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WHAT'S INSIDE

- People
- Events
- Lectures
- Committees
- Research groups
- Publications
- and MORE!

HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24



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הפקולטה למדעי הרוח
אוניברסיטת חיפה



מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
مركز حيفا لتاريخ البحر الأبيض المتوسط
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Welcome!



Prof. David Friesem

Dr. Moshe Blidstein

We are delighted to summarize our eighth year of activity at the **Haifa Center for Mediterranean History** and the first year under our new directorship.

This year has been particularly challenging since the events of October 7th brought the entire region into one of its most difficult periods. With so many people suffering, displaced, and worried, the Center not only had to revise and change its plans and activities but also to support our students, fellows, and colleagues.

Nevertheless, the Center continued its work and research on different aspects of Mediterranean history aiming to build bridges based on hope and a better understanding of the complex ways in which the Mediterranean experienced prosperity and despair across time and culture. We are grateful and inspired by the support of our fellows and colleagues in Israel and abroad throughout the past year. It is only thanks to their determination to advance the research of Mediterranean history that HCMH has continued to thrive and to serve as a scholarly hub of international collaboration and fulfill our goal to gain new insights into cultural, societal, economic, and environmental sustainability in the Mediterranean.

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](#), and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).

For easy navigation of the document, please use Adobe Bookmarks.

Yours,

Prof. David Friesem and Dr. Moshe Blidstein,

The HCMH Directors.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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Events 2023-24: Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences



23rd November, 2023.

A conference in recognition of Prof. Udi Elyada called "[Journalism and Culture between the Popular, the Populist and the Mediterranean.](#)" The event took place in the Rabin Building at the University of Haifa. The HCMH collaborated with the Department of General History and the Department of Communication. Prof. Zur Shalev – the former co-director and establisher of the HCMH – was the chairman of one of the sessions.



16th May, 2024.

A lecture by Dr. Ilil Baum called "[Intercultural Contacts and Minority Languages in Spain and the Mediterranean Basin in the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Times.](#)" The event took place in the Main Building at the University of Haifa. The HCMH collaborated with the Forum for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.



29th May, 2024.

An international conference by Dr. Anna Gutgarts and Dr. Gil Fishhof called "[Communities and their Monuments in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem: Cityscapes, Social Configuration, and Material Culture](#)" to honor their recent publications. The event took place in Eshkol Tower at the University of Haifa.



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Events 2023-24: Research Groups



The “[Levant Antiquarianism in European History and Literature \(1500-1850\)](#),” research group is wrapping up the fruits of its collaboration in a special issue soon to be submitted of the International Journal of the Classical Tradition. The issue reflects the group’s work, arguing for the coherence of a European antiquarian tradition founded in an engagement with the notion of an ancient Levant over the course of three and a half centuries, across diverse linguistic traditions, and ranging from imaginative writing to chronicles and material objects. We look forward to sharing the projects developed in the group with a broad range of scholars in the fields of early modern history and literature, and to hosting a conference to celebrate its publication.



The HCMH [wine group](#), led by Gil Gambash, Guy Bar-Oz, and Gideon Avni, expanded its horizons beyond the Levant, looking during the passing year at wines from Cilicia, and at distribution patterns across the Mediterranean, asking questions about the venues and social hierarchy of drinking vis à vis wine qualities. Our scope continues to grow also eastwards, as, following our expedition to Uzbekistan two years ago, we are now investigating the viticulture and viniculture of late-antique Central Asia.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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Events 2023-24 – Sponsored Conferences



9-11th September, 2023.

The HCMH sponsored a three-day in-person conference in Yad Ben Zvi (an Israeli research institute). The event was titled “[Material Life: A Conference on Material Culture among the Jews of Islamic Countries.](#)” The overarching theme of the conference was cultural development. Several sessions examined communities that populated the Mediterranean shores across time.



