

Israel among the nations

Leon Liberman Lecture Series in Modern Israel Studies

A series of four weekly lectures by leading scholars exploring the place of Israel in the world today. The lectures are free of charge and will take place at **Monash Caulfield**, 900 Dandenong Road, East Caulfield at **8pm**.

Monday 27 July

Building H, Lecture Theatre H126

Israel and Europe: Past Burdens, Future Assets

Fania Oz-Salzberger, Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies, Monash University; Professor, Faculty of Law, Haifa University.

There is a complex and highly sensitive relationship between Israel and the European Union, Israel and specific European Countries, and Israel and 'Europe' as a concept. Historical sensitivities, pain, intimacy and distrust haunt and transcend living memory. Political and cultural dialogues have often stumbled upon these burdens. The Holocaust is the dark focus, indeed the 'black hole', swallowing up much of Israel's European past and much of Europe's remembrance of the Jews.

This lecture will analyse the historical and psychological dimensions of contemporary Israeli-European relations, and survey the origins of ensuing misunderstandings and mistrust. However, my main theme is the overcoming of historical burdens. How can Israel and the EU, its member states and civil societies, embark on a future-looking, honest, critical and fruitful relationship? How would such a relationship affect European memory, Jewish memory, and Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking?

Wednesday 5 August

Building K, Lecture Theatre K309

The Islamic Revolution in Iran: A View from Israel

David Menashri, Director of the Centre for Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University where he holds the Parviz and Pournazarian Chair for Modern Iranian Studies; author of numerous books on Iran.

The Islamic revolution was a major turning point in the history of Iran. Carried on a wave of popular support, it represented a new prototype of power seizure, a new political system and leadership, with a new ideology and a vision of the ideal society. Though generally successful in consolidating power, the regime proved less effective in utilising dogma as a means to ease the mounting problems that were the root cause of the revolution.

This lecture seeks to analyse the challenges facing Iran and the challenges that Iran is presenting to the region and beyond. It will examine the internal challenges, leading to the upheaval following the June 12th presidential elections, evaluating their influence on Iran's policy and posture, and explore Iran's regional ambitions and politics and analyse the inter-play between reformism and conservatism, to weigh the power and weakness of the competing trends, and to explore Iran's policy directions.

In analysing matters thus, this lecture also attempts to decipher the complexities that characterise the relationship between Iran's domestic dynamics and foreign policies. While stressing the longer term changes in Iran and in its relations with the outside world, it will similarly offer an updated analysis of the current changes as they evolve. The lecture will also address the challenges posed by Iran for Israel - its support for radical movements around Israel's borders (Hamas and Hizballah), its threats to wipe Israel from the map and the denial of Holocaust and Iran's nuclear program.

Monash Israel Oration

Wednesday 12 August

Building H, Exhibition Space H116

Israel and the New Middle East: What Next?

Itamar Rabinovich, Professor of Middle East Studies at Tel Aviv University; Distinguished Global Professor at New York University; Israel's Ambassador to Washington (1993-96) and chief negotiator with Syria.

At the height of the peace process of the 1990s, Israel's then Foreign Minister Shimon Peres published a book titled *The New Middle East*, a vision of Arab-Israeli economic cooperation predicated on political reconciliation and seeking to address the region's "real" problems, primarily the discrepancy between diminishing resources and growing population.

The vision was angrily rejected by the Arab world. The "new Middle East" of the present is shaped by the challenge of a radical camp led by Iran; Turkey's return to an active role in the Middle East; Russia's new quest for a role in the region; and the transition from Bush's to Obama's policies.

Israel's challenge in this context is to find the policy that will enable it to form a common front with the US and the moderate Arab states, to revive the peace process and to do so without jeopardising Israel's national security and without tearing Israel's body politic apart.

This lecture examines the current and anticipated phases in Israel's 60-year-old quest to come to terms with its Middle Eastern environment.

Wednesday 19 August

Building H, Lecture Theatre H126

Israel and the Nations: Universal or Unique?

Yedidia Stern, Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished Visiting Professor, Monash University; Professor of Law, Bar Ilan University; and Vice President for Research on the Jewish State at the Israel Democracy Institute.

The State of Israel defines itself as a Jewish and democratic state. Can it be both – unique and universal at the same time? We will discuss questions of identity and politics, mythology and reality, culture and governance.

www.arts.monash.edu.au/acjc

Enquiries: acjc@arts.monash.edu.au or call 9902 9933

Monash Israel Oration

Wednesday 12 August

Professor Itamar Rabinovich



Professor Itamar Rabinovich is a Senior Research Fellow at Tel Aviv University's (TAU's) Moshe Dayan Centre for Middle Eastern and African Studies and incumbent of the Yona and Dina Ettinger Chair in Contemporary History of the Middle East. He is also a Distinguished Global Professor at New York University.

Professor Rabinovich was TAU's president from 1999-2007.

He took a break from the university to serve Israel's Government as Chief Negotiator with Syria under

the late Yitzhak Rabin from 1992 to 1995 and as Ambassador to the United States from 1993 to 1996.

Professor Rabinovich has served as Director of the TAU's Moshe Dayan Centre, Dean of the Entin Faculty of Humanities and TAU Rector.

He is the author of several books including *Syria Under the Ba'ath*; *The War for Lebanon*; *The Road Not Taken: Early Arab-Israeli Negotiations*; *The Brink of Peace: Israel and Syria*; and *Waging Peace: Israel and the Arabs at the End of the Century*; and has written numerous articles, essays and chapters in books as well as articles in leading professional journals.

Leon Liberman Chair of Modern Israel Studies

The endowment for the Chair of Modern Israel Studies was made by Ms Lee Liberman in memory of her late husband Leon. The objective of the Chair is to foster a multidimensional understanding of the history and contemporary development of Israel. Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger was appointed Leon Liberman Chair of Modern Israel Studies in May 2007. She also lectures in history at the University of Haifa and is the Founding Director of the Posen Research Forum for Jewish European and Israeli Political Thought at the Faculty of Law.

The Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation

The mission of the ACJC is to teach and research in its full richness and diversity the contribution of Jewish civilisation to the modern world. It aims to create a centre of excellence to enrich the quality of Jewish life and learning, to teach, research and preserve essential elements of Jewish study and to study and foster understanding of the diversity of the Jewish experience. The ACJC also aims to produce graduates qualified as educators for the school system and to provide information, programs and resources to the community at large.

Monash Caulfield Campus

Monash University's Caulfield campus is located at 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East. Building H can be accessed from Dandenong Road or via Queens or Princes Avenues. Building K can be accessed via Level 2 of the Walkway. There is parking available in the surrounding streets, and also in the multi-level car park (Building J) adjacent to Building H on Princes Avenue.

