

Newsletter of the Center for Austrian Studies, February 2019

Visit of Prof. Heinz Faßmann, the Austrian Minister of Education, Science and Research, to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

In June 2018, the Center for Austrian Studies (CAS) hosted the Austrian Minister of Education, Science and Research, Prof. Heinz Faßmann, and his delegation as a part of their official visit to Jerusalem.



The visit opened with a most engaging lecture by Dr. Roni Grosz, Director of the Albert Einstein Archives. The lecture included the circulation of several spellbinding documents – Einstein's personal correspondence with Karl Popper, a hand-written letter to Einstein from Sigmund Freud, and the like – passages of which were read aloud, also by Minister Prof. Faßmann. Following the lecture, we convened for a conversation about academic exchanges between Austrian institutions and HUJI. Among the speakers on behalf of HUJI departments and projects was Prof.

Gili S. Drori (Director of CAS), who introduced the Center, its missions and achievements; Prof. Israel Yuval (Teddy Kollek Chair for the Study of Cultural Aspects of Vienna and Jerusalem) and Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann (Cardinal Franz König Chair in Austrian Studies), who introduced their research and activities done through their named Chair; Ms. Noga Sagi (student at CAS) shared her experiences of exchange studies at Universität Innsbruck; and Prof. Günter Bischof (Head of Center Austria, New Orleans), who was a guest at CAS at the time, spoke of the exchange among the worldwide Centers for Austrian studies. Also joining the HUJI delegation were, among others, Ms. Alma Lessing (Head of the Desk of European Countries, at HUJI Authority for Research and Development), Dr. Katharina Streit (Post-doctoral Fellow at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences), Dr. Katia Cytryn-Silverman and Prof. Ilan Sharon (Institute of Archeology), Prof. Yehu Moran (Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior), and Ms. Elisheva Moatti (Administrative Director, CAS), who oversaw every detail of the visit.

Minister Prof. Faßmann offered comments on the importance of the academic exchange between HUJI and Austrian science and higher education institutions as well as with Austrian ministries and government agencies. Specifically, in light of Austria taking on the role of the Presidency of the European Union, he stressed the importance of setting the agenda regarding science and research, invited HUJI scholars to be involved in the drafting of such an agenda, and encouraged a joint appeal to European funding sources that would support HUJI-Austrian academic cooperation.





Joining Minister Prof. Faßmann as members of the Austrian delegation were, among others: Ms. Barbara Weitgruber (DG, Scientific Research and International Relations), Ms. Martina Maschke (Head, Department Bilateral Affairs and Holocaust Education), Ms. Anette Weber (Spokesperson, Federal Minister), Ms. Dalya Youssef (Advisor, Federal Minister), Prof. Klement Tockner (President, Austrian Science Fund), Dr. Georg Schneider (Managing Director, IST Austria), Prof. Dr. Markus Müller (Rector, the Medical University of Vienna), Prof. Felix Höflmayer (Research Group Leader, Austrian Academy of Sciences, and Co-Director of the Austro-Israeli Expedition to Lachish), Mr. Raimund Robitisch (President, Austrian Association of Universities of Applied Sciences FHK), Mr. Daniel Kapp (Chairman, Club of the Friends of Israel), and Dr. Johannes Strasser (Cultural Attaché, Austrian Embassy).



Guest lecture of Prof. Dr. Ewald Nowotny, Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Austria

On November 19, the Center for Austrian Studies hosted Prof. Dr. Ewald Nowotny, Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Austria, for a guest lecture entitled "*Risks and Prospects for the Euro Area in a Global Context*". The lecture was given as a part of our MA seminar "Israel-European Union Relations", taught by Prof. Guy Harpaz.

Prof. Dr. Ewald Nowotny was accompanied by H.E. Martin Weiss, the Ambassador of Republic of Austria to Israel.