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People – The HCMH Faculty Members



[Prof. Gil Gambash](#) reports:

The year 2023-24 passed under the heavy shadow of the terrible war that broke out in October 2023. I was then holding a fellowship at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, leading a research group dedicated to food security in arid areas around the ancient Mediterranean. Naturally, most international members of the group left the country, but the group managed to produce a fruitful routine on Zoom. Next to this, I continued to work with the wine group which Guy Bar-Oz and I established through HCMH, expanding our scope to central Asia and beyond. In another project, our excavations at the Byzantine monastery of Mitzpe Shivta had to come to a halt because of the situation, and we shifted our focus to lab analysis and the publication of our interim results. With a view to a brighter future, we have just won a significant Gerda Henkel grant for Mitzpe Shivta and are looking forward to going back to a routine of uninterrupted research.



[Dr. Zur Shalev](#) reports:

During the academic year 2023-24, I participated in the international conference, “Antiquaires voyageurs (XVIe-XIXe s.)” (June 2024, Rome, Academia Belgica and École française de Rome), where I presented my ongoing work on the Carmelite Order. I continued editorial work with Dr. Zoe Beenstock (University of Haifa) on a special issue about Levant Antiquarianism, the outcome of our [international HCMH research group](#), and it should be submitted shortly. We have also co-taught an MA seminar entitled “1001 Nights between East and West,” exploring travel across the Mediterranean. An [article](#) I co-authored with Dr. Oded Cohen about the different phases of a Hebrew geographical text on Jewish holy places was published. I also continued my work as co-editor in chief of the *Mediterranean Historical Review*.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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People – The HCMH Faculty Members



[Dr. Moshe Blidstein](#) reports:

During the year 2023-24, I have been working on several projects: A project on fire rituals in antiquity, with the publication of an [article](#) on the practice and discourse of perpetual fires in ancient Mediterranean cultures in *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, and other articles in the works. In the area of oaths and vows in antiquity, I published an [article](#) on oaths sworn between members of different religions, and am working on a project concerning digital methods for analysis of votive epigraphy in Greek. As an offshoot of the [Tiresias project](#), I published an [article](#) that maps the interrelations of subfields in the discipline of ancient Mediterranean religion through an analysis of data from source indices. I am also working on the subject of rituals using soil in antiquity and hope to publish on this soon. Together with Dr. Sabrina Inowlocki and the Elijah Lab for digital humanities at the University of Haifa, we submitted a successful proposal to the ISF for a project entitled "[Josephus Christianus](#): The Reception of Josephus in Greek Christian Literature (2nd - 15th Cent. CE)", which includes both philological and digital methods for the study of Josephus' reception and commenced in October 2024.



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People – The HCMH Faculty Members



[Prof. David Friesem](#) reports:

I have been working on two major projects: the first, BEFORE-theFLOOD, funded by the European Research Council, studies the earliest coastal settlements dating to the Neolithic period about ten thousand years ago. These sites found offshore the Eastern Mediterranean are now found underwater and work on sediment cores has been carried out in laboratories at Haifa and UC San Diego. My second major project examines the ecology of villages at the fringe of the Negev desert during the Chalcolithic period, about six thousand years ago. This project started this year, and we have been in the field collecting samples for lab work to follow.

My Lab for Environmental Micro-History is continuing to work on many different projects looking at Human-Environment relations across the Mediterranean from the Paleolithic to the Late Antiquity including the supervision of doctoral students: Marko Runjajic, co-supervised with Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau, studying shipwrecks and cargoes at the ancient Carmel Coast during the Iron and Bronze Age; and Sangeetha Priya, co-supervised with Prof. Gil Gambash on Indo-Mediterranean relations in Late Antiquity.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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مركز حيفا لتاريخ البحر الأبيض المتوسط
אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



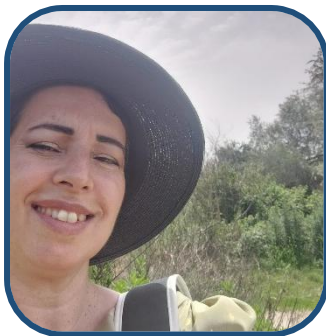
People – The HCMH Faculty Members



[Dr. Anna Gutgarts](#) reports:

This academic year was challenging in many ways, yet despite the difficulties there were also rewarding moments. For me, one such moment was the publication of my first book: *Frankish Jerusalem: The Transformation of a Medieval City in the Latin East* (Cambridge University Press, 2024). This book, based on my dissertation, investigates the underlying socio-economic mechanisms of the transformation of Jerusalem's cityscape under Latin rule (12th century). It also offers a framework for a comparative examination of urban environments in the Latin East and medieval Western Europe. Currently, I am working on a new project that focuses on the role of cities in narratives concerning the expansion of Latin Christendom in the medieval Mediterranean, with two articles in progress, and hopefully, more to come soon.

People – The HCMH Administrative Staff



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HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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People - PhD Candidates



Ms. Galina Rabinovich reports:

Over the past year, I have continued work on my research project entitled "Discourses of the Justification of Violence in Early Christianity." The Christian discourse on persecution and martyrdom stands as one of the most influential narratives of violence in human history. Its dominance in the West over centuries rendered it seemingly indisputable in its objective materiality. This discourse chronicles the history of Christian suffering and persecution worldwide. Thus, delving into its formation helps illuminate insights into the Christian understanding of 'violence' and the principles guiding its application in practice.

Additionally, I participated in a program עולמות שזורים organized by the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies, which focused on the study of interfaith interactions. The program concluded in June 2024 with the conference "Reframing the Dialogue: Innovative Approaches in Interreligious Encounter Theory" where I delivered a lecture titled "The Formative Role of Violence in Early Christian Discourses of Martyrdom and Persecution." In this lecture, I presented partial findings from my research on martyrdom discourse, examining violence as a construct shaped by various discursive elements, including the cosmic structure of the world, moral value system, and social hierarchy. Violence is interpreted within social interactions, delineating a boundary between participants who fill specific social roles such as victim, perpetrator, enemy, etc. The function of violence in discourse is a means to enhance the validity of various social and political claims that would otherwise be weak without it.

A collection of articles based on the conference proceedings is currently planned for publication.



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People - PhD Candidates



[Ms. Debora Spizzichino](#) reports:

Over the past year, I delved into my research project on Egyptian and Egyptianizing beads and amulets in the Eastern Mediterranean. My work has involved extensive reading, drawing on resources from the University of Haifa Library, the Institute of Archaeology Library at the University College London, and the American Academy in Rome Library. Planning to apply statistical and trade network analyses in my research, I have been busy gathering data to build a comprehensive database of amulets and beads.

I volunteered at the European Association of Archaeologists conference in Rome. I heard thought provoking presentations, engage with fascinating projects, and connect with colleagues.

I was also honoured to be welcomed back by my undergraduate alma mater, The American University of Rome, as a featured speaker in their *Alumni Lecture Series*. I shared my journey in archaeology with current students, reflecting on the challenges and opportunities that have shaped my career (<https://aur.edu/news/aur-alumna-debora-spizzichino's-path-success-archaeology>).

Moreover, I joined the COST Action project as part of the research group on AI and Archaeological Research. I look forward to contributing to discussions about implementing AI in archaeology, particularly addressing challenges such as data scarcity, FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), and ethical considerations.

Beyond that, I have been hard at work developing my first year research proposal while also applying to an upcoming conference, a 2025 winter school, and a potential training opportunity in Digital Humanities. That's where things stand for now—I'm looking forward to seeing what the future has in store.



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אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



People – PhD Candidates



[Ms. Sangeetha Raja](#) reports:

Unearthing Ancient Connections: My PhD Journey Through Time and Trade

This academic year (2023-24) of immersive learning has been instrumental in bridging theoretical knowledge with practical expertise.

Fieldwork Highlights: Keeladi and Adhichanallur Excavations

My visits to Keeladi and Adhichanallur allowed me to witness and contribute to groundbreaking discoveries firsthand. The stratigraphy, potsherds, and inscriptions unearthed at Keeladi offered glimpses into the socio-economic fabric of ancient Tamil society. At Adhichanallur, the artifacts, including iron implements and burial urns, painted a vivid picture of early mortuary practices and trade links with distant lands.

