

# 1. Thumb Wrestle

Recent research, conducted by Dr. Ido Ramati from the Department of Communications and the Cultural Studies Program, and published in the journal *Convergence*, has studied how humans have historically used different interfaces to communicate and how we've come to the use of typing as a primary writing tool. The study analyzed input techniques from the earliest typewriters to more modern recording devices that rely on "blind typing" as well as how we now routinely use our smartphones as primary input devices. The research showed that the use of thumbs to type is a very modern phenomenon and in many ways revolutionary in the development of human history.

## 2. How Will Drought Impact on Our Future?

This study, that focuses on the global climate crisis, was led by Prof. Ronny Ellenblum and PhD student Tal Ulus from the Department of Geography and the School for Environmental Studies. The research was recently published in the prominent periodical *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications* and stands out for combining historical and archeological perspectives with an analysis of current climate trends. The researchers identified three specific events over history where seemingly normal climate events led to food shortages and as a result societal unrest, war and even complete social collapse.



# 3. United We Plow

One of the more recent social initiatives that were launched over the past year was a program to develop community gardens in the streets of Rehovot. The program was launched by students from the Faculty of Agriculture and the gardening and social work departments. The students, including Omer Meir, Darya Itkis, Daniel Shaanani, Michal Mennes and Rinat Kaplan, focused on promoting relationships with the community residents by providing instruction on gardening techniques within these community gardens and how they could contribute to the overall positive upkeep of the city.

# 4.

## **Congratulations to New Members of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities**

Prof. Maren Niehoff from the Department of Jewish Thought, Prof. Muhammd Haj-Yahia from the School of Social Work and Prof. Yinon Ben-Neriah from the Faculty of Medicine, have all been announced as the latest Hebrew University faculty members to join the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. The Academy is the most senior academic body in Israel and is designed to bring together the leading minds in Israeli academia and to develop and promote the advancement of research progress. The Academy even advises the national government on ways to harness research for the promotion of national interests.



# 5. The Women Behind the Center for Disabilities Studies

Behind the Center for Disabilities Studies, which operates under Hebrew University's School of Social Work, are three women who are deeply familiar with this field not just as leading researchers but also as individuals who deal with the challenges of disability each and every day in their own lives.



# 6. New Podcasts on HUIJICAST

**The Bureaucratic Effect:  
What Regimes Can Leave Behind**  
Dr. Yael Barda from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and a researcher into the bureaucratic heritage that the British Empire left behind in India, Cyprus and Israel discusses how bureaucracy can impact in ways often far more important than even ideology.

# 7. New Podcasts on HUJICast

## Marketing Ethics:

Prof. Renana Peres from the School of Business Administration discusses a range of issues including the life expectancy and shelf life of consumer products, the power of social media, and the link that combines all her various interests: as a professor of marketing, a businesswoman, a physicist, musician and rabbi - as well as the social responsibilities of marketers in a modern era of over-consumption.

