



# BULLETIN

The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies



## MISSION STATEMENT

THE MOSHE DAYAN CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN STUDIES SEEKS TO CONTRIBUTE BY RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, AND PUBLICATION TO THE STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE MODERN HISTORY AND CURRENT AFFAIRS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. THE CENTER IS PART OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES IN THE LESTER AND SALLY ENTIN FACULTY OF HUMANITIES OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY. THE CENTER IS GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF GOVERNORS, ACTING ON THE ADVICE OF AN INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF OVERSEERS. IT IS ADMINISTERED BY AN ACADEMIC DIRECTOR.

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## Moshe Dayan Center's New Director



Prof. Uzi Rabi

Prof. **Uzi Rabi**, chair of the Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University, received his official appointment as the director of the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies on January 1, 2011, following a vote by the Center's Board of Governors. He succeeds Senior Fellow Prof. **Eyal Zisser**, who currently serves as dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Tel Aviv University, and continues to serve on the Moshe Dayan Center's Board of Governors.

The appointment is for a three-year term. In addition to bringing his leadership experience as chair of the university's Department of Middle Eastern and African History (2008-present) to the Moshe Dayan Center, Prof. Rabi's academic fields of specialization include the modern history of states and societies in the Persian Gulf; state building in the Middle East; oil and politics in the Middle East; Iranian-Arab relations; and Sunni-Shi'i tensions. His most recent publication is an edited volume entitled, *International Intervention in Local Conflicts* (I.B. Tauris, 2010). Prof. Rabi has two upcoming book projects. The first is a work on Yemen as a failed state, and the second examines the relationship between Iran and the Arab world.

## Lectures and Symposia

### ISLAMIST PERSPECTIVES ON ZIONISM



October 25, 2010, the Center held its annual lecture in memory of Avishai Ben-Zvi, Yehoshafat Netzer and Ziv Balali, former students in the Department of Middle Eastern and African History who had fallen in Israel's wars.

Research Fellow Dr. **Uriya Shavit** delivered the lecture entitled, "The Zionist Century from an Islamist Point of view." Shavit underscored the growing religious character of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is becoming more violent, and linked this reality to a broader discussion of Islamist ideology. He outlined the central tenets of Islamist thought, which include the goal of establishing a religious based political and judicial order. Linking this goal to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Shavit addressed various Islamist movements across the Middle East and their position towards Israel. He noted that these groups oppose Israel's existence, frequently demonize the Jewish state and Jews, and persistently call for an uncompromising war aimed at destroying the "Zionist entity". Curiously, some Islamist leaders express a certain perverse admiration for Israel and its success in defeating its enemies, while calling on Muslims to emulate Israel's perceived tenacity and determination in their struggle against the Jewish state.



DR. URIYA SHAVIT

# REMEMBERING JOSEPH KOSTINER

**F**amily, friends, colleagues and students of the Moshe Dayan Center's Senior Fellow Prof. **Joseph (Yossi) Kostiner**, who passed away last summer, gathered on the occasion of the first annual Joseph Kostiner Memorial Evening, on January 9, 2011. Chaired by Senior Fellow Prof. **Eyal Zisser**, dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Tel Aviv University, the event included two tribute speeches given by Prof. **Ehud Toledano**, University Chair for Ottoman Studies, and Prof. **Israel Gershoni**, of the Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University, who spoke of Kostiner's

charming personality, his sense of humor, and his great attributes as a human being, evident to students and academics alike. Professor Toledano and Professor Gershoni also mentioned the immense vacuum left in the absence of such a renowned scholar in his field.

Center Director Prof. **Uzi Rabi** delivered the keynote lecture "Al Qaeda and Yemen – the Return Home." In his presentation, Prof. Rabi elaborated upon Yemen's current state of political instability and the ways in which terrorist networks such as *al-Qaeda* use Yemen's apparatus to expand their capabilities. Rabi concluded with personal remarks on Prof. Kostiner: "He was my

teacher, he was my friend, and the thoughts which I have shared tonight come from

my understanding and analysis regarding tribes, state and society in the Middle East about which I debated with Yossi over innumerable hours spent together at Tel Aviv University."

