American University’s Center for Israel Studies and The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) are pleased to invite you to the third annual academic conference featuring Israel’s leading scholars addressing “The Turbulent Middle East: Israel's Challenges and Opportunities” on Monday, May 16, 2011, from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm at American University in Washington, DC. The participating professors are all part of the AICE Visiting Israeli Scholars Program. See the speakers’ bios below. The conference is free to the public; continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please click on the following link to register for this conference:  http://planitnow.com/aice

This conference is made possible with the support of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

**Conference Agenda**

8:00-9:00 a.m.  Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:15 a.m.  Welcome Remarks

9:15-10:45 a.m.  Israel as a Model of Democracy
  
  **Moderator** - Sarina Chen
  Dana Blander - Israel’s Referendum Law
  Gil Ariely - Cyber Space and Security in the Knowledge Society
  Menachem Hofnung - Judicial Independence vs. Majority Rule

10:45-11:00 a.m.  Break

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  Israel’s Imperfect Democracy
  
  **Moderator** - Rhona Seidelman
  Muli Peleg - The Israeli Community: The Need for Normative Dialogue
  Aziza Khazzoom - Israel as a Role Model for Whom? A Jewish Take on the Clash of Civilizations
  Sarai Aharoni - Gender, Security and Democracy: Recent Debates Over Sexual Harrassment in Israel

12:30-2:30 p.m.  Lunch and Keynote - The Arab Lobby’s Impact on U.S. Policy Toward the “Arab Spring”, Mitchell Bard, AICE Executive Director

2:30-2:45 p.m.  Break

2:45-4:15 p.m.  Israel’s Security Amidst the Mideast Turmoil
  
  **Moderator** - Nahshon Perez
  Zach Levey - Israel’s Egyptian Conundrum: Policy and Strategy and the Arab Spring
  Tamar Arieli - Crossing the Jordon: The Challenge of Israel-Arab Post-Conflict Relations
  Isaac Kfir - Is Democracy or Economics Driving Upheaval in the Middle East?

4:15-4:30 p.m.  Closing Remarks
**Meeting Registration:**

Click on the following link to register for this conference, and for parking and other information: [http://planitnow.com/aice](http://planitnow.com/aice). Once you’ve filled out the online form, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive the email, please contact Barbara Zweig at [bzweig@planitnow.com](mailto:bzweig@planitnow.com) and she will make sure that your registration is promptly processed.

**We look forward to seeing you on May 16th!**

The Center for Israel Studies at American University was created in 1998 to study and interpret the intellectual and creative contributions of modern Israel in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities. AICE is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization created in 1993 to promote cooperation between the United States and Israel and educate the public about Jewish history and culture. The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation is dedicated to helping the Jewish people flourish by supporting programs throughout the world that spread the joy of Jewish living, giving and learning.
“The Turbulent Middle East: Israel’s Challenges and Opportunities”
Speaker Biographies

**Sarai Aharoni**
University of Michigan
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor
*Gender Studies, Women in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

Dr. Sarai Aharoni is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Research Fellow at the Jerusalem Van-Leer Institute. She received her Ph.D. in Gender Studies from Bar-Ilan University, writing her dissertation on gender perspectives and the participation of Israeli women in formal Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. She has published articles on gender, peace and conflict in Israel and co-edited the book *Where Are All the Women? U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325: Gender Perspectives of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (2004). She is currently working on *Gender and ‘Peace-Work’: An Unofficial History of Israeli-Palestinian Formal Peace Negotiations*. Professor Aharoni is one of the founding members of the IWC (International Women's Commission) and has been active in promoting women's rights in Israel as a member of Isha l'Isha- Haifa Feminist Center.

**Tamar Arieli**
Indiana University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor
*Environmental Challenges, Conflict Management, Political Geography*

Dr. Tamar Arieli heads the Conflict Management Program at Tel Chai Academic College in Israel and teaches in the political science department at Ashkelon Academic College. Her academic background is in history and political geography, with a specific interest in concepts and processes of conflict management through regional and urban planning in border regions. Recently, she completed her doctoral dissertation, *Bordering on Conflict: An Evaluation of Developing Interdependence along the Israel-Jordan Border*, at Bar-Ilan University. She has written articles addressing methodological aspects of research in conflict zones and both practical and conceptual aspects of borders, such as Israeli-Palestinian commercial and industrial border enterprises, various Israeli-Jordanian cooperative projects and the concept of borders in rabbinical sources.
Gil Ariely

Spring 2011: California State University, Chico
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Visiting Israeli Professor
*Political Science, Counter-Terrorism, Knowledge Management*

Dr. Gil Ariely is the CKO (Chief Knowledge Officer) of the Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) and a Senior Researcher at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. He initiated the field of Operational Knowledge Management in the IDF Ground Forces in 2001 and helped lead the efforts of learning during fighting in the 2006 war in Lebanon. He was the first CKO of the Ground Forces IDF and has written the Army's first doctrine book on Operational Knowledge Management and Learning. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Westminster, London. Professor Ariely lectures on Operational Knowledge Management and Learning during fighting at the High Command Academic Courses of the IDF and at other international academic forums. He has consulted on Knowledge Management and Intellectual Capital to large organizations and government services around the world.

