

The Chair holder of the UNESCO/Burg Chair is *Prof. Yaacov Iram*.

Aims

1. Theoretical-philosophical research: clarifying the problems of education for human values, tolerance and peace, as a basis for special learning programs.
2. Historical-social research: Conflict and conciliation among nations and within societies in exposing the roots of past conflicts in order to draw conclusions for harmonious co-existence in the present.
3. Applied research: Creating models, evaluating different parameters of tolerance in the Israeli Society: religious, ethnic, political and minorities.
4. Research in the area of "Education for Democracy" and "Human Rights" in Israeli society.

An interdisciplinary research team promotes the aims of the Chair.

The team of researchers include: Dr. Erik H. Cohen, Dr. Dvora Court, Dr. Rivka Glaubman, Dr. Zehavit Gross, Dr. Aliza Fessler, Prof. Yaacov Iram, Mrs. Dina Menkin, Dr. Michal Kolan, Dr. Hefziba Lifshitz, Dr. Nava Maslovaty, Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Dr. Ety Ornan, Prof. Yisrael Rich, Mr. Hillel Wahrman, as well as doctoral and postgraduate students.

Activities of the UNESCO/Burg Chair

- Initiating and supporting research.
- Producing and publishing educational and instructional materials for all education levels.
- Cooperating with Israeli and International institutions such as UNESCO Chairs and the Anti-Defamation League.
- Facilitating exchanges between Israeli and International academics through conferences.
- Conducting tolerance workshops within the School of Education's teacher training Department.
- Service to the Community and the Educational System.

During the year 2005, the Chair has continued its activities in research, international and national conferences, seminars, workshops, publications, teacher training and service to the community.

Peace and Tolerance

Workshops on Stereotypes, Tolerance Democracy and Peace

The Workshops stress social relationships and interactions between individuals and groups that reflect such qualities as mutual respect, cooperation, tolerance, and encouraging diversity.

Based on the program, A World of Difference of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the workshops deal with self-exploration, stereotypes and prejudices, exploring the cultures of other groups, tolerance and its relation to Jewish and other cultures and finding ways and strategies in reducing interpersonal tension and intergroup conflicts. The participants in these workshops represent the diversity of Israeli society: Jews and Arabs, Orientals and Westerners, religious and secular political left and right, veterans and immigrants.

The semester-long workshops are conducted in the School of Education for Pre-service and In-service teachers and school administrators. The workshops are directed by Prof. Yaacov Iram and conducted by Dr. Aliza Fessler, Dr. Zehavit Gross, Dr. Shimon Ohayon, and Hillel Wahrman.

Joint workshops, with the Palestinian AI-Quds University

The Chair has received a grant from the U.S. Embassy and conducted joint workshops, with the Palestinian AI-Quds University, on education for human values and peace. Faculty and students from both universities explored the cultural perspectives of Israelis and Palestinians in order to promote mutual understanding.

Due to the rising violence in our region and political unrest on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, we encountered difficulties in continuing the workshops. However, we continue our efforts in joint research fostering Peace Education with Palestinian partners. Meetings under the auspices of UNESCO took place during 2005 in Israel (Bar-Ilan), in Germany (Dresden) and in the USA (Stanford).

Cooperation with the Anti-Defamation League

Yearly joint workshops between Bar-Ilan University students and groups of American students, their leaders, and companions under the auspices of the Anti-defamation League take place at Bar Ilan University Campus. Future meetings and symposia's are planned to increase our cooperation and joint activities.

2001 - 2010 International Decade for the Culture of Peace

The United Nations have declared the years 2001-2010 as the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World." A "Culture of Peace" implies more than a passive and quiescent state due to an absence of war and violence. To attain a culture of peace, one must actively strive toward positive values, which enable different cultures and nations to harmoniously coexist. These values are based on helping the underprivileged, sharing knowledge, and fostering tolerance between peoples. Tolerance, which leads to the establishment of a pluralistic society, requires an understanding of both the shared and unique aspects of different peoples and cultures.

