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האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
الجامعة العبرية في اورشليم القدس



The Swiss Center  
for Conflict Research

**New Frontiers in Conflict Resolution Research:  
Presenting New Research of Truman Institute Doctoral  
and Postdoctoral Fellows and of the Swiss Center**

# **Abstract Booklet**

**A Joint Conference and Workshop Conducted by the Truman  
Institute for the Advancement of Peace and the Swiss Center  
and Program for Conflict Research, Management and  
Resolution**

May 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 | The Truman Institute | The Hebrew University |  
Mount Scopus, Jerusalem

Edited by Clara Fuhg, Events Coordinator, The Truman Institute

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The conference will be held in English

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The workshop will be held in English

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## Conference – May 22<sup>nd</sup>

New Frontiers in Conflict Resolution Research: Presenting New Research of Truman Institute Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows and of the Swiss Center

**First Panel:** Novel Approaches to Conflict and Conflict Resolution

**Panel Chair:** Prof. Dan Miodownik, Department of Political Science, Hebrew University

**Bio:** Prof. Dan Miodownik is an associate professor in the Departments of Political Science and International Relations and the associate dean for research in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University. He studies the dynamics of conflict processes, particularly the violent manifestations of group mobilization, protest behavior, and ethnic polarization in national as well as urban settings.

**Title:** *Interlocking Peace Processes: Between Competing and Completing Peacemaking in Interlinked Conflicts*

**Speaker:** Dr. Lior Lehrs, The Swiss Center for Conflict Resolution

**Bio:** Lior Lehrs is a senior lecturer in the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution and in the Department of International Relations at the Hebrew University. His research topics include theory and history of conflicts, peace, diplomacy and foreign policy. He has published articles in journals such as *International Affairs*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *Cooperation and Conflict*, and his book *Unofficial Peace Diplomacy* was published in 2022 by Manchester University Press.

**Abstract:** What is the dialectical influence between interlocking peace processes? The scholarship in the field of conflict analysis has identified the occurrence of “interlocking conflicts” – namely, linked conflicts that affect each other – but less attention has been drawn to the linkages between efforts to resolve them. The article focuses on the phenomenon of “interlocking peace processes,” in which parallel peacemaking efforts take place among interlinked conflicts. This article examines how progress in one peace process can influence an interlocking process, and the conditions under which a breakthrough in one process can trigger progress in a parallel process or undermine its advancement. It offers a theoretical framework for the analysis of interlocking peace processes, outlining three main arguments, which rest on three influence patterns: complementing peace processes, competing peace processes, and a

paving-the-way peace process. The discussion considers how the mechanisms of diffusion, identity formation, and legitimization serve as dominant tools in these processes. The article uses the interlocking peace processes in the Arab-Israeli conflict as a case study, examining the relations between four processes in the Middle East: the Israeli-Egyptian, Israeli-Palestinian, Israeli-Jordanian, and Israeli-Syrian peace processes.

**Title:** *Mediation in the New War Era: Traditional Mediation or “Mediation Plus (+)”?*

**Speaker:** **Dr. Yuval Benziman**, The Swiss Center for Conflict Resolution

**Bio:** Yuval Benziman is a senior lecturer at the Program of Conflict Resolution, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the holder of the Katia & Hans Guth-Dreyfus lectureship for conflict resolution and the law. His fields of study include the theory of official negotiations and track two negotiations and their practices in the Israeli-Palestinian context, cultural studies and the way the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is represented in Israeli culture, narratives and framing of conflicts by leaders, and more.

**Abstract:** The study of negotiations traditionally offers the following typology: negotiation is the process in which two parties talk directly with one another; mediation is the process that involves a third party which assists the sides to negotiate; and arbitration is the process in which a third party decides for the sides how negotiation will end. Mediation, therefore, is supposedly a process in which the third party does not decide how the conflict will end, does not affiliate with one of the sides, but serves as a facilitator who helps the sides to resolve their dispute.

In practice, there are situations in which the third-party mediator has a double role: on one hand she assists the sides to negotiate, but at the same time negotiates on behalf of one of them (or both). Such situations can occur in different conflicts, but are mostly observed in two kinds of cases that are currently seen more than they were in the past: when the sides are reluctant to even talk with one another and therefore the third-party-mediator negotiates on behalf of one of them (for example, when one of the sides is a terror organization); and when conflicting sides are not official entities, in the “new war” era, and therefore it is harder to have official agreed-upon representatives at the negotiation table and as a result third parties have an extended role.

