



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2017-18

Welcome!

We are delighted to summarize in this bulletin our second year of activity at the **Haifa Center for Mediterranean History** and share more information on the upcoming year.

Early this year we launched our new website, providing all information about the Center, its activities, and the people involved in them.

You can visit us at <http://hcmh.haifa.ac.il> to stay updated on our future events and collaborations!

If you wish to join our mailing list, please [get in touch](#). You can also follow us on [Facebook](#).

Zur Shalev, Gil Gambash, HCMH Directors

Noa Melamed, HCMH Administrator

Events 2017-18

Mediterranean Forum



The Mediterranean Forum resumed its activity this year with a distinguished array of international speakers. The Forum's aim is to bring together historians and humanists who define their work as Mediterranean in a broad and flexible sense. Beyond the meetings themselves, it is our intention to foster informal communication on various relevant topics within the community of Mediterranean historians. The Phoenician Series, introduced below, epitomizes the innovative ways in which we may branch out from a topic highlighted by the Forum.

10 December 2017. We hosted **Prof. John Haldon**, Department of History, Princeton University. His talk, "Landscape, Climate and the Survival of an Empire: Some Aspects of the Archaeology and History of Byzantine Anatolia", was a fascinating overview of Byzantine history and archaeology between the 7th and 10th centuries, with a special focus on the overlapping of socio-economic or cultural systems with their physical environment.

2 January 2018. **Prof. John Watkins** from the Department of History, University of Minnesota, presented "Working around the *Ius Gentium*: Diplomatic Lies and the Invention of Southern Europe". Watkins examined the Treaty of Bristol between England and Spain in the context of early international law, and exposed its contradictions, evasions and ambiguities.

17 April 2018. **Prof. Katell Berthelot**, CNRS and Aix-Marseille University, Aix-en-Provence, gave a talk titled "Roman Domination *terra marique*: The Jewish Reception and Contestation of a Roman Imperial Discourse". Through a variety of sources Berthelot demonstrated how the Roman notion of *victoria/pax terra marique* was conceived by the Jewish residents of the empire, at times accepting it, but on other occasions challenging it, particularly insofar as regards imperial control of the sea.

5 June 2018. **Prof. Roald Docter** from the Department of arts and philosophy, Ghent University, lectured on "Punic Carthage and the Mediterranean", introducing new insights into the development of the Punic city,

based on its material culture. Particularly highlighted were issues of urbanism, metallurgy, chronology and economy.

The Phoenician Series



The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, the Zinman Institute of Archaeology, and The Recanati Institute of Maritime Studies organized the first edition of the Phoenician Series, a succession of meetings related to the Phoenicians and their impact on the Mediterranean. The encounters developed as follows:

15 March 2018. Two sessions dedicated to the Phoenicians as part of the international conference "Terracotas in the Mediterranean through Time II".

12 April 2018. Afternoon with **Prof. Tamar Hodos**, University of Bristol, who presented her new book, *The Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*.

Hodos argued for the usefulness of the modern concept of globalization for understanding antiquity. Her talk was followed by responses from **Prof. Irad Makin**, Tel Aviv University, and **Prof. Gunnar Lehmann**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

10 May 2018. **Dr. Timmy Gambin**, University of Malta, presented his fascinating work as an underwater archaeologist in his talk "Exploring the Phoenician Shipwreck off Gozo".

5 June 2018. Afternoon with **Prof. Roald Docter**, Ghent University. "Punic Carthage and the Phoenician Mediterranean" (see above – Mediterranean Forum).

Workshop: Early Modern Mediterranean Wars and Intellectuals



14 March 2018. HCMH sponsored a day-long workshop on wars and intellectuals in the early modern Mediterranean. Our main guest was **Dr. Fabien Montcher** (American Council of Learned Societies), who was also a visiting scholar with HCMH for three weeks. Montcher's visit and the workshop were organized by our affiliate **Dr. Cedric Cohen Skalli**, University of Haifa. **Cohen Skalli**, **Prof. Claude Dove Stuczynski**, Bar-Ilan University, **Dr. Idan Sherer**, University of Haifa, and **Dr. Nathan Ron**, independent Scholar, also presented papers during the workshop. Also present was **Dr. Claire Gilbert**, an

early modern Iberian historian from Saint Louis University.

