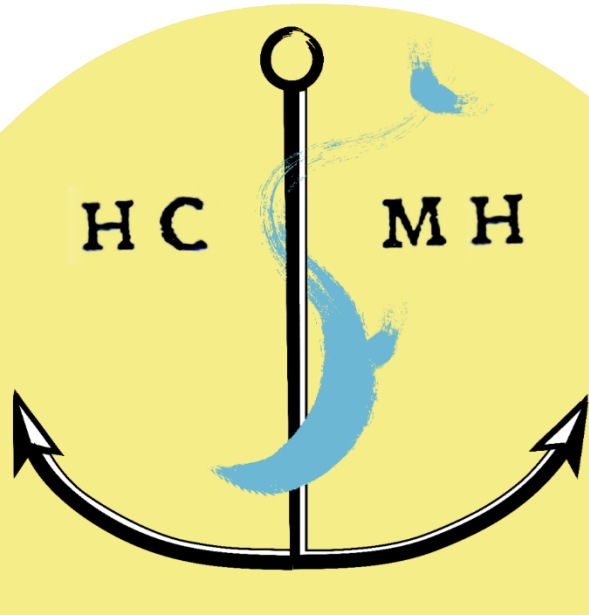




HCMH NEWSLETTER

2022-23



Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
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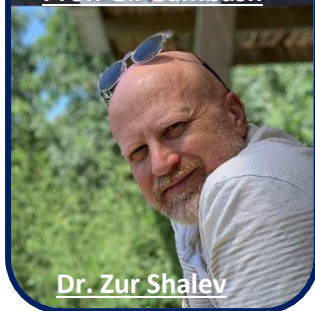


HCMH NEWSLETTER 2022-23

Welcome!



Prof. Gil Gambash



Dr. Zur Shalev

We are delighted to summarize in this bulletin our seventh year of activity at the **Haifa Center for Mediterranean History** and share more information on the upcoming year. It is our pleasure to announce that [Prof. David Friesem](#) and [Dr. Moshe Blidstein](#) will take the leadership of the HCMH during the next phase of its activity. Congratulations to both and to the HCMH!

This year, the Center again thrived with activities. From hosting local and foreign students and faculty to organizing an international conference marking busy seven years of activity.

You can visit our [website](#) 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](#), [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).

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

Yours,

Prof. Gil Gambash and Dr. Zur Shalev,
The HCMH Directors.



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Events 2022-23 - Mediterranean Forum



5th December 2022.

In the hybrid lecture titled: "[Eggstraordinary Objects: Ostrich Eggs as Luxury Items in the Ancient Mediterranean](#)," **Prof. Tamar Hodos** shared the findings of various studies from various institutions about decorative Ostrich eggs, luxury items from the Middle East to the western Mediterranean during the second and first millennia BCE. **Prof. Hodos** revealed the complexity of the production, trade, and economic and social values of luxury organic items between competing cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world. The lecture was in collaboration with the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures.



6th December 2022.

Prof. Paul Heck, Georgetown University, gave a talk about "[The Ethics of Weeping: The Case of Islam](#)." The event was organized in collaboration with The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies. The hybrid talk discussed how we are to read references to weeping in historical texts and aimed to prompt conversation on the study of emotions in Islam.





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Events 2022-23 - Mediterranean Forum



17th January 2023.

A hybrid lecture and workshop by **Prof. Richard Talbert**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, History Department and Ancient World Mapping Center.

The event was organized in collaboration with **Prof. Daniella Dueck**, Bar-Ilan University, and co-hosted by the Department of General History, the University of Haifa. The lecture was titled: “[“Excuse me, do you have the time?” A Neglected Roman Question.](#)” The workshop was dedicated to the work of young researchers from multiple Israeli universities.



21st March 2023.

A hybrid lecture by **Prof. Mathieu Grenet**, Centre universitaire Jean-François Champollion.

The lecture titled: “[The Local Agents of French Diplomacy in the 16th and 17th Century Eastern Mediterranean.](#)” Available on the [HCMH's YouTube channel](#)! During his stay prof. Grenet also led a class discussion in the Seminar “Early modern Mediterranean Migrations,” taught by **Dr. Zur Shalev**.



27th March 2023.

In a hybrid talk, **Prof. Timmy Gambin**, University of Malta and Project Director of the exploration of [the Gozo Phoenician shipwreck](#) site, discussed the challenges of excavating a shipwreck 110m below sea level and revealed some of its mysteries.



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Events 2022-23 - Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences



6th December 2022.

