

2 June 2019

Statement on My Goal as Israel's Regional Representative to the ESEH

Four years ago, in 2015, I promoted the formation of "Israel Region" within the ESEH. My goals as the Regional Representative were, and still are:

- (1) Strengthen the academic ties between Israeli and European scholars.
- (2) Promoting academic EH discussions on the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean.
- (3) Promoting Israeli involvement in the ESEH.

Since then, I constantly delivered info on the ESEH activities to the members of the Israeli Forum for Environmental History, and encouraged them to take part of it. I am therefore delighted that the Israeli participation at the ESEH conferences is indeed growing every biannual conference, and there are more presentations and sessions on the Middle East. Moreover, an ESEH Notepad on Israeli EH was recently published at *Environment and History*. Furthermore, Israeli scholars contribute to several ESEH committees, as well as to the ESEH Board. In the next four years, I wish to continue this sort of involvement, and to add a fourth goal: creating academic collaborations between the Mediterranean regions of the ESEH.

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Birth: 9 July 1979, Tel Aviv, Israel

Curriculum Vitae

Yaron Jørgen Balslev (PhD)

Present Academic Roles:

- Postdoctoral fellow at Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem (2017-2019)
- Teaching fellow at Tel Aviv University (2013-2019)
- Academic Advisor to the Map Library, Tel Aviv University (2019)
- Board member at the European Society for Environmental History–ESEH (2017-2019)
- Israel's Regional Representative to the ESEH (2015-2019)

Education:

2017 – Ph.D. at Tel Aviv University. Dissertation title: "Urban Environmental History in Palestine during the First Half of the 20th Century: The Case of Tel Aviv, 1909-1948"

2012 – M.A. in Environmental Studies, Tel Aviv University (Direct Ph.D. track)

2009 – B.A. in Geography (Summa Cum Laude) and History (Magna Cum Laude), Tel Aviv University

Publications:

Peer reviewed articles:

- **Yaron Balslev**, "Hebrew City with Hebrew Waste: Waste treatment in Tel Aviv during the British Mandate", *Israel: Studies in Zionism and the State of Israel*, 24, 2016, pp. 271-300 (Hebrew)
- **Yaron J. Balslev**, Oded Potchter and Andreas Matzarakis, "Climatic and thermal comfort analysis of the Tel-Aviv Geddes Plan: A historical perspective", *Building and Environment*, 93, 2015, pp. 302-318

- **Yaron Balslev**, "The First Decade of the Development of Tel Aviv Neighborhoods across the Yarkon, 1947-1958", *Iyunim Bitkumat Israel*, Ben-Gurion University, Vol. 23, December 2013, pp. 233-273 (Hebrew)
- **Yaron Balslev**, "Pollution and Purification of the Tel-Aviv Seashore (1909-1982)", *Horizons in Geography*, Vol. 78, University of Haifa, 2012, pp. 103-121 (Hebrew)

Editor (peer reviewed books):

- **Yaron Balslev**, Yossi Katz and Itzhak Schnell (eds.), Special issue: Changing spaces: Geographical changes in Israel and its surroundings, *Merhavim- Studies in Geography of Israel and the Middle-East*, vol. 7, Tel Aviv University, 2016 (Hebrew, 400 pp.)

Other publications:

- **Yaron Balslev**, "Israel: Environmental History in Hebrew", *Environment and History*, Vol 25(1), White Horse Press, 2019, pp. 146-150
- **Yaron Balslev**, *The Trees that Predated the City: 100 Years Old Trees in Tel Aviv Yafo*, The Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Village Development and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, 2012 (Hebrew)

Participation in research and writing:

- Yaakov Shavit and Gideon Biger, *The History of Tel Aviv- 1952-1973*, Ramot Press, Tel Aviv University, 2013 (Hebrew, 200 pp.)

Courses Taught:

- Environmental-Historical Geography in the Modern Times (BA and MA, 2013-2019)
- Introduction to Historical-Geography (BA, 2013-2019)
- Introduction to Urban Geography (B.Ed., 2014-2017)
- Introduction to Maps and Mapping (B.Ed., 2014-2017)
- Environmental History of Israel in the late Modern Era (B.Ed., 2014-2016)
- Civilizing Nature: the Environmental History of Jaffa and Tel-Aviv in the Late Modern Era (International B.A., 2016)

Presentation in International Conferences:

