THE POLONSKY PRIZES FOR CREATIVITY & ORIGINALITY IN THE HUMANISTIC DISCIPLINES
AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

PROFESSOR JAMES BIEBERKRAUT
UNROLLING THE LAST OF THE SEVEN DEAD SEA SCROLLS. THEY WERE THOUGHT TO BE THE BOOK OF LEMECH BEFORE THEY WERE DECIPHERED BY HU ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

People in Picture: Professor James Bieberkraut

Jan 1, 1954
Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky CBE has had a successful business career in the financial services sector and is a philanthropist with particular interests in higher education, cultural heritage and the arts.

Dr. Polonsky grew up in New York City. He was a pupil at the prestigious Townsend Harris High School, and received his BA degree from New York University at age 18. Following military service in 1945–46, he pursued graduate studies in literature at Lincoln College, Oxford, and at the Sorbonne, Paris, where he received his doctorate in 1952. He taught in Heidelberg for several years before embarking on his business career.

Dr. Polonsky began working in financial services in New York in 1955, gaining further experience in Rome, Frankfurt, and Zurich, before establishing Liberty Life Assurance Company Limited in London in 1970. Hansard Global plc, its successor, of which he is President, has been listed on the London Stock Exchange since 2006.

Dr. Polonsky has involved himself in a broad range of philanthropic activities over many years. In 2013 he was named a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for charitable services by HM Queen Elizabeth II. He is a Companion of the Guild of Benefactors of Cambridge University, a Fleming Fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford, and an Honorary Member of the Royal College of Music, London.

Dr. Polonsky holds an Honorary Doctorate from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, of which he is a Governor and where he serves on the Board of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. At The Hebrew University he established the Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanities, which have been awarded annually since 2004. Other support for The Hebrew University includes awards for study in China and scholarships for undergraduates of Ethiopian background.

He is founding chairman of the board of trustees of The Polonsky Foundation, a UK-registered charity that supports cultural heritage, education and the arts in the UK, the USA, Israel, and Europe. Principal activities of The Polonsky Foundation include: the digitization of significant collections at leading libraries (the Bodleian Library, Oxford; Cambridge University Library; the British Library; the New York Public Library; the Library of Congress; the Vatican Apostolic Library; the Bibliothèque nationale de France); support for Theatre for a New Audience at the Polonsky Shakespeare Center in Brooklyn, New York; and post-doctoral fellowships at the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

In Israel The Polonsky Foundation also supports the University of Haifa, Tel Aviv University and the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, of which Dr. Polonsky is a Governor and Honorary Fellow.
A Message from the Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Scholarly activity in the Humanities is expressed in different forms: monographs, the editing of original sources, journal articles and more, all of which are based on extensive research, intellectual analysis and writing. Every year, members of the Faculty of Humanities at The Hebrew University publish their scholarship in prestigious journals and academic publishing houses in Israel and abroad. It is such scholarly endeavors that have made the Faculty of Humanities in Jerusalem one of the leading centers of humanistic study in the world, and have contributed to the overall reputation of The Hebrew University as a foremost academic institution.

The Polonsky Prizes were established over a decade ago through the generosity and vision of Dr. Leonard Polonsky and the Polonsky Foundation. These prizes give clear recognition to senior and junior members of the Faculty of Humanities at The Hebrew University, as well as to its research students, who have demonstrated the highest standards of scholarship in the humanistic disciplines. All the recipients of this year’s prize were chosen by a committee consisting of members of the Faculty of Humanities, along with the Vice President for Research and Development, Prof. Re'em Sari and myself. This year’s prize winners were chosen from a particularly strong list of contenders in the different categories, making the selection especially challenging. All in all, the high quality of all the submissions left me with a feeling of pride in the distinctive and excellent work being produced in the fields of Humanities at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It gives me great pleasure to thank the members of the prize committee for their hard work, as well as Prof. Arkin for his support, Ms. Shulamith Lasnes from the Faculty of Humanities who coordinated the work of the prize committee, and Ms. Ayelet Sagiv of the Authority for Research and Development at The Hebrew University, for crucial administrative matters, not the least coordinating this ceremony today.

We are grateful to the Polonsky Foundation for their support and encouragement. We look forward to next year’s competition, and the interesting and original studies that it will bring to our attention.

With best wishes,
Prof. Dror Wahrman
Dean, The Faculty of Humanities

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The essay describes for the first time the phenomenon of horizontal tree schemes representing the structure of theological quaestiones in 13th-century medieval manuscripts; defines them, compared with other medieval diagrams; analyzes their uses and functions aided by insights from contemporary cognitive studies, and posits them in the broader intellectual context of the medieval perception of text.

