

TAU Archaeology

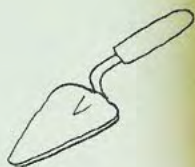
The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities | Tel Aviv University

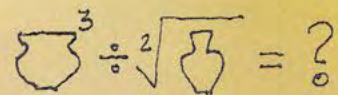
Number 10 | 2024

Fieldwork

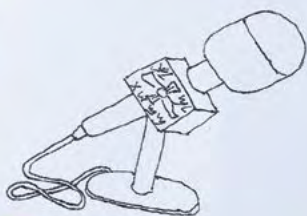


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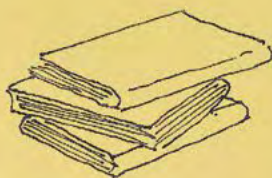


In the Media



PhD Graduates

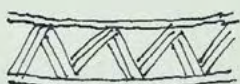
Publications



Awards & Grants



Events



TAU Archaeology

Newsletter of

The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

Number 10 | 2024

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Cover Image:

Drawings by Nirit Kedem; photo by Sasha Flit

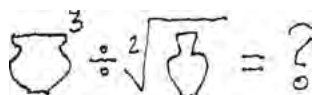


TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

ISSN: 2521-0971 | EISSN: 252-098X

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Message from the Chair of the Department and the Director of the Institute

We are used to beginning our introduction to the annual newsletter with words such as “We are happy to present...” or “We are pleased to launch...” This year such words ring hollow. The events of October 7, 2023 and the ongoing war have shaken us to our very core—both as individuals and as a collective. While it is not always easy, continuing our work is our modest contribution to restoring a semblance of normality to our lives and to the lives of our students. It is in this context that we wish to share our achievements and accomplishments in the year that has passed.

We are fortunate to start by sharing the news that in July 2024, Dr. Ella Karev will join our department as an Egyptologist specializing in the first millennium BCE. Dr. Karev earned her PhD at the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, West Asia & North Africa (formerly the Oriental Institute) at the University of Chicago and did a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Turino, Italy. Ella’s research will be a welcome contribution to the department, the institute and the School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology, and we look forward to witnessing her fulfilling her academic and personal goals.

We are both newly appointed to our respective positions. As of March 2023, Yuval Gadot serves as the director of the Institute of Archaeology, succeeding Prof. Oded Lipschits, who served in this position for 12 years, leading the institute through numerous challenges and advancing new initiatives. In September 2023, Lidar Sapir-Hen commenced her appointment as chair of the department, taking on the responsibilities previously held by Yuval. Our new roles are inspiring and exciting, and we wish to take this opportunity to thank Oded for his many years of successful service.

Shortly after assuming our new roles, we found ourselves in the midst of turmoil: classes were cancelled and the campus was closed for a while. Many of our students and staff were recruited to serve in the army and the family life of many was disrupted. Under these difficult circumstances it was inspirational to see the energy and vitality of so many members of our community. Out of the shock and anxiety, new initiatives that brought us all together were born, detailed in the following pages. Here we wish to highlight a few of them.

For 12 weeks we ran a biweekly Zoom lecture series, based on research conducted by members of our department and graduate students. The lectures presented new and exciting finds in the field or in the labs.

With the ability to conduct study tours severely restricted, we found a creative way to circumvent the problem: carrying out tours of museums, including the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, and the MUZA Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv.

With the dearth of workers in agriculture, many in Israel volunteered to work in fields and orchards across the country to help fill the void. For archaeologists, working outdoors is second nature. We therefore grouped together students and faculty members and went to work in a garlic field. This also gave us an opportunity to meet and catch up after months of working from home.

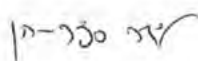
In late December, after several delays the first semester finally started. Seeing students joining classes after long weeks in the military service or at home, seeing our professional team stepping up to the challenge and continuing to work despite the hardships, seeing the faculty leaving behind their personal difficulties in order to recreate the study program and create a supportive environment for the students—all this has taught us how deeply committed everyone is to the success of the archaeological community of Tel Aviv University.

Final words are dedicated to three groups.

To our recruited students and faculty: Thank you for your service. We await your safe return to your homes and to the campus.

To our students in the international MA program—your commitment to Israel and to the Institute of Archaeology and the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures and the way you stepped up and volunteered to help wherever possible is admirable.

We cannot conclude without expressing our deepest prayers that by the time these words are published, all of the hostages in Gaza will have been released and will have returned safely to their homes.



Prof. Lidar Sapir-Hen
Chair, The Jacob M. Alkow
Department of Archaeology
and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures



Prof. Yuval Gadot
Director, The Sonia
and Marco Nadler
Institute of Archaeology

Academic
Staff

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Director of the Institute of Archaeology: **Prof. Yuval Gadot**

In March 2023, Prof. Yuval Gadot assumed the position of Director of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology, replacing Prof. Oded Lipschits, who headed the institute since 2011.

Yuval carried out his BA, MA and PhD studies in the Department of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University. His PhD dissertation, under the supervision of Prof. Moshe Kochavi and Prof. Israel Finkelstein, dealt with social and economic processes in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I in the central Coastal Plain and was based on the results of the institute's excavations at Tel Aphek-Antipatris (under the direction of Prof. Kochavi and Prof. Pirhiya Beck). Yuval later published the final report of the excavations of the acropolis at Aphek—titled *Aphek-Antipatris II*—together with his colleague Esther Yadin.

Later, Yuval was a research fellow at the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology at Hebrew Union College (Jerusalem), through which he directed community excavations in Lod, Giv'at Sher and Modi'in. In addition, he directed two large salvage excavations for the Israeli Institute of Archaeology: one in a burial cave from the Middle and Late Bronze Ages near Tel 'Ara (in collaboration with Dr. Yotam Tepper), and the other in the MB fortress south of Qiryat Shemona (in collaboration with Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau). Between 2005 and 2010 Yuval directed the field work at the Ramat Rahel site (co-directed by Prof. Lipschits and Prof. Manfred Oeming). The excavation results were published in a large number of articles and excavation reports. At the same time, Yuval was a partner in the project "Ancient Israel in the View of Natural Sciences and Exact Sciences" (directed by Prof. Israel Finkelstein and Prof. Steve Weiner), where he was exposed to the many exciting possibilities for integrating exact and natural sciences and archaeology. From 2012 to 2016 he was a co-director in the excavation project at Tel Azekah (together with Lipschits and Oeming).

Since 2017, Yuval has been co-directing the archaeological excavations at the Giv'ati Parking Lot in Jerusalem in collaboration with Dr. Yiftah Shalev of the Israel Antiquities Authority. At the same time, Yuval initiated a comprehensive study of the agricultural regions around Jerusalem, in which he led, together with Dr. Naomi Porat, a study to date the agricultural terrace walls of the "Ba'al agriculture" in the Jerusalem Hills.

Between 2018–2023 Yuval served as Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures; and as of March 2023, he serves as Director of the Institute.



Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures: **Prof. Lidar Sapir-Hen**

In September 2023, Prof. Lidar Sapir-Hen assumed the role of Chair of the Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures.

Lidar holds a BSc in life sciences from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a BA in archaeology from Tel Aviv University, an MSc in Ecology and Environmental Quality and a PhD from Tel Aviv University. Her doctoral dissertation, conducted in the Faculty of Life Sciences at Tel Aviv University, under the supervision of Prof. Tamar Dayan, Prof. Guy Bar-Oz and the late Prof. Ilan Sharon, focused on the Iron Age to Roman-period strata of Tel Dor. It examined the site formation processes using a contextual taphonomy approach and explored the cultural identity of the population and its evolution over time.

Following her doctoral studies, Lidar pursued post-doctoral research as part of the ERC project “Reconstructing Ancient Israel: The Exact and Life Sciences Perspective,” directed by Prof. Israel Finkelstein at the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University. During that stay, Lidar expanded her research interests to include the Late Bronze and Iron Ages, focusing on the social and economic dynamics of societies within the context of periodic local climate variations, as well as on social and political transformations.

Lidar has been a faculty member in the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures since 2015. With the primary working tool of her research being animal bones from archaeological sites, Lidar also established the Laboratory of Zooarchaeology, where research on the Neolithic period through Late Antiquity is carried out by Lidar and her graduate students. The laboratory is located in the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History (SMNH-TAU), where Lidar also curates the zooarchaeological collections.

