

A.I.S. Co-Sponsors International Conference in Israel

The first AIS co-sponsored conference to take place in Israel recently was held in Beersheva at Ben Gurion University. Co-sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and Ben Gurion's Department of Behavioral Sciences and Overseas Student Program, the conference "Israel in the Nineties" met at Ben Gurion University on January 9 and 10, 1994.

Twenty-five different papers were presented at the meeting, and by the time all of the discussants, chairs, and other presenters were counted, the total number of scholars participating in the meeting numbered almost fifty. Participation was just about evenly divided between Americans and Israelis on the program. The convenors of the conference were Fred Lazin of Ben Gurion University and Gregory Mahler of the University of Mississippi.

(This was the second international conference co-sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies. In January of 1993 the conference "Israel at the Crossroads" was held at King's College, London, jointly sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies, the Department of War Studies, King's College, London, and the British Institute of Jewish Affairs. Papers from that conference have been edited by Ephraim Karsh and Gregory Mahler and will be appearing in the near future in a book published by I. B. Taurus called Israel at the Crossroads.)

The local arrangements in Beersheva were taken care of by Fred Lazin and the Overseas Student Office at Ben Gurion University. Highlights of the conference included a keynote speech by Dr. Alex Weingrod of Ben Gurion University entitled "Towards an Anthropology of Peace," with responses by Dr. Robert Freedman of Baltimore Hebrew University and Dr. Moshe Shokeid of Tel Aviv University. Dr. Ezra Sadan of the Israeli Agricultural Research Authority delivered a presentation after lunch on Monday on "Peace and Economic Development in Israel and the Middle East."

It is the intention of the conference co-convenors to invite a number of the conference participants to submit revised versions of their conference papers to be included in a volume to be published as a book called Israel in the Nineties, edited by Fred Lazin and Gregory Mahler.

ISRAEL IN THE NINETIES

Prof. Fred Lazin, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Co-Chair
Prof. Greg Mahler, University of Mississippi, Co-Chair

9 January 1994

14:00 "Opening Session"

Prof. Dan Meyerstein, Deputy Rector, BGU
Prof. Greg Mahler, Israel Studies Association
Prof. Fred Lazin, BGU

15:00 "Women in Israel"

A. Ben Porath, BGU, Chair
H. Hartman, BGU. "Changing Roles of Israeli Women"
S. Lavi, U. Cal., Davis. "Conflicts in Israeli Feminism"
A. Shadmi, Beit Berel College. "Feminism in Israel at a Turning Point. A Feminist Agenda for the 90's."
N. Yanai, BGU Discussant

17:15 "Ethnicity and Religion"

R. Chermesh, BGU, Chair
G. Katner, U. Wisc., Green Bay. "Our Brothers' Keepers? The Principle and Practice of Israeli Immigrant Absorption, 1989-1992."
J. Roland, Pace Univ. "The Preservation of Indian Culture and Identity among the Bene Israel in Israel."
S. Sharot, BGU. "Traditional, Modern, or Postmodern? Recent Religious Developments among Jews in Israel."
M. Shokeid, Tel Aviv. "Moroccan Jews and their Saints: An Interactionist Approach."
W. Weiker, Rutgers. "Ethnicity in Israel in the Nineties."
F. Markowitz, BGU, Discussant

20:30 "Reception and Banquet at Ohelei Kedar"

Dr. Avishay Braverman, President, BGU, Host
Prof. Dan Baron, Chair, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences,
BGU, Greetings of Peace."
Prof. Alex Weingrod, BGU, "Towards an Anthropology of
Peace"
Response by Prof. Robert Freedman, Baltimore Hebrew
University,
and Prof. Moshe Shokeid, Tel Aviv University

10 January 1994

8:30 "Israeli Cultures"

B. Gidron, BGU, Chair
I. Avisar, Tel Aviv University, "The Politics of Culture:
The Case of Israeli Cinema."
A. Keene, U. Mass. "Challenges for the Past: The
Heritage Industry in Israel"
N. Druyan and G. Flam, Hofstra U. and Hebrew
University, "A Cultural Frontier: Israeli Society and its
Folk Music."
U. Ram, Haifa. "Post-Modern Political Culture in Israel?"
M. Ashkenazi, BGU, Discussant

11:00 "Domestic Issues"

M. Hartman, BGU, Chair
S. Avish, Columbia. "The Process of Agricultural Policy
in
Formulation in Israel and the Resultant
Marginalization of Israel's Arab Citizens
Engaged in Agriculture."
G. Doron, Tel Aviv. "A Different Set of Political Games Rule."
A. Kolker, George Mason. "The Resettlement of Soviet
Jews in Israel and the U.S.: "Social-Psychological
and Cultural Issues."
I. Lichtenstein, Rutgers. "Industrial Restructuring in
Israel— Diversity or Convergence?"
S. Hellman, BGU, Discussant

13:00 "Lunch"

Prof. Oded Hochman, Chair, Dept. of Economics, BGU
Prof. Ezra Sadan will speak on "Peace and Economic
Development in Israel and the Middle East"

14:30 "Israel in the World"

I. Schiffman, Cal. State, Chico, Chair
R. Freedman, Baltimore Hebrew U. "Russian and Israel
in the 90's: Cooperation or Conflict?"
J. Green, Arizona. "Israel's Changing Relations vis-a-vis
the Arab World."
E. Inbar, Bar Ilan. "Israeli National Security in the
nineties."
S. Zunes, Inst. for New Middle East Peace. "U.S. Israeli
Relations: "New Challenges for the 1990's."
G. Pitzerberg, BGU, Discussant

16:30 "The Peace Process"

D. Zeevi, BGU, Chair
P. Demant, Hebrew University. "The Unofficial Israeli-
Palestinian dialogue."
Z. Flamhaft, Queens College, CUNY. "Arab-Israeli Peace
Process, 1992"
D. Peretz, SUNY Binghamton. "Israel, the Palestine
Refugees and Middle East Peace."
A. Paul Hare, BGU, Discussant

18:00 "Summing Up"

A. Arian, Haifa University
G. Mahler and F. Lazin, Chairs