While previous scholarship about medieval diagrams has focused on mnemonic and pedagogical functions, Dr. Even-Ezra argues that these specific diagrams were used as road maps and as editing tools for both navigating and constructing the increasingly sophisticated forms of scholastic writing. Sets of diagrams in two manuscripts serve as case studies. The first case follows a scribe who provides such diagrams to his readers, and compares them with the verbal description of the quaestiones that the prologues provide, employing contemporary studies on spatial perception and its verbal description. The second case, a draft notebook of the great Franciscan theologian Bonaventure, shows Bonaventure’s use of schemes to reconsider and rearrange the structure of his own texts, and employs contemporary studies on the advantages of diagrams in problem solving. These applications of the diagrammatic mode to text-structure, Dr. Even-Ezra suggests, both reflected and encouraged a new perception of texts as modular, spatial, and hierarchical entities. At the same time, this medieval habit raises essential questions regarding thinking, drawing and writing practices as an object of historical study.
Dr. Abigail Jacobson is a senior lecturer at the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago (2006). In 2016-17, she served as the Academic Director of the Borders and Sovereignty unit at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. Since 2015, she is also the chief editor of the Journal of Levantine Studies published by the institute. Jacobson is a historian working on social and urban history of late Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine and the Eastern Mediterranean. Her main research interest is the history of ethnically and nationally mixed spaces and communities, especially during times of war and conflict. Selected publications include From Empire to Empire: Jerusalem between Ottoman and British Rule (Syracuse University Press, 2011); Oriental Neighbors: Middle Eastern Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine (Brandeis/New England University Press, 2016), co-authored with Dr. Moshe Naor.

Oriental Neighbors: Middle Eastern Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine

Oriental Neighbors: Middle Eastern Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine focuses on the relations and links between Sephardi and Oriental Jews and Palestinian Arabs in Mandatory Palestine. The book’s main arguments is that examining the relations between Jews and Arabs through the perspective of Sephardi and Oriental Jews sheds new light not only on the complexities and nuances of the Arab-Jewish conflict in Palestine, but also on the Zionist perspective towards it. As the book demonstrates, the Sephardi and Oriental Jewish communities are central in providing a more comprehensive and complex picture of the history of relations between Jews and Arabs in Palestine, and the way the Zionist movement perceived the “Arab Question”. By focusing on this perspective, the book reveals, on the one hand, patterns of close connections, coexistence and cooperation between Jews and Arabs and, at the same time, also sheds light on the many points of tension and friction between the two people. In fact, in many instances it was these close connections, based on geographical, linguistic and cultural proximity and similarities, which contributed to the enhancement of the tensions. This unique perspective also brings to the fore the different links and connections that existed between Sephardi and Oriental Jews in Palestine and the surrounding Middle East, both with their own communities of origin, as well as with Arab culture, history, and the Arabic language. The book, then, offers a perspective that enables us to set Palestine and its inhabitants within its Semitic-Levantine cultural context, and to re-connect Palestine to its Middle Eastern environment. Oriental Jews formed a group that could bridge between the Arab and Jewish identities, as well as between geographical boundaries. Dr. Jacobson uses the charged concept of “mediation” in order to analyze the position of Sephardi and Oriental Jews within the complex matrix of relations between Jews and Arabs in Palestine. The book references the term “mediators” in its political, cultural, and social contexts. These forms of mediation complemented each other and often were inseparable. Moreover, the cultural forms of mediation had political implications, as did the social mediation, including its economic and security aspects. The perception (and self-perception) of Oriental and Sephardi Jews as possible mediators was based, among other factors, on their historical links and roots in the Middle East, even before the rise of Islam. Their cultural and linguistic links and connections to Arab culture, and their fluency in Arabic, also added to their perception as mediators between the Zionist movement and the Arabs in Palestine.
The Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period (PPNB), ca. 8,500-6,400 cal BC, represents the climax of the Neolithization process in the Levant, a process that involved the emergence of large sedentary village communities, and the shift from hunting and foraging plant cultivation and animal husbandry. In many respects, this birth of village lifeways, which persist until modern times, is a turning point that shaped the human mode of living forever.

The aim of this research was to examine the nature and structure of the settlement system in the Lower Galilee during the PPNB, investigating issues of social organization, interaction and change. Dr. Birkenfeld traced settlement patterns through the different stages of the period and identified diachronic changes. The results showed that favorable local conditions, such as fertile soils and plentiful water sources, were probably responsible for attracting Early Neolithic populations to the lower Galilee. Yet it seems that socio-economic factors affected the regulation and organization of their activities within the landscape.