Prof. Israel Gershoni

Left to right: Prof. Uzi Rabi, Prof. Eyal Zisser, Prof. Ehud Toledano, Prof. Israel Gershoni



Prof. Ehud Toledano



## NEW! DAYAN CENTER Podcast

The Dayan Center is launching a new project – a monthly podcast, offering a slice of Middle Eastern culture, politics and history. Each downloadable episode will consist of a panel discussion featuring our very own Dayan Center experts. Look for more updates on [www.dayan.tau.ac.il](http://www.dayan.tau.ac.il).



# THE DECLINE OF THE WEST, THE RISE OF ISLAM?



January 31, 2011, the Center convened an evening symposium marking the publication of *The Decline of the West, the Rise of Islam? Studies on Civilizational Discourse*, a collected volume in Hebrew, edited by Research Fellow Dr. **Uriya Shavit**. The book, published by Hakibbutz Hameuchad, contains eleven articles contributed by researchers and students from four Israeli universities. The work focuses on the evolution of Western and Islamic theories concerning Western decline from the late 19th century through the early 21st



DR. URIYA SHAVIT



PROF. SHIMON SHAMIR (left) AND PROF. ARNON GUTFELD

century. Dr. Shavit spoke in his presentation about the reasons for the proliferation of "decline literature" in the Arab world, emphasizing the large number of such publications. Senior Fellow Prof. (Emeritus) **Shimon Shamir** and Prof. **Arnon Gutfeld**, a member of Tel Aviv University's history department, delivered lectures on the contemporary debate regarding the future of American political influence in the Middle East, noting the possibility of a change in American involvement in the region. Senior Fellows Prof. **Eyal Zisser**, dean of Tel Aviv University's Faculty of Humanities and Center Director Prof. **Uzi Rabi** reflected on the book's importance in the study of Muslim-Western relations.

TERESA HARINGS, DAYAN CENTER RESEARCH ASSISTANT, AND HAY EYTAN COHEN YANAROCAN, JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, GREETING GUESTS WHO ATTENDED THE EVENT



## THE MOSHE DAYAN CENTER ON FACEBOOK

The Moshe Dayan Center now boasts a presence on the global social network of [Facebook](#). On our profile, supporters opt to "like" our page, and frequently check-in to read posts from our website, learn about the Center's events, and follow media appearances made by research fellows in Israel and abroad. With over 23,000 views on our page, Facebook is helping to spread the work of the Moshe Dayan Center on a global scale. If you are interested in keeping abreast of our Facebook activities, please go to our website at [www.dayan.tau.ac.il](http://www.dayan.tau.ac.il) and click on the "Visit our Facebook page" link.

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# Political Turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa

*The unfolding events in January-February 2011 across the Middle East and North Africa naturally attracted the Center's attention. Research fellows and associates were on hand to provide insights and analysis to the political upheavals that engulfed Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Libya, and Bahrain in frequent media appearances and in two special evenings devoted to these developments:*

## TUNISIA'S "JASMINE REVOLUTION": THE AFTERMATH OF PRESIDENT BEN 'ALI'S REMOVAL FROM POWER

**The**

Center convened an evening colloquium on January 27, 2011, which focused on the impact of Tunisia's political change inside the country and across the region, following the removal of its president, Zayn al-'Abidin Ben 'Ali, from power on January 14. Senior Fellow Dr. **Bruce Maddy-Weitzman** chaired the evening and offered introductory remarks, noting that the events in Tunisia, in which a ruler was removed from power in a largely peaceful manner were unprecedented in the Middle East. He underscored how many Middle Easterners had been inspired by Tunisia, and acknowledged the concerns of many Western countries about the possible rise of radical Islamist movements in Tunisia. In any case, he noted, the events in Tunisia cannot be overlooked.



DR. DANIEL ZISENWINE



DR. GIDEON GERA

Research Fellow Dr. **Daniel Zisenwine** discussed the political developments in Tunisia, and the background to Ben 'Ali's removal from power. He highlighted Tunisia's unique social and political composition, its political stability and historic moderate, pro-Western stance. Zisenwine charted Ben 'Ali's rule, which began in 1987, and emphasized the rising degree of authoritarianism which underpinned the Tunisian regime. In recent years, the Tunisian government was increasingly intolerant of any form of dissent, and muzzled its critics. The regime was accused of corruption, and the population increasingly suffered from difficult economic conditions. The protest of one unemployed Tunisian, who set himself on fire in his hometown of Sidi Bouzid (200km southeast of the capital Tunis), unleashed a torrent of protest which spread across the country and effectively led the president to flee the country. Noting the immediate circumstances surrounding Ben 'Ali's departure were still unclear, Zisenwine pointed to the prospects for a more open, pluralist political system in Tunisia, which may emerge over time.