Prof. Tamar Hodos, University of Bristol, led a graduate workshop titled: [“How Humanities Research Benefits Society or: How can my Research Make a Difference to Society?”](#) The event took place in the Rabin Observatory at the University of Haifa and aimed to share the UK’s impact agenda for research, and to outline ways in which UK arts and Humanities researchers demonstrate the tangible benefits of their research to society.



12th January 2023.

A hybrid seminar lecture, titled: [“From Dismemberment to Remembrance: Violence in Byzantine Historical Chronicles”](#) was presented by **Dr. Vicky Hioureas**, a Fulbright Post-doctoral researcher working under the HCMH’s auspices.

This talk considered the work of Byzantine chronicles and their role in the shaping of public memory of events, people, and power in the empire and its hinterlands through recorded instances of graphic violence. The seminar was hosted in collaboration with the Department of General History and the Medieval-Renaissance Studies forum.



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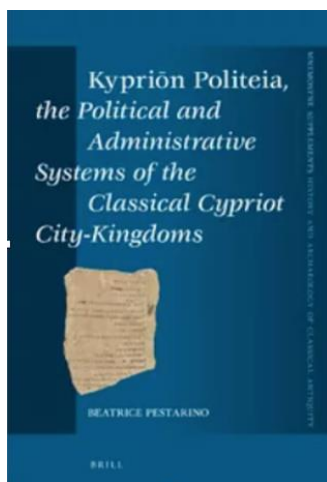


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Events 2022-23 - Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences



18th January 2023.

The Center hosted a hybrid [book](#) launch for **Dr. Beatrice Pestarino**, post-doctoral fellow at The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, with special guest, **Prof. Richard Talbert**, University of North Carolina.

Responses: **Dr. Anna Cannavò**, Histoire et sources des mondes antiques, **Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau**, the University of Haifa, **Prof. Hans Van Wees**, University College London.



27th March 2023.

The UCHU was introduced in the [Malta-Haifa Heritage](#) hybrid workshop led by **Ms. Maja Sausmekat**, Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit (UCHU), Heritage Malta.

Coordinator: **Dr. Shirly Ben Dor Evian**, the University of Haifa. Responders: **Arch. Eran Mordohovich**, Israel Antiquities Authority and ICOMOS Israel, **Mr. Jacob (Koby) Sharvit**, Israel Antiquities Authority, **Dr. Eran Arie**, the University of Haifa, **Prof. Ruth Liberty-Shalev**, Technion Institute of Technology, **Prof. Timmy Gambin**, University of Malta.



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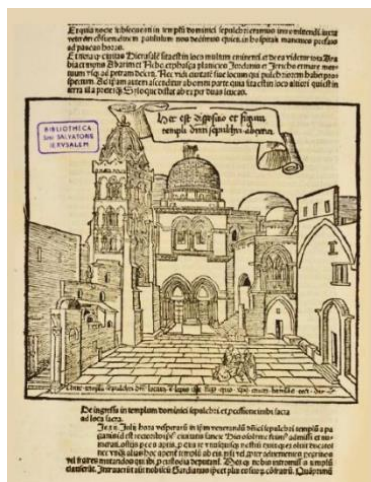


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Events 2022-23 – Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences



16th April 2023.

In “Ancient Pilgrimage in Holy Land Digital Library. An international project from the General Library of the Custody of the Holy Land,” a hybrid lecture by **Mr. Marco Francalanci**, Universidad de Alcalá, and **Ms. Maddalena Baschirotto**, Pro Terra Sancta, presented the characteristics of the project, the features of the Digital Library and the importance of this research tool. **Dr. Anna Gutgarts** hosted the talk.



2nd May 2023.

Mr. Karl Lysén, Stockholm University, presented the first chapter of his dissertation on four European pilgrims to Jerusalem. During this hybrid presentation titled: [“Pilgrims’ Perceptions at Acel dama c. 1300 – 1690: Possible Natural Explanations for a Mysterious Phenomenon.”](#) Lysén discussed a phenomenon that caused the rapid decomposition of buried bodies in Acel dama. The talk was hosted by **Dr. Anna Gutgarts**.





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Events 2022-23 - Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences



2nd May 2023.

In a hybrid lecture titled: "[Persia in Early Seventeenth-Century Italy. Myth, Diplomacy, Propaganda and 'Orientalism'](#)," **Dr. Davide Trentacoste**, post-doctoral fellow at The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, discussed Persia's cultural and diplomatic role in Italy in the early seventeenth century using the relations between Medici Grand Duchy of Tuscany and Safavid Iran as a case study. The event was co-hosted by the Department of General History.