Lidar’s current research projects span approximately 10,000 years of human history. Of particular interest is the evolving interaction between humans and animals during the early stages of animal domestication, in the early Neolithic period. Ongoing studies aim to elucidate the impact of this interaction on human societies and their surrounding environments. Projects focusing on the Bronze and Iron Ages involve the examination of various settlements to understand how past societies engaged with animals and utilized them to establish social and cultural identities. Research on Classical periods and Late Antiquity explores the influence of political and historical processes on economic dynamics.

In addition to her research endeavors, Lidar is actively involved in various faculty roles, including serving on teaching committees and on award and grant committees. In addition, from 2021 to 2023, she served as Vice Director for Research and Laboratories at the Institute of Archaeology.

Academic Staff



Welcome to **Dr. Ella Karev**, Who Is Joining Our Department

The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures is proud to announce that Dr. Ella Karev will join the department this summer.

Dr. Ella Karev completed her BA in Archaeology and Classical Studies at Tel Aviv University, and her MA and PhD (*cum laude*) in Egyptology at the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, West Asia & North Africa (formerly the Oriental Institute), University of Chicago. Her PhD dissertation, titled “Slavery and Servitude in Late Period Egypt,” was written under the direction of Prof. Brian Muhs, Prof. Janet Johnson, and Prof. Alain Bresson.

In her research, Ella studies the social and economic history of Egypt, particularly slavery, servitude, and identity. As a papyrologist, she translates and publishes texts in Greek, Demotic Egyptian, and Coptic. After completing her PhD, Ella continued at the University of Chicago as a postdoctoral fellow, where she wrote her forthcoming book, *Physical Descriptions, Biometrics, and Iconography in Graeco-Roman Papyri from Egypt*. The book collects and analyzes nearly 4,000 physical descriptions of individuals written in Greek.

Before joining the faculty at Tel Aviv University, Ella spent a year in Italy as a postdoctoral fellow, part of the Turin Humanities Programme (Fondazione 1563 per l’arte e la cultura), where she participated in a research project titled “Slavery, Ethnicity, and Race” headed by Prof. Nino Luraghi of Oxford University.

Welcome and good luck, Ella!

Postdoctoral Fellows



Good Luck to **Dr. Vivek Singh** in His Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology hosts several postdoctoral fellows every year. This year Dr. Ella Assaf Shpayer is hosting Dr. Vivek Singh.

Dr. Singh on his research:

“My postdoctoral research at Tel Aviv University focuses on the Levallois technology from the Middle Palaeolithic period at Giv’at Rabi East (Galilee). This project is aimed at understanding how apprenticeship contributes to the knowledge transfer and skills development of this technology. To achieve these goals, we will use a holistic approach where the lithic technology from this site will be coupled with the actualistic studies. The findings from this research project will provide a comprehensive understanding of the technological aspects, adaptability and dissemination of Levallois technology at Giv’at Rabi East”.

Welcome and good luck, Vivek!

Awards & Grants



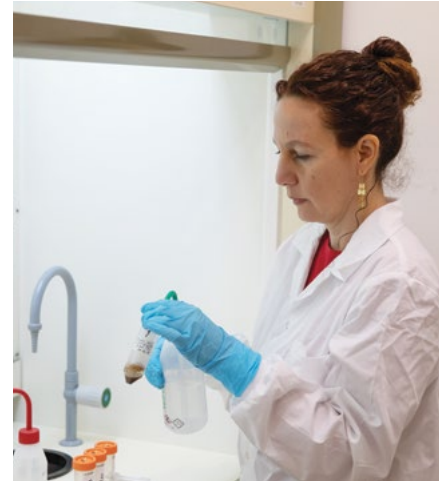
Awards

Awards Granted to Prof. Dafna Langgut for Outstanding Research

Congratulations to **Prof. Dafna Langgut**, Head of the Laboratory of Archaeobotany and Ancient Environments, Institute of Archaeology and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, who was the recipient of two prestigious awards in 2023–2024.

Prof. Langgut won the Michael Bruno Memorial Award for her innovative work and unique contribution to the field of archaeobotany and the study of ancient environments. The Israel Institute for Advanced Studies award is granted annually to three outstanding mid-career Israeli scholars who have demonstrated exceptional originality of mind, dedication and ground-breaking impact in their research and who have managed to influence and re-shape their field of expertise.

Prof. Langgut was also granted the Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research at Tel Aviv University. The Kadar award celebrates pioneering scientists and scholars who have reached the highest levels of excellence in both research and teaching.



Rafi Greenberg



Omer Sergi



Ido Koch

Teaching Evaluation Survey for 2023

Prof. Rafi Greenberg, Dr. Omer Sergi and Dr. Ido Koch were included in the list of the 100 most valued lecturers at Tel Aviv University for the academic year 2022–23.

Every year the students participate in a teaching evaluation survey on behalf of the university, in which one hundred members of the senior academic staff are selected whose rating in the section “overall evaluation of the lecturer” is especially high.

The inclusion of three lecturers from our department in the **list of 100** is a great achievement, and we are very proud of them.

Honorary Doctorate Awarded to Prof. Oded Lipschits

The members of the Senate of Charles University, Prague, decided to award **Prof. Oded Lipschits** an honorary doctorate.

Prof. Lipschits received the degree in March 2024, together with Prof. Paul Milgrom (Stanford University), winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

The close ties between the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University and the Faculty of Theology of Charles University span the last two decades, during which students from Prague participated in excavations at Tel Azekah, Jerusalem, and Tel Moza. This cooperation is also reflected in joint academic conferences and publications.



Honorable Mentions at the Premios INAH 2023

Congratulations to **Diana Medellin Martinez** who won an Honorable Mention for her MA thesis in the category of Conservation of Cultural Heritage.

This award is granted annually by the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico and seeks to reward the best anthropological research work carried out by Mexicans. Recognitions are awarded in various disciplines, such as Archaeology, Linguistics, Ethnohistory, and Museography. Diana won in the Cultural Heritage Conservation category for her MA thesis, completed at Tel Aviv University under the supervision of Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef and Dr. Christina Margariti.

In her thesis, titled “Differential Degradation of Cellulosic vs Proteinaceous Fibers from Dry Climate,” Diana analyses the transformation process that archaeological objects experienced from the end of their useful life until their discovery in the present. She delves into the analysis of the degradation process of an extraordinary collection of Iron Age textiles excavated at Timna, where the dry and hot climate of the desert allowed remarkable preservation of organic materials.



Book Awards

The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University is pleased to announce that two of its publications have been selected by *Biblical Archaeology Review* magazine and the Biblical Archaeology Society (BAS) for 2023 BAS Publication Awards.

In the category “Hershel Shanks Award for Best Dig Report”:

Megiddo VI: The 2010–2014 Seasons



Editors: Israel Finkelstein and Mario A.S. Martin

Authors: Israel Finkelstein, Mario A.S. Martin, Matthew J. Adams, Eran Arie and Assaf Kleiman

The report, co-published by the Institute of Archaeology and Penn State University Press, in the framework of the **Monograph Series**, covers ca. 2000 pages in three volumes.

In the category “Best Book in Archaeology”:

Age of Empires: The History and Administration of Judah in the 8th–2nd Centuries BCE



Author: Oded Lipschits

The book, a co-publication of the Institute of Archaeology and Penn State University Press, appeared in the **Mosaics: Studies on Ancient Israel** series.

Congratulations to Faculty Members Who Were Awarded Grants in 2023

Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef and **Prof. Lisa Tauxe** (University of California, San Diego) received a BSF research grant for their project “Developing the Southern Mesopotamian Archaeointensity Curve.”

Prof. Oren Tal received a grant from the Israel Science Foundation for his research “The Coins of the Levant, an Online Database.”

Prof. Yoram Cohen received a grant from the Israel Science Foundation for his research “Anatomy of Animals and Humans in Mesopotamia.”

Dr. Ido Koch, Prof. Ze’ev Herzog and **Ms. Lily Singer-Avitz** received a grant from the White-Levi Program for Archaeological Publications for the final publication of the excavations of Yohanan Aharoni at the Citadel of Tel Arad.