Principal Research Fellow Emeritus Dr. **Gideon Gera** followed with a presentation on recent riots in Algeria, noting the similarities and dissimilarities with the Tunisian case. Gera described the protests in Algeria which broke out after the events in Tunisia, noting that they were more criminal in nature (punctuated by looting of goods from stores) than actual

political protests. Unlike in Tunisia, political protests in Algeria were not new, and have been part of Algerian public life for decades. He also emphasized that the country's Islamists played a marginal role in these events. Gera analyzed Algeria's structural socio-economic difficulties, and the existence of a vast young population with mounting anger, aimed at the regime, over the country's high unemployment rates.



This generation will continue to demand improvements from a regime which is unwilling to abandon its political and economic privileged position.

Research Fellow **Samir Ben Layashi** outlined various French perspectives on the Jasmine Revolution, considering the colonial past and France's historic involvement with Tunisia. He started with the large Tunisian immigrant community residing in France. Among these immigrants were wealthy entrepreneurs who were concerned about their investments in Tunisia, while others were more supportive of the protestors. The French government, Ben Layashi observed, was largely embarrassed over its previous strong ties and support of Ben 'Ali's regime. The broader French public had begun to demand that their government press for a greater degree of democracy in Tunisia and other countries across the region.

SAMIR BEN LAYASHI

## REVOLUTIONS IN TUNISIA AND EGYPT: THE DOMINO EFFECT ACROSS THE ARAB WORLD



the revolutionary flame spread from Tunisia to Egypt, the Center convened a special evening on February 14, 2011, which focused on events in Egypt and their broader impact on the Middle East. In his opening remarks, Center Director Prof. **Uzi Rabi** underscored the breathtaking pace of recent changes in the Middle East, and the need to take stock and assess their regional implications. Rabi stressed that Egypt's centrality in the region adds a greater degree of urgency to the situation.

Senior Fellow Prof. (Emeritus) **Shimon Shamir** presented a broad analysis of the recent developments in Egypt and the removal of President Hosni Mubarak from power. Invoking Ferdinand Braudel's concept of a "*longue durée*" process, and the impact of Egypt's geo-physical attributes, Shamir questioned whether or not Egypt's uprising marked a genuine break of the country's longstanding historic paradigms. He noted that Egypt was a far more totalitarian and autocratic state under its former rulers, Nasser and Sadat, while Mubarak allowed opposition parties greater political presence. But unlike his predecessors, Mubarak was not viewed as an iconic leader who championed broad national causes. His initial openings towards a more pluralist political framework ended abruptly in the November 2010 parliamentary elections, in which opposition parties were effectively removed from parliament. The prospect of Mubarak grooming his son Gamal to inherit his position did not bode well and was rejected by the Egyptian public. Shamir also noted that Mubarak's declining health suggested he was on his way out. By most accounts, Mubarak was unaware of the rising discontent against his regime. Looking ahead, Shamir questioned whether Mubarak's removal from



Prof. SHIMON SHAMIR



power would constitute a genuine revolution in Egypt, or end up being a moderate shift in government. As for the Muslim Brotherhood and its role in future political developments, Shamir underscored the movement's long term goal of establishing an Islamist state in Egypt, but concluded that it was too early to tell how all this will play out.

Research Fellow Dr. **Mira Tzoreff** focused in her lecture on Egypt's youth, and their role in the efforts to unseat Mubarak. She noted that 60 percent of the country's population is between the ages of 20–35. Many of them are unemployed or underemployed university graduates, economically dissatisfied and lacking hope for political change in Egypt. Tzoreff stressed the tremendous impact of Tunisia's revolution on Egypt's young population, which was inspired by it. Although it is difficult to assess where Egypt is heading following Mubarak's removal, the country seems engulfed in an unstoppable dynamic which is likely to continue in the near future.



