



Invitation to the International Conference

Contemporary Israel in a Turbulent Region:

Politics, Economics and Security



Norwegian University of
Science and Technology

Department of Historical Studies

Monday 21. August 2017

Venue: Room D6, NTNU Dragvoll

9:00-9:15 Welcome from the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Anne Kristine Børresen, and Professor Tore T. Petersen

9:15-11:00 Panel I: The Balfour Declaration and the question of Israel's identity

Chair: Tore T. Petersen (NTNU)

- Carly Beckerman (University of Durham): the Balfour Declaration
- Colin Shindler (Emeritus School of Oriental and African Studies): the Balfour Declaration
- Anette Storeide (NTNU): Israel as the 'state of a persecuted nation'? Yad Vashem and the shaping of national identity in Israel

Comment: Ola Svein Stugu (NTNU)

Coffee: 11:00-11:15

11:15-13:00 Panel II: The Israeli Army and Israeli Intelligence today

Chair: Carine S. Germond

- Hanne Røislien (Norwegian Armed forces Cyber Defense): Israel's contemporary security regime
- Adi Frimark (Bar Ilan University): Israeli POWs & MIAs and the Israeli Society

Comment: Clive Jones (University of Durham)

Lunch: 13:00-14:00

14:00-15:45 Panel III: The Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia

Chair: Alan Craig (University of Leeds)

- Clive Jones (University of Durham): Israel and the GCC states
- Asher Orkaby (Harvard): Israel, Saudi Arabia and Yemen
- Uzi Rabi (University of Tel Aviv): Israel and Iran

Comment: Simon Smith (University of Hull)

Coffee: 15:45-16:00

16:00-17:45 Panel IV Israel and Scandinavia and International Law

Chair Anette Storeide (NTNU)

- Thomas Wegener Friis (University of Southern Denmark): Denmark and Israel
- Jacob Eriksson (University of York): Sweden and Israel
- Alan Craig (University of Leeds): Israel and International Law

Conference Dinner: 19:30

Tuesday 22. August 2017

Venue: Room D6, NTNU Dragvoll

9:00-10:45 Panel V, Israel; the UK, the EU and the Palstinians

Chair: Tore T. Petersen

- Raffaella Del Sarto (John Hopkins University and European University Institute): Israel and the EU
- Simon Smith (University of Hull): Israel and the UK
- Yossi Alpher (Former director, Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University): Israel and the Palstinians today

Comment: Carine S. Germond (NTNU)

Coffee: 10:45-11:00

11:00-12:45 Panel VI The United States and Israel

Chair: Clive Jones (University of Durham)

- Lt. Col. Avital Leibovich (Director AJC Jerusalem): Israeli-US Relations
- General Ephraim Lapid (ret.): The Israeli Army and United States

Comment: Tore T. Petersen (NTNU)

Lunch: 12:45-14:00

Venue: Room D11, NTNU Dragvoll

14:00-15:45 Panel VIII Israel, China and Israel's Periphery Doctrine

Chair: Simon Smith (University of Hull)



- Yitzhak Shichor (University of Haifa): Israel and China
 - Jean-Loup Samaan (UAE and NATO Defense Colleges): Israel's Periphery Doctrine
- Comment: Shlomo Shpiro (Begin Sadat Center for Strategic Studies)*

Coffee: 15:45-16:00

16:00-17:00 Keynote speaker Ambassador Efraim Halevy

19:00: Conference dinner

About the Conference

The NTNU together with the University of Leeds organized the conference Israel's Clandestine Diplomacies in 2011. The conference was very successful, hosting scholars from Europe, the US and the Middle East, and resulted in an anthology published by Hurst (UK) and the University of Oxford Press (US). In that volume we explored how Israel has survived six major wars and much turbulence, part of the answer is effective use of clandestine diplomacies, hence the title for the conference and the book.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Balfour declaration and it will be very fitting with this as a starting point to organize a follow-up conference on contemporary Israel and how the Jewish nation meets the multiple challenges facing it. Leaving the moral issue aside on the plight of the Palestinians, contemporary Israel must be considered a success story in terms not only of the nation's survival and yet even blossoming, particularly compared to much of the turbulence in the region.

The conference aims to bring in top international scholars and will start with a session looking at the Israeli experience in a longitudinal perspective from the time of the Balfour declaration until today, but the bulk of the conference will be on contemporary Israel.

To be held a NTNU, Dragvoll, August 21-22, 2017.

Our website: ntnu.edu/contemporary-israel2017

For further information contact:



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