Tel Arad, an aerial view of the fortress to the southwest (source: wikipedia commons)

Outstanding Students in the 2022 Academic Year

Three of our B.A. students, **Gaia Ettinger**, **Tal Nemet** and **Stav Bartal**, were among the outstanding students of the Faculty of Humanities for 2022. They were honored in a ceremony in June 2023 with the participation of Prof. Rachel Gali Cinamon, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. We wish them success in their future studies.



From left to right: Ido Koch, Gaia Ettinger, Tal Nemet and Stav Bartal

Junior Researchers 2023

In the competition, which is taking place for the second year, eleven fascinating presentations were delivered by our MA students. Four students won the Institute of Archaeology scholarship for creative research and outstanding presentation:



Inbar Friedman

“The Departure from Africa: Reconstruction of Vegetation and Climate at the Beginning of the Pleistocene in Lake Tziḥor in the Negev”



Nimrod Katzir

“Horses in the Southern Levant”



Noa Flexer

“Another Brick in the Wall: Narratives Used to Describe the Childhood of King Ḫattušili III in His Autobiography and the Corresponding Texts”

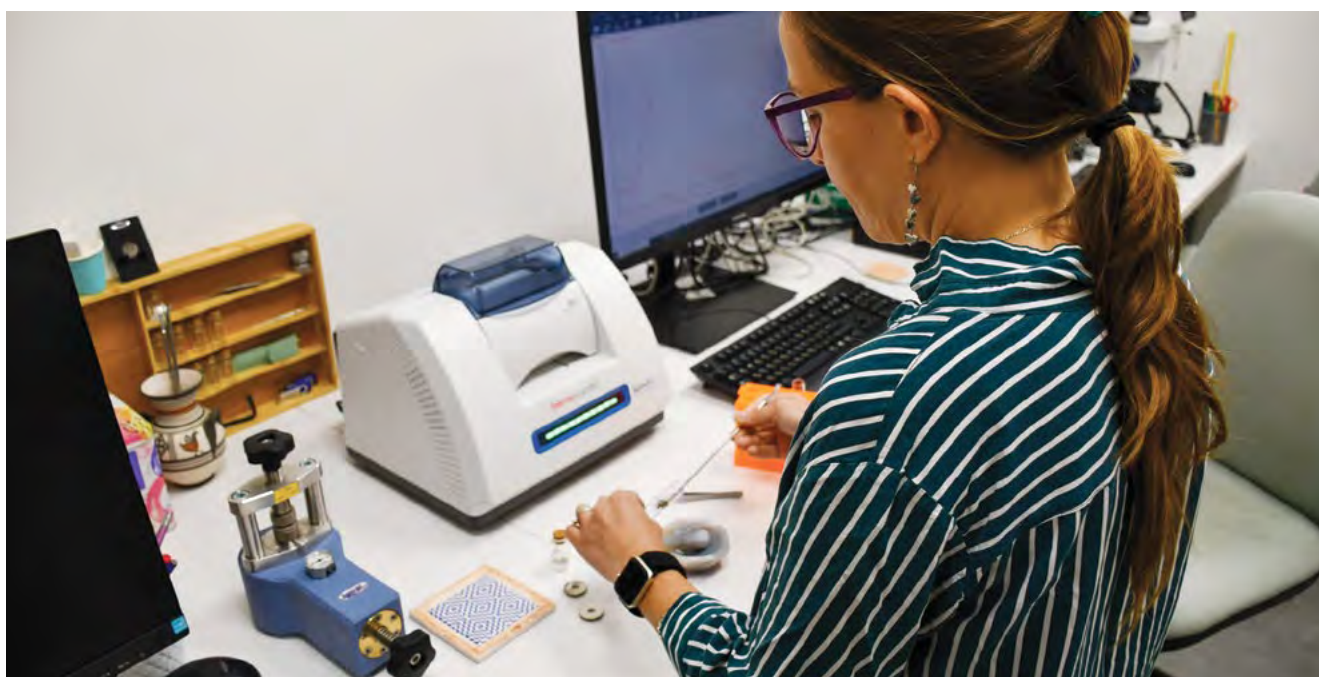


Zion Levy

“Circles Engraved on Handles: New Insights Obtained from a 3D Scan or What Do the Circles Engraved on the Handles of ‘Lamelech’ Jugs Tell Us?”

Advancements and Acquisitions: The Ceramic Petrography Laboratory

Paula Waiman-Barak



The Ceramic Petrography Laboratory (photo by Sagi Freiman)

We are pleased to acknowledge the support received from the Endowment in Memory of Glass Shlomo & Fany Balaban, which enabled us to purchase cutting-edge equipment, including a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS5 FT-IR Spectrometer and a new polarizing microscope. With their acquisition, the Ceramic Petrography Laboratory (CPL) is set to enhance its role in the research of archaeological materials.

Since its establishment in June 2020, the CPL has swiftly emerged as a hub for the study of ceramics and other ancient materials within the archaeological community. Our task is to provide a comprehensive resource for scholars and students engaged in the exploration of archaeological ceramics, covering a wide array of sites and periods across the Eastern Mediterranean Basin.

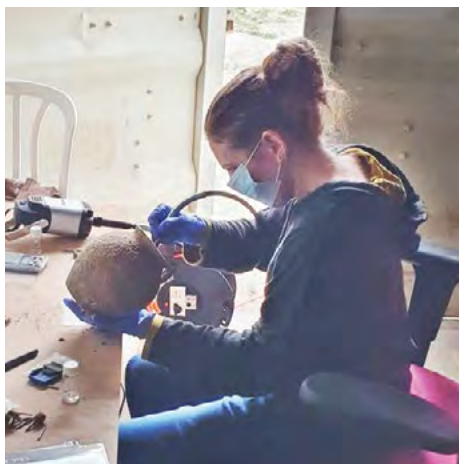
The introduction of FTIR (Fourier-transform infrared) spectroscopy enables quick and precise characterization of ceramic and sedimentary mineral compositions.

Infrared spectroscopy offers the significant benefit of distinguishing between both crystalline and non-crystalline minerals, in addition to identifying a wide array of organic substances. With only tens of micrograms required for a sample, we are now able to identify and analyze a vast range of archaeological materials, including ceramics, sediments, pigments and organic materials. This technique is particularly useful for our efforts to reconstruct firing techniques and temperatures, exhibiting remarkable potential in the study of mudbricks and reference sediments.

The addition of a new research polarizing microscope will alleviate the demand for our laboratory's facilities, allowing for extended research hours and providing more students with invaluable hands-on experience. Integrating these new state-of-the-art tools and facilities will help foster the next generation of scholars, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to push the boundaries of the study of archaeological materials.

PhD Graduates





Dr. Ayala Amir

Beyond the Visible: Burial Offerings in the Second Millennium BCE in Light of the Study of Organic Remains in Pottery

Under the supervision of Prof. Yuval Gadot (Tel Aviv University), Prof. Israel Finkelstein (Tel Aviv University and University of Haifa) and Prof. Ronny Neumann (Weizmann Institute of Science)

Ayala Amir's research:

Burial customs in the second millennium BCE included, among other things, placing a variety of objects next to the deceased—offerings intended to serve symbolic needs, such as supplies for the afterlife, and provisions for the journey to the world of the dead. In her research, Ayala applied analytical tools to answer archaeological questions about burial customs with the help of organic residue analysis of pottery vessels.

Pottery vessels are among the most common finds in graves and were used as receptacles for a variety of animal and plant products. The organic material, which was the main component of the offerings, is exposed to aerobic environmental conditions and decomposed by organisms and thus is not preserved over the years. As a result, vessels found in the archaeological context of a burial are mostly found empty of their original contents, and it is not possible to determine what their contents once were using traditional archaeological techniques. During the research, Ayala sampled pottery from various archaeological sites and, using analytical-chemical methods, extracted and identified molecules originating from the organic materials that were placed in the vessels and were preserved on the sides of the vessels. These molecules serve as a “chemical fingerprint” of the source material, and through them she identified the original materials that had been placed in the vessels.

Thus, in vessels from graves at Ḥorvat Tevet, dated to the beginning of the Iron Age, Ayala identified a heated mixture of beeswax and animal fat (see Amir, A. *et al.* 2021. Heated Beeswax Usage in Mortuary Practices: The Case of Ḥorvat Tevet [Jezreel Valley, Israel] ca. 1000 BCE. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 36).

