

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21



### Welcome!

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

Like many other institutions around the world, our events program was drastically modified due to COVID-19 circumstances and restrictions. We wish all our readers good health and safe return to normal activity.

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

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

For an easy navigation of the document please use Adobe bookmarks.



Zur Shalev, Gil Gambash, HCMH Directors



Shiri Barnhart, HCMH Administrator

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Events 2020-21

#### Mediterranean Forum

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of our Mediterranean Forum lectures were converted to an online format, which, on the bright side, has allowed for broader exposure and wider international audiences.

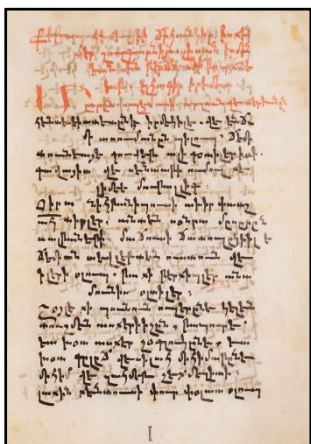


#### 24th November 2020.

A lecture by **Prof. Guy Stroumsa**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, titled [“Inter- and Intra-Religious Communication in the Late Antique Mediterranean”](#).

The lecture addressed the complex religious revolution of late antiquity in the *longue durée* and across the moving borders between the Roman and the Sasanian Empires. Prof. Stroumsa considered not only the passage from paganism to Christianity, but also Judaism, Zoroastrianism and Manichaeism. Finally, in addition to communications within networks of communities belonging to the same

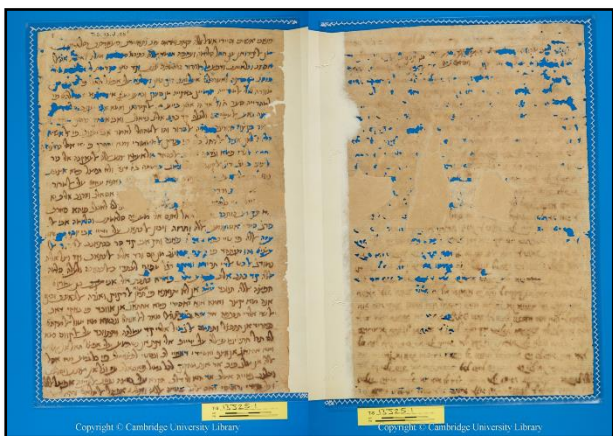
religious tradition, Stroumsa discussed communication (usually polemical) *between* religions. Books, persons, and *oral stories* were often shared between members of different religious communities, as a hermeneutical *koinē* of sorts between them.



#### 11th March 2021.

A lecture by **Dr. Henry Shapiro**, The Polonsky Academy, titled [“Eremia Chelebi K’eōmurchean \(1637-1695\) and the Foundation of the Western Armenian Intellectual Tradition in Ottoman Istanbul”](#).

This talk contextualized Eremia’s life and work by describing mass migrations from Eastern to Western Anatolia, Istanbul, and Thrace that took place at the beginning of the seventeenth century, migrations in which Eremia’s father and grandparents participated.



#### 22nd April 2021.

A lecture by **Prof. Jessica Goldberg**, University of California, Los Angeles, co-hosted with the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem. In her lecture titled [“Business Mail: Understanding Everyday Writing in the Medieval Islamic World”](#), Prof. Goldberg suggests a closer look at letters written by Jewish merchants. These letters show how norms of politeness developed: Ideas of propriety governed not only the language of letters, but also how writing was laid out on the page as well as whether that page was made of paper or parchment. [Watch on YouTube!](#)

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

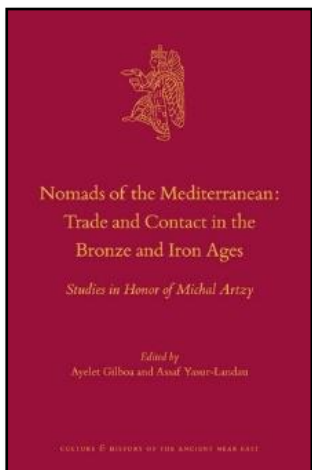


**27th April 2021.**

A lecture by **Dr. Lee Mordechai**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, titled [“The Justinianic Plague: A Pre-Modern Catastrophe or a Warning for the 21st Century?”](#)

In this lecture, Dr. Mordechai located the Justinianic plague within its historical context, employing interdisciplinary methodologies in order to show how, despite its short-term local impact, the long-term, wider effects which have been ascribed to the plague are not viable. The Justinianic plague, claimed Mordechai, became a significant historical event only in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, serving to transmit modern messages such as the superiority of modern science, and the fear of the impact of infectious disease. The lecture concluded with the COVID-19 pandemic, and its relationship with these processes. [Watch on YouTube!](#)

### A Scholarly Meeting in Honor of Michal Artzi



**26th November 2020.**

HCMH co-hosted an [online scholarly meeting](#) to celebrate the publication of the book “Nomads of the Mediterranean: Studies in Honor of Michal Artzi”, edited by **Prof. Ayelet Gilboa**, Department of Archaeology, and **Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau**, Department of Maritime Civilizations.

The meeting was also hosted by the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, The Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, and The Zinman Institute of Archaeology, and the Departments of Archaeology and Maritime Civilizations, University of Haifa. The program of speakers included **Prof. Sue Sherratt** from the University of Sheffield; **Prof. Nicole Hirschfeld**, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas; and **Prof. Philipp Stockhammer**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

### Doctoral Day – Interdepartmental Seminar



**31st May 2021.**

Organized by: **Ms. Eleonora Bedin**, **Ms. Pimprenelle Atlan** and **Mr. Isaac Ogloblin**, Department of Maritime Civilizations, University of Haifa.