Internship at the Pattinam Excavation Site

I undertook a month-long internship at the Pattinam excavation site under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Cherian. This site, believed to be part of the ancient port of Muziris, is pivotal in understanding maritime trade between Tamil Nadu and the Roman world. The internship combined hands-on training and intellectual exploration. From analyzing Roman amphora fragments and beads to studying the ancient wharf structure, I gained a deeper appreciation for the complexities of ancient trade logistics.

International Workshop on Tamil Epigraphy

I attended an international workshop on Tamil epigraphy, hosted by Tamil University in Tanjore. The program included training in Tamil, Vatteluttu, and Grantha scripts, practical sessions in epigraphy, and an excursion to the Sithanavasal caves and the Pudukottai Museum.

Excavation at Molapalayam: Tracing Neolithic Roots

I visited the Neolithic settlement at Molapalayam near Coimbatore. Guided by Dr. Selvakumar, I delved into understanding early agricultural and settlement patterns.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



People – PhD Candidates



Mr. Tomer Elad reports:

At the end of the previous year, I submitted a research proposal which was approved, enabling me to move forward to phase 2 of my PhD. I then flew on my first research trip to London in February 2024, after it was postponed due to the 7/10 war outbreak. In London, I visited two archives that house most of the sources I am studying: the British National Archives and the Maritime Museum Archives in Greenwich. In the last academic year, I participated in the department's doctoral student seminar and joined a British history reading group. As part of my research program this year, I intend to make a longer and more comprehensive visit to London. This will allow me to obtain copies of the sources I have located and work in additional archives. Along with continuing my research, I am participating in a research group held within the "Sha'ar Ruach" program at the University of Haifa, and in the "New Horizons", an international group of young maritime historians.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Dr. Sarina Kuersteiner](#) reports:

In the academic year 2023-2024, alongside teaching three new lecture courses, I have been working on my current book project, *Minds and Margins: Notarial Culture in Medieval Bologna*. *Minds and Margins* is a study of notaries, professional writers of official documents, who became increasingly numerous and influential across the northwestern Mediterranean from the 12th and 13th centuries on. My book asks how we ought to understand these men and the records they produced if we consider both the Latin text at the center and the poetry, images, and prayers they entered in the margins. I argue that their notion of text as a medium for social order emerged at the intersection of law, religion, and culture.

I also finished an article I began researching while at the HCMH (2021-2022). In “Whatever God Gives: Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic *Rizq* and Latin *Resicum* in Commercial Vocabulary, 1154-1164 CE” (forthcoming, *Speculum*), I show that the word *rizq* (Arabic for divine sustenance, provision, and livelihood) was used in similar contexts by Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traders. Tracing one word across Arabic, Judaeo-Arabic, and Latin documents, I argue that economic integration extended beyond the movement of goods to legal institutions. The article lays the foundation for what will become my second book project. I am very grateful for having been able to begin learning Arabic while at the HCMH. Special thanks to Hiba Fahoum, who is never too tired to explain to me whatever I need to know in Hebrew and Arabic. Getting this article accepted would not have been possible without the help of Oded Zinger (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), an expert in the documents of the Cairo *genizot*. Unfortunately (and fortunately), the article will only appear in the summer of 2026.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Dr. Beatrice Pestarino](#) reports:

In the academic year 2023-2024 I have been Postdoctoral Researcher at the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History (University of Haifa) where I have studied the Greek graffiti of Mitzpe Shivta with Gil Gambash and Sina Lehnig, as a member of the Mitzpe Shivta Archaeological project (PI Sina Lehnig). We are currently in the process of preparing the first edition of the previously unpublished graffiti. During my fellowship at HCMH, I attended the conferences: 'Understanding Ancient Women through material texts' at the University of Warsaw (May 2024), with a paper on 'Women sacrifice in Ancient Cyprus? The Kition tariff revisited according to a Brelichian approach' to be published in BICS by 2025; the SGRA seminars series (Athens) with a paper on 'Gardens and gardening in Ancient Cyprus (490-245 BC)' (January 2024); the ARU seminar series (Nicosia), with a paper on 'The Political and Administrative Systems of the Classical Cypriot City-kingdoms (November 2023); and the conference 'The New Athenian Empire' (Oxford 2023) with a paper entitled 'Entangled imperialisms, Evagoras' Cypriot expansionism and Athens' East-Mediterranean hegemony', to be published as book chapter in 'The New Athenian Empire' (eds) Lazar, L., Driscoll, E., Loyd, M. (Cambridge University Press) by 2025. I also served as a visiting researcher at the Fondation Hardt in Vandoeuvres, Geneva, where I conducted a study on the Cypriot Eupatrides through a bilingual inscription in Cypriot-syllabic Eteocypriot and alphabetic Greek. The findings of this research were later published in Kadmos journal. Additionally, in collaboration with Ory Amitay, I co-authored an article exploring Alexander the Great's presence in Cyprus, the myth of the ANE King gardener, and the presence of paradeisoi on the island. The results of the research are going to be published in the journal Classical Quarterly. Finally, the results of my study on Cypriot graffiti, particularly those related to Egyptian monuments, are forthcoming in the Journal of Ancient History.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
مركز حيفا لتاريخ البحر الأبيض المتوسط
אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Dr. Dylan James](#) reports:

This year has been fruitful for my publishing endeavors. The book I submitted with Stephen Harrison (Swansea) has been published. The process of publishing my final papers is on the verge of completion.

I continued working on my project on classical reception in colonial New Zealand. I spent four months there in early 2024 developing this reception project alongside the comparative material.



[Dr. Ilil Baum](#) reports:

The academic year 2023/4 as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Haifa Center for Mediterranean Studies was very meaningful. During July-August 2024, I organized the first-ever Ladino International Summer School dedicated to Ladino and Sephardic Jewish Studies. The program hosted 28 students from Israel and abroad (Europe, Asia, and the US) for an intensive program held in Jerusalem, even amid challenging times of war. Following my postdoctoral fellowship, as of October 2024 I am excited to begin my tenure-track position at the Salti Institute for Ladino Studies at the Bar-Ilan University.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



Dr. Paolo Cimadomo reports:

This academic year has been full of significant developments. I continued my work at the University of Basilicata as a temporary lecturer in Ancient History. I began a new role at the Italian National Research Council, as part of a national research project involving several institutions. In February, I won an important European fellowship, the MSCA Global Fellowship, with a project related to the impact of earthquakes on Near Eastern societies between the 4th and 6th centuries CE. This project will start in January 2025 and will involve the Sapienza University of Rome and Georgetown University in Washington, DC. As part of the project, I plan to spend three months in Jerusalem, during which I will collaborate with Gideon Avni from the Israel Antiquities Authority. I participated in international conferences like the seventh European conference on Social Networks in Ljubljana, organizing a session titled "Networks in History and Archaeology," in collaboration with Maria Carmela Schisani and David Zbiral. I participated in Last(ing) Frontier, held in Turin, where I presented a paper titled 'Moving Eastwards: The Development of the 'Limes Arabicus' between the 3rd and the 4th Centuries CE.' I was invited to a conference – 'New Directions in the Archaeology of Roman Greece: Connectivity, Interaction and Innovation' – at the British School in Athens. My presentation was titled 'Roman Emperors as Gods: Statistical Methods to Analyze the Spread of Roman Imperial Cult in the Roman Province of Achaea.' As part of the conference organized by the European Association of Archaeologists, held in Rome, Mariacarmela Montesanto, María Coto-Sarmiento, Manuela Ritondale, Virginia Sommella, and I – organized a session titled "Modelling Connections: New Methodologies to Understand Human Mobility, Route Networks and Land Use." Vincenzo Giordano and I presented a paper titled 'Crossing the Desert(s): Similarities and Differences Between the Limes Mauritania Caesarensis and the Limes Arabicus (3rd c. CE).' Many of these studies are in the process of publication. I also have published an article in Italian titled 'The Ruralization of the Negev in Late Antiquity' in the journal of international studies Occidente/Oriente.