The analyses performed enabled discussion of changes in the economic basis, subsistence strategies and land-use practices during the period. Dr. Birkenfeld discovered a division of the landscape into different exploitation spheres, each encompassing different aspects of everyday subsistence. She traced both intra- and inter-regional networks and dynamics of interaction, transmission and exchange.

The integration of GIS technologies enabled the relatively straightforward and uniform organization of complex and diverse datasets, as well as later analyses. The ability of GIS to build and test model aspects of the physical world facilitated the enhancement of long-standing, well-known archaeological methods such as Site Catchment Analysis and Viewshed Analysis. These in turn enabled a more detailed understanding of human-land relationships throughout the region.

The scope of this research provided significant insights concerning our understanding of Neolithization developments in the Southern Levant. The methodology and synthetic approach applied enabled the pursuit of more complex research questions and represented an important expansion of current research. Lastly, the digitized databases that were constructed collate relevant information for future archaeological pursuits in the region, in respect to the archaeological data available, as well as to environmental and ecological information.

Changing Systems: Pre-Pottery Neolithic B Settlement Patterns in the Lower Galilee, Israel
Dr. Yanina Tchechkanovets earned her Ph.D. at The Hebrew University in 2016. She is a research archaeologist at the Israel Antiquities Authority, working in Jerusalem. Her research interests relate mainly to the Late Antiquity: the archaeology of Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, and the periods of transition, Christian iconography, and the Caucasian Christian communities of Byzantine Palestine. A number of current projects are dedicated to archaeological evidence of pilgrimage: souvenirs and eulogia, pilgrims’ graffiti and the reproduction of Jerusalem on foreign soil.

Armenian, Georgian and Albanian Communities in the Holy Land in the Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods

Dr. Tchechkanovets’ Ph.D. dissertation: Armenian, Georgian and Albanian Communities in the Holy Land in the Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods explores the standing of each of the Caucasian communities in ancient Palestine. Through a synthesis of literary and material evidence, Dr. Tchechkanovets seeks to understand the interrelations between the communities and the influence they had on the national churches of the Caucasus during the first millennium CE.

Her research focuses on a complete corpus of architectural remains discovered in archaeological excavations associated with the Armenian and Georgian building activity. The study also includes new reconstructions of the complexes exposed during excavations of the 19th to early 20th centuries CE, based on the research of surveys and archival documentation carried out by the author. Meticulously collected, this documentation produces the most valuable new data for researchers of the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods in Palestine.

Dr. Tchechkanovets analyzes available historical material relevant to the study of these communities and compares it with archaeological finds. Discussion concentrates on the comprehensive analysis of the accumulated data and on the detection, characterization and comparison of the tendencies in the development of the Caucasian communities of the Holy Land.

Among the key aspects discussed are:

• the relationships between the Caucasian Christian communities of the Holy Land and the structural and individual interactions of these communities with the Jerusalemite Church;
• the complex identity of the members of the communities as reflected in the archaeological finds (architectural patterns, material culture, burial customs, linguistic preferences etc.);
• the influence of the Caucasian communities of the Holy Land on the development of the Christian tradition in their home countries.

The dissertation shows that archaeological research of the Holy Land has implications beyond the confines of our region, and provides an important contribution to the study of the Caucasian history in general, and of the interaction between the Georgian, Armenian and Albanian Churches in their formative period, in particular.
On Knowing Other People's Lives: A Study of La Galatea and Lazarillo de Tormes on the Background of the Spanish Inquisition

Yehonatan Naeh is a doctoral student of Spanish Literature at the Mandel School for Advanced Study in the Humanities, supervised by Prof. Ruth Fine. He investigates the influence of the Inquisition on the Spanish literature of the Golden Age, and through the literary prism explores the array of meanings associated with the concept of conversion in the period. His research sheds light on the shaping of identities and the possibility of freedom and self-expression under the oppressive reign of the Spanish Inquisition.

On Knowing Other People's Lives: A Study of La Galatea and Lazarillo de Tormes on the Background of the Spanish Inquisition

Yehonatan Naeh offers a new perspective on two literary genres that were extremely popular during the height of Spain's Golden Age: the pastoral and the picaresque novel. He focuses on one representative work from each genre: La Galatea (1685), the pastoral novel by Cervantes, and Lazarillo de Tormes (1554), the novel that marked the beginning of the picaresque genre in Spain. Both genres sharply oppose. While the pastoral novel presents an idyllic social sphere, the picaresque novel is characterized by the picaresque novel is marked by the picaresque novel is marked by a compulsive, with irresistible urges to furtively investigate the lives of others. The societal obsession with purity of blood and religious ethnic homogeneity led to a desperate search in Spain for the possibility of freedom and self-identity.

