

The Israeli Forum for Environmental History

Who are we?

Environmental history is an emerging field in Israel. The Israeli Forum for Environmental History (IFEH) was founded on July 2013. The Forum includes 55 senior scholars as well as Ph.D. candidates from 5 universities. IFEH brings together researchers from different disciplines such as Middle Eastern history, European history, legal history, historical geography, architecture and more. By conducting interdisciplinary discussions on environmental issues in different historical periods and places, we hope to enrich our research, challenge our way of thought and create new collaborations. By doing so, we aim to create an academic community in Israel for environmental historians.

What do we do?

- **Monthly meetings:** The forum holds a monthly meeting, where we focus on different issues of environmental history. The meeting includes reading list, presentation and a vivid discussion. A core of 12-15 members participates in these meetings.
- **Environmental History updates:** Additionally the mailing list is used for updates of EH publications and conferences.
- **Annual conference:** The IFEH is a leading force in organizing the Annual Israeli conference of Environmental History. The 2014 conference will be held in Jerusalem on October 21st; and will include 7 sessions of 24 presentations, and a panel on environmental history research in Israel.

Meetings in the academic year 2013-2014:

First semester

October: "What is environmental history?" (Dr. Miri Shefer-Mossensohn)

November: Species introductions and animal history in Israel (Dr. Dan Tamir and Ms. Tamar Novick)

December: Climate change in the Middle East during the 11th-12th centuries (Prof. Roni Ellenblum)

January: Urban environmental history under the British mandate of Palestine (Mr. Yaron Balslev)

Second semester

March: Law and environmental history (Dr. David Schorr)

April: Spatial carrying capacity (Prof. Alon Tal)

May: Muslim and Ottoman urban environment (Dr. Miri Shefer-Mossensohn)

IFEH organizing committee:

Yaron J. Balslev, Ph.D. candidate, School of Environmental Studies, Department of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University, aronbal@post.tau.ac.il

Dr. David Schorr, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University, dschorr@tau.ac.il

Dr. Miri Shefer-Mossensohn, Faculty of Humanities, Head of the Department of Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University, shefer@post.tau.ac.il

Selected IFEH members:

Name	Affiliation	Fields of interest
Prof. Tal Alon-Mozes	Technion- Israel Institute of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Landscape architecture
Omer Aloni (Ph.D candidate)	Tel Aviv University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •History of environmental law •History of international environmental law •The interwar period
Yaron J. Balslev (Ph.D candidate)	Tel Aviv University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Historical geography •Urban environment •British mandates
Prof. Gideon Biger	Tel Aviv University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Middle Eastern historical geography •Boundary studies •Historical Forestation
Dr. Yehoshua Frenkel	Haifa University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Islamic history •The idea of nature
Shirily Gilad (Ph.D candidate)	Technion- Israel Institute of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Urban planning •Environmental ethics
Prof. Ruth Kark	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Historical Geography •Middle East •Palestine/Israel
Dr. Daniel Mishori	Tel Aviv University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Environmental ethics
Tamar Novick (Ph.D. candidate)	University of Pennsylvania, USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •History of science and technology •Cultural history •Middle East studies
Aviv Oppenheim (MA student)	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Historical geography •Historical maps •Historical GIS
Prof. Dan Rabinowitz	Tel Aviv University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Climate history
Dr. David Schorr	Tel Aviv University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Law •Empire

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Water
Gad Schaffer (Ph.D. candidate)	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Historic GIS (HGIS) •Landscape/land use changes •Nature conservation
Dr. Miri Shefer-Mossensohn	Tel Aviv University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Islamic civilization •Wellbeing •Early modern history
Prof. Rakefet Sela-Sheffy	Tel Aviv University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Environmental identities
Dr. Dan Tamir	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sustainable Development •Post Peak Resources •Societal Transition
Wilkof Shira (Ph.D. candidate)	UC Berkeley, USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Environmental policy •Town planning and the environment •Environmental thought in design discipline