“Victims of Our Own Narratives?”
Portrayal of the “Other” in Israeli and Palestinian School Books

Biographies of Researchers

Sami Adwan is Associate Professor of Education at Bethlehem University. He is a Fulbright Scholar and his research on Palestinian education, religious education, and school books has been published extensively in academic and professional journals. Prof. Adwan has received many prizes for his work in the field of peace education, including the Victor J. Goldberg IIE Prize for Peace in the Middle East, the International Alexander Langer Prize, the European Association for the Education of Adults Grundtvig Award, among others. He has been a consultant to many schools and is a member of the Board of the International Association for Textbooks and Educational Media. He co-authored The Status of Religious Education in Palestinian Schools (2001), Comparative Analysis of the Israeli and Palestinian Conflict in History and Civic Education (2004), Participation and Reconciliation, Precondition of Justice (2011), 1948 Palestinian Refugees Remembered (2011) and Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel and Palestine (2012).

Daniel Bar-Tal is Branco Weiss Professor of Research in Child Development and Education at the School of Education, Tel Aviv University. His research interest is in political and social psychology studying socio-psychological foundations of intractable conflicts and peace building, as well as development of political understanding among children and peace education. He has published 20 books and more than 200 articles and chapters in major social and political psychological journals, books and encyclopedias. Prof. Bar-Tal served as President of the International Society of Political Psychology and received various awards for his work, including the Lasswell Award of the International Society of Political Psychology for his distinguished scientific contribution in the field of political psychology. In 2012 he received the Nevitt Sanford Award of the International Society of Political Psychology for engaging in the practical application of political psychological principles, and creating knowledge that is accessible and used by practitioners to make a positive difference in the way politics is carried out.

Bruce E. Wexler is an internationally renowned expert on the scientific study of the brain and human cultures. He is Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Scientist in Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine, the recipient of multiple awards, and a prolific author, including the 2006 book Brain and Culture (MIT Press). For many years, Prof. Wexler was a National Institute of Health career research scientist. Prof. Wexler is a recipient of the 2011 National Institute of Health’s Director’s Transformative Research Projects Award, among other honors. In addition to his work at Yale, Prof. Wexler is founder and president of A Different Future, an international nonprofit organization, and founder and chief scientist of C8 Sciences, which develops neuroscience-based tools that have the potential to solve some of the most significant problems in childhood education and in the aging population.

Scientific Advisory Panel

Sami Basha is a Professor of Pedagogy at Berzeit and Hebron Universities and pedagogical consultant on local and international institutions. One of his important academic publications is the “Contributions and involvements of the Christian Palestinian community in educational work” (2002). Dr. Basha’s main research interests include: intercultural studies and minorities, educational reform and policy, special and inclusive education, planning, higher education, and qualitative research. He has worked as a coordinator for multiple projects on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and recently served as an active member on the preparation committee for the two international conferences on interreligious dialogue held at Bethlehem University in 2007.
and 2008. He was a member in the National Teacher Education Strategy in Palestine (2006-07). Dr. Basha is a frequently invited speaker at international conferences and recently presented his pedagogical proposal related to the culture of peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land at the Catholic University of Milan. Dr. Basha was born in the town of Jenin, Palestine, and completed his master’s and doctoral degrees in the Sciences of Education and Youth Care at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome, Italy where his dissertation topic was “Contributions and Investments of the Christian Palestinian Community in Educational Work.” He is a member of the professional Board for Clinical Pedagogy and Educators in Italy.

Gershon Baskin is the Israeli CEO and founder of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI). IPCRI is a joint Israeli-Palestinian public policy research think-tank working on issues in conflict between the sides, and has previously conducted studies of Palestinian school books. He has been recognized for his work with numerous awards including the Annual Histadrut Award for Peace and Coexistence, the Turkish Foreign Policy Institute’s International Relations Prize for Peace and the World Movement for Democracy – Democracy and Peace Tribute of Courage.