Annual Convention of Centers for Austrian Studies



The XXII Annual Convention of Centers for Austrian Studies was hosted at the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Canada, between August 31 and September 5, 2018. Each day was spent at a different location, from Edmonton, to Lake Louise at Banff National Park, and Calgary, allowing the participants to enjoy the various sites. The convention also marked the 20th anniversary of the Wirth Institute.

The Center for Austrian Studies at the Hebrew University was represented by the Director, Prof. Gili S. Drori, and the





Administrative Director, Elisheva Moatti, as well as two MA students: Sofia Diordiev, who presented her research on *"Visibility and Invisibility of Gay Women in Postwar Germany till the Reunification in 1990 and in Postwar Austria"*, and Assaf Uni, who gave a talk titled *"The Enemy of my Enemy is my (Jewish) Friend: The Case of Austrian FPÖ and Israel"*. The two presentations are due to be included in a 2019 edited volume of the *"Europa Orientalis"* book series.

Indeed, the research presented at the Convention showcased the richness of contemporary Austrian studies: not only a multiplicity of disciplinary perspectives, but also a variety of topics ranging from the Slovene language minority in Austria's border regions to magic and sorcery practices in the former Habsburg territories.

International Conference and Movie Series: "Nach dem Anschluss – Remembering Austria's 1938"

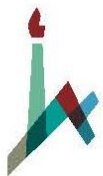


On the occasion of the Gedenkjahr 2018 (Austrian Memorial Year), the Center for Austrian Studies organized, in collaboration with the Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem and the Richard Koebner Center for German History, the international conference *"Nach dem Anschluss – Remembering Austria's 1938"*, with additional support from the Austrian Future Fund. It opened on November 4, 2018, in presence of the Austrian Ambassador H. E. Martin Weiss, in the Jerusalem Cinematheque. This event was open to the public and included the presentation of extracts from video testimonies with former Jewish Austrians who were forced to immigrate to Israel in 1938

from the digital "Austrian Heritage Collection". Dr. Gisela Dachs interviewed researcher Lisa Schulz-Yatsiv (University of Haifa) about her experiences talking with former Austrians in Israel. Otto Nagler, himself an immigrant from Vienna, reported about his childhood memories and presented his views about future challenges.

At the Hebrew University and the Leo Baeck Institute, experts from Austria and Israel, among them Dr. Heidemarie Uhl and Dr. Dieter Hecht (Austrian Academy of Science), Noga Sagi, Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann (CAS), Dr. Susanne Korbel (University of Graz), Professor Dr. Albert Lichtblau (Paris Lodron University in Salzburg), Philipp Rohrbach (Simon Wiesenthal Institute Vienna) and Dr. Yochai Ben Gedaliah (Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People), discussed various topics related to the Austrian National Socialist past and postwar memory. Michael Loebenstein (Austrian Film Muserum) and Dr. Ingo Zechner (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for History and

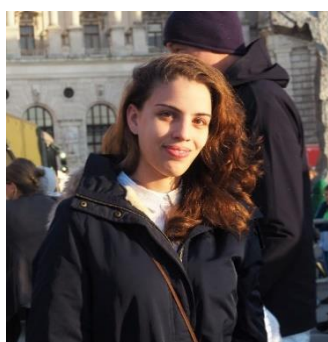




Society) presented at the Cinematheque ephemeral films made some 80 years ago by Austrian and Austrian-Jewish semi-professional and amateur filmmakers, which offered a unique insight into the social and political atmosphere in Austria during those years.

Following the conference, an ongoing movie series with Austrian and Austrian-Israeli films dealt with the persisting memories from the Holocaust in Austria. The public screenings in the Jerusalem Cinematheque, supported by the Austrian Cultural Forum in Tel Aviv, demonstrated the huge interest in Austrian history and memory as well as its impact on the present political situation.

