

Israel Association for Canadian Studies

1) President: Daniel Ben-Natan

2) Number of Centres for Canadian Studies: 1 – The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

3) Number of Members: 200

4) Web site: Being re-built

5) Activities

The joint Israel Association for Canadian Studies (IACS) and Halbert Center (HC) conference now being held on a triennial basis, was held on May 23-25, 2016. The conference topic was "Rethinking Diversity and Multiculturalism: Global and Local Challenges". Professor Tomer Broude, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University (and a former Canadian) served as the Convener of the Conference. The academic committee of the conference had Prof. Allen Zysblat and Prof. Daniele Schaub representing IACS, Prof. Amalya Oliver representing the Halbert Centre and Prof. Michael Karayanni from the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University. The budget of the conference was CDN \$ 41,000 (divided equally between IACS and HC).

The Opening Session was chaired by IACS President Daniel Ben-Natan and included greetings by Canadian Ambassador Vivian Bercovici and HU Rector Professor Asher Cohen.

The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. Lloyd Axworthy on "Converging Pathways in Canada: Redefining Rights and Identity

How does Canada address the significant challenges of balancing liberal values and national interests with the highly diverse composition of its society? Like Canada, Israeli society consists of a wide range of religious, national, ethnic, linguistic and cultural groups and minorities; what can Israel learn from Canada and its success in promoting inclusiveness and diversity? The ethos of multiculturalism, considered in the last decades as holding great promise, has lost some of its allure, and is facing new pressures due to global events, economic crisis, migration and refugee flows. These pressures also raise concerns about long-term effects for certain community members (such as women and children), inter-group relations and national identity.

In May 2016, scholars and researchers from Canada, Israel and around the world convened at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to present studies and discuss these issues from multidisciplinary perspectives at the 15th International Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies. The conference provided an open forum for debating a broad range of multicultural issues in Canada, from city planning and entrepreneurial opportunities for migrants, through religious diversity and policing, to language rights and indigenous histories.

The conference was sponsored by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies and the Israel Association for Canadian Studies (IACS), and supported by the Hebrew University's Aharon Barak Center for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies the Hebrew University's new Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Research and the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS).

At the Opening Dinner the scholarship recipients presented their research work and Arie Shachar the first President of the IACS was remembered on the tenth anniversary of his passing.

The Halbert Centre and IACS expressed their deep gratitude to Mrs. Daphna Oren, recipient of the ICCS Certificate of Merit . After close to 30 years as the Halbert Centre's administrative coordinator, Mrs. Oren decided in 2016 to take early retirement. Daphna served under three directors of the Centre, as well as with the different presidents of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies.

Public Lecture Series

The public lecture series, co-sponsored by the Israel Association for Canadian Studies and the Halbert Centre, addresses Canadian topics and issues before an Israeli academic audience and the general public.

- **Mr. Robert Lantos**, Canadian film producer, held an event at the Jerusalem Cinematheque including a premiere screening of his movie "Remember" and a talk. This event was funded by the Halbert Centre, and organized with the assistance of Prof. Raya Morag from the Department of Communication and Journalism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The event took place at the Jerusalem Cinematheque on April 5, 2016
- **Prof. Marsha Barber**, Teaching Chair & Professor of Journalism, Faculty of Communication and Design, Ryerson University, Toronto, read a number of her poems followed by a discussion on May 17, 2016.
- **Prof. Yolande Cohen**, Historian at The University of Quebec, gave a public lecture at The Hebrew University on the topic of "Prostitution: Sexuality, Morality and Religion in the Feminist First Wave in Canada and France" on June 7, 2016.
- The Hebrew University Bullock Chair recipient, the **Honourable Frank Iacobucci** gave a public lecture on "The Relationship between Canada and Indigenous People: Past, Present and Future" followed by a discussion on March 1, 2017.

7) Research Scholarships

IACS scholarships were awarded to:

Nava Kainer Persov for her research on : " Housing regeneration; Strategies and their Evaluation – learning from the Canadian and Israeli and experience"

Alon Zoisner for his research on "Individual level and system level moderators of political agenda setting"

9) Activities cut

The principal activity cut was the Post Doctoral Fellowship program. Luckily, the Halbert Centre which has a major endowment to fund its activities continues its Post Doctoral Fellowship program without our support but on an every second year basis and is open only to Hebrew University fellows.

In addition, we had to postpone the re-building of our web site which is totally out dated.

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