DR. MIRA TZOREFF

Center Director Prof. **Uzi Rabi** delivered the concluding lecture, which analyzed the winds of change blowing across the Arab world. He noted the new reality of a change that has emerged in various Middle Eastern countries, which find themselves in a “revolutionary situation”. Rabi contended that in fear of a military takeover many Middle Eastern regimes are exclusively focused on guaranteeing their survival, but are largely unprepared for a situation in which the general public initiates a revolutionary dynamic. Rabi stressed that a new Arab dawn is on the horizon, and that this process would not be easy or smooth. It remains unclear whether these current events will ultimately be more about a “change in the regime” rather than a complete “regime change”. Time will tell.



Prof. Uzi Rabi

## MOSHE DAYAN MEMORIAL EVENING

Brigadier-General (Res.) Uzi Eilam delivered the annual memorial lecture in memory of Moshe Dayan, which was held at the Center on November 8, 2010.

BRIG.-GEN. (RES.) UZI EILAM



## ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF ARAB-JEWISH DIALOGUE IN ISRAEL



September 16, 2010, the Konrad Adenauer Program held an open lecture for the public entitled: "To Be or Not to Be: Dilemmas in the Dialogue between Identities in Conflict", delivered by Dr. **Maya Kahanoff**, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Based on her experiences in conducting dialogue workshops between Jewish and Arab students in Israel, Dr. Kahanoff discussed the question: "Is there someone on 'the other side' to whom we can talk to?" She described the barriers on the path to mutual recognition of each side's narrative. Kahanoff concluded that the potential for change does not necessarily lay in what has been said by the two parties, but rather in destabilizing mutual pre-assumptions in order to enable each side to accept the other's narrative.

The lecture was preceded by a grant award ceremony to Arab and Jewish students studying at Tel Aviv University. The grant recipients were ten students who presented their field studies in a summer workshop. The workshop dealt with the issue of "Jews and Arabs in Israel: Do they really think differently?" The discussions touched upon several topics, such as: trends in Jewish-Arab relations in Israel; Arab students' intervention and contribution to their community; and relationships between Jewish and Arab students on the Tel Aviv University campus.

## A DECADE AFTER THE OCTOBER 2000 EVENTS: THE COUNTRY SHOOK — HAS THE DUST SETTLED?



November 4, 2010, the Konrad Adenauer Program held a conference to discuss the implications of the October 2000 events, in which 13 Arab citizens were killed in clashes with police forces, one decade after.

The conference opened with a keynote address delivered by Senior Fellow Prof. (Emeritus) **Shimon Shamir**, who also served as member of the government-appointed Or Commission which investigated the events. Shamir noted that the Commission's objective was to investigate the factors that led to the outbreak of the October 2000 events, looking at the situation "from scratch", and to consider social-political realities that had never been dealt with in the past. He said that since the publication of the Commission's report, some progress has been achieved, thanks to efforts of Israeli-Arab leadership and the Israeli police. However, he concluded, much has to be done in order to achieve greater equality between Jews and Arabs in Israel.



DR. GUY BEN PORAT

The first session, chaired by Dr. **Taghreed Yahiya-Younis**, Tel Aviv University, evaluated the Or Commission's recommendations and their implementation. Dr. **Guy Ben Porat**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, discussed the relations between police squads and Israeli-Arab society and the potential for change. Based on the findings of a recent field study conducted among 1000 Arab respondents, he concluded that Arab citizens' general perceptions of police and policing include strong feelings of discrimination and neglect. He added that deep mistrust and resentment of the police were matched with the need for better, more effective and fair policing for the Arab minority.



**Orna Kohn**, an attorney representing *Adalah* – the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, presented a critical perspective on the decision to close the files of the October 2000 Arab fatalities. She emphasized that ten years later, none of the people responsible for the killing of 13 Arab youngsters have been indicted due to, what she termed, a systematic failure of the entire legal system in Israel. Kohn said that this situation is intolerable from both a legal and social point of view, and concluded that the plea for justice is not only for the sake of the youngsters killed, but is also in the interest of Israeli society as a whole.



ORNA KOHN

Prof. **Shlomo Hasson**, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, analyzed obstacles to the implementation of the Or Commission's recommendations and possible future consequences.