In a study of storage jars from Jerusalem that were part of the government administration at the end of the First Temple period, Ayala examined additional extraction methods and through them characterized the remains of vanilla-spiced wine (see Amir, A. *et al.* 2022. Residue Analysis Evidence for Wine Enriched with Vanilla Consumed in Jerusalem on the Eve of the Babylonian Destruction in 586 BCE. *PLOS ONE* 17).

This research then enabled the identification of wine contents, along with other materials, in vessels found in Middle Bronze Age tombs at Megiddo (see Amir, A. *et al.* 2023. Burial Offerings in Intramural Tombs at Middle Bronze Age Megiddo. *Archaeometry* 65).

This information expands the existing knowledge in archaeological research on burial customs and the “worship of the dead” in the second millennium BCE, on interregional trade relations, and on the interrelationships between populations and cultures represented in the burial customs.



Dr. Yoram Haimi

The Sobibor Camp: A Reassessment Based on Archaeological Excavations

*Under the supervision of Dr. Guy D. Stiebel (Tel Aviv University)
and Prof. Havi Dreyfus (Tel Aviv University)*

Yoram Haimi's research:

Sobibor was the second of the three extermination camps of Operation Reinhardt (Aktion Reinhardt), alongside Belzec and Treblinka. The aim of the research was to reconstruct the physical structure of the Sobibor camp in light of historical research by analyzing the results of the archaeological excavations and examining the material findings.

The analysis of the archaeological excavations conducted in the camp in 2007–2021 revealed the patterns of life in the camp and the extermination procedure and its history during and after the war and dealt with both the operations and the fate of the victims. The study reconstructs the process of extermination that began with the arrival of the Jews at the train platform, through their first stop in Camp II, where the sorting and stripping took place, the “road to heaven,” which was the entrance to the gas chambers in Camp III up to the final stop—the crematoria and the mass graves. The lives of the Jewish prisoners in the various parts of the camp are described, as well as the daily routine of the German and Ukrainian soldiers who were assigned to the various facilities. The abundance of finds can even be traced to aspects beyond the boundaries of the camp from a physical and chronological point of view. For example, this excavation made it possible, albeit rarely, to trace

the lives and origins of the victims before their arrival in the camp thanks to the abundance of material culture found in the camp. Finally, the changes discovered in the ground revealed what happened in the camp complex after its elimination.



*Bottles uncovered in a refuse pit at the entrance to the camp
(photo by Yoram Haimi)*



Dr. Shua Kisilevitz

The Cult in Judah
during the Iron Age II:
The Cult Complex at Tel Moza
as a Test Case

*Under the supervision of Prof. Oded Lipschits
(Tel Aviv University)*

Shua Kisilevitz's research:

In the salvage excavations conducted at Tel Moza, near Jerusalem, a temple of the “North Syrian” type was discovered, founded in the Late Iron IIA (the beginning of the 9th century BCE). The temple included several stages in which cult objects and fixtures were installed, and it was in use at least until the end of the Iron IIB (the end of the 8th century BCE). This discovery is unique in light of what is known about the development of worship in Judah during the Iron Age, in particular in the early stages of Iron Age II, which are critical for understanding the formation of political entities in the Southern Levant.

In her PhD dissertation, Shua focused on the analysis and understanding of the connections and meanings of the ritual finds at Tel Moza, through archaeological analysis and synchronization of all the data discovered at the site in the salvage excavations, in combination with the renewal of the excavations in the temple area on behalf of Tel Aviv University. The work presents the development of the site during the Iron II and indicates its transformation into an economic-religious site centered on a cult complex. The complex was founded in the Early Iron IIA (the 10th century BCE) with the construction of a small temple; it was developed with the construction of the “North Syrian”

temple; and its expansion continued until the end of the Iron Age along with the economic prosperity of the site.

The research included a broader examination of the findings in historical, economic, social and geographical perspectives, using archaeological, textual and iconographic evidence and taking into account typologies and distribution patterns in contexts that are local (within the site), micro-regional (around an area of origin), regional (in the context of the Judean region), and regionally (the Southern Levant). In these contexts, various trends and aspects related to worship throughout the period were distinguished and discussed, such as changes in the structural nature and rituals of worship, and the close, multi-layered and multi-directional relationship between craft/economy and worship/religion.

In sum, the work reflects the complexity of the local community that founded and operated the public site, which developed from a small group of several households at the end of the Iron I into a complex society from the Iron IIA onward, in which the rising elites made use of economic and cultic control mechanisms. The work also reflects the transition to a material and architectural culture, which are the hallmarks of the Kingdom of Judah in the Iron II.



Dr. Tamar Rosenberg-Yefet

Technological Innovations and Processes of Cultural Transmission among Ancient Societies in an Evolutionary Perspective: The Levallois Method in the Late Lower Palaeolithic in the Levant

Under the supervision of Prof. Ran Barkai (Tel Aviv University)

Tamar Rosenberg-Yefet's research:

Tamar's PhD dissertation traced an extraordinary technological innovation in the field of chipping stone tools called the Levallois Method. Throughout the work, both techno-typological aspects of the chipping method from the late Acheulean sites of Revadim and Jaljulia, as well as behavioral aspects related to the appearance and assimilation of innovations in indigenous societies, were examined.

The consensus of earlier research was that the Levallois Method reflects a high level of sophistication, a depth of forward planning and structured cultural norms that were the lot of ancient human types in the Middle Palaeolithic. This work shows that these developed skills were among the abilities of human types already in the Lower Palaeolithic, that they are expressed in the late Acheulean culture, and that the production of target items whose shape is known in advance and which later developed into the Levallois Method were invented, developed and spread during the Lower Palaeolithic in the Levant. These stone cores reflect a significant landmark in terms of the organization of the factions, the depth of forward thinking and the successful production of target items.

As part of this work, Tamar also proposed that the disappearance of elephants, which were a central and

significant factor in the lives of humans during the Lower Palaeolithic period, should be seen as a catalyst for the development of this chiseling method and in general for the significant cultural change for the humans towards the end of the Lower Palaeolithic.

The adoption of the concept of the Levallois constitutes one of the significant developments in the cultural evolution of the old world, a development that is also indirectly related to the development of social learning, which enabled cultural transmission on a large scale.



Levallois cores from the Acheulean site of Jaljulia (3D scans by Gadi Herzlinger)



Dr. Débora Sandhaus

The Formation of the Jewish Ethnic Identity and the Edomite Ethnic Identity against the Background of Intercultural Encounters in the Elah Valley

Under the supervision of Prof. Oded Lipschits (Tel Aviv University) and Prof. Yuval Gadot (Tel Aviv University)

Débora Sandhaus's research:

This research refers to questions concerning the stages of the formation of the Jewish and Edomite ethnic identities against the background of intercultural encounters during the late Persian period (the 4th century BCE), the Hellenistic period during the Ptolemaic and Seleucid reigns (the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE) and the Hasmonean period (the end of the 2nd century to the 1st century BCE). The selected geographical area is the Elah Valley in the Judean lowlands, which was a border area in the periods discussed and thus constitutes fertile ground for research, the main focus of which is intercultural encounters.

The innovation of this work lies in the way Débora analyzed the archaeological find, which was examined from the point of view of the Habitus—that is, the set of actions that repeat themselves and become the characteristics of the group that shares this system. Underlying the analysis of the find is the understanding that social identity is a dynamic and constantly changing process, which is often shaped against the background of an encounter with “the other.” The main research focuses on eating, drinking and cooking customs, and for good reason: these customs carry an ingrained cultural

charge and hence they contribute to the shaping of the group's self-perception. In her research, Débora traced patterns of changes, fluctuations, adoption, appropriation and rejection of new table customs, from which it is possible to distinguish and define the behavior patterns of the various groups operating in the lowlands in the context of the encounter between them and new groups.

The results of the study illustrate how the cultural identities—Edomite and Jewish—were social systems that were created in a long-term, continuous and changing process that included reshaping according to the changing circumstances of reality. When adding to the research results aspects of the material culture that possess an ethnic charge, such as written evidence and findings related to worship, it can be seen that the Edomite population, almost from the beginning, was characterized by a positive perception of changes, was open to new content, and possessed global and eclectic characteristics. In contrast, the Jewish population was initially characterized by a separatist and closed attitude. Over time, however, this concept changed and developed into a new complex creation in which new customs are interwoven alongside local traditions.