Education plays a paramount role in imparting the values of tolerance, multiculturalism and peace to the next generation. Through tolerance, one can strive to transcend religious and political boundaries, and bridge cultural and ethnic differences.

Culture of Peace - Follow-up Activities

The lectures delivered at the Education towards a Culture of Peace - International Conference 1-3 December 2003, held at Bar Ilan University (reported in our previous Newsletter) will be published, by **Information Age Publishing, Inc.**, Greenwich, CT. U.S.A. (forthcoming in early 2006). This book will provide a theoretical basis for the development of peace and human rights curricula materials.

It was resolved by the Israeli and international participants to form an international committee to develop curricula and other educational materials in Human Rights and Peace Education to be used in different regions of conflict. The first step in this direction was setting dates for workshop meetings of participants at this conference. In order to make these workshops accessible for all, the meetings took place outside of Israel where our Palestinian colleagues feel perhaps more free to join.

The first meeting took place on 6-8 July 2004 at the *Technische Universität Dresden*, and was convened and chaired by Prof. Dr. Dietmar Waterkamp from the *Fakultät Erziehungswissenschaften, Dresden University, Germany*. The participants were from Israel, The Palestinian Authority, Germany and the USA.

"Culture of Peace: Definition, Scope and Application" presented By Prof. Yaacov Iram and Dr. Zehavit Gross at the Panel: Educating towards a Culture of Peace, convened at the annual meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Stanford 22-26 March 2005. Other participants at this panel were Prof. Mohamad Dajani (Al-Quds University), Prof. Grace Feuerverger (Univ. of Toronto), and Prof. Dietmar Waterkamp (Dresden University).

The next meeting at the University of Magdeburg, 23.11.2005 was chaired by Prof. Karl Peter Fritzsche, UNESCO Chair holder in Human Rights Education, University of Magdeburg, Germany.

UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2004-2014)

As a result of worldwide migration, wars and other geopolitical conflicts and treaties many modern nation-states consist of a mix of people of various ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious background. Indeed there are very few countries who are monolithic or of monocultural origin. The pursue of nations and ethnic groups for cultural or national identity and uniformity is often in difficult balance with the need for inter-group

coexistence as far as internal relations and external affairs are concerned.

Societies differ in their attitudes towards ethnic diversity within a given geopolitical entity and particularly to minority groups. These attitudes represent a spectrum, which varies from rejection through passive tolerance, to support and positive encouragement of variety, diversity, and pluralism.

The task of education is to alleviate the problem of minorities through multicultural education viewing socio-cultural diversity like bio-diversity as positive phenomena.

This is the only alternative to further the advancement of societies and individuals towards contentment and self fulfillment and is indeed in line with the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2004-2014).

The Chair initiated and conducted research on immigrant integration based on the Israeli experience, which might be adapted in education of ethnic minorities in other pluralistic democracies as well.

Thus Prof. Iram participated and presented the findings of this research at the International Academic Conference - Higher Education for Sustainable Development: New Challenges from a Global Perspective, held at The University of Lüneburg 25-27/9/2005

Educational Projects

The Chair continues to initiate educational projects, seminars, and curricular materials and research to promote a Culture of Peace in the Israeli Society.

Dr. H. Lifshitz, *Employment Challenges for Persons with special needs and/or Lagging Intellectually*. The aim of this project is to assist in integrating them into society through employment at Bar Ilan Campus.

Irit Fogel, *Theatre as an Educational Tool in Conflict Resolution*. It is assumed that art as a medium of interpersonal and inter-group expression might assist in the process of uncovering deeply embedded conflicting narratives. This project aims to use art for the purpose of conflict clarification and resolution.

The Chair has also designed curricula to be used in high schools on ethics, social justice, gender equality and violence.

Gender Violence Awareness – A Media Project

Studies show that there is an escalating increase in violence, especially towards girls and women. According to Israeli statistics, about 30% of the women had encountered some kind of gender violence.

The issue of gender violence is graver in times of political unrest and economic instability, and the fear to complain is an obstacle to bring the culpable to justice.