Such is the case, for example, in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in which one of the Israeli ministers declared that “We are not talking with Hamas. We are negotiating with Egypt. They serve as mediators” and by that framed the Egyptians both as a side to the negotiation table and a mediator at the same time. Likewise, the Qatari envoy to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was quoted saying “We have reached agreements with Israel in the issues of electricity and the sea lane”, a statement from which it can be construed that while being a mediator he was also a side in the negotiations – a representative of the Palestinians.

One of the most important roles of mediators is to allow communication between the opposing sides. But the cases which I refer to are ones in which third parties do not only deliver messages, assist the sides to communicate, formulate ideas of how to end the conflict, or such actions – but actually position themselves as a side in the negotiation and represent one of the sides.

I therefore suggest a new term: mediator-plus (or mediator+) which describes the extended role of the mediator. I will present examples showing the need for this term by looking at the role of third parties in various conflicts around the world and how the existing terms do not encompass the actions of mediators in them. I will further elaborate about its place in the range of definitions between negotiation and mediation, explain its characteristics, and provide some thoughts about how to define it. I see this paper-in-progress a continuation of academic work by me and by other scholars in the last couple of years, aimed to fine-tune existing terms in the field that are needed both from a theoretical perspective, and from better knowledge of the actual practice of negotiations in today’s world.

**Title:** *Construal Level Theory and Peace Agreements*

**Speaker:** Keren Winter-Dinur, The Truman Institute

**Bio:** Keren Winter Dinur is a Ph.D. candidate at the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace and in the 'Telem' Program for outstanding Ph.D. candidates in the Political Science Department at the Hebrew University. Her research deals with perceptions of time in the context of conflict and peace. It focuses on the way that perceptions of the future are expressed in and influence peace processes and agreements.

**Abstract:** Construal Level Theory (CLT) explains the psychological tendency to associate high temporal distance with abstractness. The theory also holds that different construal levels affect behavioral intentions. In projecting the theory onto ethnic conflicts and peace

agreements, a question arises; should peace agreements be designed to describe a distant future to obtain peace? Recent studies suggest that depicting a distant future in an agreement promotes the prospects of peace. However, the long-term effect of such agreements, after they have been signed, on the durability of peace is still being determined. This query is vital for the challenging case of ethnic conflicts, in which peace agreements often fail soon after signing. This study coded the temporal distance of 113 peace agreements (included in PAIC & UCDP datasets), half of which were ethnic conflicts. Using survival analysis, we find that peace agreements that depict a distant future survive less over time than peace agreements that construct a near future; the hazard rate of failure is higher starting from the first months. The findings challenge the existing assumptions on the use of CLT in the context of designing peace agreements, suggesting that its continuous impact depends on the initial context of the conflict.

**Respondents:**

**Prof. Peter Coleman**, Columbia University

**Dr. Lior Lehrs**, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research



## Keynote Lectures

**Title:** *The Fierce Urgency of “Now”:* Intergroup Conflict and the Social Psychology of Climate Change Policy

**Speaker:** Prof. David Sherman, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Bio:** Dr. David Sherman received his PhD in psychology at Stanford University in 2000 and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in health psychology at UCLA. In 2003, he joined the faculty of the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he is a professor in the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences. Dr. Sherman has had visiting scholar positions at INSEAD Business School and the London Business School.

Dr. Sherman’s research on self-affirmation has been influential in the understanding of the motivations that lead people to engage in defensive biases. His research and theorizing on self-affirmation has also led to the development of social psychological interventions to reduce stress and attenuate achievement gaps. Dr. Sherman’s research integrates laboratory and field studies and tackles such issues as political polarization, climate change, identity threat and underperformance, and how to facilitate adaptive coping with chronic stressors and health threats. Over the past ten years he has shifted much of his research focus to addressing climate change and has founded the Social Climate Science Lab at UCSB which seeks to advance social psychological theorizing in the domain of environment sustainability and to identify novel approaches for understanding and mitigating the social and psychological consequences of climate change.

Dr. Sherman’s over 100 scholarly publications have been cited over 20,000 times and have appeared in journals including *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, *American Psychologist*, *Annual Review of Psychology*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Health Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, and *Psychological Science*.

Dr. Sherman's research has been supported by multiple grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health. He was awarded a Sage Young Scholars Award in 2008 as one of the outstanding young researchers in personality and social psychology and the 2014 Cialdini Award from the Society of Personality and Social Psychology for the best paper using field research. He is a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and the Society for Personality & Social Psychology.