Dr. Marcio Teixeira-Bastos

Ex Oriente Lux: Typology, Petrography, and Religio-Cultural Study of Selected Types of Roman-Period Palestinian and North African Pottery Lamps

Under the supervision of Prof. Oren Tal (Tel Aviv University) and Prof. Yuval Goren (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Marcio Teixeira-Bastos's research:

The study deals with the examination of provincial Roman discus lamps mainly from the 2nd and 3rd centuries CE and raises two main focal points. The first examines the Roman terracotta lamps using a variety of research tools beyond basic identification and typology in order to decipher their origin and allow a discussion of questions of manufacturing, distribution and consumption patterns. The second examines the extent to which these processes stemmed from economic considerations, as opposed to religious factors, beliefs, symbolic motifs, and so on. Understanding the second point and deciphering the cultural context of the use of lamps served to address historical-cultural topics such as innovation and the dissemination of ideas. This made it possible to examine the question of the continuity of certain traditions compared to the abandonment of others.

Finally, emphasis is placed on the role of the interconnectivity network in the success or failure of religious ideas in the Roman Empire. Dealing with a variety of fascinating issues that characterize the material culture of antiquity, such as the damaging and burial of statues of gods, the rise and fall of oriental rituals, worship of the Unconquered Sun God

(*Sol Invictus*), and various trends in the destruction of images (e.g., the Byzantine iconoclasm), this research combines a variety of primary literary sources, up-to-date archaeological information and contemporary research literature.



Discus lamp from a Phoenician workshop dug in Apollonia (photo: Marcio Teixeira-Bastos and Oren Tal)



Dr. Yoav Vaknin

Key Issues in the Chronology of the Land of Israel during the Iron Age (1050–586 BCE): Archaeomagnetic Synchronization of Destruction Layers and Its Consequences

*Under the supervision of Prof. Oded Lipshits (Tel Aviv University),
Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef (Tel Aviv University)
and Prof. Ron Shaar (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*

Yoav Vaknin's research:

Yoav's work focuses on archaeomagnetic research, a field that deals with the reconstruction of the Earth's magnetic field "recorded" in burned archaeological finds. Since the Earth's magnetic field is constantly changing, the reconstructed field data can be used as a dating tool. Yoav's PhD research developed a new analytical dating method for the Iron Age in the Levant. For most of the period in question, from around 800 BCE onward, this is the only analytical method, as of today, that allows high resolution dating. The restoration of the magnetic field has resulted in the resolution of chronological issues that have been in dispute for several decades, and it is hoped that this has laid the foundations for large-scale research to be carried out in the future.

The first article led by Yoav was published in the inter-disciplinary journal PLOS ONE and dealt with the reconstruction of the magnetic field in Jerusalem during the destruction of the city and the First Temple by the Babylonian army. Another article

led by him was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)* and dealt with resolving chronological issues by reconstructing the magnetic field that was "recorded" in 20 layers of destruction in 16 archaeological sites throughout the country. The magnetic information that was recorded when the sites were occupied and set on fire by the occupying armies made it possible to synchronize the layers of destruction destroyed during the various war campaigns and to reconstruct the field with an extraordinary level of accuracy, based on historical documentation of some of the events of the destruction.

Further studies led by Yoav will soon be published, including an article in **Tel Aviv** on the destruction of Lachish in the eighth century. These publications will demonstrate the multitude of uses of the archaeomagnetic method developed during his PhD.

For videos about Yoav's research, see [here](#) and [here](#) (in Hebrew).



Dr. Omri Yagel

The Ancient Metallurgy of Copper: An Analysis of Five Hundred Years of Technological Continuity in the Timna Valley (1300–800 BCE)

*Under the supervision of Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef
(Tel Aviv University)*

Omri Yagel's research:

In the southern Arabah region, in the Timna Valley and its environs, lie the remains of ancient copper industries that operated intermittently for over 6,000 years. The remains of these industries include many mining sites, impressive mining camps (where the raw copper was extracted from the local sandstones), places of worship and tombs. In addition to the activity in the modern period, the peak of industrial activity in the area dates to the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age.

Omri's PhD dissertation, which was carried out as part of Tel Aviv University's "Renewed Excavations at Timna" project, examines various aspects of the copper industry during the peak periods against the background of the dramatic transition between the Bronze and Iron Ages. The work presents a set of new findings that allow us to point to gradual changes that reflect the efficiency of the industry over time. In addition, as part of the research, geochemical surveys were carried out at the copper extraction sites, the results of which showed that the extent of

the ancient environmental pollution was significantly smaller than researchers previously believed. Apart from these, the work analyzes the trading system in metals during the period in question, while mapping the target markets of the copper from the Arabah and identifying the origin of metals that were imported to Timna from outside (such as, for example, pieces of lead that turned out to originate in Sicily).

In sum, the work points to the high complexity of the industry at Timna: complexity that is reflected in branch trade relations with the most different and distant regions, innovation that is reflected in the ability to optimize the work with the local raw materials and maintain a thriving industry in the isolated desert, and more. These conclusions are the basis of a socio-political scheme, which proposes a gradual acclimatization of adaptive political entities that adapted themselves to the environmental and geo-political/economic changes that occurred in the region during the transition between the Bronze and Iron Ages.



Dr. Ayala Zilberstein

**“A City with a Wall at Its Heart”:
Jerusalem under Seleucid Rule
in the Light of the Archaeological
Finds from the City of David**

*Under the supervision of Dr. Guy D. Stiebel (Tel Aviv University)
and Dr. Doron Ben-Ami (Israel Antiquities Authority)*

Ayala Zilberstein’s research:

In her PhD dissertation Ayala discussed the reconstruction of the urban structure of Jerusalem during the transition from the early Hellenistic period to the early days of the Hasmonean kingdom (the late Hellenistic period). The reconstruction was based on an examination of the changes in the outline of the city walls and served as the basis for a discussion of the remains of the Jerusalem fortifications during this period of many upheavals. The results of the research also provided a basis for the analysis of the remains of the Jerusalem fortifications as a test case for the study of the Hellenistic theory of fortifications in the region of Coele-Syria and Phoenicia (the Levant).

Ayala examined the research question through three main subjects: the basis of the research was the reconstruction of the changing fortification lines with the help of archaeological tools alongside architectural and military analysis. The archaeological finds of the Ben-Ami–Tchekhanovets expedition in the Giv’ati Parking Lot, located on the City of David hill, constituted the main test case for reconstructing the urban development. In addition, the construction characteristics from the fortification lines were reconstructed in the outline of the hills of Hellenistic Jerusalem with the principles of the theory of fortifications in different regions of the Hellenistic world, and these provided a basis for comparing and analyzing the nature of the Jerusalem fortifications.

As an additional layer, Ayala discussed the historical context of each of the restored fortification projects. In this framework, she reexamined issues related to siege battles and walls and fortifications that are known from the written sources. The most prominent issue was the question of the location of the Seleucid Acra set up by Antiochus Epiphanes at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt. This question has remained an enigma throughout 150 years of research. In light of the characteristics of the construction, and the stratigraphic and topographical data, Ayala suggested that there is archaeological support for the reconstruction of the Acra at the top of the City of David hill. In addition, the reconstruction of the stages of the Hasmonean construction provided a platform for a more in-depth discussion about the siege of Antiochus VII Sidetes, as well as the circumstances underlying the construction of a new, magnificently built, ashlar stone wall after the establishment of the Hasmonean kingdom.

In addition to the issues related to the study of the history of Jerusalem, the analysis of the military construction in Jerusalem and its comparison with other examples of military construction led to the creation of a structured typology of the methodology of the theory of fortifications in various regions of the Hellenistic world, and permitted an understanding of trends of adopting foreign methods, preserving traditions, and even innovation in the theory of the Hellenistic fortifications.