8th May 2023.

Dr. Walter Beers, postdoctoral fellow at The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, presented the results of a research project examining the role of Christian monasticism in the economic transformation of Palestine in the late Roman/Byzantine period. In the hybrid lecture titled: "[Monk and State at the Margins: Modeling Agricultural Monasticism on the Late Roman Frontier](#)," **Dr. Beers** offered a new model of monasticism. The event was co-hosted by the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures.



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THALASSOCRACY - The Explanatory Power of the Mediterranean



29-31st May 2023.

[The HCMH's main event this year](#) was a three-day international conference marking its seven years of activity. The event consisted of six broadly themed panels, each curated by HCMH members and affiliates:

At Sea: Travel-Writing across Mediterranean Temporalities and Spaces

Zoe Beenstock, Zur Shalev, Tamar Rozett, Michael Leger-Lomas

Mediterranean Societies and Climate Change: Where We Are and Where Are We Headed?

Shlomit Bechar, David Friesem, Leore Grosman, Hervé Reculeau, Tal Ulus

The Wine-Dark Sea: From Viticulture to Viniculture around the Mediterranean Basin

Guy Bar-Oz, Gil Gambash, Michael Decker, Martina Stavrakaki, Katerina Biniari, Shulamit Miller

Mediterranean Urban Environments between Late antiquity and the Middle Ages

Anna Gutgarts, Sabine Panzram, Gideon Avni, Edward Schoolman

Bodies and Places in Ancient Mediterranean Religions

Moshe Blidstein, Ioannis Mylonopoulos, Yulia Ustinova, Michael Swartz

Cultures of Water around the Medieval Mediterranean

Joseph Ziegler, Ellen Fenzel Arnold, Michele Campopiano, Marilyn Nicoud

On the Opening evening, the co-directors of the Center presented the past, present, and future of the Center, and introduced **Dr. Moshe Bleidstein** and **Prof. David Friesem** as the future leaders of the HCMH.



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Visiting Scholars



Prof. Richard Talbert is a British-American contemporary ancient historian and classicist on the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he is the William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor of Ancient History and Classics. Prof. Talbert is a leading scholar of ancient geography and the idea of space in the ancient Mediterranean world. Prof. Talbert visited us in January 2023, gave a talk, met promising young scholars from multiple Israeli universities, and visited some key archaeological sites.



Prof. Mathieu Grenet is an Associate Professor at Université d'Albi, France. He has published extensively on the social history of the early modern Mediterranean. Prof. Grenet visited the HCMH for a full week in March 2023, during which he had met students, researchers, and the directors, in view of future collaboration. He has spent 2022-23 as a fellow of the Swedish Collegium of Advanced Study.



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Events 2022-23 – Research Groups



The group “[Levant Antiquarianism in European History and Literature \(1500-1850\)](#),” had its second in-person meeting on January 30th-February 2nd, 2023 in Florence, Italy. Sponsored and organized by the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History and hosted by EUI Florence, the interdisciplinary workshop explored a range of themes and cultural practices, including travel narratives, scriptural history, dilettanti, orientalism, tombs and remembrance, natural histories, and sacred antiquarianism. The third and final meeting is planned for January 2024 in Haifa, Israel. The group will jointly publish its work as a special issue with the International Journal of the Classical Tradition.



The group “[Wine Production and Climate Change in Arid Environments around the Roman Mediterranean](#)” had multiple meetings this year. The first meeting was at Mount Athos on November 7-11th, 2022 to study the origins of monastic wine. The group’s second meeting was in Uzbekistan on May 3-12th, 2023. The third meeting took place in Jerusalem on June 2nd, 2023. The fourth meeting occurred on September 13th in Negev.



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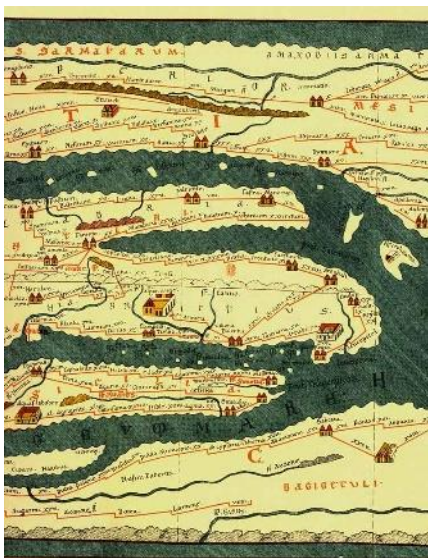
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Events 2022-23 – Sponsored Conferences



13th June 2023.