Dr. Sherman was Associate Editor at the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (2011-2016) and Editor of *Personality and Social Psychology Review* (2018-2021). He served as president of the International Society for Self and Identity (2016-2019). He has written op-eds about political polarization for the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, and *Washington Post*.

**Abstract:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that the time is “now or never” to address global warming. But despite a history of bipartisan success on environmental issues within the United States, where the two major political parties enacted laws to protect the planet, the American political system has largely failed. With this backdrop, I present a program of social psychological research that has sought to understand the psychological barriers to bipartisan climate policy within the U.S. The research program, steeped in traditional experimental social psychology on intergroup conflict, is situated within the context of four interconnected agents that both reflect and perpetuate the conflict: 1) the populace, that recognizes the existence and importance of the climate crisis, but who is influenced by identity and norms; 2) the politicians, who make policy within their own social psychological context; 3) the media, who advance narratives of extremity; and 4) the activists, who try to influence the other agents to act with the urgency that is required. Through analyses of quantitative data and interviews collected from these four agents, using survey, experimental, qualitative, and correlational methods, the talk will highlight the relevance of social psychological research to ongoing conflicts, while, at the same time, reflecting on its impact at affecting change commensurate with the urgency of the moment.

**Title:** *The Way Out: How to Overcome Toxic Polarization*

**Speaker:** Prof. Peter Coleman, Columbia University

**Bio:** Dr. Peter T. Coleman is a professor of psychology and education at Columbia University where he holds appointments at Teachers College, the Climate School, and the School of Professional Studies. Dr. Coleman directs the Morton Deutsch International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution (MD-ICCCR), is founding director of the Institute for Psychological Science and Practice (IPSP), and is co-executive director of Columbia University’s Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict, and Complexity (AC 4). Dr. Coleman is a renowned expert on constructive conflict resolution and sustainable peace. His current research focuses on promoting conflict intelligence and systemic wisdom as meta-competencies for navigating conflict constructively across all levels

(from families to companies to communities to nations), which includes projects on adaptive negotiation and mediation; cross-cultural conflict adaptivity; optimality dynamics in conflict, justice and polarization; multicultural conflict; intractable conflict; and sustainable peace.

In 2003, Dr. Coleman became the first recipient of the Early Career Award from the American Psychological Association (APA), Division 48: Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence, and in 2015 was awarded the Morton Deutsch Conflict Resolution Award by APA and a Marie Curie Fellowship from The European Union. In 2018, Dr. Coleman was awarded the Peace Award from Meaningful World, in celebration of their 30th anniversary and the UN's International Day of Peace, and in 2020 a Lifetime Commitment Award from the Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies Association.

Dr. Coleman edits the award-winning *Handbook of Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice* (2000, 2006, 2014) and his other books include *The Five Percent: Finding Solutions to Seemingly Impossible Conflicts* (2011); *Conflict, Justice, and Interdependence: The Legacy of Morton Deutsch* (2011), *Psychological Components of Sustainable Peace* (2012), and *Attracted to Conflict: Dynamic Foundations of Destructive Social Relations* (2013), and *Making Conflict Work: Navigating Disagreement Up and Down Your Organization* (2014), which won the 2016 Outstanding Book Award from The International Association of Conflict Management. Most recently he published a book with Columbia University Press on breaking through the intractable polarization plaguing the U.S. and other societies, titled, *The Way Out: How to Overcome Toxic Polarization* (2021).

Dr. Coleman has also authored well over 100 articles and chapters, is a member of the United Nations Mediation Support Unit's Academic Advisory Council, is a founding board member of the Gbowee Peace Foundation USA, and is a New York State certified mediator and experienced consultant. In 2017, he received the International Association of Conflict Management 2017 Best Conference Theoretical Paper Award for his article "Conflict Intelligence and Systemic Wisdom: Meta-competencies for Engaging Difference in a Complex, Dynamic World", and in 2018 The Emerald Literati Award for the paper "Adaptive Mediation: An Evidence-Based Contingency Approach to Mediating Conflict". Dr. Coleman also founded and edits the *MD-ICCCR Science-Practice Blog*, the WKCR (89.9 FM) monthly radio program *Peace and Conflict at Columbia: Conversations at the*

*Leading Edge*, and is a frequent blogger on *Psychology Today* and *The Hill*. Dr. Coleman's work has also been featured in media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Nature*, *Science*, *Scientific American*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Forbes*, *Wired*, *This American Life*, *Time Magazine*, *Fox Business*, *CBS*, *Fast Company*, *Chicago Public Radio*, the *PBS Newshour* and various international outlets.