Prof. SHLOMO HASSON

He said that the lack of advancement in the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the Or Commission has a direct, negative impact on Arab-Jewish relations in Israel. Currently, he argued, the state of Israel is on the threshold of becoming an 'ethnocracy' in which democracy is reduced, and the majority denies the basic rights of the minority. Fueling that trajectory is the feeling of threat on the Jewish side that the disappearance of the Jewish nation-state is immanent. Hasson noted the urgent necessity to fulfill and accept the Or Commission's recommendations, by working with moderate individuals on all sides, and fostering a cultural/psychological context which will yield such cooperation.

Dr. **Ilan Saban**, University of Haifa, related to the Supreme Court's role in promoting the status of the Arab population following the October 2000 events. He said that while the Israeli Supreme Court has a reputation for being an activist court, the current Israeli political elite does not necessarily represent the moral compass of Israeli society. The impact of the occupation of the West Bank feeds the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and enflames existing tensions between Jews and Arabs in Israel; strengthens the impact of ultra-Orthodox Jewish circles on general society; increases religious tensions among Jews, and raises the possibility of a civil war among Jews. This in turn raises the question of whether or not the Supreme Court can truly halt these negative tides.

The second session presented various political and ideological perspectives. Dr. **Amal Jamal**, Tel Aviv University, served as chairperson.

Dr. **Mustafa Kabha**, Open University, discussed the renewed national discourse of Arabs in Israel. He noted that the October 2000 events served as a turning point in the discourse of three main currents in Israeli-Arab society, which focused on the details of a future Palestinian state and the status of the Arab minority in Israel. These currents included the communists, represented by the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality; the nationalist pan-Arabism ideological orientation represented by the National Democratic Alliance; and the Islamic current represented by the two wings of the Islamic Movement in Israel. He added that in the wake of the October 2000 events, Palestinian-Israeli political leaders identified a need to revisit national discourse. However, he concluded, although these events inspired a great deal of dialogue and debate among these three political trends in Arab society, ultimately a new political platform failed to materialize within this community.

Prof. **Oded Haklai**, Queen's University in Toronto, questioned whether the October 2000 events signified a true turning point in the evolution of a national consciousness of Arabs in Israel. In his opinion, the events of October 2000 were a mere symptom of processes that started long before. The growing disconnection between Arab-Israeli citizens and the Israeli government is evident in the growing number of Arab political organizations promoting a Palestinian awareness for collective rights. This trend, Haklai emphasized, had already begun in the 1990s. During that period, the Arab sector witnessed an increase in groups acting through the courts – instead of the parliament – in order to achieve policy goals. Haklai concluded that most Arab citizens in Israel, including the political elite, respect Israeli institutions, although among the Arab intelligentsia there is a general rejection of Israel as a state. In that manner, the October 2000 events were an exception to the rule, and this is why what happened shocked the public in such a profound way.

Prof. **Hillel Frisch**, Bar Ilan University, explained what he termed as “Arab political demobilization” after the October 2000 events. He said that in the post-October 2000 era there was an expectation that these events would herald a period of mutiny and protest. However, what occurred was exactly the opposite. Since October 2000 there has been a decrease in Arab-Israeli political protest. The 1990s saw a total of 11 strikes in the Arab sector, where there have been only seven since 2001. Furthermore, in the years following October 2000, a steady decline in the attendance of Arab commemoration events is visible. Frisch concluded that in Israel, as the state gives expression to Arab initiation and entrepreneurship and the increase in the “Israelization” of Arabs explains the relative lack of violence in the aftermath of the October 2000 events on the part of Israeli-Arabs, despite incitement to act otherwise.

The third session was dedicated to a discussion of the current trends and future prospects of Jewish-Arab relations in Israel. Dr. **Ephraim Lavie**, Tel Aviv University, served as chairperson.

Prof. **Yitzhak Reiter**, Ashkelon Academic College and the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, evaluated the work of academic think tanks and their impact on majority-minority relations in Israel. Inevitably, Reiter said, in their work NGOs and think tanks come up against a number of insurmountable obstacles. Often these obstacles come at a moment in time when it seems as though a breakthrough is about to occur. As a result, many think tanks are currently trying to do away with the conceptual value that the labels of “Jews” and “Arabs” suggest. Rather, they focus on other problems, like economic challenges, with the belief that these transcendent issues affecting both populations will inspire a search for remedies that would develop into strategies leading to peace and resolution.



