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TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

RESEARCH

Global Climate Injustice

A new study by Prof. Maya Negev of the School of Public Health and co-authored with Dr. Matan Singer of Bar-Ilan University reveals a profound climate injustice: countries that contribute the least to greenhouse gas emissions suffer the greatest health impacts. The study shows that while the Global North produces most carbon emissions, the highest rates of climate-related deaths occur in Africa, Southeast Asia, and India. The findings were presented at the Second Ramat Hanadiv Conference on *Nature, People, and Health*.

Decoding Climate Denial

A new study by the University of Haifa and Tel Aviv University identifies six psychological mechanisms that contribute to climate change denial and proposes strategies to counter them. Led by Prof. Shlomit Paz of the University of Haifa's School of Environmental Sciences, in collaboration with Prof. Alon Tal of Tel Aviv University, the researchers argue that populist leaders and vested interests exploit these psychological



President Prof. Gur Alroey with Dr. Gideon Bickel and Prof. Assaf Distelfeld, Director of the Institute of Evolution (Credit: University of Haifa)

tendencies to undermine action on the climate crisis.

Building Climate-Resilient Hospitals with AI

Dr. Moshe Gish and Dr. Carmit Rapaport of the School of Environmental Sciences highlight how agentic AI could help hospitals prepare for climate emergencies that exceed existing response plans. As extreme weather becomes more unpredictable, AI-driven, threshold-based decision systems may strengthen hospital resilience when conventional emergency protocols are no longer sufficient.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

National Climate Health Plan Launched

Israel's national climate health preparedness plan was launched at the President's Residence, bringing together senior health leaders and researchers. Prof. Maya Negev and Irit Lador of the University of Haifa's School of Public Health led discussions on identifying vulnerable populations and strengthening the healthcare system's resilience to climate change.

Strengthening Climate Resilience in Kiryat Yam

The Climate Health and Resilience Lab completed a research project to strengthen climate resilience in Kiryat Yam, funded by the University of Haifa's IMPACT Program and conducted in partnership with the Haifa Bay Cities Association for Environmental Protection and the Kiryat Yam Municipality. The project report presents key findings from a resident survey and offers recommendations for improving local climate resilience.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Climate Literature

The climate crisis is increasingly recognized as one of the defining challenges facing humanity. It has inspired political, scientific, religious, artistic, and literary responses around the world and has become a prominent theme in contemporary literature. A new course by Dr. Keren Omry of the Department of English Language & Literature explores how writers use language, storytelling, and imagination to examine the climate crisis, its impact on individuals and societies, and the possibilities for resilience, care, and adaptation in a changing world.

Living on the Edge: The Collapse of Nature in the 21st Century

A course by Dr. Moshe Gish explores the global environmental crisis and its implications for the future of human society. Students examine how the degradation of natural systems threatens human well-being, the scientific evidence behind these changes, and the actions needed to build a more sustainable and resilient future.

OPERATIONS

Innovative sustainable farming

University of Haifa President Prof. Gur Alroey signed an agreement on behalf of the University with Dr. Gideon Bickel, who donated 61 dunams of agricultural land in Neve Yarak for the establishment of an innovative regenerative agriculture research farm. Led by the University's Institute of Evolution, the farm will advance research on climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable farming practices, and innovative crop development aimed at reducing environmental impact and helping address the challenges of climate change.

Heritage Orchard Takes Root on Campus

Prof. Guy Bar-Oz of the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures, and his research team are establishing a heritage orchard on the University of Haifa campus featuring ancient local fruit varieties such as olive, fig, date, almond, pomegranate, and grapes. Combining traditional and modern cultivation methods, the orchard will serve as a community space, a living laboratory for sustainability research, and an educational resource highlighting climate-resilient agriculture and Israel's agricultural heritage.



Heritage Orchard on campus (Credit: Hilla Klor)