- Munro, N.D., Bar-Oz, G., Meier, J., Sapir-Hen, L., Stiner, M., Yeshurun, R. 2018. The Evolution of Animal Domestication in the Southern Levant. *Scientific Reports* 8:9279; DOI:10.1038/s41598-018-27647-z.
- Parush, Y., Yerkes, R., Efrati, B., Barkai, R. and Gopher, A. 2018 accepted. Recycling in the Neolithic and Early Bronze age: evidence of flint recycling at Ein-Zippori, Israel. *Journal of Lithic Studies*.
- Porat, N., López, G.I., Lensky, N., Elinson, R., Avni, Y., Elgart-Sharon, Y., Faershtein, G., and Gadot, Y. 2019. Using Portable OSL Reader to Obtain a Time Scale for Soil Accumulation and Erosion in Archaeological Terraces, the Judean Highlands, Israel. *Quaternary Geochronology* 49: 65–70.
- Schechter, H., Zutovski, K., Agam, A., Wilson, L. and Gopher, A. 2018. Refitting Bifacial Production Waste – the Case of the Late Pottery Neolithic Refuse Pit from Ein Zippori, Israel. *Lithic Technology* 43/4: 228–244.
- Shahack-Gross, R., Shaar, R., Hassul, E., Ebert, Y., Forget, M., Nowaczyk, N., Marco, S., Finkelstein, I., and Agnon, A. 2018. Fire and Collapse: Untangling the Formation of Destruction Layers Using Archaeomagnetism. *Geoarchaeology* 33: 513–528.
- Shaus, A., Sober, O., Tzang, Z., Ioffe, O., Cheshnovsky, I., Finkelstein, I., and E. Piasetzky. 2018. Raman Mapping of Biblical Period Ostraca: Bypassing the Ink Composition Analysis. *Archaeometry*.
- Sweeney, D. 2018. Cattle at Deir el-Medīna. In: A. Dorn and S.Polis, eds. *Outside the Box. Selected Papers from the Conference “Deir el-Medina and the Theban Necropolis in Contact.”* Liège: 447–464.
- Sweeney, D. 2018. Keeping Goats, (Sheep?), and Pigs at Deir el-Medīna. *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 54: 77–90.
- Sweeney, D., Herrmann, C., Koch, I., Gadot, Y., Oeming, M., and Lipschits, O. 2018. A Triad Amulet from Tel Azekah. *Israel Exploration Journal* 68: 129–149.
- Tal, O. and Roll, I. 2018. The Roman Villa at Apollonia (Israel). In: Métraux, G. P. R. and Marzano, A., eds. *The Roman Villa in the Mediterranean Basin*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 308–316; DOI: 10.1017/9781316687147.019.
- Uziel, J., Gadot, Y., Zelinger, O., Peleg–Barkat, O., and Gutfeld, O. 2018. Eds. *New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and its Region (Collected Papers) Vol. XII*. (Hebrew)
- Vunsh, R., Tal, O. Yechieli, Y. Dean, S., Levanon, E. and Sivan, D. 2018. Evaluating Ancient Coastal Wells as Sea-Level Indicators from the Coast of Israel. *Geoarchaeology* 33/4: 403–416; DOI: 10.1002/gea.21663.
- Yerkes, R.W., Parush, Y., Barkai, R., and Gopher, A. accepted. Microwear Analysis of 69 recycled flakes from the Ein-Zippori site, Lower Galilee, Israel. *Journal of Lithic Studies*.
- Zupancich, A., Solodenko, N., Rosenberg-Yefet, T., and Barkai, R. 2018. On the Function of Late Acheulean Stone Tools: New Data from Three Specific Archaeological Contexts at the Lower Palaeolithic Site of Revadim, Israel. *Lithic Technology* 43/4: 255–268.

## TAU ARCHAEOLOGY

The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

Number 5 | Winter 2019



**TEL AVIV** אוניברסיטת  
**UNIVERSITY** תל אביב

ISSN: 2521-0971 | EISSN: 252-098X