Today, Dr. Coleman serves as a scientific advisor to dozens of nonprofit peacebuilding groups, including Starts with Us, Fix US, Constructive Dialogue Institute, Search for Common Ground USA, ListenFirst, Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Unite, Generations for Peace, One Small Step (Story Corps), Cascade Institute, Essential Partners, Civic Health project, Horizons project, Partners Global, Braver Angels, UJA-Federation, and American Exchange Project.

**Abstract:** The way out of cultures of contempt can be hard to see unless you know where to look. This talk will offer insights from leading research on how deeply divided societies can and do change. It will suggest what you can do – the actions, skills, and competencies that will help you navigate these times most effectively – as well as what to look for in groups and organizations in your community that are already at work to make us more functional again.

**Panel Chair: Dr. Meital Balmas**, Department of Communication, Hebrew University

**Second Panel:** Researching Groups: Intergroup Relations – Between Dialogue and Polarization in Crisis and Conflict

**Panel Chair:** Dr. Yuval Benziman, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research

**Title:** *A Threat to Cohesion: External Threats and Intergroup Affective Polarization in the Context of Asymmetric Conflict*

**Speaker:** Tal Orian Harel, The Truman Institute

**Bio:** Tal Orian Harel is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Communication and Journalism, a Ph.D. fellow at the Truman Institute Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program, and a member of the Psychology of Intergroup Conflict and Reconciliation lab. Her Ph.D. research focuses on the reciprocal relationship between intergroup conflicts and political polarization processes within societies, as also manifested in social media platforms. Her research interests include political polarization, political discourse on social media, and the psychology of intergroup conflict.

**Abstract:** The current study aims to explain the increase in affective polarization within societies involved in intractable interstate conflicts. While a common assumption - backed with empirical support - is that the threatening circumstances of conflicts will advance positive intragroup dynamics and create a more cohesive society, recent studies demonstrate that even under threatening conditions, affective polarization is flourishing. To explain this unexpected trend, we suggest a possible mechanism: differences in threat perception related to the conflict between opposing partisans will correlate with a sense of threat from the rival ideological group, which, in turn, will predict more negative feelings toward out-party members. To examine the suggested model, our study employs survey datasets collected from two societies embedded in intractable conflicts, South Korea (N=897) and Israel (N=504). The research findings support the proposed model, implying that external threats can fuel polarization when there is a societal disagreement about the threat's severity. Moreover, this polarization can be a barrier to conflict resolution as it hinders consensus-reaching efforts within society.

**Title:** *“This is my Home”- Representation of Dilemmas Regarding Identity and Youth Among Young Women Belonging to the Hilltop Youth*

**Speaker:** **Shlomit Laub**, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research

**Bio:** Shlomit Laub is an MA graduate in the Conflict Research, Management and Resolution program in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She was born and raised in Jerusalem, and in the last ten years accompanies, teaches and educates youth and teenagers at risk. Most of the teens that she works with dropped out of formal education in Judea and Samaria, which is how she formed a relationship with the settlers and with the hilltop women who she will be talking about today.

**Abstract:** My research question is: “What are the emotions, dilemmas, experiences, thoughts and perceptions of young girls of the hilltop youth, as they arise in interviews?” The major theories that my study is based on are the Self-Categorization Theory (Turner & Tajfel, 1986), and the Grounded Theory Method (Glaser & Strauss, 1967). The methodology is based on eight semi-structured in-depth interviews, which were conducted with the girls in the hilltop during the year 2021. The importance of the research lies in its uniqueness. The research focuses on the sociological angle and not only on the political one, and so far, no previous research referring to the hilltop girls from the angle of gender, or from their point of view as a central emphasis, has been done.

**Title:** *Issues of Delegitimization and Recognition in the Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue in Israel*

**Speaker:** **Dr. Yiftach Ron**, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research

**Bio:** Yiftach Ron (Ph.D. Hebrew University of Jerusalem) is a lecturer of conflict research and communication, teaching at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research interests include processes of intergroup communication, narratives and life stories in conflicted societies, media and psychology related aspects of intergroup conflict, dialogue and peace building.

