



THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Research Conference on:

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE UPPER JORDAN VALLEY
BETWEEN Ca. 800 and 700Ka AGO – ITS IMPACT ON
THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOMININS AND ITS
POTENTIAL AS A PREDICTION FOR FUTURE
SCENARIOS

May 19-21, 2009

All lectures will take place at the Feldman Building,
on the Givat Ram Campus

Organizer: Naama Goren-Inbar
(The Hebrew University)

PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 19

8:15-8:45 *Registration*

MORNING SESSION

Chair: Avner Ayalon (Geological Survey of Israel)

8:45-9:00 *Opening remarks: Naama Goren-Inbar* (The Hebrew University)

9:00-9:40 **George Darling** (British Geological Survey, Wallingford)
The Isotope Hydrology of Climate Change

9:40-10:20 **Baruch Spiro, Shoshana Ashkenazi and Avraham Starinsky**
(The Hebrew University)
Chemical and Isotopic Composition of Melanopsis and Ambient Waters in the Hula Basin, Upper Jordan Valley

- 10:20-11:00 **Ahuva Almogi-Labin** (Geological Survey of Israel)
The Paleoclimate of the Levant during the Transition from Early to Middle Pleistocene Based on Marine and Land Records: An Overview
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:30-12:10 **David Large** (University of Nottingham)
Geochemical Markers of the Paleoenvironmental History of Peat
- 12:10-12:50 **Yoel Melamed, Ehud Weiss, Mordechai Kislev and Orit Simchoni** (Bar-Ilan University)
Extinction of Water Plants in the Hula Valley – Sign of Global Warming?
- 12:50-13:30 **Gideon Hartman** (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology)
Plant Communities, Isotopic Composition, and Environmental Stability in the Upper Jordan Valley: Can Present Conditions Reflect on the Past?
- 13:30-15:00 *Lunch break*

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: Richard Klein (Stanford University)

- 15:00-15:40 **Gonen Sharon, Nira Alperson-Afil and Naama Goren-Inbar** (The Hebrew University)
Cultural Conservatism against Variability in the Continual Acheulian Sequence of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov, Israel
- 15:40-16:20 **Irit Zohar, Rebecca Biton and Naama Goren-Inbar** (The Hebrew University)
Land, Lake, and Fish: Investigations of Fish Remains from Gesher Benot Ya'aqov (Paleo – Lake Hula)
- 16:30-18:00 **Mordechai Kislev** (Bar-Ilan University)
Guided Tour in the Botanical Gardens (speakers only)
- 18:30 *Reception at the Caffit Restaurant (in the gardens) (speakers only)*

Wednesday, May 20

MORNING SESSION

Chair: Mina Weinstein-Evron (University of Haifa)

- 9:00-9:40 **Amos Frumkin** (The Hebrew University)
Lake Levels and Caves as Paleoclimatic Indicators: The Dead Sea Basin Case

- 9:40-10:20 **Mira Bar-Mathews** (Geological Survey of Israel) and **Anton Vaks** (University of Oxford)
Pliocene-Pleistocene Humid Periods in the Central and Southern Negev as Evident from U-Pb Dating of Speleothem
- 10:20-11:00 **Lutz Maul** (Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum, Weimar), **Ran Barkai** and **Avi Gopher** (Tel Aviv University)
Of Men and Mice at the Middle Pleistocene Qesem Cave, Israel: Small Mammals, Environment and Biostratigraphy
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:30-12:10 **Gloria Cuenca** (Universidad de Zaragoza)
Early-Middle Pleistocene Palaeoenvironmental Change in Spain: The Small Vertebrates of Gran Dolina, Atapuerca
- 12:10-12:50 **Rivka Rabinovich and Rivka Biton** (The Hebrew University)
The Early-Middle Pleistocene Faunal Assemblages of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov – Taphonomy and Palaeoenvironment
- 12:50-13:30 **Bienvenido Martinez-Navarro** (Universitat Rovira i Virgili) and **Rivka Rabinovich**
The Fossil Bovidae (Artiodactyla, Mammalia) from Gesher Benot Ya'aqov, Israel
- 13:30-15:00 *Lunch break*
- 15:00-18:30 **Mira Bar-Mathews and Avner Ayalon**
Guided Tour in the Soreq Cave (speakers only)

Free evening

Thursday, May 21

MORNING SESSION

Chair: Anna Belfer-Cohen (The Hebrew University)

- 9:00-9:40 **Craig S. Feibel** (Rutgers University)
Sedimentary Dynamics and Environmental Change in the Lake Margin Sequence of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov, Israel
- 9:40-10:20 **Leore Grosman, Oded Smikt, Uzy Smilansky** (Weizmann Institute) and **Gonen Sharon** (The Hebrew University)
Quantifying Damage of Bifaces and its Contribution to Environmental Reconstruction
- 10:20-11:00 **Arik Malinsky-Buller, Erella Hovers** (The Hebrew University) and **Ofer Marder** (Israel Antiquities Authority)
Water from Rocks – Archaeological Horizons and Fluvial Processes at the Lower Paleolithic Open-Air Site of Revadim (Israel)
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-12:10 **Joel Kronfeld, Alexander Livnat** (Tel Aviv University) and **Baruch Spiro** (The Hebrew University)
Pleistocene Summer Rainfall from the Eastern-Sahara to the Arava Rift Valley

12:10-12:50 **Reuven Yeshurun, Yossi Zaidner, Guy Bar-Oz** (University of Haifa) and **Vera Eisenman** (CNRS)
Paleoenvironment of the Northern Negev in the Lower-Middle Pleistocene: A View from Bizat Ruhama and Nahal Hesi

12:50-13:30 **Yoram Yom-Tov** (Tel Aviv University)
Recent Changes in Body Size of Birds and Mammals: Effects and Possible Causes

13:30-15:00 *Lunch break*

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: Uzy Smilansky (Weizmann Institute)

15:00-15:40 **Henk K. Mienis and Shoshana Ashkenazi** (The Hebrew University)
Species Richness and Abundance of Lymnaeidae and Planorbidae as Indicators of Lakeside Swamp Habitats in the Early-Middle Pleistocene Site of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov

15:40-16:20 **Itamar Procaccia** (Weizmann Institute)
On the Physics of Reversals: Velocity and Magnetic Fields

16:20 *Closing words*

19:30 *Closing dinner at the Terasa Restaurant (speakers only)*