

The Gershon H. Gordon
Faculty of Social Sciences
Tel Aviv University



THE INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



3rd Annual Report 2024-25

<https://en-social-sciences.tau.ac.il/igs3>

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INCEPTION AND VISION

Tel Aviv University is the largest and most comprehensive university in Israel. Its 1,000 researchers and 30,000 students are expanding knowledge daily across the academic spectrum. TAU is the intellectual engine powering Israel's startup culture and successful economy and is ranked among the top 10 most innovative educational institutions in the world. The Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences of TAU is the second biggest and most prominent faculty at TAU, attracting bright young faculty members, and an ever-increasing number of students.

The International Graduate School for Social Sciences (IGS³) was established in 2021 with the mission of expanding the faculty's international academic activity and becoming a focal point for international research and higher education. The IGS³ includes five International M.A. programs, hosts dozens of internationally renowned scholars as affiliated and visiting professors annually and operates as a faculty-level support system for international activity at all levels. The school puts an emphasis on inter-disciplinarity and innovation in teaching and research, focusing on creating the next generation of bright young researchers, experts and policy makers, to be taught and guided by the best researchers of the world's top universities.

At our fourth year of operation, during an extremely difficult time in Israel and in a very challenging international academic atmosphere, we stand strong and resilient like Israel does.

Our goal for the future is to maintain and strengthen our international partnerships and collaborations, welcome more incoming international students and scholars, and boost the impact of TAU's Social Sciences and Tel Aviv University more in the global academic arena.

We could not achieve any of our goals without the outstanding and constant collaboration and support of the Lowy International School, its Head, Prof. Milette Shamir, and its Director, Ms. Maureen Adiri Meyer – thank you.



LETTER FROM HEAD OF IGS³, PROF. AMAL JAMAL

The International Graduate School of Social Science (IGS) aims to enhance TAU's visibility and leadership in the international arena. On the one hand, IGS attracts students from all over the world who wish to benefit from the knowledge accumulated here in Israel, and specifically at TAU, in the social sciences. On the other hand, IGS 'brings the world' to Israeli students and faculty – in the form of world-class lecturers, researchers, and supervisors from around the globe. In this way, we encourage our students and researchers to build international networks that facilitate common research with foreign partners. Ultimately, thanks to its dynamic entrepreneurial spirit, IGS has become a global hub for the exchange of ideas and growth of knowledge in many areas of social sciences that are at the heart of the human experience and critical challenges of our times.

Tel Aviv University has a great deal to offer. Beyond the accumulated immense knowledge and experience in many technological areas, TAU is home to several leading schools in the social sciences. Its experts in psychology, economics, sociology, political science, social work, labor studies, communication, and public policy are well-known for their innovative and impactful research. They provide cutting-edge research and publications in the most renowned scientific journals worldwide. As a result, TAU is attractive to students and scholars from many countries.

Our international programs cover sustainability, climate change, security, conflict resolution, and cyber governance. Soon, we intend to open a new program in Global Affairs and Entrepreneurial Leadership.

Our goal is to make the vast knowledge amassed here at TAU, and throughout the state of Israel, accessible to the entire world, while bringing the best researchers from around the globe to further advance this knowledge.

Professor Amal Jamal

Dean, Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences
Head of the International Graduate School of Social Sciences



Prof. Amal Jamal, Head of IGS³

Amal Jamal is dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Romulo Betancourt Chair in Political Science. Professor Jamal is also head of the Walter Lebach Institute for the Study of Jewish-Arab Coexistence at Tel Aviv University and the editor-in-chief of the Hebrew political science journal, "The Public Sphere". He has been a visiting scholar at several universities, primarily at the Free University of Berlin, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Boston. His research focuses on applied political theory, comparative politics, and political communication. Prof. Jamal has written extensively on regime change and democratization, civil society, social movements, citizenship and minority rights, media and cultural politics. He has published over one hundred articles in five languages in leading academic journals and edited volumes, and over twenty books in three languages. He examined the role of civil society in democratizing ethnic states and promoting equal citizenship for all citizens in his book "Reconstructing the Civic: Palestinian Civil Activism in Israel", for which he won the best book prize of the Israeli Political Science Association in 2021.



Ayelet Fishman. Adv., Administrative Director of IGS³

Mrs. Fishman received her LL.B. from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem as well as an M.A. in Public Policy, with distinction, from Tel Aviv University. She formerly served as the Israeli Ministry of the Interior's National Elections Supervisor and the Administrative Director of the Boris Mints Institute.



