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JINDAL CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES

Visiting Faculty Seminar Course

Israel's Foundations: A historical perspective of the first decade of Independence

by



Dr. Orit Rozin

Department of Jewish History
 Tel Aviv University, Israel

Course Details

Credits: Two

Prerequisite: Graduation

Teaching: Fifteen Hours total

Duration: 14 February – 2 March 2017

Class Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Venue: T2-60 Seater Classroom, T3 side

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Convener: Dr. Rohee Dasgupta, Associate Professor and Convener, Jindal Centre for Israel Studies, JSIA
 rdgupta@jgu.edu.in, +91 8930110836

Bio of Speaker

Dr. Orit Rozin is a senior lecturer in the Department of Jewish History at Tel Aviv University She is the author of *The Rise of the Individual in 1950s Israel: A Challenge to Collectivism* (2011) and *A Home for All Jews: Citizenship, Rights, and National Identity in the New Israeli State* (2016). Both published by University Press of New England and Brandeis University Press. Dr. Rozin is a visiting fellow at the Jindal Centre for Israel Studies in JSIA for February 2017. Her visit is jointly supported by the Embassy of Israel in India and the Asia Pacific Institute, American Jewish Committee.

Seminar Course Description

Since the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel was read aloud by its first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, on May 14, 1948 in a modest ceremony, both state and society have known great changes. Yet the first decade of independence, formed the foundations on which state institutions stand until this very day. In Israeli collective memory these first days and years constitute the archive – from which both glorious events and dark shadows are occasionally brought into the daylight. Israel's past is an active battleground; politicians, veterans, historians and writers struggle over crafting a narrative. Former heroes become villains and those who feel they have been wronged, seek justice.

The course presents the legal, demographic, economic, and cultural as well as geo-political and security related pillars on which Israel stands today and also seeks to illuminate some of today's debates over past events.

Week 1: Class 1

1. The Construction of Israeli Democracy

- Menachem Mautner, *Law and the Culture of Israel*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, Chapter 2, pp. 31-53.
- Nir Kedar, "Ben-Gurion's Opposition to a Written Constitution," *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 12(1), 2013, 1-16.
- Pnina Lahav, *Judgement in Jerusalem: Chief justice Simon Agranat and the Zionist century*, Berkeley: University of California Press 1997, pp. 107-112.

Week 1: Class 2

2. Immigration

- Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*, Waltham: Brandeis University Press 2012, pp. 223-247.
- Ella Shohat, "The Narrative of the Nation and the Discourse of Modernization: The Case of the Mizrahim," *Critique: Critical Middle Eastern Studies*, 6, 1997, pp. 3-18. Yaron Peleg: "From Black to White: Changing Images of Mizrahim in Israeli Cinema," *Israel Studies* 13 (2), 2008, 122-145.

Week 2: Class 1

3. Israeli Economy

- Paul Rivlin, *The Israeli Economy from the Foundation of the State Through the 21st Century*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2011, pp. 12-68.
- Tom Segev, *The Seventh Million: The Israelis and the Holocaust*, New York: Hill and Wang 1993, pp. 189-226.

Week 2: Class 2

4. Gender Relations

- Nitza Berkovitch, "Motherhood as a national mission: the construction of womanhood in the legal discourse in Israel," *Women's Studies International Forum* 20 (5-6), 1997, pp. 605-619.
- Etta Bick, "Equality, orthodoxy and politics: the conflict over national service in Israel," *Israel Affairs* 19 (3), 2013, pp. 505-525.
- Orit Rozin, *A Home for All Jews: Citizenship, Rights and National Identity in the Young Israeli State*, Waltham MA: Brandeis University Press 2016, pp. 15-66.

Week 3

5. Israeli culture in controversy

- Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*, Waltham: Brandeis University Press 2012, pp. 248-270.
- Zohar Shavit and Yaacov Shavit, "Israeli Culture Today: How Jewish? How Israeli?" in Eliezer Ben-Rafael, Julius H. Schoeps, Yizhak Sternberg and Olaf Glockner (eds.), Berlin & Boston: Walter De Gruyter 2016, volume 1, pp. 22-38.
- David Tal, "Israel in or of the Middle East," in David Tal (ed.) *Israeli Identity: Between Orient and Occident*, New York: Routledge 2013, pp. 1-12.

Week 4

6. Security, borders and Identity

- Benny Morris, *Israel's Border Wars, 1949-1956: Arab Infiltration, Israeli Retaliation, and the Countdown to the Suez War*, Oxford: Clarendon Press 1997, pp. 240-276.
- Uri Ben-Eliezer, "A nation in arms: state, nation and militarism in Israel's first years," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 37 (2), 1995, pp. 264-285.
- Orit Rozin, "Infiltration and the Making of Israel's Emotional Regime in the State's Early Years," *Middle Eastern Studies* 52 (3), 2016, 448-472.

To enrol for this seminar course please write email to
rdgupta@jgu.edu.in (Dr. Rohee Dasgupta, JSIA)
swarnima@jgu.edu.in (Swarnima Singh, JSIA Office)
14jgls-ssud@jgu.edu.in (Shreeya, Student Convenor)