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### Polonsky Prizes 2014

**First Prize:**
- **PROF. DROR WAHRMAN**
  Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
  For his book: *Mr. Collier’s Letter Books: A Tale of Art and Illusion at the Threshold of the Modern Information Age*

**Second Prize:**
- **DR. UZI LEIBNER**
  Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities
  For his article: *The Origins of Jewish Settlement in the Galilee in the Second Temple Period: Historical Sources and Archeological Data*

**Young Researcher:**
- **DR. TAWFIQ DABUD**
  The Martin Buber Society of Fellows, Faculty of Humanities
  The Pictorial Language of the Herat School of Painting: Two Nizāmī Manuscripts as a Case Study

**Young Researcher:**
- **MS. NOA NAHMIAS**
  Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities
  Displaying Patriotism: Narratives of the May 4th Movement in Chinese Museums

### Polonsky Prizes 2013

**First Prize:**
- **DR. OFRA TIBORSH-BECKER**
  Department of Hebrew and Jewish Languages, Faculty of Humanities
  Beleonic Excepts in Medieval Karate Literature

**Second Prize:**
- **DR. SHIMON GESUNDHEIT (BAR-ON)**
  Department of Bible, Faculty of Humanities
  Three Times a Year: Studies on Legislation in the Pentateuch

**Young Researcher:**
- **DR. YITZHAK FREEDMAN**
  Department of Comparative Religion, Faculty of Humanities
  Death, Performance and Text in the Early Opuscula

**Young Researcher:**
- **MR. ARIEL ZINDER**
  Department of Hebrew Literature, Faculty of Humanities
  "Is This Thy Voice?" Hertic and Dialogue in Shlomo Ben Cabalo’s Poems of Redemption (Phiyudin Ge’onah)

**Young Researcher:**
- **MS. LIAT NAHAI**
  Institute of Technologs, Faculty of Humanities
  Miniature Vessels and Seven-Cupped Bowls in the Middle Bronze Age Temple of Naharia: Their Role and Meaning in Light of Cultic Miniature and Complex Vessels of the Middle Bronze Age

### Polonsky Prizes 2012

**First Prize:**
- **PROF. RUTH MACOHEN**
  Department of Museology
  The Music Label against the Jews

**Second Prize:**
- **DR. YUVAL NOAH HARARI**
  Department of History
  A Brief History of Mankind

**Young Researcher:**
- **DR. ALEKSEI KRAKHWALNIKOV**
  Department of German, Russian and Eastern European Studies
  The Literature of the Belorussinos Old Believers (1646-1683)

**Young Researcher:**
- **DR. JENNIFER OSER**
  Freidman School of Public Policy and Government
  Expanded Citizen Participation and Participatory Inequality: A Vicious or Vependous Circle?

**MA/Doctoral Student:**
- **MR. YARON GIRSH**
  School of Education and Department of Sociology and Anthropology
  "The Cultural Boundaries of Thinking": Cultural Narratives in the Philosophy of Education of Friedrich Nietzsche and John Dewey

### Polonsky Prizes 2011

**First Prize:**
- **PROF. MAREN R. NIEHOFF**
  Department of Jewish Thought
  Jewish Expressions and Hermeneutics in Alexandria (Cambridge, 2011)

**Second Prize:**
- **DR. ESTHER COHEN**
  Department of History
  The Modulated Scourge: Pain in Late Medieval Culture: 1755-1816 (Chicago, 2010)

**Young Researcher:**
- **DR. MAOZ KAHANA**
  Department of History of the Hebrew People
  From Prague to Pressburg: Halakhic Writing in a Changing World, from the “Noda B’Yehudah” to the “Hatam Sofer”, 1790-1839

**MA/Doctoral Student:**
- **MS. MICHAL ALTBAUER RUDEK**
  Department of History
  The Wounds of Love Are Cured Only by Those Who Made Them: Prescribing Marriage for Loneliness in Early Modern European Medical Writing

### Polonsky Prizes 2010

**First Prize:**
- **PROF. YURI PINES**
  Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities
  Embracing Eternal Empire

**Second Prize:**
- **DR. PAWEL MACEJEKO**
  Department of Jewish Thought, Faculty of Humanities
  The Mixed Multitude: Jacob Frank and the Frankist Movement 1795-1816