Our objective is to present the public with the different aspects of violence towards girls and women, to suggest ways of conduct and reaction, awareness of legal and human rights

of women, and mostly to bring the issues of gender violence to the awareness of the greater public through the media.

In the framework of this project, two movies were produced.

The Chair organizes lectures, conferences, publishes materials and produced a short documentary movie based on real occurrences relating to the various issues of gender violence, rights of women and equality.

Media presentation of gender violence is a potent tool in reducing gender violence which is a violation of human rights and personal dignity.

Ms. Dina Menkin in charge of the research project *Preventing Violence towards Women and Girls* at the Chair presented the project at a seminar marking the International Women Day. 23.4.2004

Expert exchanges - Visiting Professor

Professor Yaacov Iram was invited by The School of Human Rights Research at the Faculty of Law - Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) - at Utrecht University to serve as a visiting Professor during October-December 2005. The School of Human Rights Research at the Faculty of Law at Utrecht University is officially recognized by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Universities of Maastricht, Tilburg, Leiden and Erasmus University of Rotterdam are partners in the School of Human Rights Research.

During his stay in Utrecht, Prof. Iram conducted research, discussed with colleagues, attended conferences and colloquia in Leiden and Utrecht on issues of education of minorities; education as a human rights and education toward human rights with a particular focus on The Netherlands, Germany and Israel.

On 27.10.05 Prof. Iram attended a conference hosted by Leiden University where different research perspective on Human Rights were reported, presented and discussed.

On 18.11.05 Prof. Iram presented at a forum of researchers and students of the School of Human Rights the research and activities of the UNESCO/Burg Chair and discussed possible implications for the Netherlands.

While in Utrecht, Prof. Iram participated in the events within the framework of UNESCO Chairs in Human Rights Education:

- 23.11.2005 - UNESCO Chair in Human Rights Education at the Otto von-Guericke University, Magdeburg, Prof. Iram lectured on "Transforming the Israeli Palestinian Dispute from Conflict to Reconciliation: Lesson from European Experience". This lecture and the followed discussion was part of ongoing follow-up activities of the International conference on Educating towards a Culture of Peace.

- 14.12.2005 - UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and the Studium Generale of Utrecht University held a one day symposium on Culture of Peace. Prof. Iram lectured on the issue of minorities' education. Following this symposium possible collaboration on joint projects by the UNESCO Chairs of Utrecht, Magdeburg and Bar-Ilan Universities were discussed.

16.3.2004 Prof. Yaacov Iram lectured on the subject **Values Education - Humanistic Sources** at the seminar on: *Morality and Educational Leadership*, Haifa University.

23.4.2004 Ms. Dina Menkin in charge of the project *Preventing Violence towards Women and Girls* at the Chair, participated at a seminar on the subject at the events marking the International Women Day.

10-14 May 2004. *Education of Minorities an International Perspective*, Prof. Iram presented the plenary lecture at the 14th Congress of the World Association for Educational Research (WAER/AMSE) Santiago, Chile

20-23.5.2004 Mr. Hillel Wahrman, staff member of the UNESCO/Burg Chair in Education for Human Values Tolerance and Peace represented the Chair at the Israel Palestine Center for Research and Information - **IPCRI Conference** in Istanbul, Turkey.

22.6.2004 Dr. Zehavit Gross and Mr. Hillel Wahrman, staff members of the UNESCO/Burg Chair in Education for Human Values Tolerance and Peace participated at the annual **Conference on Civil Society and Civic Education** in the United States organized by the Office of Public Affairs, Embassy of the US Tel-Aviv.

2-3.7.2004 Prof. Yaacov Iram attended the XII annual Colloquium of the Alfred Herrhausen Society for International Dialogue a Deutsche Bank Forum, "The Partnership Principle: New Forms of Governance in the 21st Century", Berlin.

"Boundaries and Bridges: Education for Coexistence and Peace - The Israeli-Palestinian Case" lecture presented by Prof. Iram at the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska Omaha. 22.9.2004.

