



# THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

## SDG REPORT | NOVEMBER 2021

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for the future of our planet. The goals serve as a guide to institutional and individual decision-making toward achieving a better and more sustainable future for all.

Since its establishment fifty years ago, University of Haifa has defined its founding mission as academic excellence combined with social responsibility. Our role in addressing Sustainable Development Goals begins by teaching and researching sustainable development across a range of disciplines, integrating this knowledge into our operations, and taking action within our community.

As Israel's first institution of higher education in Israel to commit to the SDGs, we take seriously our commitment to adopting the SDGs as a cornerstone for planning. We are taking active steps to build a healthier future through our research initiatives, teaching activities, public engagement with the community, campus operations, and by fostering an atmosphere of inclusion. Our 'living laboratories' extend beyond Mount Carmel to the city of Haifa and the Mediterranean Sea to advance the study, dissemination, and implementation of solutions with global impact. We are confident that our research and educational activities will contribute to enhanced global understanding and positively impact future generations.



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## END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

### Research

Poverty in Israel is steadily on the rise with nearly 2 million people living below the poverty line, approximately 20% of which are

children. The Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion encourages new research efforts; development of unique research methodology; as well as collaboration between

researchers, policy makers, business representatives and community leaders.

Prof. Roni Strier, from the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#), is the Chair of the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion, as well as Head of Leadership and Social Change MSW Track. His vast research focuses on the working poor in Israel, poverty and gender, poverty and nationality, and social services in mixed cities in Israel. A second area of inquiry refers to the impact of neoliberalism on different areas of social work such as social work education, non-profit organizations, public welfare services, moral distress and policy practice.

### Public Engagement

In a world where corporations are increasingly powerful—owning information about us and influencing our rights—new legal strategies must be developed to safeguard human rights. Our Civil Litigation Clinic provides legal aid and representation to people in poverty and debt. This year students and faculty working in



the Clinic petitioned Members of Knesset with policy papers on insolvency regulation and mechanisms for erasing default interest.

Since its establishment over a decade ago, the Clinic for Law and Education Policy has been fighting to ensure accessible and free education for all children. This year the clinic continued a lawsuit against a local high school for charging excessive payments from parents, above and beyond what is permitted by law.

### Learning & Students

Over 90 Faculty of Law students from University of Haifa run the Clinics for Law and Social Change. The legal clinics are a “laboratory in law,” where experience and expertise are translated into research that is later published in leading academic journals, both Israeli and international.

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Ensuring access to education through digital learning, the MOOC - Massive Online Open Course was developed by UofH’s Unit for Digital Learning. The courses are run using the edX and Israel Digital Campus platforms. Anyone can register for courses for a nominal fee, and those who choose can have the courses recognized for credit. During COVID-19, the MOOC was essential in helping the transition to digital learning.

### Operations

Over 1.5 million shekel, approximately \$500,000 was distributed in scholarships and financial assistance to 565 students through the Student Solidarity Fund, established by the University of Haifa to support individuals struggling with extreme economic hardship due to COVID-19.

UofH took significant steps to improve the university’s employment conditions for its contracted maintenance staff. The majority of cleaning services in Israeli academic, health, and cultural institutions are employed through outside contractors. President Ron Robin implemented a plan that allows University cleaning staff to be recognized as employees, thus protecting their rights and allowing them to attain financial security in the future.





## END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

### Research

Prof. Asaf Distelfeld and Prof. Tzion Fahima from the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, [Faculty of Natural Sciences](#), lead the Institute of Evolution's expanding Wild Cereal Gene Bank, which provides a gene pool of thousands of wild wheat samples. The Institute's scientists played a key role in an international project that successfully sequenced the complex emmer wheat genome – a landmark achievement which will help develop a more productive, resource-efficient variety of the crop. The BARD Foundation invested \$1.2 M in the Power Wheat Project, whose NPV they estimate to be \$118 M.

**Prof. Assaf Distelfeld, head of the Institute of Evolution, and the Institute of Evolution's expanding Wild Cereal Gene Bank provides a gene pool of thousands of wild wheat samples.**

Researchers continue to find and isolate useful wild cereal genes lost over the past 10,000 years, which can improve drought and disease resistance, protein content and adaptability to varied soils and rainfall levels.

Evolutionary biologists at the [Faculty of Natural Sciences](#) are cultivating fava beans as the next generation of superfoods. Fava beans provide superior nutritional value and are a healthier alternative to animal protein. The team is developing new genomic tools for optimal fava bean breeding.

As land-based agriculture suffers from the effects of climate change and water shortages, the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences explores the flora and fauna of the oceans as food sources. Researchers are seeking novel protein sources from seaweed and sustainable fish and shellfish production that will address these growing needs.

### Public Engagement

In the State of Israel, 220,000 older people with functional disabilities rely on paid caregivers

assistance on a daily basis. Caregivers help the elderly perform basic tasks including food preparation and monitoring medication intake. During COVID-19, public transportation was reduced to 25%, thus preventing many caregivers from continuing their work. Prof. Anna Zisberg, of the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#), began a campaign to recruit volunteers to drive caregivers to the elderly's homes so that they would continue to receive much needed support. Similar initiatives followed suit across the country.

Dr. Tamar Krugman, Curator of the Wild Cereals Gene Bank and a researcher at the Institute of Evolution, sent 350 different types of wild wheat seeds collected



from 74 areas around the country to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Funded by the Norwegian government, the Vault provides security of the world's food supply against the loss of seeds in gene banks due to mismanagement, accident, equipment failures, funding cuts, and natural disasters.

### Learning & Students

The Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences offers a course in Nutritional Policy and Present Dilemmas taught by Prof. Ronit

Endevelt. In this course, students explore how nutritional policy can advance or degrade society's health and well-being.

Dr. Shai Gar, a PhD candidate in the Department of Asian Studies, is studying the mass starvation in North Korea in the late nineties that led the country's leadership to diverge from isolationism and request international assistance for the first time. Gar examines the intricacies of disaster diplomacy with reference to this classic example.

### Operations

The University of Haifa launched a Solidarity Fund for thousands of staff and students who lost their jobs or family income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Shamir Research Institute in the Golan Heights operates Molecular labs; plant breeding rooms; Microscopic tools – genetic and microbiological; and an advanced greenhouse for Agro-Innovation research. Through high-quality professional services using cutting-edge science and technology, we support the Golan's farmers and ranchers.







## ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

### Research

Dr. Yonah Amster, Head of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the School of Public Health and the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#), has been advising the World Health Organization (WHO) on occupational health issues related to COVID-19. Dr. Amster's work at the WHO focuses on producing policy and technical briefs on how to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace, as well as how to stay healthy during workplace closures and while teleworking.