**Young Researcher:**
- **DR. SIMCHA KOJMAN-ROZEN**
  History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science Program, Faculty of Humanities
  Time and Emergence in Scientific Theories in England in the 19th Century

**Young Researcher:**
- **MS. NOGA AYALI-DARSHAN**
  Department of Jewish History, Faculty of Humanities
  The Bride of the Yaw: The Tradition about Asher and Yamin in the Ancient Near East

### Polonsky Prizes 2009

**First Prize:**
- **DR. YULVA NOAH HARARI**
  Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
  The Ultimate Experience: Battlefield Revelations and the Making of Modern War Culture, 1450-2000

**Second Prize:**
- **PROF. SIMCHA EMANUEL**
  Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
  Fragments of the Tablets: Indian and Armenian Studies, Faculty of Humanities

**Young Researcher:**
- **DR. NIRA ALPERSON-afil**
  Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities
  Ancient Flames: Controlled Use of Fire at the Acheulian Site of Gesher Benot Ya’aqov, Israel

**Student Prize:**
- **MS. NOA SHASHAR**
  Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
  The Role of Halakhic Laws in Daily Lives of Men and Women in the Ashkenazis World of the 17th-18th Centuries

**Student Prize:**
- **MR. Kobi BEN-MEIR**
  Forum Europe, Faculty of Social Sciences
  Images of Pain, Disease and Death in 1930s Israeli Art
Polonsky Prizes 2008

First Prize: DR. MICHAEL SEGAL
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Second Prize: PROF. RONNIE ELENNBLUM
Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences and School of History, Faculty of Humanities

Second Prize: DR. MICHAEL ROUBACH
Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: Being and Number in Heidegger’s Thought (2008)

Student Prize: MR. MAOZ KAHANA
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For his MA thesis: Stability and Change in the Responsa of Rabbi Moshe Sofer

Student Prize: MR. ODED PORAT
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For his MA thesis: Studying the Treatise “Brit Hamnuna” (“Covenant of Serenity”). Its Ideas, Literature Relationships and an Introduction to the Critical Edition

Polonsky Prizes 2007

First Prize: DR. DIEGO OLSTEIN
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: La Era Mozárabes: Los Mozárabes de Toledo (Siglos XI y XII) en la Historiografía: Las Fuentes y la Historia

Second Prize: PROF. GANNIT ANKORI
Department of Art History, Faculty of Humanities
For her book: Palestinian Art

Second Prize: DR. JONATHAN DEKEI-CHEN
Human Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: Farming the Red Land: Jewish Agricultural Colonization and Local Soviet Power, 1934-1941

Young Researcher Prize: DR. TSIPPI KAUFFMAN
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For her dissertation: Between immorality and religious behavior: Mosaiah be-Gashmiyut in the Early Stages of Hasidism

Student Prize: MR. IYIA BERNKOVICH
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
For his paper: Sally: A Comparative Survey into the Nature of Medieval Warfare

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First Prize: PROF. YOSEF GARFINKEL
Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: Dancing at the Dawn of Agriculture

First Prize: PROF. BENNY SHANON
Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences
For his book: The Antipodes of the Mind

Young Researcher Prize: DR. HILA KEREN
Faculty of Law
For her article: Textual Harassment: A New Historiographic Reappraisal of the Pastel Evidence Rule with Gender in Mind

Student Prize: DR. EISHEVA RIC-DI-SHAHIR
Department of Musicology, Faculty of Humanities

Student Prize: MS. GABRIELA STERNFELD
Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For her dissertation: La Organización Laboral del Imperio Inca: Las Autoridades Locales Básicas

Polonsky Prizes 2005

First Prize: PROF. GABRIEL HERMAN
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: Morality and Behaviour in Democratic Athens – A Social History

Young Researcher Prize: DR. TZACHI ZAMIR
Department of English, Faculty of Humanities
For his book: Double Vision

Student Prize: DR. EMMANUELLE MAIN
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For her article: Des Mercenaires Rhodiens dans la Judée Hasmonéenne? Etude du Monif Floral de Monnaies de Jean Hyrcan et Gheorghe Jinaire

Student Prize: MR. RONNIE GOLSTEIN
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities
For his article: The six and humor: The Double Account of Jeremiah’s Meeting with Zedekiah and Ancient Techniques for Challenging the Existence of Rival Versions

Student Prize: MR. AHMED ABU-ABIED
School of Education
For his MA thesis: The Effect of Pre-school Attendance on Primary School Achievement

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Second Prize: PROF. AVIHU ZAKAI
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For her book: Jonathan Edwards’s Philosophy of History: The Reenchantment of the World in the Age of Enlightenment

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