The HCMH sponsored the Mediterranean panel and the keynote lecture by Prof. Benny Arbel (TAU) at the “The Annual Conference for the Early Modern Studies in Israel”, which took place at the University of Haifa.



14-17th November 2022.

The HCMH co-sponsored an international conference titled: “[The Mediterranean, a View from the East](#)” which took place in Jerusalem Gardens Hotel.

Organizers: **Daniela Dueck, Francisco J. González Ponce, Eyal ben Eliyahu.**

Sponsors: Israel Science Foundation, Bar Ilan University, Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, Agencia Estatal de Investigación del Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación del Gobierno de España. Co-financed by the “Programa Operativo FEDER 2014-2020” and the “Consejería de Transformación Económica, Industria, Conocimiento y Universidades de la Junta de Andalucía” (Spain).



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People – The HCMH Faculty Members



[Dr. Moshe Blidstein](#) reports:

During the past year I have been working on three main projects: First, the Tiresias database, on which I published a [descriptive article](#) with **Prof. Daphne Raban**. The database is growing continuously, and is now at more than 23 million subject tags. Second, oaths in antiquity, with an article published in [Historia](#) discussing oaths as a medium for inter-communal contact in the Roman Empire, with two other articles in the works. Third, fire rituals in antiquity, I am working on several aspects including the practice and discourse of perpetual fires in ancient Mediterranean cultures and sacrificial firewood. In addition, I am still devoting some time to an old favorite of mine, purity, with an article on the [defilement of deceit](#) in ancient Judaism and Christianity.



[Prof. David Friesem](#) reports:

This year we started our ERC project - BEFOREtheFLOOD - aiming to understand the role of the earliest settled coastal societies in the emergence of Mediterranean complex societies in light of environmental change and cultural processes taking place on the Eastern Mediterranean littoral. Our team collected 25 sediment cores from Atlit-Yam and started their analysis in the laboratory. Together with [Prof. Gil Gambash](#) and [Dr. Beatrice Pestarino](#) we published a paper on the murex purple industry in the Eastern Mediterranean region during Antiquity. This year two PhD students under my co-supervision started to their research on shipwrecks and the ancient Carmel Coast during the Iron and Bronze Age by Marko Runjajic, co-supervised with [Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau](#) and [Ms. Sangeetha Priya](#) on Indo-Mediterranean relations in Late Antiquity, co-supervised with **Prof. Gil Gambash**.





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People – The HCMH Faculty Members



[Dr. Anna Gutgarts](#) reports:

During the past year, my research focused on the development of a comparative approach to the demographic and social transformation of the urban societies of the medieval Mediterranean in the transition between the eleventh and twelfth centuries (as case studies I worked on Toledo, Palermo, and Jerusalem). I was interested primarily in examining the impact of the environmental crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean on demographic changes, especially among elite groups, before the First Crusade, vis-à-vis demographic changes in the urban societies of Sicily and the Iberian peninsula during the same period.

In order to expand this comparative line of inquiry and explore new venues for collaborative research, I organized panels at the HCMH conference and the annual conference of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Association of Israel, which brought together scholars working on cities in these regions (namely Spain, Italy, and the Levant) in the Early and Central Middle Ages.

I also continued my work with the *Regesta* Project, an online resource for the study of documents from the Latin East, exploring opportunities to expand its scope and to collaborate with similar projects, as well as another collaborative project on periodization and its historiographical implications.



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People - PhD Candidates



[Ms. Galina Rabinovich](#) reports:

I am working on my research project entitled "Discourses of the justification of violence in early Christianity." I focus on the emergence of Christianity and the justification of violence in the Christian narratives. The study allows us to rethink and redefine former concepts of violence and cruelty as a socially constructed and discursively conditioned phenomenon. My PhD research is conducted under the direction of Dr. Moshe Blidstein. This year, I participated in the Annual Conference of the Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Study. During the Early Career Researcher's Workshop, I presented a lecture titled "Persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire: historical context versus discursive reality." During my presentation, I shared partial results from my study on the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire.



[Dr. Sarina Kuersteiner](#) reports:

I spent my first year as Assistant Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady (Upstate New York) where I taught five courses, worked on my book project on notarial culture ("Minds and Margins"), and attended several national and international conferences (2022-23). I also co-organized a conference at Cornell University in April 2023 based on my public history project, the Medievalist Toolkit. Five of my Union College students gave excellent papers on their research in one of my courses. Over the summer, I finished an article on vocabularies of commercial risk in the medieval Mediterranean, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean that I started as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the HCMH in 2021.