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COVID-19 laid bare many long-standing problems with healthcare systems around the world. Overstretched healthcare workers in hard-hit countries struggled with long working hours, fatigue, and extreme psychological stress. A new study led by Dr. Talya Greene

documents the especially high toll that COVID-19 took on healthcare staff in the United Kingdom.

Thanks to CAPABLE, an AI application being developed by Prof. Mor Peleg, from the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#) and head of the Data Science Research Center, in collaboration with Prof. Silvana Quaglini, patients with kidney cancer and diabetes can now manage their care at home. CAPABLE monitors the patient's physiological symptoms, collating, analyzing, and cross-referencing the personal medical data with a growing database of medical guidelines and intervention strategies.

### Public Engagement

As part of the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#), the Department for Community Mental Health's primary aim is to build bridges between science and practice, encourage dialogue and collaboration between national and international mental health experts, and develop adaptable policy papers.

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at

University of Haifa brings together a global network of institutes for medical ethics training in developed and developing countries, and helps create up-to-date syllabi for medical ethics education, based on the requirements of medical schools around the world.

Through mobilizing the health outreach programs that service the local community, the Interdisciplinary Clinical Center (ICC) meets health, developmental, emotional, and social needs of the community, and conducts community interventions during emergencies. The ICC provides assessment, therapy and supervision, and organizes workshops for people of all ages and mother tongues both on university premises and in the community.

### Learning & Students

Advancing Israel's Neurotech field one synapse at a time, Brainstorm IL is a cross-university student-led community for applied neuroscience. As part of this initiative, the BCI4AIS academic course teaches the theory and practice of brain-



computer interfaces (BCI). Led by PhD candidate Or Rabani, an interdisciplinary group of students enrolled in BCI4ALS, together with Haifa Innovation Labs, are working to develop innovative solutions for patients of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Aviv Kushnir, a recent graduate of the Masters in Art Therapy program, has developed APPLICODRAMA: an AI-based software application rooted in psychodrama methodology. His innovative solution provides patients with a hybrid traditional/digital therapy platform for better monitoring, support, and

treatment. Aviv is the winner of Israel's Council for Higher Education competition for student entrepreneurs. Aviv and his team have joined an acceleration program and are now looking to pilot at a medical facility.

The university's Psychological Counseling Unit provides a variety of subsidized therapies for students and staff to help them cope with emotional difficulties and stress connected to academic and personal issues. The service is free for students with financial difficulties.

### Operations

The university shares its sports facilities with the local community by allowing access to its volleyball, football, basketball, tennis, and squash courts, as well as to its fitness center. The center offers a squash program for children ages 11-14, who complete their homework with student volunteers after their squash lessons.

Our smoke-free policy prohibits smoking in public places. Smoking is only permitted in a few designated areas, which are clearly marked around the campus.



## ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

### Research

Ten senior researchers and 30 postdoc and graduate students lead the [Center for the Study of Child Development](#). Basic science questions regarding the nature of socio-emotional development across the lifespan and its implications and applications for the “real-life” of children and their families is the group’s primary focus.

The [Safrat Center](#) conducts training courses in literacy and numeracy assessment, as well as remedial instruction for at-risk learners to assist field professionals. The training is based on empirical research examining neurobiological, cognitive, affective, socio-emotional and academic foundations of school and preschool learning in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

How do we best train our teachers to thrive in school environments? Prof. Lily Orland-Barak from the [Faculty of Education](#) et al. published an article in the *Journal of Teacher Education* examining the theoretical underpinnings of four existing approaches to teacher mentoring during student teaching. The article analyzes the

practices associated with each approach, and identifies the major challenges facing preservice teachers.

The [Ofakim honors program](#) allows students with outstanding individual potential and intellectual curiosity to develop their talents in a supportive and challenging environment. The program exposes students to a variety of philosophical viewpoints and academic disciplines, encouraging both interdisciplinary thinking and creative originality. The aim of the program is to encourage students to choose research tracks in their own field of study and to make significant contributions to society. Students admitted to the program follow a double-track course of studies towards a B.A. and subsequently enroll in the program, in addition to their own chosen discipline.

### Public Engagement

More than 31,000 refugees and asylum seekers currently live in Israel. According to Israeli law, all children residing in Israel are entitled to free public education. However, many cities do not allow asylum seekers’ children to attend

school despite this obligation. Since its establishment in 2014, the Clinic for Law and Education Policy has represented hundreds of asylum seeker children and their parents in multiple cities in Israel and filed multiple petitions on their behalf.

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**The ‘Transformation Award’ received from the Israeli Chamber of Information Technology recognized our swift response to the pandemic, moving thousands of courses online through a hybrid MOODLE and Zoom system.**

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As the digital divide widened during COVID-19, the [Learning In a Networked Society \(LINKS\)](#) Israeli Center of Research Excellence (I-CORE) continued to generate a critical mass of research to bring about a paradigm shift in preparing citizens for lifelong learning in today’s information-based, networked society.

After completing her MSc, Hadar Elyashiv, a doctoral student at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences studying



submarine landslides, traveled to the University of Bremen, where she became the co-founder of the Once Upon a Time Project – a book of scientific fairy tales with an important message for the young and old. The Once Upon a Time project aims to communicate science through short stories that encourage dialogue between scientists and the general public, especially children, our next generation.

[Teaching with the Heart and Mind](#) and [Research and Advancement of Giftedness and Excellence Center \(RANGE\)](#) are both advanced research centers operated within the Faculty of Education. Teaching with the Heart and Mind seeks to develop an integrative model for the teaching of 21st century skills. With the support of the Trump Foundation, the RANGE Center inspires and guides communities of practice of secondary school

math teachers to teach math at an advanced level, promote literacy, and integrate creative activities in the classroom.

### Learning & Students

Our Etgar Computer Science Program attracts excelling high school students like Ibrahim Jubran. After joining University of Haifa as a high school student, Jubran continued to undergraduate studies and then to PhD candidacy. Ibrahim received an Outstanding Honorable Mention for his group’s paper on big data compression algorithms competing against some 9,000 entries at the 2019 NeurIPS.

Learning Disabilities in the Arabic Language, Brain and Learning, Bibliotherapy and Educational Administration for Officers and Security Forces are among the more than 20 diverse Masters

programs offered within the [Faculty of Education](#).

More than 25,000 students, 5,000 educators and 1,000 schools are involved in integration of innovative instructional practices learned through a variety of faculty laboratories and research projects.

### Operations

The ‘Transformation Award’ received from the Israeli Chamber of Information Technology recognized our swift response to the pandemic, moving thousands of courses online through a hybrid MOODLE and Zoom system.

Updated guidelines were published and promoted to ensure the proper adaptations for testing students with learning disabilities. These guidelines are intended to uphold the rights of these students throughout their studies.





## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS



### Research

In the recent article published in Sex Roles, Prof. Guy Enosh from the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#), analyzes the legal discourse surrounding motherhood, parenting capacity, and sexual conduct of marginalized women whose parenting rights were terminated. The study's key findings include the need for professionals to avoid bias against socially-marginalized women and it recommends that women's voices must be heard in cases where the state is considering intervening in the parental rights of the mother.

Assistant professor of law at the University of Haifa, Dr. Maayan Sudai is the director of the Law and Policy Project in the [GenderSci lab](#). Through research, teaching, and public outreach, the lab works to advance the intersectional study of gender in the biomedical and allied sciences, counter bias, and hype in sex difference research, while enhancing public discourse surrounding the sciences of sex and gender.

### Public Engagement

The Faculty of Law's Legal Feminism Clinic employs a

variety of socio-legal strategies to empower women and promote their rights. Center activities include Socio-legal Services for Victims of Sex Crimes; combatting all forms of violence against women – physical, sexual, economic, and emotional; and raising awareness around health issues that particularly impact women.

The Unit for Social Involvement cooperates with the QueenB Non-Profit Organization to encourage young girls and women to study and pursue careers in the field of Computer Science. Computer Science students founded the program to encourage more women to pursue careers in this field.

### Learning & Students

Over 50% of University of Haifa faculty and 60% of graduates are women.

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The university's policy of non-discrimination against women appears in its Code of Ethics: "the University treats everyone equally, fairly, and appropriately. It does not discriminate on grounds of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, religion, nationality, political views, civil and family status, sexual orientation, or irrelevant disability."

The [Master's program in Women's and Gender Studies](#) is an interdisciplinary, research oriented program. The program's goal is to afford students in-depth knowledge of scholarship and debate concerning gender, provide them with the tools to conduct

their research, and encourage them to develop a multifaceted view of the gendered reality of human lives and the ways gendered social and political frameworks shape these lives.

### Operations

Students who are pregnant, post-partum, undergoing fertility treatments, adopting, taking custody, or fostering a child are all eligible for special concessions, such as permission to be absent from 30% of classes, receiving photocopying, additional time in

exams, and preferential parking on campus.

Hebrew commonly refers to all genders using male pronouns and verb conjugations. In 2020, the Rector and Senior Advisor on Gender Equality Division at UofH sent a campus-wide letter requesting academic faculty to take a few practical steps towards using gender-equal language on exams, and in-class and out-of-class assignments. The Gender Equality Division was established to bring a gendered lens to all strategic decision making and policy formation at UofH.







## ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

### Research

Israel relies heavily on large-scale seawater desalination facilities that supply over 70% of the country's drinking water. Supplying quality seawater to the desalination plants is essential and requires continual research and monitoring to ensure that varying sources of pollution do not impact the chemical and biological characteristics of the water. Prof. Ilana Berman-Frank, head of the [Leon H. Charney School of Marine](#)

[Sciences](#), suggests that oil and gas pollution may in fact present a more extensive threat to our desalination plants and drinking water than previously thought, and recommends that the government consider national prevention and management plans.

Research at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences monitors and targets nutrients in our "blue desert" system that can cause harmful algal blooms that block filters and cause plant shutdown. There

are similar concerns pertaining to the expansive jellyfish falls often experienced in the summer months.

### Public Engagement

Prof Tamar Lotan, Prof. Dror Angel and Dr. Dor Edelist of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, educate the public about the potential benefits of jellyfish: "Their mucus can trap microplastic particles to clean up the oceans, and their body contains collagen that cosmetics companies are already applying in anti-aging products."

In January 2020, an open workshop titled, The Impacts of Seawater Desalination Discharges on the Marine Environment, focused on how the desalination process produces large amounts of brine and other chemicals that eventually enter the marine environment. Professionals from the desalination industry, NGOs, government regulators, and academics were all in attendance. The workshop emphasized the importance of continuous and

local monitoring of physical, chemical, and biological parameters near desalination plants to ensure both water quality and ecological viability.

**"Jellyfish mucus can trap microplastic particles to clean up the oceans, and their body contains collagen that cosmetics companies are already applying in anti-aging products."**

### Learning & Students

As technologies advance and population pressures increase, ensuring the availability of water extends beyond the traditional potable water sources. In addition to freshwater, seawater, treated water, and brackish waters can all be treated for utilization. Our students at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences gain perspective on the different aquatic systems, their potential as



potable water sources and their management.

Noy Kadosh from the [Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management](#) presented his thesis, Detecting Cyber-Physical Attacks in Water Distribution Systems: One-Class Classifier Approach, at the 2019 Israeli Water Association Conference. The results of this study demonstrate that one-class classification algorithms can be suitable for the cyber-attack detection problem and can compete with existing approaches. More specifically, this study examines the support vector data description (SVDD) method together with a tailored features selection methodology, which is based on the physical understanding of the WDS topology.

### Operations

The water on campus comes from the Mey Carmel company. Beyond the standard testing they do, we contract the Institute for Food Microbiology to regularly test the turbidity, free chlorine, pH, temperature, and Legionella count in nine locations on campus.

Backflow prevention systems are in place on campus allowing water from the city's public water supply to flow into the University's piping and stopping water if and when it ever tries to flow backwards into the main water supply. Our backflow prevention system is checked regularly to ensure that our clean water and wastewater are not cross-connected.







## ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

### Research

A combination of factors leads to extreme energy poverty, such as lack of access to affordable and reliable grid-based energy sources. Dr. Maya Negev, from the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#), et al. published an article in *Energy Research & Social Science* which compared and contrasted Roma neighborhoods in Romania and Bedouin villages in Israel within their national contexts regarding modern energy and housing infrastructure. By exploring policies and regulation of energy poverty, they identified and analyzed the main characteristics and challenges associated with extreme energy poverty and highlighted the nexus of infrastructure, planning and social inequality from the perspective of energy provision.

For the first time, a controlled field study conducted by Prof. Ofira Ayalon, from the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#) and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, took a middle-out strategy (MOS) approach to reduce mid-week summer peak energy demand. In her article in *Energy Research & Social*

*Science*, a downstream impact was demonstrated by 1/3 of the participating households reducing their peak consumption by 10%, with an average reduction of 4.5–6%.

**By exploring policies and regulation of energy poverty, they identified and analyzed the main characteristics and challenges associated with extreme energy poverty and highlighted the nexus of infrastructure, planning and social inequality from the perspective of energy provision.**



### Public Engagement

In 2013, the University's Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Research Center established the first green roof in the Middle East. It was also one of the first green roofs in the world to focus on how to preserve biodiversity in an urban setting. Headed by Prof. Dan Malkinson, the Center is studying how green roofs can play a role in cutting back energy consumption, maximize urban biodiversity and promote urban farming.