Fieldwork



Fieldwork

Apollonia-Arsuf

Director: Prof. Oren Tal | June 26–July 20, 2023 | December 10–31, 2023



Area F at the end of the Fieldwork (photo © Apollonia-Arsuf Excavation Project)

Tel Hadid

Co-Directors: Dr. Ido Koch and Prof. James Parker (New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) |
June 25–July 21, 2023



Tel Hadid 2023 Team and Guests (photo by Sagi Frieman)

Tell Izṭabba

Co-Directors: Prof. Oren Tal and Prof. Achim Lichtenberger (University of Münster) | February 6–March 3, 2023



Photo © The Tell Izṭabba excavation Project

Tel Moza

Co-Directors: Prof. Oded Lipschits and Dr. Shua Kisilevitz (IAA) | August 13 to September 8, 2023



Photos by David R. Moulis

Fieldwork

Qades

Co-Directors: Prof. Rafi Greenberg and Gideon Solimany | July 2–21, 2023



The destroyed southeast compound in Qadas village, after intense cleaning in 2023; note partly preserved room at center (photo by Ido Wachtel)



Scattered objects attributed to the Arab Liberation Army occupation at Qadas, October 1948 (photo by Rafi Greenberg)

Qesem Cave

Director: Dr. Ella Assaf-Spayer | July 2–16, 2023



Photo by Sagi Freiman



Photo courtesy of the Renewed Qesem Cave Excavations

Tel Shaddud

Co-Directors: Dr. Omer Sergi (TAU), Dr. Karen Covello-Paran (IAA), Prof. Hannes Bezzel (FSU Jena) and Prof. Joachim Krause (RUB) | July 9–28, 2023



Photo courtesy of the Tel Shaddud Regional Project



Tel Azekah

**Co-Directors:
Prof. Oded Lipschits
(Tel Aviv University)
and Prof. Manfred Oeming
(University of Heidelberg) |
July 17–August 10, 2023**

*Aerial view of Tel Azekah
at the end of the 2023 Season
(photo © The Lautenschläger
Azekah Expedition)*

Fieldwork

Timna

Director: Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef | February 20–27, 2024



Discussing new pottery data from Slaves' Hill with Dr. Assaf Kleiman (photo by Stav Klein and the CTV Project)



One of the Timna Valley 2024 survey teams (from left to right: the park's director, Sagi Raz, Guy Greenberg, Prof. Shawna Dolensky, Eli Toledano, Dr. Aaron Greener; photo by Sagi Raz)



Testing the hypothesis that only small children could have been the miners of the narrowest galleries in Timna Valley (photo by Erez Ben-Yosef and the CTV Project)

In the Media



In the Media



Prof. Oded Lipschits
(photo by Rotem Tzadok)

Podcast: Jerusalem of Many Nations

Who were the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the days of Kings David and Solomon? An examination of the evidence preserved in the Bible reveals a surprising picture—or perhaps one that is not so surprising.

Residents from many peoples and nationalities lived in Jerusalem at this time, a diverse and mixed population that included Hittites, Hivites, Jebusites, Cretans, Philistines, Ammonites, Ephratites, and Judahites.

You can learn more about this in a [podcast](#) (in Hebrew) by Prof. Oded Lipschits.

Haaretz Online: The Hi Tech of the Past

In the hi tech city, the past is also an innovative business. In an [article](#) in *Haaretz* the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University takes us behind the scenes of the research.



The restoration lab (photo by Tomer Applebaum)

Ynet Online: This is How the Extinction of Large Animals Affected the Human Mind

A study led by Dr. Miki Ben Dor and Prof. Ran Barkai of the Department of Archaeology and Near Eastern Cultures at Tel Aviv University shows that the need to hunt small animals caused prehistoric humans to improve their mental abilities in order to perfect hunting tools.

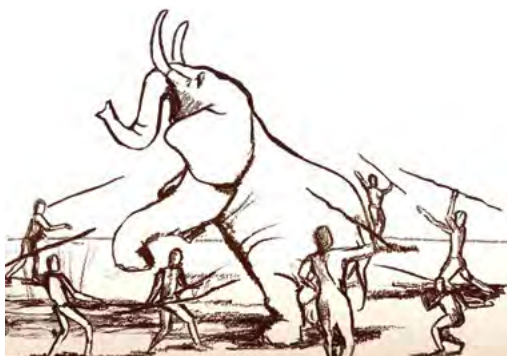


Illustration by Dana Ackerfeld



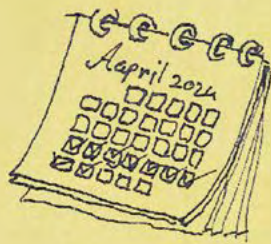
Globes: A Series of Articles in the Cultural Supplement

In a series of articles on archaeology published in the cultural supplement of the *Globes* newspaper, Prof. Ran Barkai of the Department of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University and screenwriter Eyal Halfon present a unique point of view about a selection of current archaeological topics, primarily, though not exclusively, from the field of prehistoric archaeology.

Podcast: So What Exactly Is Archaeology?

Prof. Yuval Gadot conducts a conversation with Rona Gershon Talmi and the laboratory team in a [podcast](#) on science for children and parents about the concept of archaeology.

Events



April 19, 2023

Applied Sciences and Technology in Archaeology: International Scope

A first collaboration between the Institute of Archeology of Tel Aviv University and the Center for the Study of Ancient Civilizations of Mexico (Centro de Investigación en Culturas de la Antigüedad: CEICA)



Applied Sciences and Technology in Archaeology: International Scope

19.4.2023

Mexico	Israel	
9:00 (GMT-6)	18:00 (GMT+3)	
9:00	18:00	Greetings by the ambassadors of Mexico and Israel Mauricio Escanero and Zvi Tal
9:10	18:10	Greetings by representatives of Tel Aviv and Anáhuac Universities Yuval Gador and Rosaura Sanz-Rincón
9:15	18:15	Archaeological Geophysics in Israel: Past, Present, and Future Lev Eppelbaum Department of Geophysics, Tel Aviv University
9:35	18:35	Surface Survey of Buried Mexican Archaeological Sites with Prospection Methods Luis Barba Institute of Anthropological Research, National Autonomous University of Mexico
9:55	18:55	Multi-Tech Approaches to Remote Sensing at Legio/Leijun, Israel Matthew J. Adams The Center for the Mediterranean World
10:15	19:15	Discussion

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Open to all, [Join us on Zoom](#)

May 8–10, 2023



Photo by Rotem Tzadok

Mexico International Week

As part of the Mexico International Week, Dr. José Luis Punzo Díaz from the National Institute of Anthropology and History, Michoacán, Mexico, presented two lectures on Mexican archaeology at the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology:

The first lecture, titled “The Wonders of Mexican Archaeology”, took place on May 9, 2023.

The second lecture, titled “Mexican Archaeology Today: New Challenges, Old Questions”, took place on May 10, 2023.

June 8, 2023

In Centro IV: Faith

On June 8, 2023, the fourth "In Centro" conference was held at Tel Aviv University. The conference was a collaboration between the Central Region of the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Department and Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University, and the Institute of Archaeology of Bar-Ilan University.



June 5–7, 2023

Visiting Colleagues from the United States



Lecturers in the International Program with guests; from left to right: Koch, Lipschits, D. Fleming, N. Fleming, Sergi, Leonard-Fleckman, Monroe, Daniels and Gadot. (photo by Mor Goldenberg)

The Institute of Archaeology and the International Program in Ancient Israel Studies of Tel Aviv University hosted colleagues from the United States for a week of discussions about the contact line between material culture, archaeology, the Bible and history.

Prof. Daniel Fleming (New York University), Prof. Lauren Monroe (Cornell University), Prof. Mahri Leonard-Fleckman (College of the Holy Cross) and Quine Daniels (New York University) were guests for several research workshops, a conference in collaboration with the Biblical Department, study tours and a seminar for the International Program in Ancient Israel Studies.