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People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



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

During the 2023-24 year, I appeared on two podcasts. The first is the widely popular Exorcist Files, where I discuss Angels in Islam ([Apple](#) | [Spotify](#)). The second is the Thoughtful Minds podcast, where I discuss insights on Islam from a Christian Perspective [Apple](#) | [Spotify](#) | [Amazon](#)). I continue to work on a translation of one of the great Arabic legal works of the premodern period titled Non-Muslim Religious Communities and help direct the [Study of Religions Across Civilizations](#), a multi-faith renewal project.



[Dr. Shulamit Miller](#) reports:

Unfortunately, the second year of my postdoc position at the HCMH was marked by war. The comradery of the international HCMH community was truly missed, as were joint field trips and excursions with other postdocs in the program. I carried on my research, however, as much as possible despite the difficult circumstances. My article, “Both Inside and Outside the Land”: Mediterranean Viticulture in Late Antique Palestine co-authored with Guy Bar-Oz, Eyal and Eliyahu and Gil Gambash, was submitted for publication. I presented the results of this study at the European Association of Archaeologist’s Annual Meeting in Rome in August 2024, where the study was well received. I also took the opportunity to visit sites around the Bay of Naples that are important to my study of urban agriculture in antiquity.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
مركز حيفا لتاريخ البحر الأبيض المتوسط
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People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Dr. Umberto Signori](#) reports:

My research over the past year marked the conclusion of my experience with the DisComPoSE ERC Starting Grant Project, which focused on proposing a critical reassessment of the historiography of memory and political responses to natural disasters in the early modern Mediterranean. I published an article in the peer-reviewed journal *Rivista storica italiana* entitled 'La desolazione di Pozzuoli' on this topic. Two other papers related to this line of research are currently under peer review. During the same year, I continued working on themes I had begun to explore in previous years. This ongoing research, which examines the lived experience of Christian mobility and identification in the Ottoman Empire, led to the publication of two book chapters. The results of both studies - on natural disasters and Christians in the Ottoman Empire - have been presented at various national and international conferences and workshops in Naples, Cefalù, Rome and Paris. I continue my collaboration with the working group Levant Antiquarianism in European History and Literature (1500-1850), led by Dr. Zoe Beenstock and Dr. Zur Shalev and supported by the HCMH. I am currently preparing an article for publication as part of a special issue on the subject. This forthcoming article demonstrates how, in the early modern Eastern Mediterranean, interest in antiquities extended beyond collectors of such objects to a much wider and more diverse range of individuals. In addition to these ongoing projects, I have started a new research project as part of the PRIN-PNRR project 'Political Inclusion and Inequality in the Preindustrial Italian Alps (1500-1800)', funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU. For this project, I am conducting an in-depth study of the Alpine area of Cadore, which was under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Venice during the pre-industrial period. My research aims to reconstruct the relationships between economic inequalities, unequal access to political positions and the management of the commons.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
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[Dr. Oded Cohen](#) reports:

Over the past year, I have continued teaching at the Levinsky-Wingate Academic Center and joined The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Public Humanities, Tel Aviv University, as a research fellow. In 2023, my book 'Ever Turning Blows the Wind': Cultural Spaces in Rabbi Haim Yosef David Azulay's World [Hebrew] was published by Magnes Press. Additionally, I published Five more peer-reviewed articles in Israel and abroad, including "Living and Writing in Two Voices: The Integration of a Jew from the Land of Israel in Western Europe in the Eighteenth Century", *Zion*, 89, 3 (2024), pp. 333-360 [Hebrew]; a co-authored article with Dr. Zur Shalev - "Between the Holy Land and Heidelberg: Yihus ha-Avot in Different Cultural Contexts", *Cathedra*, 185 (2024), pp. 31-52 [Hebrew]; 'For Dress and Language are my Witness that I am a Levantine': Alternating Identities in 18th Century Rabbinic Journeys", *Mediterranean Historical Review*, 39, 2 (2024), pp. 159-177, And more. An international conference - "Three Hundred Years of Hida: Travel, Study and Creation in the Mediterranean Basin and Europe in the Eighteenth Century", which I co-organized with Prof. Maoz Kahana, Dr. Asaf Tamari, and Prof. Miriam Frenkel, was held at the Ben-Zvi Institute on March 26-27, 2024. At the conference, I also chaired a session and delivered a lecture.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