Prof. Dror Angel of the [Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences](#) heads the Laboratory of Applied Marine Biology and Ecological Research (AMBER). AMBER focuses on interdisciplinary research that explores the natural and human dimensions of marine ecosystems. Committed to citizen science and science communication, the lab team regularly teaches in local schools.

### Learning & Students

Graduate students earning an MA in Energy Policy and Management broaden and deepen



their understanding of energy resources in Israel and around the world. The program emphasizes social and managerial studies, renewable energy development and the promotion of energy efficiency. Students learn to examine and comprehend the environmental, regulatory, and economic aspects of energy resource development, and are trained to become managers in the field.

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies offers a course in Environmental Education for Sustainability. The course examines the role of environmental education in improving the condition of the natural environment and offers students the opportunity to learn about topics such as place-based education, public domain, and sustainable neighborhoods.

### Operations

The university administration took energy efficiency measures that reduced electricity consumption. Our kilowatt usage per hour, per meter was reduced from 107.6 to 101.5 this past year.

As a result of the same energy efficiency measures, our diesel consumption was reduced in the past year from 230,000 liters to 171,000 liters, a 26% reduction!





## PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



### Research

In a recent article published in the *Sustainability* journal, an interdisciplinary team of UofH researchers sought to understand biosphere reserve management by exploring the effect of green business-guidance training. Their research suggests that green business guidance training has a significant effect on entrepreneurs' attitudes and intended behaviors regarding local sustainability governance and that biosphere reserve management can improve local sustainability governance performance.

University of Haifa's Study of Organizations and Human Resource Management Quarterly features research and theoretical articles, descriptions of approaches, methodology and field learning from experience of organizations.

**Research suggests that green business guidance training has a significant effect on entrepreneurs' attitudes and intended behaviors regarding local sustainability governance**

### Public Engagement

The Law, Technology and Cyber Clinic aims to utilize its dual expertise – in law and in technology – to promote necessary legal changes to dynamically face the ongoing and rapid technological developments that present constant challenges to human rights and social interest. For example, the Clinic's researchers map the government's use of algorithms to track citizen behavior and make this information publicly available.

Our virtual career fair enabled over 400 job seekers and 60 employers to meet in person, while adhering to social distancing regulations. This was especially important given the high unemployment rates young people were facing in Israel at the time.

### Learning & Students

The post-graduation job market is often challenging for undergraduates to navigate upon completing their degree. Through the "Triple Internship" program, students are assisted in finding internships in their field where they can gain relevant experience,

network, and receive references that will assist them when applying for their first position after completing their studies.

Our Center for Career Development offers a special program to assist students and recent alumni with disabilities find employment and to integrate into a position in a relevant field. Additionally, the Center offers special services to both the employer and employee to accommodate disabilities.

### Operations

AcadeME is a private online database operated in partnership with the Dean of Students Career Development Center. AcadeME helps students and alumni find relevant positions, while assisting employers to recruit interested job seekers in the area.

Lectures on resume writing, job interview skills, and job search are all regularly offered by the Dean of Students Career Development

Center. Students can also attend workshops that will equip them with skills to integrate into a new workplace. These workshops include time management, coping with workplace dilemmas, and coping with stress on the job.







## BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

### Research

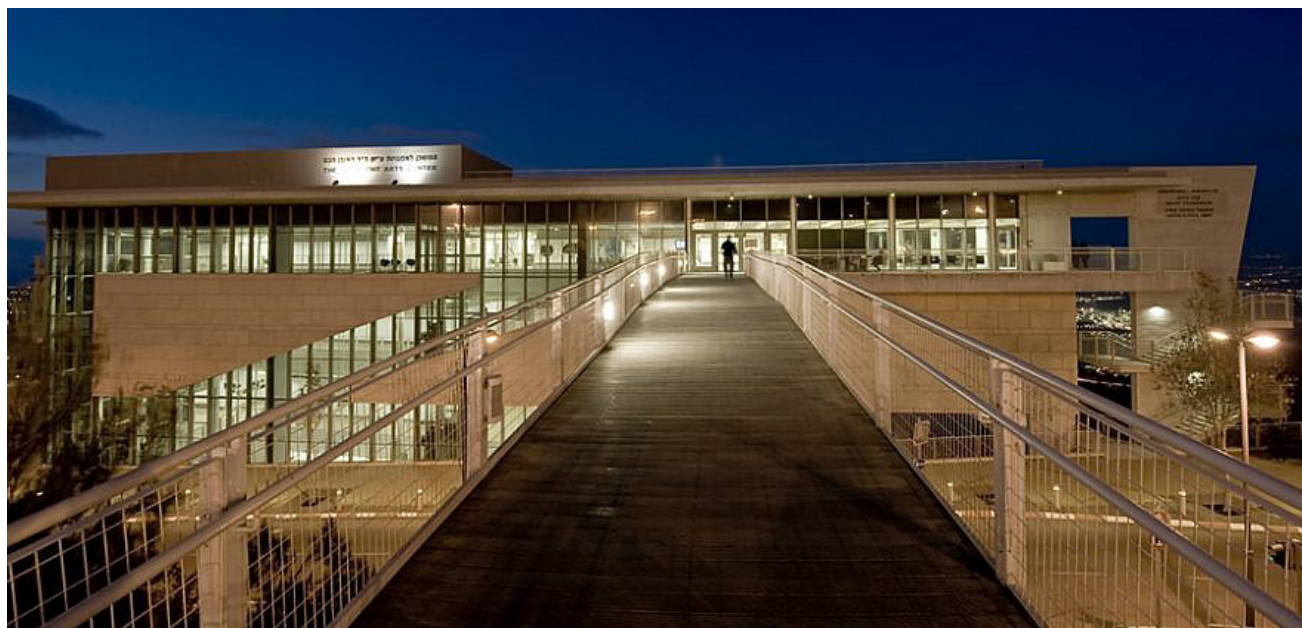
Carmel-Haifa Economic Corporation Ltd. is the technology commercialization and business arm of the University of Haifa. The company was founded to protect intellectual property and commercialize innovative technologies and services by forging strategic agreements with global partners, investors, and businesses. Carmel-Haifa launches, supports, and accelerates technologies and early

stage startups from the lab to the marketplace. In 2020, Carmel-Haifa raised more than NIS 12.5 million, despite the challenges of COVID-19.

The Caesarea Edmond Benjamin de Rothschild Foundation Institute for Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science (C.R.I.) is an advanced research institute at the forefront of interdisciplinary research in applications of computer science. The Institute's technology track provides support to graduate students and faculty

who wish to develop inventions and ideas that may have commercial or social value.