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People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Dr. Federico Ugolini](#) reports:

As HCMH research fellow, I have developed further my research on the ancient harbours of the Adriatic Sea and its network of coastal settlements (200 BCE to 300 CE). I also conducted research on a range of topics in maritime archaeology of the Mediterranean (e.g. maritime antiquities and antiquarianism, submarine wrecks). During the academic year 2022/2023, I published results of my research works on ancient and modern lighthouses in a chapter for an edited volume by Archaeopress (October 2022) and in a major peer-reviewed article for the *Journal of Maritime Archaeology* (August 2023). I received two major prizes, the *William Lambarde (1536-1601) Memorial Travel Award, Society of Antiquaries of London* (March 2023) and the *Seal of Excellence for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, HORIZON-MSCA-2022* (May 2023). I gave a talk on the archaeology of ancient Adriatic harbours at the Institute of Archaeology in Zagreb and Croatian Science Foundation, for the *Adriatic Connectivity from Protohistory to the Roman Period* conference (October 2023). I also submitted papers to peer-reviewed journals (January-September 2023): a major paper on the production, consumption and export of cereals in the Roman Adriatic for *Agri Centuriati*, a paper on shipowners and sailors of the Roman Adriatic for *Epigraphica*, and a joint paper with Prof. D. Cvikel on the inscriptions of the Late Antique Ma'agan Mikhael B Shipwreck for *ZPE*.



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People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Dr. Dylan James](#) reports:

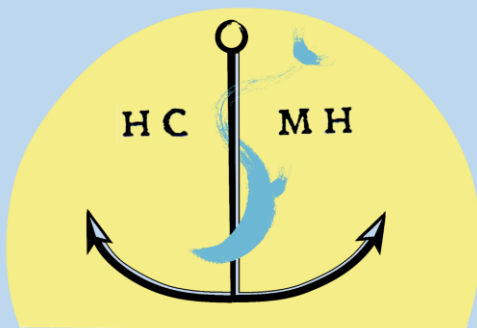
Another productive year at the HCMH! After our online conference on comparative history in July 2022, I and my co-organiser Stephen Harrison (Swansea) submitted a book proposal for an edited volume to Liverpool University Press, which was accepted in January. As of July, we are in the process of reviewing the final papers and will submit the volume to the press in the coming months. In May I submitted a paper ('Local Guides and Comparative History: Reflections on Alexander and Columbus') for a special issue of *Classical Reception Journal*. The same month I had an abstract accepted for the conference *Public History in European Historical Perspectives* to be held in Luxembourg in September. The paper is being co-written with three UK-based scholars (Neville Morley, Mai Musié, Owen Rees) and aims to address how Herodotus and Thucydides might fit into modern discourses of 'public history'; it will soon become a chapter in a volume forthcoming with De Gruyter. I have also recently been commissioned to write a chapter on gender, ethnicity, and class in Alexander historiography for a volume on *The Intersectional Alexander* (Bloomsbury).

In April, my article on Curtius Rufus' intertextual relationship with Livy ('*Translatio Fortunae: Curtius Rufus' Alexander, Livy's Hannibal, and Intertextuality*') came out in *Classical Philology*. Another article ('*Bilingualism and Greek Identity in the Fifth Century BCE*') was recently accepted by *Classical Quarterly* and should be online before the end of 2023. The latter is something of a 'teaser' for my monograph *Bilingual Individuals in Greco-Roman Historiography*, which I am currently completing for Cambridge University Press.

Working remotely from New Zealand, I have attended the Australasian Society of Classical Studies annual conference in Christchurch (January 2023) and the Scarred Nations symposium in Auckland (April 2023), which have expanded my network for my comparative work at HCMH. My time in New Zealand has laid the groundwork for a new project on classical reception in colonial New Zealand, which has recently received funding for the 2023-4 year from Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington D.C. I will spend four months there in early 2024 developing this reception project alongside the comparative material.



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People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows

Finally, a note of thanks to Gil, Zur, Shiri, Ornit, and everyone at HCMH who have been so generous and flexible with regard to my personal situation. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of HCMH as Postdoctoral Fellow and look forward to continuing my affiliation as Research Fellow.