Workshop: The Journeys of a Jewish Scholar



10 June 2018. HCMH co-sponsored with the Institut Français the workshop "The Journeys of a Jewish Scholar: Flavius Josephus and the Circulation of Ideas in the Eastern Roman Mediterranean", organized by **Dr. Stéphanie Binder**, Bar-Ilan University and **Dr. Emmanuel Nantet**, University of Haifa. Speakers included the two organizers, **Prof. Olivier Munnich**, CNRS, Paris-Sorbonne University, **Dr. Sébastien Morlet**, Paris-Sorbonne University, and **Dr. Gerald Finkielsztein**, Israel Antiquities Authority.

HCMH post-doctoral lectures



7 December 2017. "Physical Journey - Mental Journey: Movement between Cultural Spheres in the 18th Century."

Dr. Oded Cohen, HCMH post-doctoral fellow, gave a lecture co-sponsored by the Medieval-Renaissance Seminar (MedRens). Cohen discussed the travels of Rabbi Chaim Yosef David Azulai (HIDA) in North Africa and Europe.



3 May 2018. "At the Center of a Mediterranean Landscape: The Parklands and Palaces of Norman Sicily".

Dr. Dana Katz, HCMH post-doctoral fellow, gave a lecture co-sponsored by the Medieval-Renaissance Seminar (MedRens). Katz presented her fieldwork on the monumental structures of the kings of Sicily and their current state in modern Palermo.

See more below about the activities of Oded and Dana during their stay at HCMH.

Sponsored Conference Panels

HCMH regularly takes part in the organization and support of Haifa conferences related to Mediterranean history. This past year HCMH supported three international conferences:

31 January 2018- 2 February 2018. "The Latin East in the 13th Century: Institutions, Settlements and Material Culture". The well-attended gathering brought together many international and local speakers, and marked the 800th anniversary of the construction of Atlit fortress. HCMH sponsored two panels, which featured papers on diverse maritime topics.

15 March 2018. "Terracottas in the Mediterranean through Time II". HCMH sponsored two panels, which also opened our Phoenician series (see above). **Dr. Gil Gambash** chaired a panel on "Phoenician Terracottas in Cult."

30 April 2018 – 3 May 2018. "The Hidden Cultural Heritage: Under Water, Under Ground and within Buildings". In this interdisciplinary international conference HCMH sponsored a panel on maritime archaeology and ancient ship models, chaired by **Dr. Zur Shalev**.

Opening the HCMH Researchers' Study Room, continued book acquisitions



10 May 2018. After a long period of planning and renovations, HCMH officially opened its Researchers' Study Room. The festive event was attended by **Dr. Timmy Gambin** from the University of Malta as our guest of honor, and by many HCMH affiliates and members – faculty, post-doc fellows and students. The Study Room is located within the University Library, and is lined with personal work desks. Additionally, the space enables holding small seminars and running presentations on a dedicated

screen. HCMH looks forward to developing further its warm ties with the **Younes & Soraya Nazarian Library** at the University of Haifa. Together with the acquisition team we have started a collection development scheme and already purchased over 30 new books on a variety of Mediterranean historical themes.

Collaborations with French Institutions: Ambassador's visit, Agreement with Aix-Marseille University, Workshop at CRFJ, The Dixmude in Haifa



In January 2018 the French ambassador to Israel, **Mme. Hélène Le Gal**, visited our campus and learned about HCMH and its collaboration with French institutions, primarily the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme (**MMSH**) in Aix-en-Provence. During the winter we signed an Agreement for Scientific Cooperation between the University of Haifa and Aix-Marseille University (**AMU**) – the largest university in France. AMU is represented in the agreement by MMSH, with whom HCMH now has direct channels of collaboration and scholar exchange. We also followed the ambassador's suggestion and contacted **Dr. François Bon**, the director of the Centre de recherche français à Jérusalem (**CRFJ**). In July **Dr. Zur Shalev** participated in "Zugot, early modern conversations", a workshop at CRFJ

that brought together French and Israeli historians of the early modern period.