Mitchell Bard

*American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise*

Executive Director

Mitchell Bard is the Executive Director of the nonprofit American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and one of the leading authorities on U.S.-Middle East policy. Dr. Bard is also the director of the Jewish Virtual Library (www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org), the world’s most comprehensive online encyclopedia of Jewish history and culture. Dr. Bard holds a Ph.D. in political science from UCLA and a master's degree in public policy from Berkeley. He received his B.A. in economics from UC Santa Barbara. Dr. Bard's work has been published in academic journals, magazines and major newspapers. He has written and edited 18 books, including *Will Israel Survive?*, *Myths And Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict* and *1001 Facts Everyone Should Know About Israel*. His latest book is *48 Hours of Kristallnacht*.

Dana Blander

Tufts University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor
*Political Science, Israeli Democracy, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*

Dr. Dana Blander is an Academic Coordinator and Researcher at the Israeli Democracy Institute (IDI) in Jerusalem and the editor of IDI’s online Magazine “Parliament.” Her research focuses on Israeli politics, specifically public opinion and investigation committees. She received her degrees from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, including her Ph.D. in Social Sciences. Her doctoral thesis, “Ambivalence as a Challenge to The Political Order”, won the Hebrew University Berger Prize for academic excellence. She has written numerous articles addressing different aspects of Israeli politics, some of which were cited in Supreme Court rulings. Currently, she is co-authoring a book about the Israeli political system.
Menachem Hofnung
University of California, Irvine
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor
Political Science, Law, National Security

Dr. Menachem Hofnung is a Professor of political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research covers national security and civil liberties, constitutional politics and comparative political finance. He taught at the University of California at Irvine, San Francisco State University, the University of Florida at Gainesville and Moscow State University and was a Research Fellow at the Center for Law and Society at the University of California at Berkeley. He was President of the Israeli Law and Society Association (2007-2010) and served as Chair of the International Political Science Association Research Committee on Political Finance (2006-2009). Professor Hofnung was also a member of the National Commission on the Structure of Governmental Administration in Israel (Magidor Commission, 2006).

Isaac Kfir
Syracuse University
Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor
Political Science, Counter-Terrorism, Conflict Resolution, Law

Dr. Isaac Kfir is a Lecturer of political science and terrorism at the Raphael Racanti International School and Senior Researcher at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. His research focuses on the challenges of Islamic radicalism and terrorism in Pakistan, Britain and East Africa. He received his Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics. He has written widely for academic journals and newspapers covering a variety of foreign and security affairs issues such as politics and humanitarianism in Zimbabwe. Professor Kfir has taught courses on counter-terrorism, international organizations, state and non-state actors, development in Latin America, Africa and Asia and the role of international intervention and international peacekeeping.

Aziza Khazzoom
Spring 2011: University of California, Davis
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Visiting Israeli Professor
Sociology, Gender Studies, Israeli Identity

Dr. Aziza Khazzoom was a Professor of sociology at UCLA from 2000 to 2007. She is an expert in the ethnic diversity of Israel and was awarded the Fleg Fellowship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on the multifaceted ethnic composition of Israeli society and how well those groups blend together to form an Israeli identity. She concentrates on Jews from Middle Eastern countries, especially Iraq, as well as women’s socialization and modernization from among those traditional cultures. Professor Khazzoom has been widely published in scholarly journals in addition to authoring the book Shifting Ethnic Boundaries and Inequality in Israel: Or, How the Polish Peddler Became a German Intellectual (2008).
Dr. Zach Levey is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of Haifa. His research focuses on international history, the Cold War, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the foreign policies of Israel, the United States and Britain. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His publications include *Israel and the Western Powers, 1952-1960* (1997) and *Israel in Africa: 1956-1973* (forthcoming). Professor Levey serves on the peer review committees of the following academic journals: *Civil Wars, Diplomatic History, The International Journal of Middle East Studies, The Journal of Contemporary History, The Journal of Israeli History,* and *The Journal of Strategic Studies.* His published work focuses on Israel’s relations with the United States, Great Britain and Africa.

Dr. Muli Peleg is an Associate Professor at Tel Hai College, an Associate Professor at Netanya College’s School of Communication and an Adjunct Professor at Tel Aviv University. In addition, he serves as an advisor to the Peres Peace Center and was a member of then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak’s Steering Committee on Multiculturalism. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Indiana University. His numerous publications include *Terrorism and the Liberal State: A Multi-variant Approach* (co-editor 2006), *Spreading the Wrath of God: From Gush Emunim to Rabin Square* (1997) and the forthcoming *Ploughshares to Swords: Religious Terrorism in the Contemporary World.* Professor Peleg specializes in comparative politics and political communication, specifically Israeli society, culture and politics, political conflicts and terrorism, cinema and politics and the dynamics of war and peace.