[Dr. Tzafrir Barzilay](#) reports:

Fortunately, this year I have started a tenure track position teaching European medieval history at the Bar Ilan University History Department. In addition, I became a member of the Israeli Science Foundation (ISF) Research Team, "Digging Deep: Interdisciplinary Study of the Medieval Mikveh in Cologne," in cooperation with Tanja Pothoff, Michael Wiehen and Christiane Twiehaus (MiQua, Köln) and Neta Bodner (The Open University of Israel). My first book, *Poisoned Wells: Accusation, Persecution and Minorities in Medieval Europe, 1321-1422* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2022) has been awarded the Salo Wittmayer Baron Prize for an outstanding first book in Jewish Studies by the American Academy for Jewish Research. A first article relating to my new project, focusing on the social importance of river travel in High and late medieval western Europe, has been accepted for publication, and I am working on another.





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People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Dr. Paolo Cimadomo](#) reports:

During the 2022/2023 academic year, I was able to do many activities and achieve many goals. Since October 2022, I have become Temporary Lecturer in Ancient History at the Department of Humanities, University of Basilicata. Meanwhile, I have not stopped my research activities, which have varied greatly in time and space. The main focus is still the study of human-environment interactions in the Roman and Late Roman Near East.

Together with Dario Nappo (University of Naples 'Federico II'), I edited a volume called 'A global crisis? The Mediterranean world between the 3rd and the 5th century CE'. The volume consists of 11 articles written by various authors touching on different topics related to the concept of crisis.

At the beginning of 2023, I also published my second monograph, together with Marika Griffo, on the archaeological, historical, documentary and architectural analysis of a particular building located within the 'Parco della Caffarella', in Rome. The book is written in Italian language. It is titled: 'Vita di un monumento: Il Ninfeo di Egeria tra storia e rappresentazione'.

Finally, I supervised a new documentary and bibliographical exhibition entitled: 'Memories, Thoughts and Landscapes of the Orient (15th-19th Centuries)'. This exhibition was presented in Naples and is connected to the successful exhibition organised last year.





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People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Ms. Sangeetha Raja](#) reports:

I started working in the Department of Maritime Civilizations at the University of Haifa in October 2022, under the supervision of [Prof. Gil Gambash](#) and [Prof. David Friesem](#). The topic of my project in Haifa is *The Role of South India in Ancient Indo-Mediterranean Trade*. As a part of the research, I studied the possible connections with the Mediterranean and the study would be extended this year to analyse data of the possible exports from the Mediterranean that have reached the Indian Sub-continent.



[Dr. Chris Prejean](#) (Fulbright scholar) reports:

I am working on a translation of one of the great legal works of the pre-modern period titled *Non-Muslim Religious Communities*. I am also writing a graphic novel series on medieval Baghdad. I currently work with multi-faith organizations to help Christians and Muslims build religious literacy of each other's traditions. As the CEO of an educational services business in Fort Worth Texas, I provide critical thinking, reading, and writing skills to high school students.





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[Dr. Umberto Signori](#) reports:

My research over the past year has been conducted as part of the DisCom-PoSE ERC Starting Grant Project. The investigation conducted for this project focuses on the social history of the construction of technical knowledge generated in relation to certain natural disasters that occurred in some Mediterranean domains of the Hispanic monarchy during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

My previous research project involved a critical approach to understanding the lived experience of mobility and identification of Christians in the Ottoman Empire who had links with the Venetian and Greek-speaking worlds. On this topic, in the academic year 2022/2023, I published an article in the peer-reviewed journal *Società e storia* entitled: 'Between Misery and Reward: The Culture of Vigilance in the Experience of a Venetian Consul during the Early Modern Period'. Two book chapters entitled: 'La chapellenie contestée: Sainte-Marie de l'Immaculée-Conception et le droit de patronage du consulat vénitien à Smyrne' and 'Stranieri in un impero mediterraneo: lo status protetto degli europei occidentali nell'Impero ottomano d'età moderna' are soon to be published in two edited volumes.

I also presented the results of this research work at two international conferences in Rome and Paris and at two international workshops in Athens and Florence. The latter presentation took place within the working group 'Levant Antiquarianism in European History and Literature (1500-1850)', directed by **Dr. Zoe Beenstock** and **Dr. Zur Shalev** and supported by the HCMH.





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[Dr. Oded Cohen](#) reports:

In the last year, I started teaching history at The Academic College Levinsky-Wingate and continued as a research fellow at the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History. In June, my book *'Ever Turning Blows the Wind': Cultural Spaces in Rabbi Haim Yosef David Azulay's World* (in Hebrew), was published by Magnes Press. On June 13, I participated in the annual conference for early modern studies at the University of Haifa. The subject of my lecture: "Wandering printers, the Holy Land and changing motivations: descriptions of the Land of Israel in the eighteenth-century literature and their adaptation to different audiences". During the year, two more articles I wrote were accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals.