In July 2018 we were also invited by the French embassy to participate in a special reception given on board the LHD "Dixmude", a 200m-long French helicopter carrier visiting the harbor of Haifa. **Dr. Gil Gambash**, our co-director, represented HCMH at the event and, was joined also by the University of Haifa's VP for external relations, **Prof. Dan Tchernov**. The reception included colorful cultural vignettes, and HCMH attendance betokened our growing collaboration with various French research institutes, as well as directly with the French embassy.

Forthcoming Events, 2018-19

The Phoenician Series



22nd November 2018. Colloquium marking the publication of **Dr. Josephine Crawley Quinn's**, *In Search of the Phoenicians* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2017).

This last event in the 2018 Phoenician series, in collaboration with Prof. Irad Malkin, the Cummings Chair for Mediterranean History and Culture, Department of History, Tel Aviv University, will be in honor of Quinn's latest publication. Speakers: **Dr. Quinn**, University of Oxford, **Prof. Irad Malkin**, **Prof. Alexander Fantalkin**, Tel Aviv University,

Prof. Ayelet Gilboa, **Prof. Assaf Yasur Landau**, **Dr. Ory Amitay**, **Dr. Zur Shalev**, University of Haifa.

Mediterranean Forum

The Mediterranean Forum will continue to nurture a broader Israeli community around Mediterranean history. We are delighted to announce our distinguished speakers for the upcoming academic year (2018-19):

6 November 2018. **Dr. Moshe Blidstein**, Department of History, University of Haifa (see below)

20 November 2019. **Prof. Sabine Schmidtke**, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

22 November 2018. **Dr. Josephine Crawley Quinn**, Department of History, Oxford University (see above)

1 January 2019. Prof. Susan Einbinder, University of Connecticut

21 May 2019. Prof. Francesca Trivellato, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (co-sponsored with the Dept. of Jewish History)

More lectures and workshops will be announced in due course.

New Research Group:

Kinship and Community in the Early and Medieval Islamic Mediterranean

HCMH promotes innovative Mediterranean research by supporting sustained collaborative work in the form of international research groups. Our first group has now formed and will convene in Haifa this winter. The group, led by **Dr. Uriel Simonsohn**, University of Haifa, and **Dr. Oded Zinger**, Buber Fellow, Hebrew University, brings together scholars from the UK, Spain, France, and Belgium, who will meet several times over the next two years. The group aims to explore the overlapping and competing loyalties between kinship and confessional commitments in early and medieval Islamic dominated lands, with a particular focus on the Mediterranean Basin. For full details, visit the group's [page](#) on our website.

People

2017-18

Post-doctoral fellows



Dr. Oded Cohen completed this year a book manuscript on the basis of his Ph.D. thesis. It is currently under review. Additionally, Oded wrote two articles which have been submitted to leading journals. One of them has already been accepted to 'Zion' – The Historical Society of Israel's journal. The article addresses the complex attitude of HIDA (R. Haim Yosef David Azulay, 1724-1806) toward figures who were known as Sabbatians.



As part of his current research on wandering Jews as transmitters of knowledge and culture in the early modern Mediterranean basin, Oded spent the month of June 2018 as a research fellow in the *Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'homme* (MMSH). During his stay in Aix, Oded worked in the local archives of Provence, particularly the 'Archives municipales' of Avignon and the 'Archives départementales de Vaucluse', which is located in the Papal Palace in Avignon. He also had the opportunity to present his current research to the researches of MMSH.

Dr. Dana Katz, published an article this year in the special issue, "The Italian South: Transcultural Perspectives (500–1500)", of the journal *Convivium*, entitled "From Norman to Hohenstaufen Rule of Sicily: The Representation of Matthew of Ajello in the *Liber ad honorem Augusti* and the Church of La Magione in Palermo."