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אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



People – Research and Post-Doctoral Fellows



[Dr. Davide Trentacoste](#) reports:

Unfortunately, the situation did not allow me to continue my fellowship as a postdoctoral researcher at HCMH in Haifa in person. Nevertheless, I continued to work from Italy, achieving some significant milestones, such as the publication of an article in the *Mediterranean Historical Review* (Davide Trentacoste, "All the Grand Dukes' Men: An Overview of the Persian Information Network of Medici Tuscany between 1600 and 1639," *Mediterranean Historical Review*, 38, 1 (2023) and an article in a new journal of oriental history: Davide Trentacoste, "Preliminary Observations on the Diplomatic Relations of Small Italian States with Safavid Persia," *Orientalia Antiqua et Nova*, 1 (2024). Moreover, thanks to the financial support of the Center, together with two colleagues, we managed to publish an Open Access volume with the prestigious publisher Brepols: [Travelling Matters across the Mediterranean: Rereading, Reshaping, Reusing Objects \(10th–20th centuries\)](#), edited by Beatrice Falcucci, Emanuele Giusti, and Davide Trentacoste.

I also participated in several international conferences across Europe.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
مركز حيفا لتاريخ البحر الأبيض المتوسط
אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



Publications

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

Abadi, Itay, **David E. Friesem**, Shira Gur-Arieh, Minji Jin, Dafna Langgut, Ahiad Ovadia, Rivka Rabinovich, Tikvah Steiner, Adi Torfstein, Debora Zurro Hernandez, & Nigel A. Goring-Morris. "Human Response to Environmental Change at Heinrich Event 2: Early Epipaleolithic Occurrences and Their Paleoecology on the Southern Shore of Lake Lisan, Israel." *Quaternary Science Reviews* 332 (2024): 108649.

Baum, Ilil. "The Ecology of Language Evolution: A Comparative View of Jewish Languages and Creoles." In *Uniformitarianism in Genetic Creolistics*, edited by Salikoko Mufwene and Enoch Aboh. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025 (in press).

Blidstein, Moshe. "Mapping the Discipline of Ancient Mediterranean Religion through Primary Text Co-Citation Analysis." *Digital Studies / Le champ numérique* 13, no. 1 (2023).

Blidstein, Moshe. "[Constructing, Revealing and Concealing Identity through Oaths in the Late Ancient Eastern Mediterranean](#)." *Vigiliae Christianae* 78, no. 5 (2024): 461–488.

Blidstein, Moshe. "[Perpetual Fires in the Jerusalem Temple through a Mediterranean Perspective: Regularity, Eternity, Exemplarity](#)." *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 55, no. 4 (2024): 301–334.

Cohen, Oded. *Ever Turning Blows the Wind: Cultural Spaces in Rabbi Haim Yosef David Azulay's World*. Jerusalem: Magnes, 2023. (Hebrew).

Cohen, Oded. "'For Dress and Language Are My Witness That I Am a Levantine': Alternating Identities in 18th-Century Rabbinic Journeys." *Mediterranean Historical Review* 39 (2024): 159–177.

Cohen, Oded. "Interpretation of the Jerusalem Talmud, Wanderings, and Self-Formation: Rabbi Moshe Margalit in the Community of Livorno." *Teuda* (accepted for publication). (Hebrew).

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HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
מרכז חיפה לתאריך البحر الأبيض المتوسط
אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



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Cohen, Oded. "Manuscripts from Western Europe, Printer from the Land of Israel: Movement between Cultural Spaces in Hebrew Printing in the 18th Century." In *Travelling Matters: Rereading, Reshaping, Reusing Objects Across the Mediterranean*, edited by Beatrice Falucci, Emanuele Giusti, and Davide Trentacoste, 125–141. Brepols, 2024.