[Dr. Vicky Hioureas](#) (Fulbright scholar) reports:

I am currently working on revising my dissertation about violence in Byzantium for publication as a book manuscript. I am looking to expand my research with anthropological and sociological work on violence in modern contexts and am eager to collaborate with scholars across departments with similar interests.



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[Dr. Beatrice Pestarino](#) reports:

In the academic year 2022-2023, I investigated the connections between Cyprus and the Levant in the Archaic period. I specifically focused on the figure of the suken, a foreign magistrate who governed over some Cypriot city-states, Amathus and Kition, on behalf of Tyre or Akko.

I have organised and spearheaded the book launch of my monograph *Kyprion Politeia*, The political and administrative systems of the Archaic and Classical Cypriot city-kingdoms at the University of Haifa.

I have also been visiting fellow of the Center for Hellenic studies (Harvard University, Washington DC), where I presented my research on the Cypriot strategia in the early Hellenistic period.

I have been invited to deliver talks on Cypriot scribes and archives at the Institute of the Study of the Ancient World (NYU) in New York and at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient Culture at the University of Chicago.

I took part in the workshop 'Understanding Ancient Women: New Approaches from Material Text' (University of Warsaw) for which I am planning to study 'women involved in sacrifice' in Ancient Cyprus.

I took part in a conference on the Athenian imperialism (University of Oxford) and I will contribute to the conference volume with a paper on Evagoras and the Athenian imperialism.

In September 2022, I took part in the Archaeological excavation of Mitzpe Shivta, a Byzantine monastery of the Negev desert, directed by **Dr. Sina Lehnig**, **Prof. Guy Bar-Oz** and **Prof. Gil Gambash**, where we surveyed and analysed pilgrims' graffiti engraved on the doorways of the site. We are working on a volume containing the first editions of all the inscriptions from the site.





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[Dr. Davide Trentacoste](#) is a Dual PhD in Modern History at the University of Teramo, Italy and in Oriental Languages and Civilisations-Iranian Studies in New Sorbonne University, France. He reports:

I am a historian of the Early Modern Eastern Mediterranean. My main research interests concern the “oriental” projection of pre-unitarian Italian States, their Eastern Mediterranean policy, their diplomatic relations with Muslim Empires (in particular Safavid Persia) and their knowledge of the East in the Early Modern Age (particularly between 1550-1750). My PhD dissertation dealt with diplomatic relations between Medici Tuscany and Safavid Persia in the seventeenth century and I have published several articles on the subject. I am also among the editors of a volume on the importance of Medieval and Early Modern Italian travel literature in the Italian nation-building process.



[Dr. Shulamit Miller](#) reports:

I began my 2022/23 academic year as an HCMH postdoctoral fellow participating in international conference of the AIEMA – Association internationale pour l'étude de la mosaïque antique (in Lyon, presenting my study of the mosaics from the excavations at Majduliyya in the Golan) . Throughout the year, I developed my project on urban agriculture and worked with **Prof. Guy Bar-Oz**, **Prof. Eyal Ben Eliyahu**, and **Prof. Gil Gambash** on a joint study of heritage vineyards in the late antique southern Levant. I presented the initial results of this study at the international conference celebrating seven years of the accomplishments of the HCMH that was held at the University of Haifa. We are now continuing to work on this project for publication. As part of this conference, I also guided participants and fellows of the center on a field trip to Sepphoris, where I am field director of the excavations. I also advanced this year my work on the publication of Yizhar Hirschfeld's excavations in Tiberias. A joint article dealing with a unique inscribed fossil from an Early Islamic context was published in the Israel Exploration Journal. I also won [a competitive grant from the Leon Levy and Shelby White Program for Archaeological Publications](#) for the continued publication of the finds from these excavations.





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[Dr. Walter Beers](#) reports:

I am a social historian of the late antique eastern Mediterranean, with a focus on Syriac literature and rural Christianity. In the 2023–24 academic year, I will be serving as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Hamilton College (Clinton, New York), teaching early medieval history and the global Middle Ages. While at the HCMH in 2022–23, I conducted research for a project modeling the socioeconomic role played by monasteries in late ancient Palestine, and presented this work to the School of Archaeology Seminar. My PhD research, conducted in the Department of History at Princeton University, focused on the Syriac historian John of Ephesus and examined the socioeconomic forces behind the development of the future Syrian Orthodox Church in sixth-century southeastern Turkey and the Hauran.