Nathan J. Brown is a Professor of Political Science at George Washington University, Director of the Institute for Middle East Studies and Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He is the author of Constitutions in a Non-Constitutional World: Arab Basic Laws and the Prospects for Accountable Government (2001), and Palestinian Politics After the Oslo Accords: Resuming Arab Palestine (2003). Professor Brown has served as a member of the international advisory committees for the Palestinian and Iraqi constitutions and has provided counsel to the World Bank, United States Agency for International Development, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, National Democratic Institute, Arab Center for the Rule of Law and the United Nations Development Program. Professor Brown’s academic work on the Palestinian educational system has been consulted by governments and international organizations in Europe, the United States, and the Middle East.

Daphna Canetti is a tenured assistant professor at the School of Political Science and a research fellow at the National Security Studies Center, University of Haifa. Her doctoral dissertation examined theoretical and empirical perspectives of the role religion plays in shaping attitudes regarding democracy. Her PhD won the Cum Laude Prize of The Israeli Political Science Association in 2004. She is a political psychologist who specializes in psychology of mass political attitudes and behaviors, survey research, and the psycho-politics of the Arab-Israeli conflict. With $2.25M recently granted by the U.S. Institutes of Health, she uses psycho-political frameworks to study how cultures cope with terrorism and violence. She has conducted in-depth interviews and large scale surveys in Israel and in the Palestinian Authority. She has published numerous articles in journals such as Political Research Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Political Behavior, Political Studies, Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, and Political Psychology. She serves as associate editor of Democracy and Security. In 2005 she won the Roberta Sigel Award for the best paper authored by junior scholars only, which was presented at the International Society for Political Psychology annual meeting. She received the Fulbright award for Post-Doctoral scholarship and the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies Visiting Fellowship. She also served as the Rice Family Foundation Visiting Professor at the Council on Middle East Studies, the MacMillan Center and the Department of Political Science, Yale University.

Mohammed Dajani is a Professor and Director of the American Studies Institute at Al Quds University. He also heads the Jerusalem Studies and Research Institute and initiated Wasatia, a new political movement based on Islamic values of moderation, balance and respect for diversity. Dr. Dajani was the Director and Founder of the ISBN Palestine Agency and of the Public
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Administration National Institute, both of which provided consultation services to the Palestinian Authority on government structures. He received PhD degrees in Political Science from the University of South Carolina and in Government from the University of Texas in Austin. He has published extensively including articles on religious moderation and educational practice.


**Elisabeth Hildegard Erdmann** was appointed as the first chairperson of the International Society for History Didactics at Erlangen-Nürnberg University and as honorary chairperson of Alte Geschichte für Europa e.V. (AGE) in 2002. Currently retired, Dr. Erdmann served as a guest professor for Didactics of History at Humboldt University Berlin. As an academic employee at the Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg for Ancient History and Didactics of History, Dr. Erdmann participated in archaeological excavations in Old Paphos/Cyprus, Mezad Tamar (Negev)/Israel and Tyrins/Greece. She studied Latin and History at Tübingen University and earned a doctorate in Ancient History at Konstanz University.