Student Exchange Program with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna



This fall, the student-exchange agreement with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna was first implemented. The Center for Austrian Studies sent Ms. Orel Amouyal Barsheshet, an MA student, to Vienna for the fall term, and two MA students from Vienna, Clara Knäpper Bohman and Benjamin Flaig, spent the fall term at the Hebrew University. Here is Orel's impression:

"As the first student from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to participate in a student exchange program at the Diplomatic Academy, I couldn't be more grateful for this once in a lifetime experience. The academy was founded in 1754 by the Empress Maria Theresa, and thus is one of the oldest institutions

dedicated to the study of International Relations, and has managed to maintain its reputation of excellence to this very day. The main reason why I chose the Diplomatic Academy was the variety of courses it offered in my field of study, energy and geopolitics, as well as the opportunity to engage in interesting conferences and seminars preparing the graduates for perusing an international career. Apart from the academic aspect, Vienna is the location of one of the United Nations headquarters, and hence offers a variety of internships and jobs for students. The experience also allowed me to meet friends from all over the world and experience an international learning environment. The architecture of Vienna is so unique and inspiring, and many of the events hosted in the city offered a glimpse into the high society world, which was once reserved only for European monarchies. I highly recommend students to apply for the student exchange program at the Diplomatic Academy. This experience made me realize that we, as aspiring young students who hope to make the world a better place, share so much in common, and coming from different backgrounds and countries makes it even more alluring."

Student Exchange Program with the University of Innsbruck

Two MA students from the University of Innsbruck spent the fall semester at the Hebrew University: Emir Handžo, a student of Educational Sciences, and Artur Mierau from Organization Studies. Here is what they told us about their stay here:

"When I arrived at the University in Jerusalem, I already was aware what a great academic experience this study exchange was going to be. I was sure that it would be a very precious experience and something completely new. The atmosphere at HUJI was nice and friendly; I have met colleagues from all over the world. The local staff helped us through the beginning, and also organized activities during the stay. The lecturers





Emir (at the back) with colleagues from a research group at the Hebrew University

were always helpful and ready to answer questions or to hold interesting discussions within the class. The campus is bright and spacious, and offers plenty of possibilities to study, meet others, or just relax and have a coffee. Studying in Jerusalem gave me different points of view not only to my field of studies, but also to the very complex situation of the local political system. It was just a unique experience to broaden one's horizons, get to know the Hebrew, Jewish, and Arabic cultures, and to develop one's thinking at a global level. Unfortunately, time passed by very fast, the semester ended, and so did this experience, but I will encourage everyone to come to the HUJI as an exchange student, because it is an

unforgettable experience." (Emir)

"Before coming to HebrewU, I was told that one of the best universities in the world would be waiting for me. And I was not disappointed. A motivated and competent staff, an inspiring learning environment and an incredibly beautiful campus made my semester here both academically enriching and enjoyable. Situated in Jerusalem, a place that couldn't be more diverse, it was easy to correlate the taught material about society or economy with real life, by making friends and talking to people, who are very open here. Site of one of the most debated conflicts in the world and global center of high tech innovation, Israel is most likely one of the most interesting places in the world for society analysis and economic research. My advice, come here for one semester. Don't only read the literature. Go and talk with people, listen to their stories, connect with people and make peace!" (Artur)



Artur with his Malawach wrap at the Mahane Yehuda Market



Annual Zilk Lecture

Dr. Martha Keil, Austrian historian and Judaist, delivered this year's Annual Zilk Lecture. Dr. Keil is since 2004 Director of the Institute for Jewish History in Austria, and teaches at the Institute of Austrian Historical Research at the University of Vienna and at the Center for Jewish Studies at the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz. The lecture's topic was "*Research and Remembrance: About Jewish History and Political Shifts in Postwar Austria*".

Cardinal Franz König Lectures

In June, we hosted two guest lectures of the Cardinal Franz König Chair: Dr. Klaus Hödl from the Center of Jewish Studies and the Institute of History at the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz was invited in cooperation with the Richard Koeber Center, to give a lecture titled "*Austrian Jewish Culture vis-a-vis Austrian Nationalism*"; and Dr.