**Abstract:** Studies of narratives and group identities in situations of ethno-political conflict emphasize the role played by the ethos of conflict in strengthening exclusive and polar national identities that deny the legitimacy of the other. Dialogue encounters with outgroup members in settings of intergroup conflict, by virtue of the contact it affords with the other, enables participants to express, define and at the same time reassess their collective and personal

narrative. The dialogue group constitutes an arena in which the worldviews of both sides can find expression and confront one another, and in which the gaps between them are exposed. This study's goal is to examine dynamics of recognition and delegitimization towards the other in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A thematic content-analysis of 25 in-depth interviews and transcripts of seven sessions of a Jewish-Palestinian dialogue-workshop reveals how fear and delegitimization alongside recognition and moral concern for the other can manifest themselves within the dynamics of dialogue encounters between Jews and Palestinians in Israel.

**Title:** *Blurring and Expanding: Cultural Processes and the Advancement of Peace*

**Speaker:** Dr. Limor Yehuda, The Truman Institute

**Bio:** Limor Yehuda is a researcher at the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace and a lecturer at the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University. Her research explores the conditions for partnership-based peace. Her book, *Collective Equality – Democracy and Human Rights in Ethno-National Conflicts*, has just been published by Cambridge University Press.

**Abstract:** In recent years, some activists in Israel have adopted new strategies to deal with the obstacles that the ethno-cultural identity imposes on peacebuilding in the Israeli/Palestinian context. Instead of approaching their Jewish-Israeli identity as an “us versus them” binary, they actively endorse additional identities, combining the “traditional” ethno-cultural identity with new identities based on a common denominator that connects between individuals across the ethno-cultural divide. Thus, a range of complementary identities, mostly based on geography (Feelbeit (Jerusalem); Galil for All; Haifa for All) and on belonging to the common motherland (“Eretz Yisrael/Palestine”) have been adopted and promoted. Using Andreas Wimmer’s global taxonomy (2013), these cultural innovations can be classified as falling under two types of boundary-making strategies: a) “blurring” of ethnic cultural divides, and b) “expansion”, as they shift the cultural emphasis to a higher, common level.

The research aims to examine whether these cultural strategies are useful for contemporary efforts of peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine.<sup>1</sup> As the most promising vision of Israeli/Palestinian peace is based on equal recognition of the two ethno-cultural identities, and on cooperation among them, it assumes that developing socio-cultural ties across the ethnic divide (Wimmer, 2018), and the creation of some kind of an inclusive cultural identity that encompasses all those

that reside in the territory (Beetham, 1994, 169; Miller, 1995; Mouffe, 1997; Banting & Kymlicka, 2017), is useful and even necessary.<sup>ii</sup>

The research will explore the ways in which these contemporary cultural initiatives in Israel and Jerusalem/Al-Kuds can be regarded as cultural processes of blurring and expansion, and will evaluate their contribution to the creation of an inclusive (supra-national) political community.

**Respondents:**

**Prof. David Sherman**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Prof. Peter Coleman**, Columbia University

**Dr. Yuval Benziman**, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research



## Workshop – May 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Conflict, Conflict Resolution and Improving Intergroup Relations: Social, Psychological, and Ethnographic Perspectives**

#### **First Panel: Conflict, Conflict Resolution, and Improving Intergroup Relations**

**Panel Chair: Prof. Galia Press-Barnathan**, Director, The Leonard Davis Institute, Hebrew University

**Bio:** Galia Press-Barnathan is an associate professor at the Department of International Relations at the Hebrew University, and the director of the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University. Her research interests include comparative regional cooperation, the links between economics, conflict, and peace, and the role of popular culture in world politics.

**Title:** *Psychologically-Personalized Interventions to Promote Intergroup Reconciliation*

**Speaker: Nimrod Nir**, The Truman Institute

**Bio:** Nimrod Nir is a PhD student. He is a political psychologist, with an MA in social psychology and an MA in political marketing. He is also an experienced political marketing expert, and his PhD research - which he will present today - aims at combining insights from social psychology with best practices utilized in political and commercial marketing.

**Abstract:** Allport defined social psychology as the use of scientific methods "to understand and explain how the thoughts, feelings, and behavior of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of other human beings"(Allport, 1985, p. 3). The present work is directed at developing and examining the effectiveness of various psychological interventions - aimed at improving intergroup relations amongst individuals differing in their attitudes, personalities, and emotions – in contrast to the common "one size fits all" approach. An intervention tournament will simultaneously expose participants varying on a range of psychological attributes to one of ten intervention clips, which will allow us to assess which kinds of interventions may be especially effective in promoting intergroup relations (in various contexts) for different types of individuals. This research is aligned with the esteemed keynote speakers' impressive work, as it further promotes real life implementation of psychological interventions aimed at deescalating intergroup conflict.