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Publications

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

Avni, G., **Bar-Oz, G., & Gambash G.** (2023). "When 'the Sweet Gifts of Bacchus' Ended – New Archaeological Evidence for Settlement Changes and the Decline of wine Production in Late Antique Southern Palestine." *Bulletin of the American Society of Overseas Research* 389, no 1.

Bedin, E. (2023). "Cultural Resilience in the Hellenistic Southern Levant." In Yasur-Landau, A., **Gambash, G., & Levy, T. E.** (eds.), *Mediterranean Resilience: Collapse and Adaptation in Antique Maritime Societies*, Sheffield: Equinox, 187-205.

Bedin, E., & Gambash, G. (2022). "Expressions of Counter-Globalization: Clashing Identities on the Coins of Greco-Roman Ascalon and Gaza," *Israel Numismatic Research* 17: 181-203.

Beresford-Jones, D. G., **Friesem, D. E.,** Sturt, F., Pullen, A., Chauca, G., Gorriti, M., Maita, P. K., Joly, D., Huaman, O., French, C., & Lane, K. J. (2022). "Insights into Changing Coastlines, Environments and Marine Hunter Gatherer Lifestyles on the Pacific Coast of South America from the La Yerba II Shell Midden, Río Ica Estuary, Peru." *Quaternary Science Reviews* 285, 107509.

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Cimadomo, P. (2022). "Essere sempre il migliore. Concorsi e gare nella Napoli antica: Erode il Grande e la politica augustea in Oriente", in F. Rausa (ed.), (*Naples, 15th-17th May 2019*), Napoli: Gianni Editore.

Cimadomo, P. (Forthcoming). "A View from the East: The Impact of Climate Change on the Life of the Roman and Late Roman Near East." In Huebner, S. & McDonald, B. T. (eds), *The Roman Climate Optimum*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cimadomo, P., & Nappo, D. (2022). "A global crisis? The Mediterranean world between the 3rd and the 5th century CE", Roma and Bristol: l'«ERMA» di Bretschneider.

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Cimadomo, P. & Griffo, M. (2023). "Vita di un monumento. Il Ninfeo di Egeria tra storia e rappresentazione." *Franco Angeli*.

Friesem, D. E., Ogloblin-Ramirez, I., Zuckerman-Cooper, R., Grono, E., & Galili, E. (2022). "Deep Stratigraphy of submerged Neolithic sites: A micro-geoarchaeological approach to the study of Coastal settlements in the Eastern Mediterranean." *Antiquity* 96, 1606-1611.





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<https://doi.org/10.36253/978-88-5518-579-0.09>.

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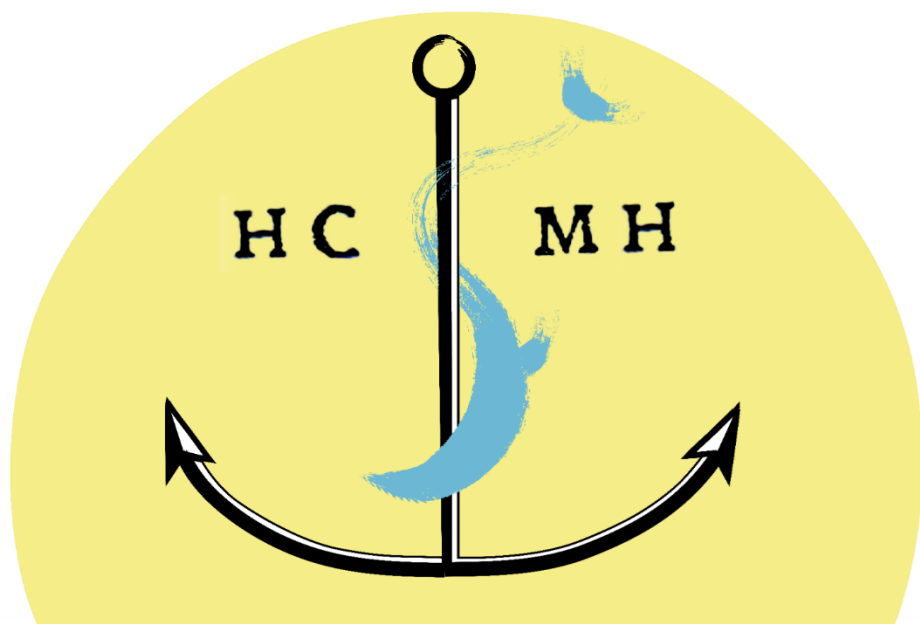
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