Barbara Glück from the Mauthausen Memorial spoke about “*The Mauthausen Memorial – A Vaccination Center Against Antisemitism?*”

Guests at the Center for Austrian Studies

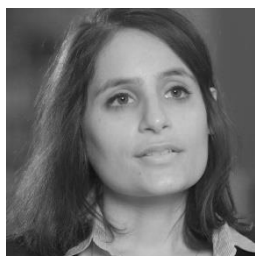
Visiting Assistant Professor – Dr. Karin Bischof (spring semester 2018)

Dr. Karin Bischof was an assistant visiting professor at the Center for Austrian Studies during the spring semester. Dr. Bischof is a lecturer and a research fellow at the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna, and a research fellow at the Institute of Conflict Research. While staying with us, Dr. Karin Bischof taught the MA course “*Antisemitism and the Development of Democracy in Austria after 1945*”, and worked on her research project on ‘*Militant Democracy*’ (“*Wehrhafte Demokratie*”) and *the Current Challenges of Democracy*.



Visiting Assistant Professor – Dr. Marion Löffler (fall semester 2018-19)

Dr. Marion Löffler was an assistant visiting professor at the Center for Austrian Studies during the fall semester. Dr. Löffler is a lecturer at the Department of Political Science and at the interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Vienna. During her stay here, she taught two MA courses: “Right-wing Populism and Democracy in Austria”, and “Gender and Politics”.



Visiting Assistant Professor – Dr. Victoria Kumar, Karl-Franzens-University of Graz, Center for Jewish Studies (spring semester 2019)

Victoria Kumar’s post-doc research project at the Center for Austrian Studies results from the project “Wolfgang von Weisl (1896-1974) and his family history – From the decline of the Habsburg Empire to the foundation of the state of Israel” (project leader: Dietmar Goltschnigg, Karl-Franzens-University Graz), which is dedicated on the one hand to the Viennese revisionist Zionist Wolfgang von Weisl, whose life, work and impact has to date not been the subject of closer study, and on the other hand to his family, close acquaintances of Theodor Herzl, whose members made names for themselves in various political and social, cultural and scholarly fields from the late 19th century to the end of the First Austrian Republic.

Visiting Professor – Prof. Günter Bischof

Prof. Günter Bischof, Director of Center Austria and a Marshall Plan professor of history at the University of New Orleans, visited the Center for Austrian Studies in June, and gave a course titled “*The Four-Power Occupation of Austria (1945-55) & the Making of the Second Republic*”. The course aimed at teaching students the most important aspects of the quadripartite occupation of Austria – nation building after WWII,





and the origins of the Cold War in Austria – and familiarizing students with its political, economic, social aspects (eg. denazification) and mental reconstruction of the proceeding era (Austrians as victims and/or perpetrators in WWII?). Students discussed the concept of “nation building” and the four powers’ goals in occupying Austria, the factors that contributed to the origins of the Cold War in Austria, domestic Austrian politics in the occupation decade, especially the politics of the “grand coalition”, and the making of the Austrian State Treaty. Prof. Bischof lectured on the Marshall Plan in Austria, in our colloquium for MA students.



Visiting Professor – Prof. Joseph Patrouch



Prof. Joseph Patrouch from the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at University of Alberta was our guest in June, and taught an intensive MA course on the Habsburg Dynasty from the 11th to the 20th Century. The course outlined some themes associated with the histories of the Habsburg Dynasty and its members’ political holdings during this millennium of rule, with an emphasis on the Central European branch of the family. The participants identified some of the factors which helped the Habsburgs control so much territory for so long, select leading members of the Dynasty and their accomplishments (both men and women), and some of the factors which led to the dismantlement of the Habsburgs’ empire in the early 20th century. Prof. Patrouch also delivered a lecture in the colloquium for MA students: *Sisters, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins; Wives and (Grand)Mothers: Habsburg Female Dynastic Contexts in Early Modern Europe*.