**Research Question:** Will the use of unique psychological interventions targeting specific types of individuals, improve the effectiveness of interventions aimed at promoting intergroup reconciliation? And if it does, how?

**Major concepts:** Congruence principle (creating interventions consistent with one's own needs and emotions), psychological targeting, personality traits.

**Methodology:** Developing 10 short video clips, each portraying a previously well-established intervention, exposing it to 6,000 participants simultaneously in an intervention tournament, before measuring their attitudes towards the ingroup. Later implementing the findings in the practical field using social media targeting.

**Contribution:** Bringing forth practical, targeted, tools to promote better intergroup relations in the context of intergroup conflict.

**Title:** *A Way Out of Political Exclusion? Real-World Interventions That Do (and Do Not) Increase Centrists' Support for Minority Participation in the Political Game*

**Speaker:** Lee Aldar, The Truman Institute

**Bio:** Lee Aldar is a PhD student whose current research employs an intervention-based approach to examine the psychological underpinnings of group inclusion and legitimization processes in varying political contexts. She is a member of the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution, the Truman Institute, and the PICR lab at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as well as the Psychology Department at Leiden University.

**Abstract:** The inclusion of minorities in politics has historically been challenged by majority groups, yet the literature lacks knowledge about ways to address it. This project aimed to identify effective psychological interventions to increase support for minority political inclusion. A real-time intervention tournament among a large community sample ( $n = 1,280$  Jewish Israelis) in the run-up to an Israeli election tested six psychological interventions around involving Palestinian representatives in coalition formation. Focusing on ideological centrists whose attitudes may be less entrenched, we found that interventions targeting democratic values and threat perceptions were particularly effective in increasing support for inclusion, with implications to the study of political tolerance and conflict resolution in the field.

**Title:** *Intervention to Increase the Sense of Belonging Among Palestinian Female Students from East Jerusalem at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

**Speaker:** **Inbal Moskovich**, The Truman Institute

**Bio:** Inbal Moskovich is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology as well as a doctoral fellow at the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace and at the Swiss Center for Conflict Research, Management and Resolution.

**Abstract:** Palestinian female students from East Jerusalem suffer double discrimination and micro-aggression – ethnic and gender – within Israeli society. Hence, the variety of difficulties and challenges they experience during their academic study period at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem cause them to experience strong feelings of alienation and lack of belonging to the Israeli academy. The intervention's overall goal is to improve a sense of belonging among Palestinian female students from East Jerusalem and increase positive intergroup interactions within the academic sphere. I propose a contact-based intervention, specifically a joint project model, that offers an opportunity for intergroup interactions. The intervention is structured as an elective one-semester course for B.A. students from the various sectors of Israeli society, aimed to improve Palestinian female students' sense of belonging at the Hebrew University, and intergroup academic relations. Since the meeting point of the students from both groups is within the academic space, the intervention course includes contents dealing with experiences, difficulties, and challenges that students face at the university as freshman year students - a cross-cultural concern. The course provides an opportunity to allow both sides' personal voices to be heard - students from each group will be able to share the difficulties and barriers they are experiencing during their study period, which may be in context with their identity and personal life outside the academy. The intervention aims to create a necessary positive interdependence of both sides of the pair - each student contributes to the pair's success in the course, which encourages all participants – including Palestinian female students from East Jerusalem – to be active and cooperate optimally.

**Title:** *Zelensky's Warm War: The Effect of Ukrainian President's Communal Personality Traits on Empathy and Pro-Social Behavior Towards the Ukrainians*

**Speaker:** **Dr. Meital Balmas**, Department of Communication

**Bio:** Meital Balmas is a senior lecturer in the Department of Communication at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research interests include political psychology, political

communication and public opinion. Her work has been published in several leading scholarly journals including *American Journal of Political Science*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Journal of Communication*, *Communication Research* and *Human Communication Research*.

**Abstract:** The war between Russia and Ukraine is not only over territory or security but also over public opinion. Research has shown that national leaders can leverage their personality – in a general, positive sense – to arouse, in people living beyond their countries’ borders, emotions of empathy or pro-social reactions towards their countries’ citizens. We focus on the personality of Ukrainian President Zelensky and examine which of his personality traits can promote empathy and pro-social behavior towards Ukrainians. In two experimental studies, conducted in Israel and in the U.S., we found that exposure to a news article that highlights Zelensky’s communal traits (warmth or morality), as compared to his agentic traits (competence or determination), led to (a) increased levels of empathy towards Ukrainian citizens, (b) willingness to help them, and (c) an actual monetary donation for their benefit. We conclude by discussing the theoretical and practical implications of the findings.