The first Doctoral Interdepartmental Seminar took place on May 31st, 2021, and was dedicated to the promotion of excellence in doctoral research. The program included PhD candidates from the fields of General History, Archaeology, Religious Studies, Classics, Anthropology, and Art History. The Doctoral Day was co-hosted by the Department of Maritime Civilizations and the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History (HCMH), University of Haifa.

Two panels were dedicated to doctoral research, and a concluding session hosted three postdoctoral fellows, sharing and discussing future academic perspectives and accomplishments. The organizers hope to have established a tradition of meetings dedicated to the community of doctoral candidates from the humanities.



## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Workshop - Economy and Exchange in the Intermediate Bronze Age



**24th June 2021.**

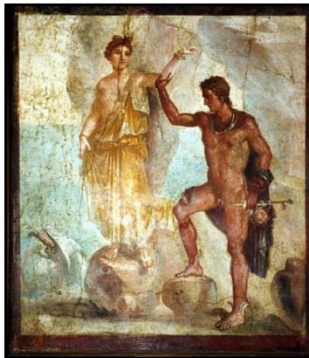
[The second meeting of the Intermediate Bronze Age Forum](#) took place on June 24, 2021. This meeting focused on trade and economy in the second half of the third millennium BCE. The topics of lectures focused on trade relations, urbanism, the northern coastal plains' settlement patterns, stone tools as well as archaeozoology in the Shephelah region, and, finally, incised stone art in the desert. The day ended with a discussion, and a promise for a next meeting.

### HCMH Postdoctoral Fellows and PhD Candidates Lectures



**17th December 2020.**

**Dr. Umberto Signori**, our post-doctoral fellow and research fellow, gave an online lecture titled "[The 'Deserving Foreigner': Venetian Protection in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire](#)" in a seminar co-hosted by the Dept. of General History. This presentation proposed to analyze what defined the identification of people in the early modern Eastern Mediterranean, by focusing on claims of protection made by migrants who moved in and around the Ottoman Empire.



**2nd March 2021.**

**Ms. Eleonora Bedin**, HCMH PhD candidate, gave an online lecture, in a seminar co-hosted by the Dept. of Maritime Civilizations. In her lecture, Ms. Bedin considered the interconnections between broad perspectives of cultural identity and local particularization thereof, offering a multi-layered picture of the Hellenistic Mediterranean region. Focusing on Mediterranean religion, cross-cultural deities, and adapting strategies, the talk outlined a globalized yet diverse Mediterranean world, in which various modes of expression of regional and local identities coexisted.



**21st March 2021.**

**Dr. Federico Ugolini**, our post-doctoral fellow, presented his paper in an online lecture titled "[The Network of Roman Ports in North Adriatic Italy from the First to the Fifth Century AD: Development, Operation and Relevance](#)" in a seminar co-hosted by the Dept. of Maritime Civilizations.

The paper analyzed the network of Roman ports in north Adriatic Italy and explored selected major ports (Aquileia, Ravenna), as well as regional and satellite ones (Grado, Iulia Concordia, Altino, Venetian Lagoon and Po Delta, and Rimini), through an examination of literary, archaeological, epigraphic and topographic evidence.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Sponsored Conference Panels

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



**17th November 2020.** [“Bread and Wine: Food in History”](#). The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the **Israeli Historical Society** was held via ZOOM and was dedicated to various aspects of food in history and history of food. HCMH sponsored the first session entitled

“Consumption, Purity, and Lust,” which consisted of three talks on medieval and early modern practices of food consumption around the Mediterranean, with particular reference to premodern Islamic societies and their use of coffee.

Head of the Academic Committee: **Prof. Yossi Ziegler**, School of History, University of Haifa.



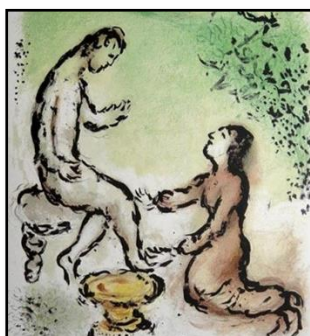
**28th February 2021.** [“Cults and Rituals”](#). The 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the **Israeli Association for the Study of Religions Society**.

The conference kicked off with a keynote address by Prof. Nils Billing of Uppsala University, who spoke on Ritual and Transformation in the Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts. The main part of the conference consisted of parallel sessions on varied ritual topics, including a session sponsored by the HCMH on **Cult and Ritual in the Mediterranean Basin during Antiquity**, with **Prof. Irad Malkin**, **Prof Amir Gilan** and **Mr. Assi Meshulam** as speakers and chaired by **Dr. Moshe Blidstein**, HCMH member, Dept. of General History, University of Haifa.

More than two hundred people took part in the various sessions of the conference. The broad topic chosen allowed for surprising interdisciplinary connections,

between the study of modern and ancient rituals, between different cultures and varied methodological approaches.

Conference organizers: **Prof. Amos Megged** and **Dr. Moshe Blidstein**, Department of general History.



**18-20th May 2021.** [“Modern Jewish Receptions of Classical Antiquity”](#).

The workshop “Modern Receptions of Classical Antiquity” was sponsored by HCMH, and invited us to examine the often unsettled relationship of Jewish scholars, writers and translators with European responses to classical antiquity during the twentieth century. Its aim was to investigate the role of classical antiquity in shaping modern Jewish identities. The workshop brought together, for the first time, international specialists from different fields: classical studies, comparative literature, Hebrew literature and Palestinian literature, philosophy and folklore studies.

Conference organizers: **Prof. Vered Lev Kenaan**, Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, University of Haifa and **Prof. Patricia Rosenmeyer**, Department of Classics, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### HCMH Academic Committee Meeting

**7th December 2020.** HCMH Academic Committee members met online to discuss the center's academic progress and present future plans.

Committee members present at the meeting were **Prof. Greg Woolf**, University of London, **Prof. John Watkins**, University of Minnesota, **Prof. Sabine Schmidtke**, Institute of Advanced Study (IAS) and **Prof. Achim Lichtenberger**, Universität Münster. Starting this summer, we are delighted to have **Prof. Arietta Papaconstantinou** from the University of Reading join the committee (see below).

