Scholars are invited to attend “Reinventing Israel: Transformations of Israeli Society in the 21st Century,” an international academic conference on October 28-29, 2015 at American University in Washington, DC. The conference is sponsored by American University’s Center for Israel Studies and Jewish Studies Program. A limited number of travel subsidies are available for junior faculty and advanced graduate students. Applications for travel subsidies are due September 25, 2015. Notifications will be made on a rolling basis by October 1, 2015.

Conference Chairs:
Michael Brenner, Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Chair in Israel Studies, American University and Chair of Jewish History and Culture, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich
Pamela Nadell, Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women’s and Gender Studies, American University

Conference Proposal:
The 1967 Six-Day War, with its resulting control of significant new territory, compelled profound changes in Israel’s self-definition. Demographically, Israel’s society has become more religious. Politically, it has gradually moved to the right. The transformation of Israeli society has been ongoing ever since.

This conference will examine the more recent aspects of the transformation of Israeli society in the 21st century, including the birth of the start-up nation and the growing economic inequality, changes in Holocaust memory and in Israel-diaspora relations. Scholars from the United States and Israel will present new insights in the fields of politics, law, economy, art, and literature. They turn our attention to the immigrants from unexpected destinations like Nigeria and Burma, who claim to derive from “the lost tribes,” as well as to the growing Israeli diaspora in America and Europe, and to the changing self-definition of Israeli Arabs who regard themselves increasingly as Palestinians. A concluding panel addresses the question of how Israel will look twenty years from now.

Location: The conference will take place at American University. The address of the university is 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Reinventing Israel: Transformations of Israeli Society in the 21st Century
American University, October 28-29, 2015
Preliminary Program: Wednesday, October 28
Location: Abramson Family Founders Room, School of International Service

7:30-8:45 pm  Opening Remarks: Dean Peter Starr
Michael Brenner: Zionist Dreams and Israeli Realities

Keynote: “From BG to Bibi: The End of an Era in Israel-Diaspora Relations?” David Ellenson (Brandeis University)

8:45 pm  Dessert Reception

Thursday, October 29
Location: Butler Board Room, Butler Pavilion

8:00-9:00 am  Registration, Networking, and Coffee/Continental Breakfast
9:00-11:15 am  
*History and Memory*

**Noam Zadoff** (Indiana University): The Six-Day War as a Turning Point in Israeli History  
**Ian Lustick** (University of Pennsylvania): Four Constructions of the Holocaust in Israeli Society and Their Unintended Consequences  
**Smadar Sheffi** (Academic College of Tel Aviv – Yafo): A Quest for New Memory: Contemporary Israeli Artists Representing the Holocaust and its Commemoration  
**Vered Shemtov** (Stanford University): The Changing Concept of Time in Hebrew Literature  
Chair: Lisa Leff

11:15-11:30 am  
Coffee Break

11:30-12:45 pm  
*Economy and High-Tech*

**Calvin Goldscheider** (Brown University / American University): The Revolutionary Growth in Economic Inequality in Israel  
**Erran Carmel** (American University): Reflections on Israel's Hi-tech Sector: How it Transformed Israeli Society in the Last Generation  
Chair: Richard Linowes

12:45-1:30 pm  
Lunch

1:30-3:30 pm  
*Politics and Law*

**Yoram Peri** (University of Maryland): The Second Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin: The Transformation of Israeli Politics Between the 1990s and Today  
**Guy Ziv** (American University): The Growing Divergence Between the Israeli Security Community and the Politicians  
**Eli Salzberger** (University of Haifa): The Law of Politics and the Politics of Law  
Chair: Dan Arbell

3:30-3:45 pm  
Coffee Break

3:45-5:30 pm  
*Religion and Ethnicity*

**Elie Rekhess** (Northwestern University): The Arabs in Israel: Shifting National and Civic Identities  
**David N. Myers** (UCLA): A Tale of Two Sovereigns: Haredi Culture in Israel and the United States  
**Tudor Parfitt** (Florida International University): Beyond Sambatyon: What Will the World-wide Explosion of New Israelite Communities and Judaizing Movements Mean for the Jewish State?  
Chair: Pamela Nadell

5:30-7:30 pm  
Dinner break

7:30-9:00 pm  
*Imagining Israel in 2035 – Different Visions*

**Fania Oz-Salzberger** (University of Haifa)  
**Mohammed Wattad** (Zefat College, University of California, Irvine)  
**James Loeffler** (University of Virginia)  
Moderator: Michael Brenner

This conference is generously supported by the Knapp Family Foundation.
Thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Studies Program, American University has funds to subsidize the participation of a number of junior faculty and advanced graduate students in the conference “Reinventing Israel: Transformations of Israeli Society in the 21st Century.” The maximum award will be $500 per person. Applicants for the travel subsidy should submit via email the following:

1) A brief letter addressing how this conference contributes to their professional agenda.

2) An itemized budget for travel (including air and ground transportation, and hotel).

3) Other sources of funding (potential and received) for attending this conference.

4) Amount of subsidy requested.

Applications for travel subsidies are due September 25, 2015. Notifications will be made on a rolling basis before October 1, 2015.

Please submit all applications for travel subsidy by email to israelstudies@american.edu. Questions may be directed to Laura Cutler, Center for Israel Studies, 202-885-3780.