**Respondents:**

**Prof. David Sherman**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Prof. Peter Coleman**, Columbia University

## **Second Panel:** Interventions Around the World

### **Panel Chair:** Prof. Iris Mohr, St. John's University

**Bio:** Dr. Iris Mohr is a full professor and the chair of the marketing department at The Peter J. Tobin College of Business at St. John's University in New York, an award-winning filmmaker/director at festivals worldwide, and a media analyst. Her research topics include sustainability, social media, political marketing, fashion, film engagement, and videography research. She has published articles in journals such as *Harvard Business Press*, *Journal of Strategic Management*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Interfaces*, *Business Horizon*, *Journal of International Women's Studies*, *Sustainable Production and Consumption*, *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, *Journal of Internet Commerce*, *Human Resource Management*, *Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management*, *Industrial Marketing Management*, *Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice*, and *European Journal of Marketing*. In the top research organization "Association for Consumer Research", which is the only academic conference that has a film festival, she was the recipient of the *People's Choice Award* in 2022 and of the *Best Videography Award* in 2021. Her films had fourteen festival screenings worldwide.

**Title:** *Contact-Based Intervention to Sensitize West Germans to the Economic Grievances of East German Craftsmen Regarding Rising Energy Prices*

**Speaker:** Alexander Reiffenstuel, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research

**Bio:** Alexander Reiffenstuel holds a bachelor's degree in Middle Eastern Studies from the Freie Universität in Berlin. He is currently pursuing his MA Conflict Research, Management and Resolution at the Swiss Center in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is also a research and project support intern with EcoPeace Middle East. His father grew up in West Germany and his mother in East Germany, with personal experiences on the historical division and its relevance until today, inspiring him for this intervention.

**Abstract:** In 1987, Ronald Reagan famously called on the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, to "tear down this wall", referring to the Berlin Wall, the physical, political, and symbolic division between East and West Germany. While the physical wall between East and West Germans fell two years later in 1989, a wide array of socio-political, economic, and psychological barriers between East and West Germany persisted and continue to shape

contemporary German society. In light of the rising energy prices, a dramatic increase in protest movements has been witnessed in East German cities, revealing socio-economic grievances felt, especially aimed at West Germans and political parties such as the Green Party and the Social Democrats. The following intervention addresses these grievances felt by East German craftsmen towards West German Green Party members regarding socio-economic concerns due to rising energy prices. This intervention will conduct a two-day contact-based intervention focused on bringing together Green Party members (target group) and East German craftsmen through narrative storytelling model activities to sensitize the target group to the grievances held by the craftsmen. Through this synthesis of a narrative storytelling model, which integrates both Allenport's optimal contact conditions and self-affirmation activities, this contact-based intervention is a possible approach to facilitate an increased liking, reduced prejudice, and reduced grievances and misconceptions between East and West Germans. This intervention is set out to be integrated within Germany's ongoing efforts to overcome the psychological barriers between East and West, which continue to overshadow Germany's social cohesion, even 32 years after its reunification.

**Title:** *Intervention to Reduce Systemic Discrimination Within the Dutch Tax System Based on Ethnic Profiling*

**Speaker:** Julian Pavel, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research

**Bio:** Julian Pavel holds bachelor's and master's degrees in economics and international affairs, an MBA in international strategic management, and an advanced master's degree in international development from the Netherlands. He currently is a student in the Swiss Center Master's Program in Conflict Research, Management, and Resolution.

**Abstract:** Methodologically, this intervention uses a counter-bias training aimed at reducing the chance of systemic institutional Tax Office discrimination by middle-management tax officers, through ethnic profiling of non-traditional Dutch background citizens of The Netherlands, and their respective classification as "higher-risk" in subsidy allowances and fraud investigation processes. The prejudice-reduction intervention developed is based on proven theory of intergroup relations tackling unfavorable biases rooted in stereotypes influencing responses to others, harmfully manifested in behaviors. This intervention also builds on triggering alternate stereotype responses in the targeted subjects, as well as realization of implicit bias, self-affirmation manipulation, and building habit-breaking procedures.