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### Public Engagement

As a pioneering innovation hub in Holocaust education and commemoration, the Weiss-Livnat Center for Holocaust Research and Education hosts 7 entrepreneurs from around the world who develop educational and commemorative projects – historical, artistic, and accessible through a digital platform.

The Arab Women Entrepreneur group runs in partnership with the Community Engagement Unit and the Arab Women Entrepreneurs NGO. Led by the lawyer Doa Harish, the group seeks to help University students gain skills necessary for entrepreneurship, as well as lead workshops for female, Arab middle school and high school students.



environment on campus. The lab focuses on designing a better world through social innovation and impact entrepreneurship, as well as provides students with practical skills necessary to develop innovative and interdisciplinary solutions for societal and environmental challenges.

ProteKt Therapeutic – a biotech company that has grown from a lab start-up at UofH – raised \$3.6 million in post-incubation financing. ProteKt Therapeutic is developing promising PKR kinase inhibitor-based therapies for neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's. The company was founded by [Carmel-Haifa](#) and the Carmel Innovations Fund based on the research of [Prof. Kobi Rosenblum](#) of the [Sagol Department of Neurobiology, Faculty of Natural Sciences](#).

### Learning & Students

University of Haifa's one-year Global Green MBA program is guided by a commitment to sustainable business management practices. As a leader in water and renewable energy management and in developing innovative and sustainable technologies, University of Haifa is an ideal place to immerse in the dynamic intersection between environmental sustainability and business.

Launched in 2019, the [Haifa Innovation Labs \(HIL\)](#) instills and promotes an entrepreneurial

### Operations

Ambitious in scope and visionary in impact, this past year the City of Haifa's cable car project took its final steps towards completion. The cable car now connects the heavily trafficked Lev Hamifratz transportation center to the University station atop Mount Carmel.





## REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

### Research

Prof. Tali Kristal, of the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#), recently published an article in *Work and Occupation* offering a new account of rising inequality by observing correlation between computerization and earnings. Prof. Kristal argues that as computers transform work into more knowledge-intensive activity, occupations located at critical junctions of information flow gain greater structural power, and thereby higher wages.

The *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* features Dr. Yuval Feinstein of the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#), and Dr. Bart Bonikowski's recent work on nationalism and anti-immigrant attitudes. The authors argue that nations with a history of precarious sovereignty, victimhood and exceptionalism narratives can provide a fertile environment for the exclusionary appeals of radical-right political actors.

### Public Engagement

Under-represented students from Israel's geographical and social periphery benefit from our campus-wide initiative promoting social mobility. The flagship Social Mobility Program offers comprehensive financial, academic, and social support services to students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds throughout their studies – including critical career counseling.

### The flagship Social Mobility Project offers comprehensive financial, academic, and social support services to students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds throughout their studies

Haifa's Legal Feminism Clinic, headed by Adv. Vardit Avidan, from the Faculty of Law, conducted a series of surveys at Israeli hospitals and found that many women who came to the hospital after being sexually assaulted had to wait several hours to be seen in the ER, were examined



by male doctors, and were sometimes treated judgmentally or disparagingly by social workers. The team learned that hospitals lack sufficient post-rape examination rooms and that many forensic examination kits are discarded soon after being used.

### Learning & Students

Increasingly, government services are available online, and our Law, Technology and Cyber Clinic works with people who have difficulty accessing online services. For example, in 2021 Israel Postal Service transitioned to appointment booking exclusively through an online application. The application is not accessible for people who are not proficient in Hebrew, English or

Arabic (such as Russian speaking individuals or Amharic speaking individuals) and especially problematic for people who are not technologically literate.

Beyond providing access to quality mediation, the Leon Charney Dispute Resolution Clinic believes that dispute resolution tools can empower individuals from marginalized populations and enable them to promote their interests while conserving meaningful relationships. Therefore, the Clinic facilitates mediation workshops in various peripheral communities, such as special communal housing for people with disabilities, at-risk youth boarding schools, and women's community centers.

### Operations

In partnership with Co-Impact: Partnership for Breakthrough in Arab Employment, University of Haifa's Human Resources Department was able to ensure that the University exceeded its target in that over 12% of its 2020 recruits identified as Arab.

We currently enroll the a large number of students of Ethiopian descent of any university in Israel. We offer tailored support packages to enable access to higher education, and successful completion, including academic support, as well as tuition and subsistence scholarships. The Office of the Dean of Students employs an advisor for Israeli-Ethiopian students to guide them in accessing University services.





## MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

### Research

Prof. Lea Wittenberg, head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, from the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#), is involved in several European and local projects addressing the effects of fire (including post-fire management) on the ecosystem, urban hydrology and ecosystem services. She is a member of COMLAND steering committee, the Commission on Land Degradation & Desertification - International Geographic Union.

Re-planning an Edge City: Tysons in the Post-Suburban Era by Prof. Igal Charney, from the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#), published in *Cities*, explores how edge cities have lost much of their attractiveness as corporate destinations, and how Tysons' retrofit aimed to fight against prospective edge-city decline.

### Public Engagement

Like many countries around the world, the COVID-19 crisis took a heavy toll on Israel's elderly population. Together with the

Dean of Students, UofH students responded by rolling out a special project called "Keeping in Touch." The initiative aimed to improve the quality of life of underserved elderly citizens by connecting them with the outside world and helping them feel less isolated.

UofH's Flagship program encourages social solidarity by bringing student and faculty's academic knowledge into Haifa's local communities. In doing so they hope to promote educational access in communities that suffer from socioeconomic exclusion. As part of the program, and in partnership with the UofH Children's Library, 3rd and 5th grade students attend weekly sessions that encourage reading, searching for knowledge, processing what was learned and presenting the information.

### Learning & Students

The Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Research Center recently inaugurated a hydroponic garden atop one of the Haifa Municipality buildings. As part of the project, lab members installed hydroponic systems to encourage citizens to grow fruits and vegetables on

their rooftops. Master's students offer workshops there for community leaders to encourage the establishment of green roofs in their neighborhoods.

University dormitories offer affordable housing options for students - with various types of rooms available at different rental fees. Even the most expensive dormitory on campus is considerably cheaper than renting an average apartment in Haifa. Master's students offer workshops there for community leaders to encourage the establishment of green roofs in their neighborhoods.

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**Master's students offer workshops there for community leaders to encourage the establishment of green roofs in their neighborhoods.**

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### Operations

Situated in the heart of Haifa's 'up and coming' port district, the new Lorry I. Lokey City Campus is set to become a leading



academic and research hub for the University's rapidly growing offerings in the emerging fields of digital health, artificial intelligence, robotics and big data visualization and analytics. Our newly developed downtown campus'

easily accessible location reduces the need to use private cars, and encourages the use of public transportation.