PROF. YITZHAK REITER

Dr. **As'ad Ghanem**, University of Haifa, presented several observations of Arab citizens of Israel concerning the bi-national solution. Ghanem contended that the reality in Israel dictates that the collective rights of Jews are more important than the egalitarian rights of all the country's citizens. He later questioned,

“Why do Jews deserve more than me?” He pointed out some of the contradictions in Israel that contribute to greater political dissent among the Israeli-Arab population. The Jewish claim that considers itself an immigrant population, which is also actually indigenous to the territory has led to the creation of an ethnocratic machine, whose essence discriminates against the Palestinian-Arab citizens of Israel. The future of this state, bi-national or otherwise, therefore relies on an end to what he termed as, “the tyranny of the Jews.”



DR. AS'AD GHANEM

In the second part of the third session, **MK Orit Zuaretz**, Kadima, and **MK Afou Agbaria**, Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, co-chairs of the Knesset Lobby for Promoting Ties Between Jews and Arabs in Israel, provided an assessment of the conference and the themes discussed. Additionally, they shared with the audience the major political challenges they face as



MK ORIT ZUARETZ



Knesset members when trying to bring to fruition the needs and demands of their constituencies, as well as the country as a whole.

MK AFOU AGBARIA

## ARYEH SHMUELEVITZ RESEARCH ROOM

Family, friends, and colleagues of the late Prof. **Aryeh Shmuelevitz**, who passed away in 2005, gathered on January 20, 2011, to dedicate a new research room in his memory. The room, donated by the Shmuelevitz family, serves doctoral students and visiting young researchers at the Center, offering them a congenial setting for carrying out their work. The late Prof. Shmuelevitz was one of the founders of the Shiloah Institute, which was later incorporated into the Moshe Dayan Center. A leading expert on Ottoman history and modern Turkey,



Shmuelevitz was a Senior Fellow at the Center, and a professor in the university's Department of Middle Eastern and African history. Senior Fellow Prof. **Eyal Zisser**, currently Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, paid tribute to Shmuelevitz's involvement in the Center's activities, while Senior Fellow Prof. (Emeritus) **Shimon Shamir** reflected on Shmuelevitz's academic work, highlighting his personal dedication to his many students. The research room, Shamir noted, is an enduring tribute to Shmuelevitz's legacy.



## New Research Forums

### Prof. Joseph (Yossi) Kostiner Gulf Forum

The **Gulf Forum** was launched in memory of Prof. **Joseph (Yossi) Kostiner**, whose areas of specialization included Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the Gulf. At the first Forum session, members of Israel's academic community came to Tel Aviv University from across the country to discuss issues related to the Arabian and/or Persian Gulf. Dr. **Joshua Teitelbaum**, Tel Aviv University, summarized Kostiner's academic influences, particular those related to his work on tribal society and state formation in the Middle East. He followed this with a discussion of the interplay between tribes and politics in Saudi Arabia today. Center Director Prof. **Uzi Rabi** discussed similar issues in the context of Yemen. The discussions were followed by a lively question and answer session.

### Kurdish Forum Inaugurated

Dr. **Mordechai "Moti" Zaken**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, led the first meeting of the Center's **Culture, Society and History: A Forum on the Kurds**, held on December 27, 2010. The Kurdish Forum aims to bring academicians and students together for the purpose of discussing central issues in the discourse on modern Kurdish history, society and culture. Kurdish nationalism occupies the center stage in the Forum's proceedings. Due to its multi-disciplinary character, participants in the Forum approach the issues from several perspectives: historical, political and cultural. Accordingly, Forum lecturers include well-established academics, journalists, intellectuals, and unaffiliated individuals from the Kurdish region. The Forum meets during the academic year and will produce a volume edited by Senior Fellow Prof. **Ofra Bengio**.

Covering the topic of "Jews and Tribalism in Kurdistan," Dr. Zaken shared a chapter from his book, *Jewish Subjects and Their Tribal Chieftains in Kurdistan: A Study in Survival* (Brill 2007). His book is one of the few works of its kind that deals with the historic and peripheral Jewish community of Kurdistan. Dr. Zaken's academic work illuminates a broader theme in Kurdish Studies: the importance of tribal structure in Kurdish society, which is crucial in the evaluation and understanding of Kurdish national identity.