**Title:** *Identities in Transition: The Encounter of Ultra-Orthodox Women with Secular Israeli Society in Academic Institutions for Higher Education*

**Speaker:** **Shaina Silberstein Zvulun**, The Swiss Center for Conflict Research

**Bio:** Shaina Silberstein Zvulun is a graduate student at the Hebrew University. She completed her B.Ed. at Achva Academic College, and her MA in Conflict Research, Management, and Resolution at the Hebrew University.

**Abstract:** This research presentation explores how ultra-Orthodox women negotiate their identity in a secular academic environment, including what patterns of constructive and destructive intergroup encounters are apparent in this setting, what challenges, dilemmas, and barriers to integration these women face, some strategies of adaptation and dynamics of successful integration, and attitudes and dilemmas regarding internet use for academic purposes. This research is based on qualitative research methods and aims to identify constructive models for adaptation and integration, which can significantly improve employment opportunities in the future and promote integration of ultra-Orthodox communities into mainstream Israeli society.

**Respondent:**

**Prof. David Sherman**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Third Panel:** The Truman Institute's East Jerusalem Project: Educational Frameworks in East Jerusalem and the Encounter with Israeli Society – Research Update and Future Directions

**Panel Chair:** Dr. Samira Alayan, The Truman Institute

**Bio:** Samira Alayan is a senior lecturer and researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a lecturer and teacher trainer at the David Yellin Teacher's College in Jerusalem. She specializes in education in societies in conflict, textbooks, identity in the Middle East, and Palestinian education in Israel, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank. She has a Ph.D. in Sociology of Education and Criminology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and did her post-doctoral research in Germany. She is the co-editor of the book titled *The Politics of Education Reform in the Middle East, Self and Other in Textbooks and Curricula*, published by Berghahn Books 2012, and in 2018 the book *Multiple Alterities: Views of Others in School Textbooks of the Middle East* with Elie Podeh, published by Palgrave Macmillan. In 2019 she published her book *Education in East Jerusalem: Occupation, Political Power and Struggle*, published by Routledge.

**Title:** *Brief Introductory Remarks*

**Speaker:** Ziad Abu Zayyad, The Truman Institute

**Bio:** Ziad Abu Zayyad is a Palestinian East Jerusalemite, an experienced senior political advisor and program manager with a flair for media and diplomacy. Ziad is completing his MA thesis in international relations.

**Title:** *Presentation of the Research Project, Methodology, Preliminary Findings and an Update on Progress in the Research and on Future Directions*

**Speakers:** Dr Samira Alayan and the Truman Research Team: Lana Ikelan, Noorman Rajabi, Rojeh Gharfeh, Alexandra Shahwan, Areen Mustafa, and Rua Bustami

**Bios:**

**Lana Ikelan** is in the final year of her BA in journalism, mass communications, and international relations.



**Noorman Rajabi** is in the final year of her BA in international relations, communication, and journalism at the Hebrew University. She is also enrolled in the MA Program in Political Economy at the Department of International Relations at the Hebrew University.

**Rojeh Gharfeh** is in the final year of his BA, pursuing a dual academic path in the fields of international relations, communication, and journalism at the Hebrew University. Additionally, he is currently an MA student majoring in political economy. As a student specializing in these fields, he aims to delve deeper into the complex interactions between politics, economics, and society.

**Alexandra Shahwan** is in the final year of her research track MA program in gender studies and diversity at the Hebrew University. She has a passion for exploring issues of gender and diversity and is dedicated to conducting research that contributes to a more equitable and inclusive society.

**Areen Mustafa** is a BA student at the Hebrew University. She is currently in her third year of education and Roman studies.

**Rua Bustami** is a BA life science student at the Hebrew University. She is also a teaching certificate student in her third year.

**Abstract:** This study investigates the attitudes of principals, teachers, graduates, and the community in East Jerusalem toward the Israeli curriculum. Despite the complexity and politics of this curriculum, this research reveals the reasons behind the community's decision to adopt it. The study identifies a recent shift in the residents' perception of education in East Jerusalem and their beliefs regarding the role it plays in facilitating their children's integration into academia and Israeli society.

**Respondent: Dr. Maya de Vries**, Department of Communication, The Hebrew University

**Bio:** Maya de Vries is a lecturer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a diversity and inclusion project leader at the AChord Organization – Social Psychology for Social Change. Maya has vast experience in the inclusion of various social groups into the academic arena, including teaching academic courses in both Arabic and Hebrew. Her research interests include

digital communication, participation of marginalized groups, and political activism in intractable conflict areas.

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