"Culture of Peace: Definition, Scope and Application" presented at the Panel: Educating towards a Culture of Peace, Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Stanford 22-26 March 2005, Dr. Zehavit Gross of the Chair, Prof. Dajani (Al - Quds) and Prof. Grace Feuerverger participated in this panel.

The Chair co-organized the International Conference "The Vocation of Religious Universities - a Comparative Perspective. Prof. Iram lectured about Universal Religious Universities a Comparative Perspective, Bar Ilan University, 17.5.2005.

Paper presented by Prof. Yaacov Iram at the International Academic Conference - Higher Education for Sustainable Development: New Challenges from a Global Perspective, The University of Lüneburg 25-27/9/2005.

Planned Research

Research and Action Project on Immigrant Integration

The challenges, of the State of Israel since its establishment in 1948 as an immigrant country, were the integration of massive waves of immigrants from practically all over the world. This challenge of immigrant integration (and in Israel terminology, KLITAT ALIYAH, immigrant absorption, into the fabric of the Israeli Society) was manifested in the recent decade in the relatively successful integration of close to one million of immigrants, mainly from Russia and from former Soviet Republics whether European or Asiatic and also from Ethiopia. In spite of difficulties, Israel's experience in integrating immigrants is a "success story" of integrating immigrants culturally, linguistically, socially and economically.

Israel's more than fifty years of experience with immigrants from diverse cultural and socioeconomic background; might be relevant to other countries experience. We might think of a parallel, though, not similar, between Israel's experiences with immigration from Central and Eastern Europe in the late 1940's and 1950's, Middle Eastern and North-African Countries in the 1950's and 1960's, and the predominantly Russian immigrants in the 1980's and 1990's to the experience of the EU Countries with diverse immigrant populations. Still, the massive immigration to Israel of close to one million of people from the former Soviet Union Republics and Russia in the last 10-15 years might be viewed comparatively with the EU experience of integrating immigrants from Russia and former Soviet Republics, as well as from North Africa.

Doctoral Disertations:

Hillel Wahrman - Dilemmas in Imparting Political Knowledge and Understanding within the Israeli Education System

Eli Shitreet - Acculturation processes and adaptation to studies and society of Ethiopian - born adolescents in state religious youth villages

Randa Abas- The role of the Druse school system (educational goals, curriculum, school culture and philosophy) in shaping the personality, identity and level of citizenship of its students: An ethnographic case study in two Druse high schools

Binna Gilday - Multiculturalism in Teacher Education in Israel

Publications in English:

Iram Y, Ed. and Wahrman H. asst. Ed., *Education of Minorities and Peace Education in Pluralistic Societies*, 2003, Greenwood Press, 304p.

ISBN: 0-275-97821-4 www.greenwood.com.

Supported Publications:

Multifaceted Complimentary Evaluation for Facilitating Learning and Teaching, Dr. Rivka Glaubman and Dr. Aliya Kula, Eds. Yessod Publishing House. 2005. 327 pgs. (Hebrew)

Between Tradition and Innovation, Studies in Judaism, Zionism and the State of Israel. E. Don Yehiya, Ed. - A collection of articles focusing on different aspects of modern Jewish History. Common to all these studies is the conflict between tradition and innovation in modern Jewish society, as reflected in Jewish communities in the Diaspora, the Jewish Yishuv in Eretz Israel, the Zionist Movement, and the State of Israel. Bar Ilan University Press. 2005. 610 +VI pgs. (Hebrew)

Forthcoming Publication:

Education towards a Culture of Peace. Yaacov Iram Ed., H. Wahrman and Zehavit Gross Assoc. Eds. Information Age Publishing, Inc., Greenwich, CT. USA. (Forthcoming in 2006).

This book will provide a theoretical basis for the development of peace and human rights curricula materials.

The Chair continues to support research projects and to produce educational publications which present methods and ways of teaching values, advancing tolerance and promoting peace and human rights education in the Israeli society and in areas of conflict.

In addition members of the Chair published their research in Scholarly Journals in Israel (Hebrew), the USA and Europe.

For more details see: <http://www.biu.ac.il/soc/se/burg>

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