**Ruth I. Firer** is an editorial board member of *Journal of Peace Education*, and author of *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in History and Civics Textbooks of Both Nations* (2004), with Prof. Sami Adwan. She is also the author of *Agents of Zionist Education* (1985) and *Agents of the Holocaust Lesson* (1989). Her research on Israeli textbooks is regarded worldwide, and she is also known for her work on civil disobedience education in Israeli civics and history textbooks. Dr. Firer established an umbrella organization, TAHAL, comprised of 58 Israeli NGOs (of the three Abrahamic religions) that worked on democracy and co-existence education at the Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem. She also established and directed the Peace Education Forum at the Truman Institute, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She and Prof. Adwan co-directed a project on Israeli and Palestinian middle schools, entitled *To Learn to Live Together* (1995-2000). She also authored a new Peace education textbook for middle school pupils that was translated into Arabic and adopted for the Palestine pupils by Palestinian Musa Barhoum. With Barhoum she published a comparative research concerning human rights education in Israeli and Palestinian textbooks for elementary and middle schools. Until recently, Dr. Firer served on the board of the Defense Children International (DCI), Israel Section, and was also a senior guest researcher at the LevTzion Center for Islamic Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**Arnon Groiss** is the former Director of Research for IMPACT-SE. Dr. Groiss graduated from Princeton University, received his master and doctoral degrees from the Department of Near Eastern Studies. He also has an MPA degree from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Dr. Groiss’s career includes more than 30 years as an Arabic-language journalist and he presently holds the position of Deputy Director at IBA’s Arabic Radio.
Yaacov Iram is the Chair-holder of the Josef Burg Professor in Education for Human Values, Tolerance and Peace at the School of Education of Bar-Ilan University. In 2000, the Chair was awarded the status of an UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Democracy, Peace, Tolerance and International Understanding. Prof. Iram served as Head of the Department of Educational Studies of the School of Education (1986-87, 1989-92); President of the Israeli Association for the History of Education and Israel Comparative Education Society; Post Doctoral Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania; Visiting Associate Professor at Tufts University; and Visiting Scholar at Stanford University, University of Cincinnati, and at Humboldt University in Berlin. Professor Iram was also the President of the World Association for Educational Research (1993-1997); a member of the Executive Board of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies; and member of the Council of Peace Education Commission of the International Peace Research Association. He has published numerous articles in American and European journals, chapters in books and encyclopedias on educational policy in secondary education, universities, teacher training colleges, vocational education, multiculturalism and related social issues in Israel from comparative and historical perspectives.

Jamal Khader is the Chairperson of the Department of Religious Studies and the Dean of Arts at Bethlehem University. Rev. Dr. Khader was born in the Christian Palestinian village of Zababdeh in the northern part of the West Bank. He has a Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome where he completed his thesis on the official dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. He is a member of the Theological Reflection Committee of the Latin Patriarchate and of the Committee of Dialogue with Jews. Rev. Dr. Khader also teaches at the Latin Seminary in Beit Jala, the Emmaus Center in Beit Sahour, and Mar Elias College in Ibillin. He teaches Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution Strategies for the Master's program in International Cooperation and Development (MICAD). He participated in previous reviews of Palestinian textbooks.

Riad Nasser is a Professor of Sociology, and the Director of Middle East Studies & Global & Society Minors at Fairleigh Dickinson University. His areas of interest include nationalism and ethnicity, and theories of identity and citizenship in the global age. Professor Nasser has published in Nationalism and Ethnic Politics Journal, Journal of Curriculum Studies, as well as a recent book by Routledge. His is the author of Recovered Histories and Contested Identity: Jordan, Israel, and Palestine (2011), which compares the three national narratives through the analysis of school textbooks.

Falk Pingel received his doctorate from the University of Bielefeld, where he taught as an assistant professor from 1976 to 1983, and again from 1997 to 2000. Since 1983 he has been a senior research fellow, and since 1993 the deputy director of the Georg Eckert Institute (he was the Institute's acting director from 2005-2006). His particular fields of research are modern German and European history, particularly the Nazi era, as well as contents and methods of international textbook comparison. In 1999, 2000 and 2006, he held a guest professorship at the Foreign Language University and at the East China Normal University in Shanghai. In 2003 Professor Pingel established as the Director of Education of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina the new education department for the coordination of the education reform. Professor Pingel brings his expertise to the curriculum and textbook commissions of ministries, international organisations such as UNESCO and OSCE, as well as NGOs at home and abroad. He is a member of the Education Committee to the German Commission for UNESCO. He chairs the web-based Committee on Holocaust Education (www.holocaust-education.de). He is the spokesman of the Committee on National Socialism and the Holocaust: Remembrance and Present (www.erinnern.at). He represents the Eckert Institute in the Council of Europe’s project The image of the Other in History Teaching and in the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (http://taskforce.ushmm.org). He is a member of the
Elie Podeh is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Islam and Middle East Studies, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Professor Podeh deals with the modern history of the Arab Middle East (since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century). More specifically, his main areas of interest are inter-Arab relations, Arab-Israeli relations and Egypt. Professor Podeh’s current research project deals with state celebrations in the Arab world. His study attempts to assess the importance of holidays devised by the state (such as Independence Day, Memorial Day, etc.) on the evolution of the national identity and state-building processes. The research focuses on several case studies, such as Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. He served as the editor of The New East (Hamizrah Hehadash) – the Hebrew journal of the Israeli Oriental Society – during the years 2000-2008. Podeh has published several books and articles on inter-Arab relations and the Arab-Israeli conflict including The Quest for Hegemony in the Arab World: The Struggle Over the Baghdad Pact (1995); The Decline of Arab Unity: Rise and Fall of the United Arab Republic (1999); The Arab-Israeli Conflict in Israeli History Textbooks, 1948-2000 (2002).