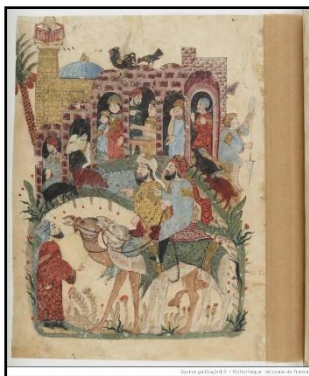
### Second Executive Board (online) Meeting

**22nd April 2021.** HCMH Executive Board members met online for the second time in order to approve future plans and their corresponding budget.

Head of the Executive Board: **Prof. Adi Erlich**, Department of Archaeology. Executive Board Members from the University of Haifa: **Dr. Vardit Garber**, Newly appointed Academic Secretary & HCMH's Executive Board Administration Delegate, **Prof. Ido Izhaki**, Vice President and Dean of Research, **Mr. Tamir Frank**, Senior Director, Head of Research Authority, **Prof. Yossi Ziegler**, Head of School of History. External Executive Board Members: **Dr. Daniella Talmon-Heller**, The Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, **Prof. Iris Shagrir**, Head of the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, The Open University of Israel, **Prof. Daniela Dueck**, Department of General History, Bar-Ilan University, **Prof. Youval Rotman**, Department of Jewish History, Tel Aviv University, **Prof. Miriam Frenkel**, Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University and **Mr. Eran Mordohovich**, HCMH's Executive Board Public Delegate, Head of Icomos Israel and North Region Architect at the Israel Antiquities Authority.

## Research Groups:

### Kinship and Community in the Early and Medieval Islamic Mediterranean



The group "[Kinship and Community in the Early and Medieval Islamic Mediterranean](#)", 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. 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.

The group plans to have its concluding meeting in October 2022.

"Kinship Encounters in the Early and Medieval Islamic World" is an international conference that will mark the culmination of the work of the research group "Kinship and Community" at the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History.

The conference will bring together specialists from a variety of disciplines (e.g. literary, historical, archeological, legal, religious, as well as anthropological) to think comparatively about practices and conceptions of kinship relations and how they changed and interacted in the Early and Medieval Islamic world.



## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### From Canaanites to 'Phoenicians' and 'Philistines': Maritime Connectivity and Use of Coastal Resources as an Adaptation to Changing Political and Environmental Conditions CA. 2000–500 BCE



The group "[From Canaanites to 'Phoenicians' and 'Philistines': Maritime Connectivity and Use of Coastal Resources as an Adaptation to Changing Political and Environmental Conditions CA. 2000–500 BCE](#)" was formed by **Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau**, Department of Maritime Civilizations and **Prof. Ayelet Gilboa**, Department of Archaeology, University of Haifa. It enjoys the active support and collaboration of **Prof. Tom Levy** from the Department of Anthropology at the University of California in San Diego. The aim of the group is to look at the longue durée of changes in maritime activities and other forms of adaptation to living by the sea during the period spanning the Middle Bronze Age to the end of the Iron Age (ca. 2000–500 BCE). Since its first meeting in San Diego in November 2019 the group has been busy producing a volume dedicated to Mediterranean resilience, collapse and adaptation, which currently goes into production (see the book's web-page [here](#)).

### Wine Production and Climate Change in Arid Environments around the Roman Mediterranean



The group, "[Wine Production and Climate Change in Arid Environments around the Roman Mediterranean](#)" led by **Dr. Gil Gambash**, Department of Maritime Civilizations, and **Prof. Guy Bar-Oz**, Department of Archaeology, University of Haifa, planned to convene in London last autumn, but had to postpone its first meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, two introductory lectures were given virtually in a seminar hosted by the Institute of Classical Studies in London (ICS), coordinated by ICS director, **Greg Woolf**, and **Gil Gambash**. The first lecture was given by **Gil Gambash**, and was dedicated to early Negev monasteries and their relationship to the area's wine economy; the second lecture was given by **Guy Bar-Oz and Gideon Avni**, and focused on the development of viticulture in the Late-Antique Negev highlands. The group plans its next activities for the spring of 2022 (follow [here](#)).

### Levant Antiquarianism in European History and Literature (1500-1850)



The group, "[Levant Antiquarianism in European History and Literature \(1500-1850\)](#)", has been approved by HCMH academic committee in June. The group is led by **Dr. Zoe Beenstock**, Dept. of English Language and Literature, and **Dr. Zur Shalev**, Dept. of General History, University of Haifa.

The group is currently forming its international team of researchers and schedule of meetings for the next two years. The group will examine the intersection between literary and historical representation in early modern and modern antiquarian accounts of the Levant, which provided Europeans with what they considered to be evidence of their own pasts. Levant antiquarianism formed a distinct set of interests in empirical rather than spiritual knowledge communicated by artifacts, languages, and customs mediating European cultures and geographies to the Eastern Mediterranean.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Collaborations

#### FORTH, IMS



The HCMH has recently signed an international collaboration agreement with the Institute of Mediterranean Studies (IMS), in Rethymno, Greece. The IMS is a leading research center, a member of the Foundation for Research & Technology – Hellas (FORTH) network. It spans projects in marine geology, GIS, as well as history and archaeology. We look forward to hosting IMS members in Haifa, as soon as conditions allow, and to develop joint programs and research projects.

#### Institute of Classical Studies, ICS



Gil Gambash spent the year 2020 at the Institute of Classical Studies in London as a Leverhulme visiting professor. His research project, 'where the desert meets the sea' inspired the organization of a seminar in ancient history dedicated to deserts in antiquity, and co-organized with ICS head Greg Woolf. Beyond the presentation of the opening themes relating to HCMH group 'Wine Production' (see above), the broader topic of food security in arid areas has produced a common ground for further investigation, and a research group dedicated to the topic is in the process of forming, including seminar participants and others.



## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Forthcoming in 2021-22 (including events rescheduled from 2020-21)

#### International Conference - Demons and Spaces in Late Antiquity



**Date: TBA**

Organized by **Dr. Inbar Graiver** and **Dr. Moshe Blidstein**, University of Haifa.  
Location: Eshkol Observatory

Occupying a liminal ontological status, between humans and divinities, demonic beings had a growing presence in late ancient societies – and in late ancient spaces. They lived and moved inside, around, under and above social and anti-social spaces: houses, wastelands, ruins, temples, air and water; in the vapors of sacrifice and the vapors of the bathhouse. Our two-day conference will be dedicated to such questions as: In what spaces (physical and metaphoric) and places did demons work? What were their spatial dynamics? What spatial metaphors were developed to manipulate them? How, in turn, did demons create and shape spaces, or take part in competition and construction of spatial ideologies? Did certain spaces lead to the articulation of certain demonic theories? Through these questions, we hope to gain better understanding of both space and the demonic in late antiquity.

#### UConn-HCMH Researchers Workshop –

#### The Mediterranean and the disciplines: boundaries and crossings in the history of scholarship



**Date: TBA**

Organized in collaboration with **Prof. Susan Einbinder**, University of Connecticut

Following on a successful Zoom encounter in late July, in December 2021 we plan to host a group of UCONN scholars for a joint workshop with HCMH affiliated scholars. The workshop will revolve around a few

shared fields of interest, such as the history of medicine, places and imaginary geographies, religious literature, and more. This encounter will hopefully pave the way for a more permanent UCONN-UHaifa collaboration around Mediterranean themes.

#### Visiting Scholar, Prof. Carolina López-Ruiz, Classics, Ohio State University: May 2021

A visit sponsored by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, organized in collaboration with **Prof. Andrea Rotstein**, Hebrew University; **Dr. Nili Samet**, Bar-Ilan University, and **Dr. Guy Darshan**, Tel Aviv University.

**Prof. Carolina López-Ruiz** has published articles on Greek literature, cosmogony and mythology in the Near Eastern context, including studies on Orphic gold tablets and Philo of Byblos. Of particular importance is the role she plays as an advocate for the Phoenicians' agency in the ancient Mediterranean, to which will be dedicated her visit in Israel and HCMH.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Mediterranean Forum - Guest Lecture and Workshop by Richard Talbert

---



**Date:** TBA (tentatively early March 2022)

Young Researchers Workshop, 10:00-14:00

Lecture: Senate Hall, 16:00-18:00.

Planned in collaboration with **Prof. Daniella Dueck**, Bar-Ilan University.

### Sponsored Conference Panel - Conference in Memory of David Jacoby: From Famagusta to Jerusalem – Investigating Networks of Influence Between the Cypriot Metropolis and the Mainland Levant

---

Organized by **Dr. Rabei Khamissa**, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Haifa

This interdisciplinary conference, the fifth focusing on historic Famagusta, aims to re-examine the links connecting Famagusta with the mainland Levant from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

**MORE EVENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE.**

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### People

#### HCMH faculty members



**Dr. Moshe Blidstein** has published an article entitled "Invoking Humans in Roman-Era Oaths: Social Relations and Divine Ambiguity" in the latest issue of *Numen: International Review for the History of Religions*. He is continuing to work on several additional articles on oaths and swearing in antiquity. In parallel, he has worked on the expansion of [Tiresias](#), a database of ancient Mediterranean texts on religion and culture, based on book indices. It now includes about 10 million references derived from 260 books. Moshe is also working on a book on fire, lamps and candles in ancient Mediterranean religions. He co-organized a conference on Cult and Ritual, sponsored by the Israeli Association for the Study of Religions together with the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History. Moshe submitted grant applications to the ISF (awaiting response) and to the ERC (application rejected).



**Dr. David Friesem** reports: During the past year I have been building up my new *Laboratory for Environmental Micro-History* at the Department of Maritime Civilizations. The lab will study human-environment relations by integrating different fields and scales including field archaeology (inland and underwater) micro-geoarchaeology, history and social anthropology. I taught several courses on different archaeological and anthropological aspects of environmental history including an introduction to *Mediterranean Environmental History* (from the Paleolithic to modern times); *The Sea and Societal Collapse*; and a seminar on *Mediterranean Ethnographies*. Together with Dr. Gil Gambash we initiated a new research cluster - *First Encounters: The Ancient Mediterranean Sea as a cultural bridge and barrier*, aiming to identify novel cultural connections, from the experience of individuals to societal negotiations over identity and cultural

definitions, enabled by maritime connectivity. Lastly, I am now in the process of gathering different scholars for a new HCMH research group that will focus on transformation in human ecology and cultural evolution during antiquity across the Mediterranean.

Personal [website](#).



## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows – 2020-21



**Dr. Umberto Signori's** research project addresses the relationship between claiming an identity and mobility in the early modern Mediterranean. During the 2020-2021 academic year, he has submitted part of this research in two different refereed journal articles and is currently finalizing two others. He has also submitted a co-authored book chapter in an edited volume on the symbolic possession of noble residences by the University of Padua. The preliminary results of this study were presented in an international workshop paper, and in

four seminar talks, one on campus (joint seminar of the HCMH with the Department of General History) and three others invited off-campus.

Next year, Umberto is going to complete the publishing arc of this work by revising his dissertation, which has been awarded the **"Ugo Tucci" prize** by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere e Arti in Venice, into a book. The monograph, temporarily titled "After Cyprus: Possessing the Venetian consular identity in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire", is a study of the transformation of the consulate from a public institution into an excludable property, a property that could define individuals' identity.