The [Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences](#) is currently in the

process of finding a permanent home along Israel's northern coastline, which will provide us with improved access to the deep sea and enable the school to expand its critical long-term academic vision.



## ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

### Research

In a recent study published in *Cognitive Psychology of Environmental Sustainability*, UofH researchers successfully used traffic light icons on light bulb packaging to influence consumers to choose the healthier carbon bulb. The results highlight the benefits of attaching traffic light icons to light bulb packaging, assisting consumers to make more health-conscious purchasing decisions.

Prof. Ofira Ayalon and Dr. Efrat Elimelech of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, from the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#), have developed a more reliable method to measure how much food is being wasted in our own homes. Previous measurement methods relied on self-reporting estimations and failed to pinpoint the source, amount and composition of the waste.

### Public Engagement

"The lab" podcast series, produced by KAN news, allows listeners

to learn who is involved in environmental policy-making, implementation, and regulation. Prof. Ofira Ayalon, of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, explains why environmental management requires special attention and why Israel urgently needs sharp policies in the areas of waste, energy, and climate change.

A study by researchers of the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology offers a "simple" and low-cost method for converting waste into ethanol, which can be used as sanitizers in the battle against the Coronavirus. Their novel method produces ethanol without generating toxins, providing an alternative for the need to import hand sanitizer gels.

### Learning & Students

Topics in Pollution and Environmental Purification offered by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies equips students with the tools and foundational knowledge to understand pollution production processes

and methods of purification. The course focuses on the sources and impact of pollution, and provides insight into sustainable methods of purification using vegetation, bacteria, and advanced technologies.

The Department of Human Services offers a course called Legal Issues in Services and Consumerism, taught by Justice Haim Somech. Western societies consume food, recreation, communications, media, financial, and health services. These services are marketed to increase our desire to consume and purchase them. The course examines the laws and rights legislators use to regulate these bodies.

### Operations

To date, more than 100 tons of "e-waste," including old computers, computer screens, printers and the like have been delivered to the ECommunity (Ecology for the Sheltered Community) project. The initiative recycles electronic waste and provides job opportunities for individuals with special needs.

As part of the Green Campus project, all new buildings on campus must meet Israeli "Green Building Standards." All existing buildings had air conditioning and lighting renovations this past year in order to improve energy efficiency.

**100 tons of "e-waste," including old computers, computer screens, printers and the like have been delivered to the ECommunity project, which recycles electronic waste and provides job opportunities for people with special needs.**







## TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

### Research

Prof. Shlomit Paz from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies is a climatologist who works on better understanding of the scientific

basis of the climate crisis and its impacts on human health and security. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the MedECC, the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change, which

includes over 650 scientists from more than 30 countries. Prof. Paz is also a member of the CLIMOS consortium, which recently grant of 9.7 million € for research on the impacts of climate change on the human health in Europe.

**Prof. Shlomit Paz from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies is a member of the Steering Committee of the MedECC, the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change.**

Prof. Ofira Ayalon from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Management is a member of a research group that promotes the prevention of food wastage in households, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Other research by Prof. Ayalon is focused on improving river basin management in order to reduce floods risks that result from climate change.

Dr. Maya Negev from the School of Public Health works on climate resilience issues in urban areas,

developing models for a better preparedness to climate change impacts.

A current study by Dr. Galit Weinstein from the School of Public Health, together with Dr. Negev and Prof. Paz, analyzed the impacts of heat waves on the risk for stroke.

### Public Engagement

Prof. Shlomit Paz, Prof. Ofira Ayalon and Dr. Maya Negev take part in various national committees that address Israel's preparedness for the climate crisis. For example, "The National Preparedness Committee for Climate Change" and "The Israeli Climate Forum", recently established by the President of Israel.

In addition, they serve as advisors to various government agencies (such as: The Ministry for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Energy among others) and local authorities (e.g. Tel-Aviv and Haifa municipalities, Emek Yizrael regional council and others) on preparedness to climate crisis impacts.

Dr. Alex Altshuler, from the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#), is a member of the International Science Council, the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Expert Review Group (ERG), which develops a global disaster risk reduction research agenda towards 2030 and beyond.



### Learning & Students

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies offers MA programs with a focus on GIS and remote sensing, emergency and disaster management, tourism planning and management, water resources, as well as a program for teachers of environmental geography. The Department hosts several specialized research and teaching facilities, including several teaching labs in physical geography and computer-aided mapping and analysis.

Declining bee populations have caused widespread alarm around the globe. Many beekeepers believe that the Varroa mite - a parasite that feeds on bees - is one of the main culprits. University law student and software developer Yaniv Finkelshtein has teamed up with Avi, his beekeeper brother, to launch "Save the Bees" - an innovative startup employing AI technology to fight the spread of the Varroa mite. The system employs advanced image processing technology housed within a sterilized box to

assist beekeepers with identifying infected hives.

### Operations

Several of our campus buildings were equipped with systems that reduce electricity and water consumption. The systems detect when there is deviation from normal usage and enable quick response. There is continual oversight over these systems. Our solar energy system is also continually monitored for maximum efficiency.

The university encourages employees to use the Waze carpool services. Our Port Campus location was chosen as it is accessible via public transportation. In addition, the new cable car has just opened, connecting the central bus station and the train station with the Technion and the University, thereby encouraging the use of public transportation, instead of private car use.





## CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Research

The Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences (CSMS) is home to Israel's first university graduate school of marine sciences. CSMS is based on a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach that is essential to address the challenges of the dynamic marine ecosystem under climate change. Our mission is to provide science-based insights that support proactive policy generation and regulatory activity.

Our investigators explore the physical, chemical, and biological

environment of the Mediterranean and Red Seas. The research spans topics such as mapping the seafloor; exploring of the sub-sea floor for methane seeps (a powerful greenhouse gas); predicting future tsunamis from past evidence; studying the impacts of climate change and pollution on the marine food web; and discovering never before seen nurseries of deep-sea sharks and Mediterranean corals.

Partnering with Texas A&M University, we established the THEMO project (Texas A&M – University of Haifa Eastern

Mediterranean Observatory) – two sensor arrays attached to surface buoys at two locations off the Israeli coast (125 m and 1500 m depth stations). These observatories provide real time information of the physical, chemical, and biological status of the seawater. The data is received at a shore station and displayed on the [THEMO website](#) where anyone can track and download the data.

