

# The Truman Newsletter

Newsletter #1, Winter 2019



## From the Director's Desk:

I am very excited to inaugurate this bi-annual newsletter in which we hope to bring you a taste of our activities at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

We recently held a mini conference together with the Open University in which we inaugurated our new Ph.D program and celebrated a new book on the political biography of Tzipi Livni written by Dr. Ben-Ami. The event focused on Livni's role as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Olmert administration, during which time she conducted peace negotiations with Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), the president of the Palestinian Authority. The pictures from the event portray the vibe and the interest in returning a decent and legitimate public discourse on peace to the Israeli public sphere. The Senate Hall at the Hebrew University was packed.

A number of prominent speakers weighed in on the prospect for peace. We listened to Efraim Halevi (former director of the Mossad) discussing the need and the feasibility of reaching a peace agreement (or, at the very least, serious understandings) with Hamas in Gaza. Prof. Ayelet Harel-Shalev, an expert on conflict resolution and management, spoke about the desperate need to have women at the negotiation table. Mohammad Darawshe, a leading expert on Jewish-Arab relations, argued that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict cannot be solved without taking into account the realities of Arab-Israeli citizens.



Ms. Tzipi Livni



Panel: L. to R., Ms. Tali Lipkin-Shahak, Mr. Mohammad Darawshe, Prof. Ayelet Harel-Shalev, Mr. Efraim Halevi, and Dr. Yossi Beilin

Dr. Yossi Beilin, one of the Oslo architects, reminded us of the importance of the emotions, culture, personal chemistry and internal dynamics among negotiators in the process. Journalist Tali Lipkin-Shahak served as the moderator. Dan Meridor, the Chairman of our Board, opened the event with welcoming remarks.

We ended the evening with a keynote address by Tzipi Livni, who described how Israel's current leadership has, over the years, led the nation away from a Jewish democratic state and toward the Greater Land of Israel, accompanied by a decline in core democratic values

Our next major event will be on January 24, 2020. We will host a meeting of the People's Congress. I will tell you more about it in our next newsletter.

Have a happy holiday season and a happy new year,



The Audience

*Vered*

and the Truman team

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המכון למחקר ע"ש הרי.ס. טרומן  
למען קידום השלום  
The Harry S. Truman Research Institute  
for the Advancement of Peace

## Meet the Graduate Students

Noam Brenner is a PhD candidate in the department of Political Science and a member of the first cohort of the Harry S. Truman School for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Noam's research addresses a puzzle in peace studies: how does community leadership in divided cities contribute to the residents' inclination to engage with the other side?

Based on data collected in east and west Jerusalem, Noam found that exposure to a variety of community leaders (religious, political, etc.) widen Palestinians' social networks and their knowledge about the other side.

This exposure eventually increases their inclination to engage with the Israeli side.

Noam's PhD proposal won the prestigious Israeli President Scholarship for Academic Excellence and Scientific Innovation in 2018.

Born and raised in Kibbutz Kfar-Ruppin, Noam received his degrees from The Hebrew University. In addition to his research, Noam coordinates a peace-building initiative in Jerusalem that seeks to build shared visions for the city. Noam is happily married to Talia and is the father of three young boys - Zohar, Tzuri and Gil.



Mr. Noam Brenner

## A Taste of our Research Projects



Prof. Hagar Salamon

Prof. Aziz Haidar

### The Drama of the 1967 War in Personal Stories of Palestinians and Israelis Living in Jerusalem

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 war was taken to be an opportunity to re-examine events and interpretations. For Palestinians and Israelis this war altered the territorial and socio-political configuration of their immediate region.

Our trilateral Palestinian-Israeli-German research project seeks to give space to everyday recollections of individuals who lived through this time.

SAVE THE DATE

## The Truman Conference March 16, 2020

This Year's Theme:

# PEACE AND ECONOMY



The research is conducted at the Truman institute as a collaboration between Prof. Regina Bendix (Göttingen University), Prof. Aziz Haidar (El-Quds University) and Prof. Hagar Salamon (The Hebrew University). Focusing on memory and narration, our aim is to look behind the official discourses. Through interviews, our project captures the intermeshing of major political events with the everyday and highly personal experiences of individuals of encounter and exclusion, drawing and lifting boundaries, gains and losses.