**Dr. Federico Ugolini.** As HCMH postdoctoral research fellow, I have conducted research on the port system of the Adriatic Sea and its network of coastal and rural settlements in the Roman period (200 BC to AD 300). I have explored aspects of topography and connectivity of major harbors of the Roman Adriatic and I have investigated details of rural and urban economy of major maritime centers of this macro-region. During the academic year 2020/2021, I published results of my research works in peer-reviewed journals, such as the *Journal of Ancient Topography*, *Romagna*, *Arte e Storia*, *Archaeologia Adriatica*, *Latomus*, and *BABESCH*. I received two major prizes, the *Byvanck Award of the BABESCH Foundation* and the *John Morrison Memorial Fund for Hellenic Maritime Studies*

of the British School at Athens. For the academic year 2021/2022, my research activities will include writing a joint paper on the inscriptions of the Ma'agan B Michael shipwreck with my supervisor Prof. D. Cvikel, and writing a draft manuscript for a monograph on the port system of Roman Adriatic Italy.



**Dr. Oded Cohen** reports: This year I took part in several conferences:

The 43rd Annual Historical Society of Israel Conference, "*Bread and Wine: Food in History*", **November 17, 2020**. The subject of the lecture: "Table Manners and Identity Formation in the Transition between Cultural Spaces in the Eighteenth Century"; PIMo Second Annual Conference, "*Paper: Material and Semiotic Mobility*", University of Granada, **January 28-29, 2021**. The subject of the lecture: "Rare manuscripts and Printed Books in the Transition between The Land of Israel and Amsterdam."; The Leo Baeck Institute's symposium for the publication

of the book "Abraham Levie's travelogue, 1719-1723", **December 30, 2020**. The subject of the lecture: "Jewish Travel Writing in the Eighteenth Century: Between Describing a Journey and Discovering the 'Self'."; Co-organizing, with Dr. Micha Perry, the conference "Jews and Objects", **April 29, 2021**, *Hadarim* center, Haifa. In December, my article: "Eager to Belong: A Palestinian Jew in 18th Century Amsterdam", was published in: *Studia Rosenthaliana*, 46, 1-2 (2020), pp. 211-228; Another article, "The Jew and the Wanderer: Self-Images and Complex Identities in Avraham Levy's travelogue", was accepted for publication in the journal *Chidushim: Studies in the History of the German and Central European Jewry* and is expected to be published soon; During the next year, my book "'Ever Turning Blows the Wind': Cultural Spaces in Rabbi Haim Yosef David Azulay's World", is expected to be published by Magnes press.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21



**Dr. Shlomit Bechar** has worked this year on her research project, entitled "Coping with Climate Change in the Bronze Age", submitting a co-authored article dealing with this issue. During the 2020-2021 academic year, two papers she authored and two she co-authored have been published (in Oxford Journal of Archaeology, G-Cubed, Egypt and Levant, and an edited volume). Three articles of which she is lead author are currently under review and, in addition, she was asked to review the new textbook of ceramic vessels of the second millennium BCE. She is currently working on two grant submissions and three articles of which she is lead author. Finally, she has organized a workshop as part of the Intermediate Bronze Age Forum, which deals with Economy and Exchange in the Intermediate Bronze Age. The workshop took place at the University of

Haifa and was sponsored and hosted by the HCMH.



**Dr. Inbar Graiver's** research in the past year was conducted as part of the Institute of Religious Studies at Freie University, Berlin. Her research was devoted to the Near Eastern monastic movement and to the long-term influence of the ideas that originated there on Western intellectual history. Her research findings in the past year were published in the *Journal of Religion*; *Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health*; and *History of Psychology*.



**Dr. Renard Gluzman's** monograph is just out: *Venetian Shipping from the Days of Glory to Decline, 1453–1571* (Leiden: Brill Series in Maritime History, 2021), 561 pp. <https://brill.com/view/title/54752>. This is the most extensive attempt up to date to quantify and detail the fluctuations in Venice's merchant marine (commercial ships, galleys, colonial fleets) over a period of one hundred and twenty years. Gluzman developed his methodology further in 'Ship biographies as a form of microhistory', in *Venezia e il senso del mare. Percezioni e rappresentazioni*, eds. Ermanno Orlando, Maurice Aymard (Venice: Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, VSLA, 2021). In the past year, Gluzman was appointed senior lecturer in the M.Des in Digital Game Design and Development program in Shenkar. This is due to his long-standing career in video games and his contribution to the development of the field in Israel.

Together with Dr Vered Pnueli, he started writing a book about the development, gaming culture, and critique in Israel. To combine both his passions for games and Mediterranean maritime history, Gluzman applied for Marie Curie Global@Venice fellowships: Research and training for global challenges at Ca' Foscari University.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### PhD candidates – 2020-2021



#### Ms. Michelle Creisher.

Since the fall, Michelle completed the work on an upcoming article about the various Christian influences seen in a number of the inscriptions and types of ceramics found onboard the Ma'agan Mikhael B shipwreck. She was invited to speak at the Interuniversity Center for the History and Archeology of the Early Middle Ages (SAAME), based at the Department of Humanities of the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and presented her research to its members earlier this year. She was also accepted to the Erasmus+ Program for the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and will be granted the opportunity to spend some time there next spring, studying and participating in an underwater excavation. In May, Michelle participated in the Doctoral Day Interdepartmental Seminar 2021, hosted by the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History. With members of her team, she has recently

begun planning the next season of underwater excavation of the Ma'agan Mikhael B Shipwreck, which will take place at the end of the summer. She is currently in the final stage of the Ph.D. and hopes to submit her dissertation soon.



#### Mr. Roey Nickelsberg.

During the past year Roey Nickelsberg concluded the data collection stage of his Ph.D., co-supervised by Assaf Yasur-Landau and Ruth Shahack-Gross, which focuses on coastal habitation along the Carmel coast during the Early Pottery Neolithic and the Early Bronze Age I. This aspect was finalized as a result of the successful execution of a full-scale underwater excavation at HaBonim North in November 2020, a project headed by Assaf Yasur-Landau and Thomas E. Levy and funded by the Koret Foundation. The initial results of these excavations were presented as a poster at the ASOR Annual Meeting (ASOR 2020 Boston, virtual), and full publication is expected to be concluded later this year. In addition, Roey was awarded the prestigious Nathan Rotenstreich Scholarship for Outstanding Ph.D. Students in the Humanities earlier

this year. He also co-authored [an article](#) on the cause of the abandonment of the Tel Kabri palace, which was published in the journal PLoS One. This upcoming year is set to be the final year of the PhD, and will consequently see the completion and submission of the final dissertation.