Another study of Dana was accepted by the *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* (IJIA), and is forthcoming in the fall of 2018. It examines the formation of an Islamic art collection at the National Museum in Palermo and the ethnographic exhibit of Sicilian objects at the National Exposition in the city in 1891–92.

In addition to writing and conducting research for her monograph project on the royal parklands of medieval Sicily, Dr. Katz participated in the international conference on Atlit Castle held at the University of Haifa. She also presented at the International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds, in a panel with fellow participants of the Getty-funded seminar organized by SOAS University of London, "Art of the Crusades: A Re-Evaluation" (2015–17).

We are grateful to Oded Cohen and Dana Katz for initiating and compiling a [Mediterranean bibliography](#), which is available on our website. This is a selective, thematic list, which currently concentrates on publications since 2000 in English. You are more than welcome to send us more items for the list – this is an ongoing project.

Doctoral Fellow



Ms. Michelle Creisher, our doctoral fellow, reports:

"This past academic year has been both exciting and enlightening. At the beginning of the year I attended the Honor Frost Foundation conference 'Under the Mediterranean' in Cyprus (Oct. 20-23, 2017), where I was honored to present a poster describing my research. In May of 2018 we conducted the fourth season of underwater excavation on the Ma'agan Mikhael B shipwreck, which yielded another collection of ceramics to add to my assemblage. During the summer, I was able to participate in the 'Introduction to Ceramic Petrography' course at the University of Sheffield, taught by Dr. Peter Day. The course was very informative and I will continue to employ what I learned there in my work with the ceramics from the Ma'agan Mikhael B.

This coming October brings the fifth season of excavation on the Ma'agan Mikhael B and I am looking forward to collecting yet more data. I am extremely grateful to HCMH for aiding me in all that has been accomplished over the last year, and look forward to next one - it is already off to a great start!"

Visiting Scholars



Dr. Fabien Montcher, visited HCMH for 3 weeks during February-March 2018. An American Council for Learned Societies Fellow, Dr. Montcher is an early modern historian working on political and intellectual history. He used his time in Haifa to continue working on his book: *Scholars of Fortune. Conflict Management and Bibliopolitics in Early Modern Empires*. He presented segments of the work in a dedicated workshop (see above). He also submitted a chapter entitled "Conflits et méditation à l'époque moderne. L'exil des hommes de lettres de la monarchie hispanique comme forme de communication politique", to a collective volume. Montcher also strengthened his collaboration with Dr. Cohen-Skalli. The two will participate in a conference panel at the

Toronto Renaissance Society of America meeting in March 2019. In the meanwhile, we have learned that Fabien has been offered a tenure-track position at Saint Louis University – congratulations!

2018-19

New HCMH Faculty member



We are delighted to welcome **Dr. Moshe Blidstein**, currently a Buber Fellow at the Hebrew University, who will join us next year as a new faculty member. Dr. Blidstein is an ancient historian interested in rituals and ritual discourses in the religions of the Roman Empire and of late antiquity. He has studied especially issues of discourses of purity and defilement in early Christianity and its historical contexts, and the changing character of oaths in the ancient Mediterranean cultures of the Roman Empire. His book, *Purity, Community and Ritual in Early Christian Literature*, was published in 2017

by Oxford University Press. HCMH now prepares a second faculty search, this time focused on environmental history. It will be announced in due course.

Our incoming post-doctoral fellows



Dr. Anna Gutgarts, received her PhD at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her dissertation, awarded the Hans Wiener Prize, examined urban development in Frankish Jerusalem, particularly focusing on its underlying socio-economic mechanisms. She was formerly a post-doctoral fellow at the Zvi-Yavetz school of Historical studies at Tel-Aviv University. Anna is a member of the team leading the Revised Regesta Regni Hierosolymitani project, an online open resource providing access to a new translated edition of the extant documents from the Latin East.