Doctoral Research Fellow – Verena Hanna, University of Vienna, Department of Development Studies



Verena Hanna, MA, is a Viennese doctoral candidate and was awarded a scholarship by the Austrian Ministry of Science, Research and Economy for a Visiting Research Fellowship at the Center for Austrian Studies. While in Jerusalem, she did extensive research for her dissertation on “The Other in Israeli TV series” during the week, and attended insightful lectures at HUJI about Israeli film and pre-1948 photography; on the weekends, she took short trips throughout the country, exploring it from Rosh Hanikra to Eilat, working on her Hebrew and learning more about the land and its people from a different perspective. Currently, she is back at her alma mater in Vienna, completing her dissertation, managing intercultural projects and happy to be in contact with any visiting student who wishes to improve their German in a tandem setting.

Doctoral Research Fellow – Benjamin Ferschli, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Benjamin is presently a doctoral research fellow of the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research at the Austrian Studies Center of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Next to working on his dissertation and administrative duties at the Center, his focus is on writing and publishing in the fields of Political Economy





and Economic Sociology. Benjamin's dissertational project focuses on questions regarding the organisation of labour in Austria. In particular, he is investigating how recent technological changes have shaped the world of work both on the level of individual companies, production and labour processes, as well as on the aggregate level. He uses qualitative, quantitative as well as historical methodology in order to answer presently pressing questions of how work will be conducted in the future and who might benefit from structural changes in production.

The Prof. Dr. Peter Landesmann German Language Scholarships in Austria, summer 2018

Every summer, 49 students of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem receive the Peter Landesmann German Language Scholarships to participate in intensive courses in various cities in Austria. During the past summer, the 30 recipients attending intensive courses at the University of Vienna were invited to receptions at the Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs, at the Ministry of Education, Science and Research, at the National Bank of Austria, at the University of Vienna, and at the Israeli Embassy in Vienna.

Daniel Chamudot, a BA student of economics and German studies who received the scholarships, addressed the following letter to Prof. Landesmann:

„Während meines Studiums im Intensiv-Sprachkurs A2.1 und A2.2 konnte ich Deutsch auf eine Art und Weise kennenlernen, die ich nie für möglich gehalten hätte. Mein Unterricht konzentrierte sich auf das Sprechen, die Zusammensetzung, die Verbesserung des Wortschatzes und die Grammatik mittlerer Komplexität. Jede Unterrichtsstunde beinhaltete ein völliges Eintauchen in die formelle und die alltägliche Sprache und hing sehr von der Teilnahme jedes Schülers im Raum ab. Ich traf im Klassenzimmer Schüler aus der ganzen Welt, geführt von einem Lehrer, der Herausforderung und Enthusiasmus in jede Stunde brachte. Ich hätte mir keine bessere Umgebung wünschen können, um diese wichtige Sprache zu lernen.

Außerhalb des Klassenzimmers konnte ich eine erstaunliche österreichische Welt entdecken, von der ich nie gewusst hatte. Ich besuchte Museen, Parks und historische Sehenswürdigkeiten. Ich bin regelmäßig in der Stadt gewesen, um etwas über seine Geschichte zu erfahren. Ich habe mich besonders für die alten und modernen jüdischen Gemeinden in Wien interessiert. Schließlich haben meine Besuche bei der Nationalbank, dem Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Bildung und dem Ministerium für auswärtige Angelegenheiten mir einen einzigartigen Einblick in die engen Beziehungen Österreichs zur israelischen Akademie gegeben.

Während ich mein Studium der Volkswirtschaftslehre und der deutschen Literatur an der Hebräischen Universität in Jerusalem fortsetze, weiß ich, dass mir der vergangene Sommer wertvolle Werkzeuge für den Erfolg in einer globalisierten Welt verschafft hat. Ich werde die Vertrautheit mit dem Reichtum der deutschen Sprache, die Öffnung einer Tür zur europäischen Zivilisation und die persönlichen Beziehungen, die ich mit Österreichern und vielen anderen aus der ganzen Welt aufgebaut habe, in die Zukunft tragen.

Recently, the Center has published a call for application for the “Prof. Peter Landesmann German Language Scholarships in Austria” for the summer 2019.