**Ms. Eleonora Bedin** reports: this past year has led me to the verge of submitting my doctoral dissertation. Co-authored with Dr. Gil Gambash, I published an article in *Mediterranean Studies*, titled [Soteira – Savior of Ships: Mediterranean Identity in the Hellenistic Period](#). Furthermore, I successfully submitted two additional articles, one that will be part of an edited volume on adaptation and resilience in the Coastal Levant, and a second one that considers numismatic types coming from the Greco-Roman cities of Ascalon and Gaza. In March 2021 I was invited to give a lecture at the Department of Classics and Near Eastern Studies at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice. I was also invited to chair a panel at the 49<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies (ISPCS). Lastly, teaming with Mrs. Pimprenelle Atlan and Mr. Isaac Ogloblin and with the support of the Department of Maritime Civilization (Uni-

versity of Haifa) and the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History (HCMH), I organized and directed the first Doctoral Day Interdepartmental Seminar, dedicated to PhD candidates from the Departments of General History, Archaeology, Religious Studies, Classics, Anthropology, and Art History.



## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21



### Ms. Galina Rabinovich.

I joined The HCMH in the winter of 2021 with my research project "Discourses and practices of coercion to love in the Late Roman Empire". I delve into cruelty and violence, regarding them as umbrella terms that cover a variety of complex phenomena. Yet my focus is not cruelty and violence in and of themselves, but rather the unique discourse associated with it. The first stage is intended to explicitly describe the early Christian discourse and explore the mental reality of the Christian community of the time. I am working with the texts of Christian apologists – Justin Martyr, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Irenaeus, and others – tracing the origins and the evolution of the idea of violence in the Christian discourse and the sophisticated rhetorical strategies used during Christianity's formative period.

### Our Incoming Post-Doctoral Fellows – 2021-22



### Ms. (soon to be Dr.) Sarina Kürsteiner.

Sarina Kuersteiner's (PhD Columbia University, '21) research interests include the cultural, religious, legal, and economic history of the medieval Mediterranean. At the HCMH she is developing her research project "Cultures of Risk in Medieval Commerce: Mediterranean, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean, ca. 1000-1400 CE." Drawing on the Geniza documents and Latin contracts among other sources, "Cultures of Risk" examines differences and similarities in conceptions of risk among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim merchants. Commercial letters and contracts often were the products of notaries, who enacted the legal framework in which economic activity occurred. In her parallel book project, "Minds and Margins: Notarial Culture in Bologna, 1200-1350," Sarina examines the mentalities of

medieval notaries, showing how they absorbed cultural modes of thought and practice and applied them to their administrative work.

In the past, her research has been supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life at Columbia University, the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies at New York University, and the Swiss Study Foundation.

Sarina is one of the co-founders of the public history project Medievalist Toolkit, awarded the Lehman Center Public History Award (2020) and the History in Action Program Award (2018). With the Medievalist Toolkit, the project group aims to educate the public about the abuse of medieval history by extremists.



### Dr. Dylan James.

I'm an ancient Greek historian, working at the intersection of historiography, identity, geography, and cultural interaction. I'm currently Golda Meir Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Classical Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2019-2021). Before that I was Tytus Summer Residency Fellow at the University of Cincinnati, after completing my DPhil in Ancient History at the University of Oxford (2019). I also hold an MPhil from Macquarie University in Australia and a BA (Hons) from the University of Canterbury in my home country of New Zealand.

Currently, my research is focused on two major projects. The first is a monograph entitled "Bilingual Individuals in Greco-Roman Historiography", based on my doctoral research. The second is a new project on the representation of local guides in Greek and Roman historiography, which I will be developing in the stimulating environment of the HCMH.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21



### Ms. (soon to be Dr.) Vicky Hioureas (Fulbright scholar).

Vicky Hioureas was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, "Don't you see the murderers?: Representations of Violence and the Shaping of Political Consciousness in 12th-century Byzantium", at the University of Haifa. In her project, she examines depictions of violence across genres (for example, law, chronicles, saints' lives) in order to understand and analyze hierarchy, ethical values, and political consciousness in Byzantium in the twelfth century. Her PhD research on violence in Byzantium was conducted under the direction of Professor John Haldon at Princeton University.



### Dr. Chris Prejean (Fulbright scholar).

Chris Prejean (Ph.D. 2021, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA) is a historian of the pre-modern Middle East. His work discusses the legal problems that arise from coexistence between Muslims and non-Muslims, particularly in the Ḥanbalī tradition. He has worked on several Arabic-to-English translation projects for government and private entities, and has taught courses on religion, politics, history, and language. As a Fulbright post-doctoral fellow at the University of Haifa, he will be working on his first monograph, an expansion of his Ph.D. dissertation titled *The Hermeneutical Christian in Ḥanbalī Thought*.



**Dr. Tzafrir Barzilay** is interested in the development throughout the Middle Ages of the common perceptions of Jews and Christians, in particular around the subject of water. In 2016, he received a PhD from Columbia University in New York. He is the author of *Poisoned Wells: Accusation, Persecution and Minorities in Medieval Europe, 1321-1422* (forthcoming, University of Pennsylvania Press). Barzilay is currently investigating lay beliefs and practices pertaining to water in Jewish and Christian life from 1050 to 1450 in Europe, focusing on the tensions between the different meanings attributed to water by Jews and Christians in the context of its wide range of practical and ritual uses.