### MAGHREB FORUM

The Center recently launched the **Maghreb Forum**, a periodic gathering of scholars, researchers, and students involved in North African studies. The forum, the first of its kind at an Israeli university, expands the Center's Maghrib Working Group's activities, and provides a framework for students and faculty to exchange ideas and discuss issues related to North Africa studies. The inaugural session, which took place on December 16, 2010, hosted Prof. **Susan Miller**, University of California/Davis and former director of the Moroccan Studies Program at Harvard University. Prof. Miller outlined new trends in the study of modern Moroccan history, and discussed the growing importance of studying the impact of Morocco's colonial era on later developments in Morocco. The Forum's second meeting, held on January 18, 2011, hosted Dr. **Yigal Bin Nun**, University of Paris, who spoke about new perspectives on the early years of Morocco's late-King Hassan's reign. Further meetings will be held later this year.

## Seminars

# SEMINAR ON MUSLIM MINORITIES IN THE WEST

**This**

year's annual Moshe Dayan Center Seminar's topic is "Muslim Minorities in the West." The seminar, which brings together the Center's fellows, associates, and graduate students focuses on the historical roots of Muslim migration to Western countries, and explores political and social issues relating to the relations between Muslim minorities and non-Muslim majorities in the West. Other topics include Muslim theological and religious-legal scholarship on the identity and duties of Muslims residing in non-Muslim countries.

The seminar, coordinated by Research Fellow Dr. **Uriya Shavit**, hosted various speakers throughout the fall semester. Among them was Prof. **Galia Sabar** of the university's department of Middle Eastern and African History, who presented various theoretical approaches to the concept of migrant workers. Research Fellow Dr. **Irit Back** analyzed developments among Senegalese immigrants in New York, while Prof. **Amikam Nachmani**, Bar Ilan University, compared Muslim migration to Europe to earlier waves of Jewish migration to the continent. Senior Fellow Prof. **Yehudit Ronen** presented the last talk of the fall semester, and spoke about contemporary Libyan migration to Italy. The seminar will continue to meet throughout the spring semester.



Prof. Yehudit Ronen

## New Publications

אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

צומת המזרח התיכון



Over past few months the Moshe Dayan Center initiated and rejuvenated a number of exciting publications which aim to provide in-depth coverage and analysis of events and development across the Middle East and North Africa. On January 4, 2011, the first issue of **Tzomet HaMizrach HaTichon** (The Middle East Junction), edited by Senior Fellow Prof. **Ofra Bengio** and Junior Research Fellow **Harel Chorev**, was published. This is the Center's newest Hebrew language electronic publication, distributed monthly. In addition, **Tel Aviv Notes**, our bi-monthly analytical update on current affairs and regional developments in

the Middle East, now has a regular distribution schedule on the 10th and 26th of each month. On occasion, as happenings in the region become breaking news, research fellows provide special editions of both *Tzomet HaMizrach HaTichon* and *Tel Aviv Notes* to keep our subscribers updated as events unfold.



As of February 2011, *Middle East News and Views*, the weekly digest of articles from Arabic news sources and electronically distributed by the Center, has been renamed. The *Middle East News Brief* continues to provide readers with op-ed pieces and news analysis from Arabic and Turkish press, and serves as a quick-reference resource to the members of our listservs. To subscribe to any of the above-mentioned publications, please send an e-mail to [dayancen@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:dayancen@post.tau.ac.il), and specify whether you prefer materials in English, Hebrew, or both.



## BUSTAN: THE MIDDLE EAST BOOK REVIEW

The Moshe Dayan Center and Brill Publishers have recently launched a new journal, entitled *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review*. This journal will be published twice a year, and will highlight recent publications that focus on the Middle East and Islamic Studies. The first issue was published in the fall of 2010.

Bustan contains article length comparative reviews, short essays, and traditional book reviews. Articles deal with various topics related to the Middle East and Islamic Studies. Subjects to be covered include, but are not limited to, political science, economics, history, language, geography and cultural issues of the region.

The journal is co-edited by Senior Fellows Profs. **Itamar Rabinovich** and **Eyal Zisser**.



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