### Public Engagement

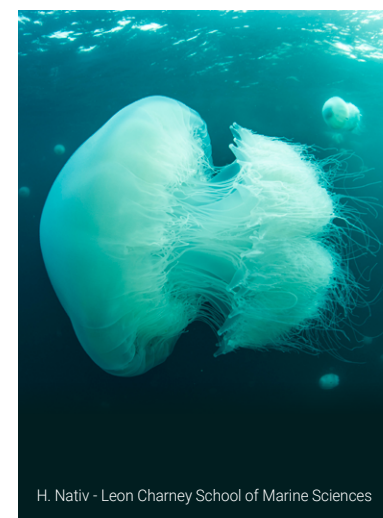
The 7th Haifa Conference on Mediterranean Sea Research- "Food from the Sea – Towards 2050 and beyond," discussed how fish, seafood and seaweed are likely to be a major source of nutrition for the anticipated 9-10 billion people that will inhabit our planet. By the middle of the 21st century, most of the fish and shellfish that reach world markets will originate from aquaculture and will most likely be based on seawater production systems, whether from land-based facilities or oceanic production farms. Marine aquaculture in the eastern Mediterranean must provide sustainable production of cost



effective, nutritious, healthy food products.

**Faculty from the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies established a citizen-science website to enable the public to report observations of jellyfish in the eastern Mediterranean, as well as inform people about the gelatinous plankton in our coastal waters.**

[Jellyfish Inc.](#) began as a purely scientific endeavor, however due to the patchy and often unexpected appearance of jellyfish at sea, scientific researchers recognized the need to enlist the public in their efforts. Faculty from the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies established a citizen-science



H. Nativ - Leon Charney School of Marine Sciences



website to enable the public to report observations of jellyfish in the eastern Mediterranean, as well as inform people about the gelatinous plankton in our coastal waters.

### Learning & Students

Marine Sciences graduate students who enrolled in the our new outreach focused course - Sea, Society, Education and Leadership - worked with underprivileged middle school students on projects highlighting the importance of a sustainable sea.

### Operations

An action plan for reducing plastic waste on campus was presented to the University's committee on Environmental Management in October 2020. The plan included disposable plasticware reduction goals for on-campus eateries, as

well as a dramatic increase in the number of large receptacles for recycling plastic bottles.

In order to reduce the consumption of water on campus, our smart drip irrigation systems are monitored regularly so that any irregular water usage will be detected and dealt with in real time. In addition, campus gardens are becoming less reliant on water as a result of a deliberate shift to drought tolerant vegetation.







## PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

### Research

Situated in a bio geographically diverse region amongst three continents, Israel is one of the world's richest regions in biodiversity across the planet. Our researchers and graduate

students at the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, and Faculty of Natural Sciences study biodiversity evolution under environmental stress. Institute researchers study animal, plant, and fungi diversity, genomics, and their

intersection with biomedicine and biotechnology; computational biology; bioinformatics; ecology; and nature conservation.

The *Tourism Management* journal featured a recent article by Prof. Andrea Ghermandi, from the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#), which investigates cultural services accrued to local domestic and international visitors who come to the Usumacinta floodplain in Southern Mexico. The research combines analysis of social media photos and high-res land covering mapping, providing valuable information to decision makers for improved tourism management and conservation strategies.

### Public Engagement

iNaturalist, a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and National Geographic Society, helps identify plants and animals in your immediate environment.

**In 2020, iNaturalist Israel became the newest member of the network through collaboration with the University of Haifa.**



In 2020, iNaturalist Israel became the newest member of the network through collaboration with the University of Haifa. The partnership builds on our longstanding use of iNaturalist for various ecological monitoring projects in Israel.

Dr. Maya Negev, of the School of Public Health and Head of Health Systems Policy and Administration Program, from the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#), is a member of MED 2050, an ambitious foresight exercise aimed at mobilizing decision-makers and stakeholders around strategy for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.



### Learning & Students

The artificial light emitted by the ground at night and visible from space marks the presence of humans on earth. A recent study published by PhD candidate Nataliya Rybnikova, et al. in IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing, compared the performance of several machine learning methods for coloring panchromatic nighttime satellite images.

A new concentration in Applied Practice in Geography and Environmental Studies offers the Department's students the opportunity to intern in relevant NGOs, government offices and companies. Throughout their internship period, students attend a course that assists them in navigating their first experience in the workforce.



### Operations

The Hecht Museum, located at the University of Haifa, was established by the late Dr. Reuben Hecht, who was interested in the archaeology of the Land of Israel, and diligently collected archaeological artifacts representing the material culture of the Land of Israel in ancient times.

A new exhibit of rare and ancient musical instruments from the collection of the late Amiram Zamani is now on display at the Dr. Reuben Hecht Arts Center. Irit Altshuler Zamani donated the collection to the Department of Music in memory of her late husband. Zamani's collection offers a wide selection of flutes, mandolins, guitars as well as lesser known instruments - like koto, biwa, bodhrán and sitar - from all over the world.





## PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

### Research

The effects of virtual cooperative video games have not yet been explored within the setting of hostile intergroup contexts; nor have they been tested among school-aged children. Through Gaming for Peace, [Faculty of Education's](#) Dr. Joy Bentov et al. share their longitudinal school-based intervention that enabled virtual contact between Jewish-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli children.

When Victimhood Goes to War? Israel and Victim Claims,

is the first systematic study demonstrating that victim narratives can pose challenges for governance. In the article, Dr. Keren Sharvit of the Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences, and her colleague from University of Kent, Tadek Markiewicz, examine under what conditions Israel's political elites incorporate victim narratives towards armed conflicts.

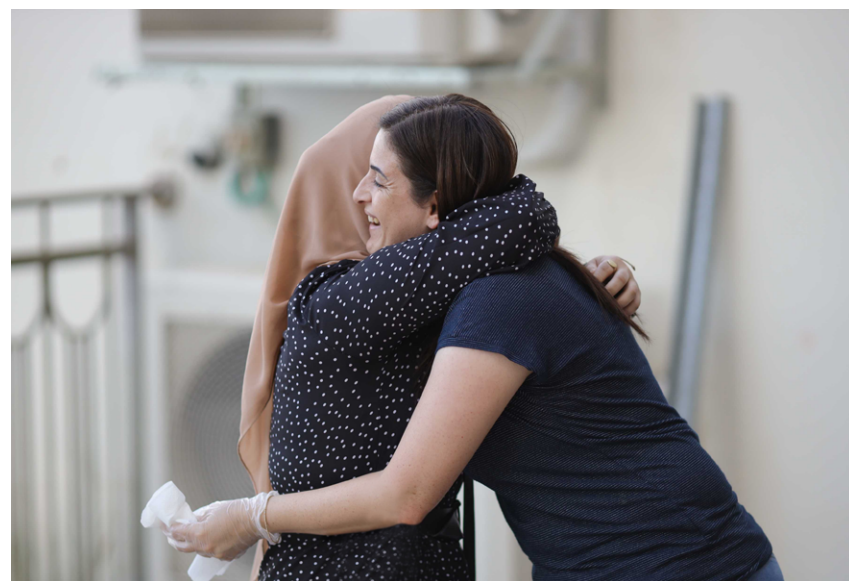
The [Minerva Center for the Rule of Law under Extreme Conditions](#) initiates innovative interdisciplinary research on the normative and institutional

dimensions of the rule of law under extreme conditions, as well as in-depth examination of law-in-action. It fosters multifaceted empirical and theoretical research in the study of rule of law as a social sphere during belligerents, natural disasters and socio-economic acute crises.