**Dr. Paolo Cimaomo** is an archaeologist, working on the relationships between the environment and human actors. He received his PhD in Ancient History and Archaeology from the University of Naples 'Federico II' (Italy). During the last two years, he was the Principal Investigator of the CHAIN (Cities as Historical and Interconnected Networks) Project at the Department of Humanities of the University 'Federico II'. The project involved several scholars, including architects, ancient historians, topographers and statisticians. Paolo's interests cover several aspects of the Eastern Mediterranean during Greek, Roman and Late Roman periods, such as social and economic interactions between Romans and

native peoples, the reconstruction of past networks, and the analysis of land use and of climate changes. At the HCMH his research will focus on the connections between the evolution of social and economic institutions of the Southern Levant and the variability in the environmental conditions.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Visiting scholars



**Dr. Beatrice Pestarino.** I hold a doctorate in Ancient Greek History from UCL (London), and an MA from the University of Pisa. My research focuses on the politico-administrative and economic systems of the Mediterranean city-states during the Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic periods, with a major focus on Cyprus. I also research how the Achaemenid Empire may have influenced the economy of these city-states and the development of local forms of government. My studies are conducted through the analysis of inscriptions – on stones, ostraka, and clay tablets – written in alphabetic Greek, Cypriot-syllabic Greek, Eteocypriot and Phoenician. I am also interested in the socio-political implications of linguistic and cultural contacts amongst Mediterranean populations.

In Haifa, I will be a member of the research cluster 'first encounters', working with David Friesem and Gil Gambash. I will investigate how the sea helped to connect/separate Cyprus with/from other areas of the Mediterranean, and acted as bridge and barrier towards foreign populations and cultures. More specifically, I will focus on Cypriot graffiti in Egypt, studying the impact of the first view of the pyramids and Egyptian monuments on Cypriot tourists and mercenaries.



**Prof. Vadim Putzu.** During my stay at the HCMH, I intend to conduct research on primary sources of 13th- to 17th-century Kabbalah dealing with wine. In particular, as I am preparing a book manuscript on the symbolic and instrumental uses of wine in medieval and early modern Jewish mysticism and magic, I plan to analyze the works of students of Safedian Kabbalah who moved across the Mediterranean, from the Iberian and Italian peninsulas to Israel and back, and to benefit from having immediate access to the most up-to-date scholarship on them. My findings will be integrated into my book manuscript, which already examines the ways in which medieval classic works of Spanish Kabbalah, such as the Sefer ha-Zohar, and 16th-century renowned Safedian kabbalists, such as Moshe Cordovero and Hayyim Vital, attributed specific symbolic values to wine and employed this beverage as a component of mystical and magico-medical practices. This additional research should ultimately allow me to sketch, in what will be the very first full-blown monograph on wine and Kabbalah to appear in any language, a more comprehensive yet precise and nuanced picture of the various roles that this beverage played in the practices and speculations of medieval and early modern kabbalists.

employed this beverage as a component of mystical and magico-medical practices. This additional research should ultimately allow me to sketch, in what will be the very first full-blown monograph on wine and Kabbalah to appear in any language, a more comprehensive yet precise and nuanced picture of the various roles that this beverage played in the practices and speculations of medieval and early modern kabbalists.

### New member of HCMH academic committee



**Prof. Arietta Papaconstantinou** is a social and cultural historian of the late antique and medieval eastern Mediterranean, with particular interest in the period of transition between the Roman and the Islamic empire. She works with the documentary evidence from Egypt and Palestine, which throws invaluable light on the evolution of Christian communities under Muslim rule. Her current research focuses on power dynamics in village communities, and how these were affected by imperial policies and demands. Other interests include religious change, its everyday manifestations in local communities, and its relation

with broader social and political developments; and multilingualism and language change in imperial contexts. Arietta teaches late antique history at the University of Reading and is an associate member of the Faculty of Oriental Studies in Oxford and of the Institute for Byzantine Studies at the Collège de France.



## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Publications (2020-2021)

We are extremely proud of our research fellows and members for releasing a distinguished number of publications this passing year. Among them:

Agranat-Tamir, Lily, Shamam Waldman, Mario AS Martin, David Gokhman, Nadav Mishol, Tzila Eshel, Olivia Cheronet et al. [including **Shlomit Bechar**]. "The Genomic History of the Bronze Age Southern Levant." *Cell* 181, no. 5 (2020), pp. 1146–1157. DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2020.04.024

**Bechar, Shlomit**. "Abuse, Reuse, Recycle: The Uses of Basalt Orthostats at Hazor in the Bronze and Iron Ages". *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1111/ojoa.12208>

**Bedin, Eleonora**, and **Gil Gambash**. "Soteira, Savior of Ships: Mediterranean Identity in the Hellenistic Period." *Mediterranean Studies* 29, no. 1 (2021): pp. 89-119.

**Blidstein, Moshe**. "Invoking Humans in Roman-Era Oaths: Emotional Relations and Divine Ambiguity". *Numen* 68/4 (2021), pp. 382-410. [https://brill.com/view/journals/nu/68/4/article-p382\\_4.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/nu/68/4/article-p382_4.xml)

**Cohen, Oded**. "Eager to Belong: A Palestinian Jew in Eighteenth-Century Amsterdam." *Studia Rosenthaliana: Journal of the History, Culture and Heritage of the Jews in the Netherlands* 46, no. 1-2 (2020), pp. 211-228. <https://doi.org/10.5117/SR2020.1-2.010.COHE>

Edrey, Meir, Eric H. Cline, **Roey Nickelsberg**, and Assaf Yasur-Landau. "The Iron Age Lower Settlement at Kabri Revisited". *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 152, no. 2 (2020), pp. 94-120. DOI: [10.1080/00310328.2020.1712836](https://doi.org/10.1080/00310328.2020.1712836)

Galili, Ehud, Amos Salamon, **Gil Gambash**, and Dov Zviely. "Archaeological and Natural Indicators of Sea-Level and Coastal Changes: The Case Study of the Caesarea Roman Harbor." *Geosciences* 11, no. 8 (2021): 306.