August 20–25, 2023

Research Workshops within the Project “Stamp Seals from the Southern Levant”



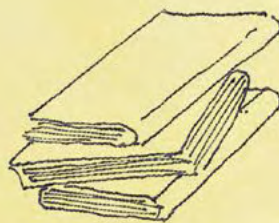
Photo by Rotem Tzadok

The Institute of Archaeology hosted the members of the “Stamp Seals from the Southern Levant” project led by Prof. Christoph Uehlinger (University of Zurich), Prof. Silvia Schroer (University of Bern), Prof. Stephan Münger (University of Bern) and Dr. Ido Koch (Tel Aviv University). The project, funded by the Swiss National Sciences Foundation, began in 2020 with the aim of publishing an online database containing all the imprint seals from the Neolithic to the Hellenistic periods found in the Southern Levant (<https://cssl.levantineseals.org>), to publish a corpus in three printed volumes (following the five volumes published by Othmar Keel), and to promote the study of seals in a variety of

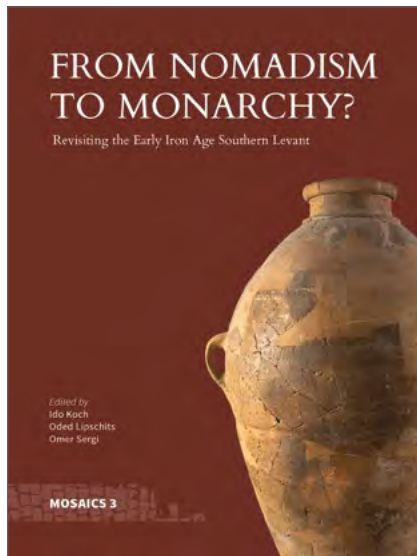
aspects within the framework of research tracks led by postdoctoral and doctoral students in the three universities.

The program included three research workshops: 1) on the definition of regions in the Southern Levant during the Iron Age; 2) seals and sciences (material analysis, computer imaging, petrography, and archaeomagnetism); and 3) the sensory experience of wearing seals and other objects on the body. In addition, the group visited the Tel Moza excavations of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University and held several gatherings with researchers from Israel.

Publications



Mosaics: Studies on Ancient Israel



From Nomadism to Monarchy? Revisiting the Early Iron Age Southern Levant

Editors: Ido Koch, Oded Lipschits and Omer Sergi

Archaeological exploration in the Central Highlands of the Southern Levant conducted during the 1970s and 1980s dramatically transformed the scholarly understanding of the early Iron Age and led to the publication in the 1990s of *From Nomadism to Monarchy: Archaeological and Historical Aspects of Early Israel*, by Israel Finkelstein and Nadav Na'aman. Now, three decades later, a new volume has been published, which explores and reassesses the legacy of that foundational text.

Using current theoretical frameworks and taking into account new excavation data and methodologies from the natural sciences, the seventeen essays in this new volume examine the archaeology of the Southern Levant during the early Iron Age and the ways in which the period may be reflected in biblical accounts. The variety of methodologies employed and the historical narratives presented within these contributions illuminate the multifaceted nature of contemporary research on this formative period.

Building upon Finkelstein and Na'aman's seminal study, this work, no. 3 in the Mosaics series, provides an essential update. It will be welcomed by ancient historians, scholars of early Israel and the early Iron Age Southern Levant, and biblical scholars. In addition to the editors, the contributors to this volume are Eran Arie, Erez Ben-Yosef, Cynthia Edenburg, Israel Finkelstein, Yuval Gadot, Assaf Kleiman, Gunnar Lehmann, Dafna Langgut, Aren M. Maeir, Nadav Na'aman, Thomas Römer, Lidar Sapir-Hen, Katja Soennecken, Dieter Vieweger, Ido Wachtel and Naama Yahalom-Mack.

Proceedings of the “In Centro” Conferences

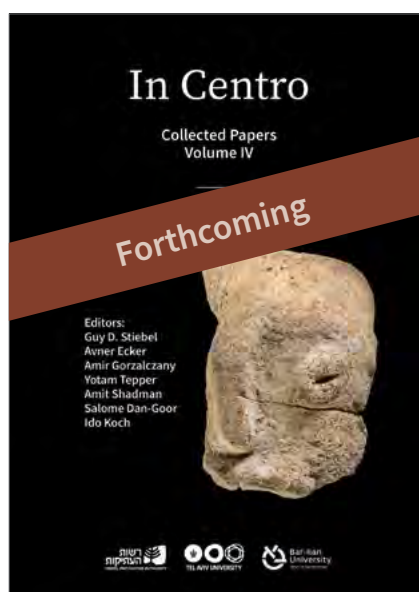


In Centro Time

Collected Papers Volume III

Editors: Guy D. Stiebel, Ido Koch, Avner Ecker, Amir Gorzalczy, Yotam Tepper, Amit Shadman and Salome Dan-Goor

The third annual “In Centro” conference was held by the Central Region of Israel Antiquities Authority, the Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures and the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University and the Institute of Archaeology of Bar-Ilan University, on June 9, 2022 at Bar-Ilan University. The conference was devoted to the theme of “Time.” In the course of five sessions, scores of papers were presented, including dating methodologies and test-cases, a session devoted to ancient perceptions of time and two sessions that presented recently excavated sites. The bilingual proceedings volume (Hebrew and English) contains 13 papers.

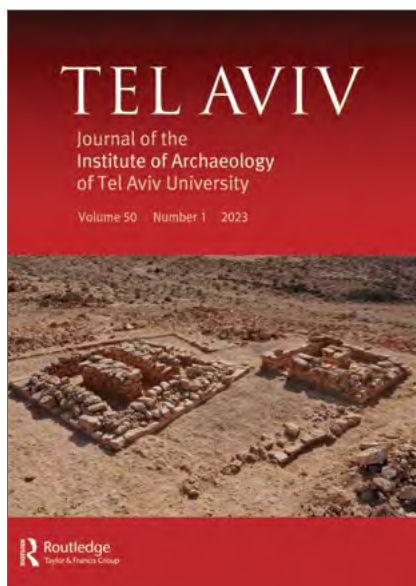


In Centro *Faith*

Collected Papers Volume IV

Editors: Guy D. Stiebel, Avner Ecker, Amir Gorzalczy, Yotam Tepper, Amit Shadman, Salome Dan-Goor and Ido Koch

The fourth annual “In Centro” conference was held by the Central Region of Israel Antiquities Authority, the Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures and the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University, and the Institute of Archaeology of Bar-Ilan University, on June 8, 2023 at Tel Aviv University. This year the conference was devoted to the theme of “Faith.” In the course of four sessions, scores of papers were presented, including cult across the Yarkon Basin, a session devoted to burial practices, a session on rituals and temples in the Hellenistic and Roman periods, and a session that presented recently excavated sites. The bilingual proceedings volume (Hebrew and English) will contain 12 papers.



Tel Aviv:

Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University

Volume 50, Number 1 | 2023

Editor's Foreword

Ido Koch

The Secret in the Desert: Preliminary Conclusions from the Excavation of a Unique Burial Complex in the Negev Highlands

Martin David Pasternak and Tali Erickson-Gini

The En-Gedi Spring Site and the Judahite Expansion into the Judaeen Desert in the Late Iron Age

Avraham Mashiach and Uri Davidovich

The Metal Assemblage of Early Iron Age el-Aḥwat: Trade and Metalworking in the Margins of the Southern Levantine Central Highlands

Tzilla Eshel, Ofir Tirosh, Yoav Bornstein and Shay Bar

Between Israel and Phoenicia: The Iron IIA–B Fortified Purple-dye Production Centre at Tel Shiqmona

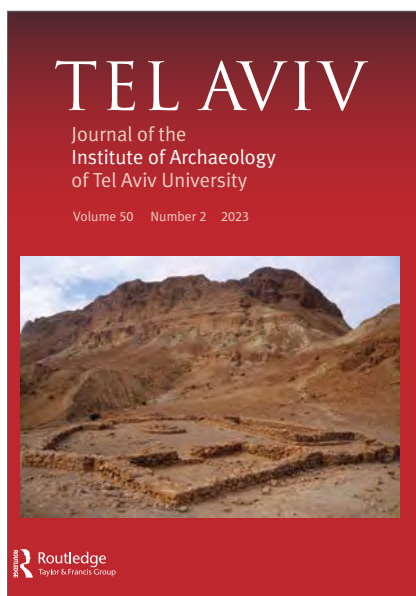
Golan Shalvi and Ayelet Gilboa

Locating Jerusalem's Royal Palace in the Second Millennium BCE in Light of the Glyptic and Cuneiform Material Unearthed in the Ophel

Nadav Na'aman

Mace in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Ancient Near East

Michael Sebbane



Tel Aviv:

Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University

Volume 50, Number 2 | 2023

An Early Iron Age Moat in Jerusalem between the Ophel and the Southeastern Ridge/City of David