**Through Gaming for Peace, Dr. Joy Bentov, from the Faculty of Education, et al. share their longitudinal school-based intervention that enabled virtual contact between Jewish-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli children.**

### Public Engagement

Members of the Peace and Conflict Management Program at University of Haifa are part of the founding team of the [consortium of Universities and civil society](#) organizations working toward shared society in 6 countries in hopes to overcome identity-based divisions and inter-group conflicts, share knowledge and conduct innovative research.

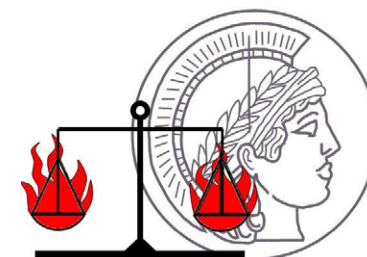


The [National Security Studies Center \(NSSC\)](#) studies security on national, regional, and global levels, and the interrelationships between powers on each level. Moreover, the NSSC focuses on the Israel-Palestine conflict, the fundamental political issues and key conflicts of the middle east and the different alliances in the region.

### Learning & Students

Since the founding of the UofH, the [Jewish-Arab Center \(JAC\)](#) has worked to promote good relations between Jews and Arabs within Israel and to enhance peace between Israel and the Palestinians. One of the primary focuses of the center concerns campus life, initiating common activity, seminars and various projects between Jewish and Arab students.

The MA Program in Peace and Conflict Management is a rigorous, one-year program of study that introduces an interdisciplinary approach to peace and conflict. The curriculum addresses intergroup conflicts



Minerva Center for the Rule of Law  
under Extreme Conditions



at different levels, ranging from the local to the international arena, and explores a variety of approaches to dealing with conflicts in different parts of the world with special attention on the Middle East.

### Operations

The city of Haifa is widely recognized as a model of co-existence between Christians, Muslim, Druze and Jews. Haifa is the pre-eminent example of what are known in Israel as 'mixed cities.' In the [Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies](#) a community of researchers, visiting professors and students collaborate on scholarly research about religions – with a particular focus on interfaith dialogue and interdisciplinary collaboration.

On-campus public activity on the part of the members of the University community complements the University's

academics. The University views it as an obligation to allow the members of its community to fully express opinions, outlooks, and beliefs, and to maintain a dialogue about them. Public activity is defined as any political, social, cultural, entertainment, or academic (other than teaching) activity. This includes rallies, protests, lectures, distributing flyers, putting up booths, showing movies, and any other public activity (including enclosed spaces).





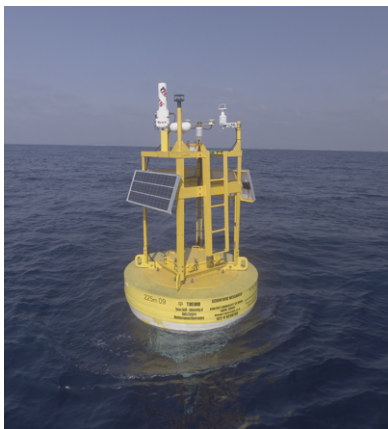


## STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Research

The Maritime Policy and Strategy Research Center (HMS) recognizes the power of partnership. Currently, the HMS takes an active role in many important collaborations with the European Rim Policy and Investment Council, National Maritime Foundation - INDIA, TRENDS Research and Advisory, Abu Dhabi, UAE, and the FMES - Institut méditerranéen des hautes études stratégiques.

Professor Emeritus Avi Sagi-Schwartz, from the [Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences](#), founder and director of the International MA in Child Development program



reunited with Program alumni, Sahilu Baye, Nana Esi Gaisie and Allan Rousselin, along with special guest and founder of the Two Lilies Fund, to discuss the impact of education and child development initiatives in improving the status and wellbeing of children.

### Public Engagement

The Unit for Social Engagement facilitates dialogue programs between the various sectors in Israeli society, with the cooperation of MABAT NGO. The aim is to provide a platform for honest and meaningful conversations between sectors of society that are rarely afforded such opportunities. Among these programs is the dialogue program between secular students and ultra-orthodox residents of Haifa (SHAGI); Arab-Jewish Leadership Student Program and Entrepreneurship for shared society – Arab and Jewish students working in the city of Akko together.

### Before the outbreak of Covid-19, Arabic-speaking students from the clinic travelled twice a year to Greece to provide legal aid and translation to asylum seekers and refugees

Refugees and other undocumented groups in Israel are those whose rights are least protected. Our Legal Clinic for Human Rights is involved in promoting the rights of refugees both in Israel and abroad. Before the outbreak of Covid-19, Arabic-speaking students from the clinic travelled twice a year to Greece to provide legal aid and translation to asylum seekers and refugees at various stages of their asylum application.

### Learning & Students

The Center for Public Management and Policy (CPMP) grants students and faculty the opportunity to discuss the proper management of public agencies, governmental ministries, and quasi-governmental organizations. Together, they aim to better understand various mechanisms

and processes related to the performance of Israeli and global public sectors.

Cybersecurity and digital marketing expert, Dr. Yaniv Levyatan, a UofH alumnus, discussed new and evolving Internet dangers with Justin Wu from Crosswords Taiwan at a recently held webinar tuned into by audiences in Taiwan and Israel. According to Dr. Levyatan, the individualization of content provides hackers means through which to attack trusting groups including school-aged children and mature audiences. Also discussed in the lecture was the importance for states to cooperate on social media regulation for social giants including Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp.

The University of Haifa International School (UHS) has attracted thousands of international students. Today



close to 1,000 students from over 40 different countries around the world enroll annually in UHS various interdisciplinary and international programs where they learn and explore in an atmosphere of coexistence, tolerance and mutual respect.

### Operations

To date, the University of Haifa has signed over 500 agreements with universities worldwide, which allow developing exchange programs, accelerating research and collaboration, launching new degree and non-degree programs and much more. We recently partnered to launch the \$6 million marine research center with Texas A&M University.

Social responsibility is one of three pillars of academia and a driving force behind the University of Haifa's philosophy. The Social Involvement Unit develops and coordinates projects which encourage students' activism and foster community service and outreach. The Unit aims to enrich students' university experience and provide them with the necessary skills and experience to have a positive impact on society.





**SDG REPORT: WORKING TOWARDS THE UN's SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Division of Innovation & Sustainability

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