Sussane Popp is Professor of History and Education at the University of Augsburg and Holder of the Chair for the Teaching of History at the University of Siegen. She is a Board member of the International Society of the Didactics of History (International Society for History Education) and since summer of 2007 the Chairperson of the National Association of History Educators at German Universities. Her research interests include history painting in European history textbooks, world history and global guidelines in history lessons and cross-sections as possible teaching methods of international curricula in history, historical learning in primary schools, quality of history teaching and empirical research on teaching (teaching of history teachers).

Elihu D. Richter is Head of the Genocide Prevention Program at Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine and Director of the Genocide Situation Room of Genocide Prevention Now of the Institute for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide. While heading the Unit of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Injury Prevention in Hebrew University and Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Dr. Richter carried out epidemiologic investigations of health risks in workers and the general community in lead, asbestos, pesticides, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, fatigue in professional drivers and has worked on the development and application of speed camera networks to prevent road injury. In the past decade, he has sought to bring the models and tools of public health and environmental epidemiology to the prediction, assessment and prevention of genocide, genocidal terror and ecocide. He has published on health and human rights, medical ethics and human rights, ethics of right to know, governmental policy decisions with health consequences, health impact assessments, protection of whistleblowers, environmental ethics in the Mid-East, prevention of genocide and public campaigns to indict the leaders of Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah for incitement to genocide. He is currently working on the development of surveillance networks and metrics for measuring and tracking state sponsored hate language and incitement. Dr. Richter was formerly Chairman of the Ethics and Philosophy Committee of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology and is a Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini, and has lectured on genocide at Auschwitz, Jagellonian University, Modena University, Bard College, Case Western University and many scientific conferences in epidemiology and in Genocide Studies.

Daniel Sperber is Professor of Talmud at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, and an expert in classical philology, history of Jewish customs, Jewish art history, Jewish education and Talmudic studies. Professor Sperber serves as rabbi of Menachem Zion Synagogue in the Old City of Jerusalem. He earned a PhD from University College London in the departments of Ancient History and Hebrew
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Studies. He has published multiple articles and books and in 1992 was awarded the prestigious Israel Prize, widely regarded as the state’s highest prize, for his work in the humanities, social sciences, and Jewish studies.

**Emily Vargas-Barón** is the Director of the Institute for Reconstruction and International Security through Education (The RISE Institute) located in Washington, D.C. She has consulted in over 50 nations in the fields of early childhood and educational policy, programs and evaluation research. She is currently working on several projects involving policy planning and program development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, West/Central Africa and Latin America. Her research interests include early child development and educational policy analysis and finance in countries that have experienced complex emergencies; comparative program evaluations; educational development, including textbook revision, during and after conflicts; and 19th century Colombian intellectual history. Dr. Vargas-Barón has a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Stanford University where she was an Associate in the Stanford International Development Education Center. She also holds an M.A. in Latin American History from the University of Washington. Among her many publications are *From Bullets to Blackboards: Education for Peace in Latin America and Asia; Planning Policies for Early Childhood Development: Guidelines for Action;* and *Going to Scale: Early Childhood Development in Latin America.* She is a U.S. national, member of several international boards, and speaks English, Spanish and French.

**Muhsin Yusuf** is Professor of History at Berzeit University where he teaches both modern and medieval Palestinian history, and is Professor at the Beit Beerl College for Teachers where he teaches pedagogy of history. Professor Yusuf graduated from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and received his PhD degree in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University. Author of *The Palestinians in Israel and Intifada,* Dr. Yusuf has published extensively on Israeli-Palestinian relations.