- 2018 – *"Composting Urban Waste in Mandatory Palestine"*, International Conference: *Re-ordering the Middle East*, Centre for European Studies, Harvard University, USA, 13-14 November 2018
- 2017 – *"Clean Ideals and Polluted Reality: The Introduction of the Sanitary Idea to Jaffa and Tel Aviv under the Ottomans and the British Mandate"*, European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), Zagreb, Croatia, 28 June-2 July 2017
- 2016 – *"Europe in the Levant: Between the Sanitary Idea and the Polluted Reality – The Case of Tel Aviv in the Early 20th Century"*, Annual Conference of the Association for Israel Studies, The Menachem Begin Heritage Center and Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi, Jerusalem, Israel 20-22 June 2016
- 2015 – *"Urban Waste Treatment in the British Mandate of Palestine (1920-1948): an Imperial Issue, a National Challenge or a Local Problem?"*, International Conference of Historical Geographers (ICHG), London, UK, 5-10 July 2015
- 2015 – *"Keeping Palestine Clean: Waste and Sewage Challenges during the British Mandate of Palestine"*, European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), Versailles, France, 30 June-3 July 2015
- 2015 – *"Climatic aspects in the first city plan of Tel-Aviv (1925)"*, International Conference on Urban Climate (ICUC), Toulouse, France, 20-24 July 2015
- 2014 – *"The creation of a modern city: urban-nature relations in Tel Aviv, 1909-1948"*, Annual Conference of the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), San Francisco, USA, 12-16 March 2014
- 2013 – *"Water Pollution in Tel-Aviv, 1909-1949: The Environmental Cost of Rapid Urban Growth"*, European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), Munich, Germany, 20-24 August 2013
- 2013 – *"The British Influence on Environmental Issues in Tel-Aviv, 1920-1948"*, Kyoto Regional Conference, International Geographic Union (IGU), Kyoto, Japan, 4-9 August 2013
- 2013 – *"The British Influence on Environmental Issues in Tel-Aviv, 1920-1948"*, Annual Conference of the Royal Geographic Society (RGS), London, UK, 28-30 August 2013
- 2012 – *"The Pollution and Purification of Tel Aviv's Seashore, 1909-1982"*, International Conference of Historical Geographers (ICHG), Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, 6-10 August 2012
- 2012 – *"The Environmental Implications of Tel-Aviv Urban Plan (1925)"*, Annual Conference of the Royal Geographic Society (RGS), University of Edinburgh, UK, 3-5 July 2012

Presentation in International Workshops and Colloquiums:

- 2016 – *"Climatic aspects in the first city plan of Tel-Aviv (1925)"*, Colloquium of the Centre for Science Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark, 10 February 2016
- 2015 – *"Mapping the Unmapped: Locating Environmental Hazards in the Tel-Aviv – Jaffa Space, 1909-1948"*, Doctoral students' workshop: Space, Place and Technologies of Map Making in Late Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine, University of Tuebingen, Germany, 28-30 July 2015

Participation in Research Groups:

- 2017-2018 – Historical Geographical Research Group, The Institute for Research on Eretz Israel, Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem (Coordinator).
- Since 2013 – The Israeli Forum for Environmental History, Tel Aviv University (Coordinator).
- Since 2011 – The Israeli Forum for the History of the British Mandate in Palestine, Herzl Institute at the University of Haifa and The Chaim Weizmann Institute for the Study of Zionism and Israel at Tel Aviv University
- 2012-2013 – Israeli History Graduate Workshop, Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem
- 2010-2011 – Water History, Van-Leer Institute, Jerusalem

Founding Academic Research Groups:

- 2017-2018 – Historical Geographical Research Group, Eretz Israel Research Institute at Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi, Jerusalem.
- 2015 – Forming an Israeli region under the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH). Accepted by the ESEH General Assembly on 1 July 2015, in Versailles, France
- 2013 – Co-founder of the Israeli Forum for Environmental History (together with Prof. Miri Shefer-Mossensohn and Dr. David Schorr), Tel Aviv University
- 2011 – Co-founder of graduate students' research group about the British Mandate of Palestine. In 2012 the group became official research group of the Humanities Faculty, Tel Aviv University.

Prizes and Awards:

- 2016 – Certificate of excellence for teaching the course "Introduction to Historical-Geography" in spring semester 2016, Beit Berl College
- 2015 – The Israeli Geographical Society Award to the best article of a Ph.D. candidate. Granted for the article: Balslev et al. (2015), "Climatic and thermal comfort analysis of the Tel-Aviv

Geddes Plan: A historical perspective", *Building and Environment*, 93, 2015, pp. 302-318 (13 December 2015)

2015 – Eitan Shpizer Prize of the Israel Society of Ecology and Environmental Studies to the Best Lecture in Environmental Studies. Granted for the presentation: "*Micro-Climate Analysis of Tel-Aviv's Streets during the British Mandate Period: Historical and Current Perspectives on Urban Planning*" (14 October 2015)

2009 – Award for academic achievements from the Department of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University (30 June 2009)

2008 – Award of the Manufactures Association of Israel for excellent students (30 June 2008)

Languages

Hebrew (native), English (excellent), French (intermediate)

* Further details will be sent on demand.