**Gambash, Gil**. "The Harbor of Akko-Ptolemais – Dates and Functions". in *Times of Transition: Judea in the Early Hellenistic Period*, edited by Sylvie Honigman, Christophe Nihan, and Oded Lipschits, 135-143. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2021.

**Gluzman, Renard**. *Venetian Shipping from the Days of Glory to Decline, 1453–1571*. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004398177>

**Gluzman, Renard**. "What Made a Ship Venetian? (Thirteenth to Sixteenth Centuries)." *In Cultures of Empire: Rethinking Venetian Rule 1400–1700*, 293-328. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2020. Ebook ISBN: 978-90-04-42887-4

**Graiver, Inbar**. "Historical Perspective on Mental Health: A Dialogue between History and Psychology". *History of Psychology*, 24, no. 1, (2021), pp. 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1037/hop0000139>

**Graiver, Inbar**. "'That's a Great Deal to Make One Word Mean': Reflections on Prehistoric Psychology." *History of Psychology* 23, no. 3 (2020), pp. 219-221. <https://doi.org/10.1037/hop0000148>

Grosman, Leore, Timna Raz, and **David E. Friesem**. "Tomorrow's Mundane is Today's Extraordinary: A Case Study of a Plastered Installation during Neolithization." *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 7, no. 1 (2020), pp. 1-13.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

Ktalav, Inbar, Yotam Tepper, **Gil Gambash**, Sina Lehnig, and Guy Bar-Oz. "Long-distance trade and consumption of mollusks in the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods in the Negev Desert." *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 37 (2021): pp. 1-15.

Lantos, Sára, Guy Bar-Oz, and **Gil Gambash**. "Wine from the Desert: Late-Antique Negev Viniculture and the Famous Gaza Wine." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 83, no. 1 (2020), pp. 56-64. DOI: 10.1086/707483

Liu, Cheng, Ron Shimelmitz, **David E. Friesem**, Reuven Yeshurun, and Dani Nadel. "Diachronic Trends in Occupation Intensity of the Epipaleolithic Site of Neve David (Mount Carmel, Israel): A Lithic Perspective." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 60 (2020): 101223.

Marom, Nimrod, **Shlomit Bechar**, Nava Panitz-Cohen, Robert A. Mullins, and Naama Yahalom-Mack, 2020. "Faunal Remains from Tel Abel Beth Maacha and Social Change in the Late Second Millennium BCE Hula Valley." *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 32 (2020), 102394. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2020.102394>

Mauro, Chiara Maria, and **Gil Gambash**. "The Earliest Limenes Kleistoi: A Comparison between Archaeological-Geological Data and the Periplus of Pseudo-Skylax." *Revue des Études Anciennes* 122, no. 1 (2020), pp. 55-84

Sha'ar, Ron, **Shlomit Bechar**, Israel Finkelstein, Yves Gallet, Mario AS Martin, Yael Ebert, Jonathan Keinan, and Lilach Gonen. "Synchronizing Geomagnetic Field Intensity Records in the Levant between the 23rd and 15th Centuries BCE: Chronological and Methodological Implications." *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems* 21, no. 12 (2020), e2020GC009251. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GC009251>

**Shalev, Zur**. "Travel." In *Information : A Historical Companion*, edited by Ann Blair, Paul Duguid, Anja-Silvia Goeing and Anthony Grafton, 820-27. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2021.

Susnow Matthew, **Shlomit Bechar**, and Assaf Yasur-Landau. "Hazor Rulership and Ritual Manipulation." *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 152, no. 2 (2020), pp. 121–146. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00310328.2020.1720334>

**Ugolini, Federico**. "Production Sites and Kilns for Romagna Amphorae in Roman Adriatic Italy." *Journal of Ancient Topography* 30 (2020), pp. 239-254.

**Ugolini, Federico**. "Sui più antichi fari e moli di Romagna. La ricerca antiquaria dei porti romani". *Romagna. Arte e Storia* 118, (2021), pp. 39-56.

**Ugolini, Federico**. "The Roman Port of Ancona during the Trajanic Era: Scale, Capacity and Urban Setting". *Archaeologia Adriatica* (2021).

Yasur-Landau, Assaf, Gilad Shtienberg, **Gil Gambash**, Giorgio Spada, Daniele Melini, Ehud Arkin-Shalev, Anthony Tamberino, Jack Reese, Thomas E. Levy, and Dorit Sivan. "New relative sea-level (RSL) indications from the Eastern Mediterranean: Middle Bronze Age to the Roman period (~ 3800–1800 y BP) archaeological constructions at Dor, the Carmel coast, Israel." *Plos one* 16, no. 6 (2021), pp. 1-25.

## HCMH NEWSLETTER 2020-21

### Further announcements

---



HCMH has recently posted **calls for applications** for several PhD projects, Post-doc fellowships and a Tenure Track position. Don't miss out!



The HCMH has been actively encouraging its members, fellows, and affiliates to submit research proposals on Mediterranean history to **competitive research funds**. The Center will help develop the proposals and allocate resources where needed.



We are excited to launch a **new and improved HCMH website**! Please visit <https://hcmh.haifa.ac.il/> and let us know what you think. There is always room for improvement.



HCMH continues to support the **acquisitions of the University of Haifa's library**, with over 130 new items already on the shelves. The (continually updated) list can be found on our [website](#).



In this ever-changing reality, when everything becomes 'viral' in seconds, HCMH is making adjustments in order to make its lectures and workshops more accessible anytime anywhere. Our events are being and will continue to be recorded and uploaded to HCMH's **YouTube channel**, and our [Facebook](#) page will be updated regularly. Stay tuned!

Thanks for reading.  
Stay in touch!

To join our mailing list please email us at [hcmh@univ.haifa.ac.il](mailto:hcmh@univ.haifa.ac.il).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [website](#).