Yuval Gadot, Efrat Bocher, Liora Freud and Yiftah Shalev

Cult and Architecture in the Chalcolithic Period of the Southern Levant: The Case of En-Gedi and Teleilat Ghassul

Gil Haklay and Avi Gopher

Metalworking in Cultic Spaces: The Emergence of New Offering Practices in the Middle Bronze Age Southern Levant

Matthew Sasnow and Naama Yahalom-Mack

A Seal Impression of 'Shema' Servant of Jeroboam'

Shmuel Aḥituv, Avner Ayalon, Mira Bar-Matthews, Yuval Goren, Michael Magen, Eliezer D. Oren and Orit Shamir

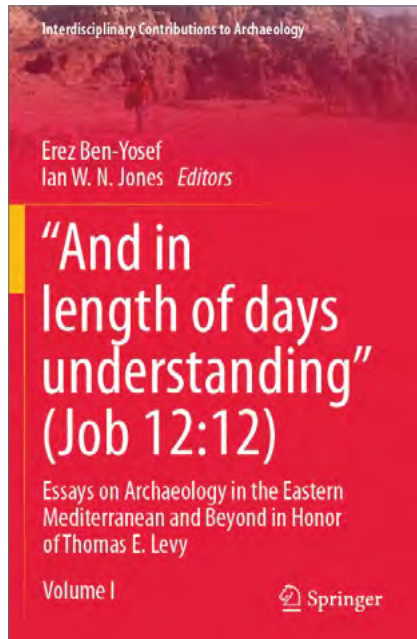
The Pottery of Babylonian-period Jerusalem: Stratum 9/10 at the Summit of the Southeastern Hill

Liora Freud

Flora in the Latin East: Archaeobotanical Remains from Crusader Arsuf

Andrea Orendi, Elisabeth Yehuda, Annette Zeischka-Kenzler and Oren Tal

Other Publications by Faculty Members



“And in Length of Days Understanding” (Job 12:12): Essays on Archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean and Beyond in Honor of Thomas E. Levy

Editors: Erez Ben-Yosef and Ian W.N. Jones

Interdisciplinary Contributions to Archaeology

Springer International Publishing

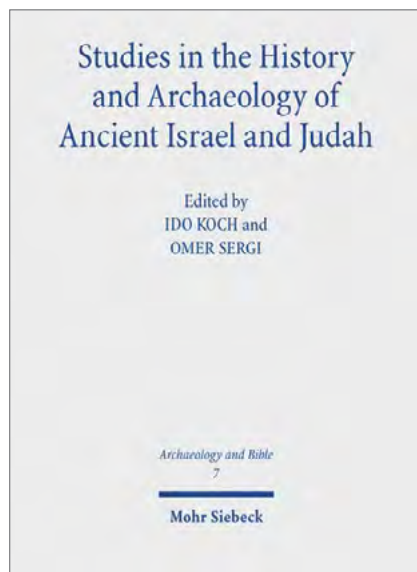
This two-volume book presents cutting-edge archaeological research, primarily as practiced in the Eastern Mediterranean region. These volumes' key foci are inspired by the work of Thomas E. Levy. Volume 1 provides an in-depth look at new archaeological research in the Southern Levant (primarily in modern Israel and Jordan) inspired by Levy's commitment to understanding social, political, and economic processes in a long-term or “deep time” perspective. Volume 2 focuses on new research in several key areas of 21st-century anthropological archaeology and archaeological science.

Volume 1 is organized around two major themes: 1) the later prehistory of the Southern Levant, or the Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Bronze Age, and 2) new research in biblical archaeology, or the historical archaeology of the Iron Age. Each section contains a combination of new perspectives on key debates and studies introducing new research questions and directions.

Volume 2 is organized around five major themes: 1) the archaeology of the Faynan copper ore district of southern Jordan, a key region for archaeometallurgical research in West Asia where Levy conducted field research for over a decade, 2) new research in archaeometallurgy beyond the Faynan region, 3) marine and maritime archaeology, focusing on issues of trade and environmental change, 4) cyber-archaeology, an important 21st-century field Levy conceived as “the marriage of archaeology, engineering, computer science, and the natural sciences,” and 5) key issues in anthropological archaeological theory. In addition to presenting the reader with an up-to-date view of research in each of these areas, the volume also has chapters exploring the connections between these themes, e.g. the maritime trade of metals and cyber-/digital archaeological approaches to metallurgy.

The work contains contributions from both up-and-coming early career researchers and key established figures in their fields. This book is an essential reference for archaeologists and scholars in related disciplines working in the Southern Levant and the Eastern Mediterranean

Other Publications by Faculty Members



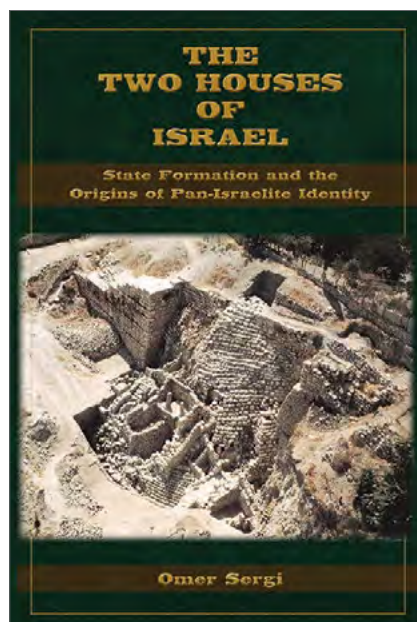
Studies in the Archaeology and History of Ancient Israel and Judah

Editors: Ido Koch and Omer Sergi

Archaeology and Bible 7

Mohr Siebeck

The archaeological and historical study of the Southern Levant during the first millennium BCE—the Iron Age kingdoms and their societies, as well as their successors during the Persian and Hellenistic periods—has dramatically developed in recent decades. This resulted from two common and overlapping trends, the first being the vast archaeological exploration of the Southern Levant, and the second being the shift in the studies of biblical literature. This volume was published to honor the scholarship of Prof. Oded Lipschits of the Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures of Tel Aviv University on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. The ten contributions in this volume demonstrate the range of questions, methods and theoretical frameworks employed in the current study of Judah and neighboring regions during the first millennium BCE and beyond. They were all written by Oded Lipschits' close circle—by his teacher and ten of his students.



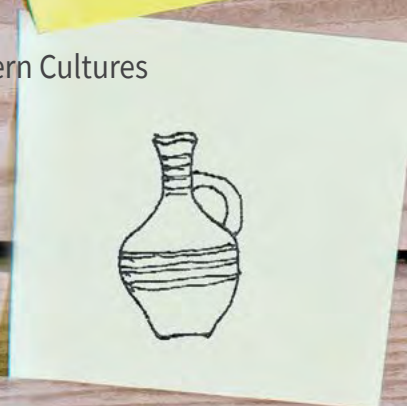
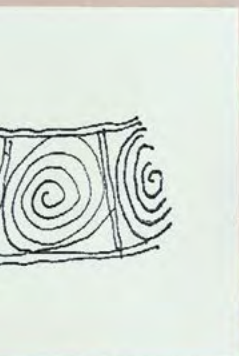
The Two Houses of Israel: State Formation and the Origins of Pan-Israelite Identity

Omer Sergi

Archaeology and Biblical Studies No. 33

Society of Biblical Literature

The Two Houses of Israel: State Formation and the Origins of Pan-Israelite Identity bridges the gap between the biblical narrative of the great United Monarchy ruled by David and Solomon and archaeological and historical reconstructions of a gradual independent formation of Israel and Judah. Based on a thorough examination of the material remains and settlement patterns in the Southern Levant during the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age and on a review of the relevant historical sources, this book provides a detailed reconstruction of the ways in which Israel and Judah were formed as territorial polities and specifically how the house of David rose to power in Jerusalem and Judah. Omer Sergi further situates the stories of Saul and David in their accurate social and historical contexts in order to illuminate the historical conception of the United Monarchy and the pan-Israelite ideology out of which it grew. Sergi provides a new history of the early Israelite monarchies, their formation, and the ways in which these social and political developments were commemorated in the cultural memory of generations to come.



TAU Archaeology

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The Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

Number 10 | 2024



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ISSN: 2521-0971 | EISSN: 252-098X