During her time as a post-doctoral fellow at the HCMC, Anna will be working on a project examining the influence of urbanization processes on social cohesion in the Medieval Mediterranean between the 11th and 13th centuries.



Dr. Chiara Maria Mauro, received her MA in Classical Archaeology at the University of Pisa (Italy) in 2012 with a dissertation on Phoenician seafaring in the Archaic period. In 2014, she completed a Master in Teaching History, Geography and History of Art at the Autonomous University of Madrid. In 2016, she obtained a PhD in Studies on the Ancient World from the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain), with a thesis on Archaic and Classical Harbors across the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Part of the Ionian Sea; from September 2015 to December 2015, she was Visiting Research Student at the University of Bologna. In October 2017, she was awarded an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship to work on a project entitled "Ancient Harbors in the Greek World: A study of Aegean and Ionian Sea harbors from the dawn of the city-state to

the Classical Period", under the mentorship of Prof. Dr. De Souza. She has published various papers on harbors, shipwrecks and sailing in the Archaic and Classical Mediterranean. She is currently working on a monograph on harbors in the Greek world, which is expected to be published in 2019.



Dr. Meir Edrey received his PhD from the department of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, in 2016. His dissertation, titled 'The Phoenicians in the Eastern Mediterranean During the Iron Age I-III, ca. 1200-332 BCE: Ethnicity and Identity in Light of the Material Culture', dealt extensively with the Phoenician culture of the southern Levant with a special focus on expressions of religion and cult. Since then, he has expanded his interest in the Phoenicians to the western Mediterranean as well. He is currently working on material from Kabri, Achziv and other sites along the Levantine coast.

Visiting scholars, 2018-19



Dr. Sundar Henny, joins us for 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Henny is a historian of early modern Europe, interested in the history of ethnography, comparatism, and archives. He is an *Ambizione* fellow at the University of Bern and a visiting fellow at the HCMH. His current project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, is entitled "Navel of the World: Cross-Cultural Encounters at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 1400–1600". In this project, Christianity's most prominent pilgrimage destination in Jerusalem serves as a prism for the study of late medieval and early modern notions of cultural and religious diversity. The project takes into account sources from Latin (Western European) as well as from Armenian and Greek pilgrims and residents.

Sundar has formerly worked on autobiographical writing in 17th-century Zurich. A revised version of his doctoral thesis (University of Basel, 2012) appeared as *Vom Leib geschrieben: Der Mikrokosmos Zürich und seine Selbstzeugnisse im 17. Jahrhundert* (Böhlau, 2016). He has conducted postdoctoral research on the reception of Strabo at the University of Cambridge and Princeton University and taught at the Universities of Basel, Bern, and Lucerne. In 2018, he published an edition with commentary of Isaak Iselin's *Geschichte der Menschheit* (1764), an Enlightenment classic and the first history of mankind in German.



Prof. Susan Einbinder is the author of *After the Black Death: Plague and Commemoration among Iberian Jews* (Philadelphia 2018) and two monographs on medieval French Jews, *Beautiful Death: Jewish Poetry and Martyrdom from Medieval France* (Princeton 2002), and *No Place of Rest: Literature, Expulsion and the Memory of Medieval France* (Philadelphia 2009). Since 2012, she has been Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at the University of Connecticut. From 1993-2012, she taught at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. She is a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America and a grateful recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Studies, the NY Public Library's Cullman Center, the National Humanities Center, the UConn Humanities Institute and more. This year she will be working on a new project exploring Jewish responses to the plague in late medieval and early modern settings. Prof. Einbinder will be our guest at the University Haifa for three weeks between December 2018 and January 2019.



Dr. Vasileios Syros, University of Helsinki, will visit HCMH for two weeks in early December 2018. Syros studies Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions of political thought as well as cross-cultural encounters in the early modern period. He will collaborate with Dr. Cohen-Skalli, who will be his academic host. Together they will organize a workshop on traditions of political thought in Mediterranean context.

Thanks for reading.

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