Cohen, Oded, & Roni Cohen. "The Jewish Traveler and the Protestant Shoemaker: A Hans Sachs' Poem in Yiddish as a Case Study of Knowledge Transitions." *Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture* (2024): 46–59.

Cohen, Oded, & Zur Shalev. "Between the Holy Land and Heidelberg: *Yihus ha-Avot* in Different Cultural Contexts." *Cathedra* (2024): 31–52. (Hebrew).

Friesem, David E., Lavi, N., Lew-Levy, S., Boyette, A. 2024. Mobility, site maintenance and archaeological formation processes: An ethnoarchaeological perspective. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 74, 101588.

Friesem, David E., Reuven Yeshurun, Zachary C. Dunseth, Shira Gur-Arieh, & Dani Nadel. "Rethinking Occupation Intensity during the Levantine Middle Epipalaeolithic: The Use of Space and Site Formation Processes at the Geometric Kebaran Site of Neve David, Israel." *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 31 (2024): 1739–1770.

Gambash, Gil. "Between Ribāṭ and Cabotage: The Maritime Southern Levant in Late Antiquity." In *Religious and Intellectual Diversity in the Islamicate World and Beyond*, edited by Ori Michaelis and Sabine Schmidtke, 3–24. Leiden: Brill, 2024.

Gambash, Gil. "Negev Fragility and Mediterranean Prosperity in Late Antiquity." In *Mediterranean Resilience: Collapse and Adaptation in Antique Maritime Societies*, edited by Assaf Yasur-Landau, Gil Gambash, and Thomas E. Levy, 206–221. Sheffield: Equinox, 2024.

Gambash, Gil. "To Build or Not to Build: Considerations of Coastal Development in the Ancient Southern Levant." *Journal of Marine Science and Engineering* 12, no. 5 (2024): 803, 1–12.

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HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
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- James, Dylan**. "Translatio fortunae: Curtius Rufus' Alexander, Livy's Hannibal, and Intertextuality." *Classical Philology* 118, no. 2 (2023): 210–231.
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- PreJean, Chris**. "Between Baghdad and the Mediterranean." In *Windows into the Medieval Mediterranean*, edited by Julia Fregulia. London: Routledge, 2025 (submitted).
- Signori, Ugolini**. "La chapellenie contestée: Sainte-Marie de l'Immaculée-Conception et le droit de patronage du consulat vénitien à Smyrne." In *Prier ailleurs: Chapelles consulaires et églises « nationales » à l'époque moderne*, edited by Mathieu Grenet and Jacques Ulbert, 127–144. Aix-en-Provence: Presses Universitaires de Provence, 2024.



HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
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אוניברסיטת חיפה UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



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Trentacoste, Davide. "Un mare connesso Europa e mondo islamico nel Mediterraneo (secoli XV–XIX): Agent of the Shah and Prisoner of the Grand Duke: The Capture of Yovhannēs, Armenian Merchant and Safavid Spy." In *Europa e mondo islamico nel Mediterraneo (secoli XV–XIX)*, edited by Jake Dyble, Alessandro Lo Bartolo, and Elia Morelli, 255–273. Rome: Carocci, 2024. EAN 9791032005002.

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Yasur-Landau, Assaf, Anthony Tamberino, Ehud Arkin-Shalev, Roey Nickelsberg, Marko Runjajić, Gilad Shtienberg, Gil Gambash, Ruth Shahack-Gross, & Thomas E. Levy. "Sea-Level Changes and the Location of the 'Missing' Hellenistic and Roman Harbours at Tel Dor, Israel." *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 53 (2024): 1-20.

Zinger, Oded, & Uriel Simonsohn. Special issue of *Medieval Encounters* on "[Kinship Encounters: People and Ideas in the Medieval Islamicate World](#)." 2024.





HCMH NEWSLETTER 2023-24

מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
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