INTERNATIONAL MA PROGRAMS

The International Graduate School of Social Sciences offers five M.A. programs for international students, all of which are executed with the highest academic standards and taught in English. The programs are one calendric year (3 semesters) long. Our graduates receive an MA degree from Tel Aviv University.

Our programs draw excellent students from all over the world, who enrich us (and one another) with diverse viewpoints, perspectives and innovative insights. Our international programs are designed and taught out of a dynamic and interdisciplinary perspective. IGS³ trains its students as professionals to become leaders, entrepreneurs and policy makers around the globe.

We are happy to say that despite the challenging geo-political situation in Israel and worldwide, we are maintaining all of our academic routines and to run our programs as usual, including special activities, field trips and all.

These are our international M.A. programs:

The International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation



This program is a one-year interdisciplinary MA program taught in English with an optional research track (MA thesis and PhD). Students graduate with a Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediation. The program provides students with tools for effective analysis, negotiation strategies, and conflict resolution frameworks in the international arena. Students also earn a certificate issued by Tel Aviv University for completing the program's workshop in International Mediation.

For further information: <https://resolution.tau.ac.il/>

We are proud to announce a generous donation by one of our recent alumni, Ms. Alexandra Ruth Seaman, who initiated a [scholarship fund](#) for women in the program: Empowering women, advancing peace.

The International Program in Security and Diplomacy



From a geo-political standpoint, Israel is at the focus of the world's attention in security and diplomacy matters. It has, thus, amassed a huge body of professional expertise in both of those fields. Embodying this locus of knowledge and skills, our International MA program in Security and Diplomacy brings together internationally renowned scholars, former and most current leading practitioners in both security and diplomacy, offering students an exceptional learning experience.

Educational tours and meetings with Israeli and foreign officials are incorporated into the curriculum. Students are encouraged to take up internships and other extra-curricular activities during their year stay in Israel. The program provides advanced knowledge and analytical tools for the study of strategy, diplomacy, decision-making and the shaping of security and foreign policy. At the practical level, the program prepares students for engagement in the international arena, defense bodies, international organizations (both governmental and NGOs) and international economic organizations.



This program's graduates were nominated as valedictorians at the Lowy International School End of the Year Ceremonies for the past three years, a selection which makes us very proud.

For further information please consult our website at: <https://secdip.tau.ac.il/>

The International Program in Sustainable Development



The program combines class-based and experiential learning. During their studies, students take active roles in developing and field-testing practical and innovative solutions to development challenges that combine technical, cultural, psychological, behavioral economics, psychology, policy, and technological dimensions of sustainable development, and an intensive practical preparation of applied projects.

The third (and fourth) semesters are dedicated to applied fieldwork and research in Israel or a developing country site. The program is led by senior TAU faculty from the social and engineering sciences with extensive experience in applied research on development.

For further information: <https://en-social-sciences.tau.ac.il/devcoun>

The program held its first **Alum event** this April, celebrating five year of fruitful activity. We were happy and proud to see our alums take prominent positions in various organizations and dedicating to making a difference and a positive sustainable impact wherever they are.

The International Program in Cyber, Politics and Government



As a global leader in cyber and technology, TAU is at the heart of innovation with leading researchers, research centers, and the center of the new “Smart Systems” national initiative. The Cyber, Politics and Government Program builds a bridge between the technology world and the field of corporate policy and strategy, critical issues for any organization’s ability to adapt to the future world, which is rapidly evolving based on cyber technologies. The program is headed by Prof. Eviatar Matania, Former Director General of Israel National Cyber Directorate. The students in the program will acquire the critical tools for developing strategic planning, management and leadership in the challenging era of big data, cyber threats and new evolving technologies. Additionally, the students will gain the necessary understanding of cyber challenges on the societal, governmental, corporate and organizational levels to make educated decisions in risk management, compliance, budget, reputation, policy and strategy.

For further information: https://international.tau.ac.il/cyber_politics_government

The International Program in Social and Policy Aspects of Climate Change



This M.A program was successfully launched in 2023. The program focuses on the social context and policy aspects of the climate crisis. The program, the first of its kind in Israel and one of only a handful of similar programs worldwide, was initiated and developed in close consultation with TAU’s new multidisciplinary Climate Centre established in 2020. The climate crisis is emerging as an existential global challenge in the 21st century, rapidly emerging as a systemic crisis, triggering a host of far-reaching economic, social, political, and ethical processes. The program is entirely dedicated to the social, cultural, and political dimensions of the climate crisis and its different social aspects: Sociology, Environmental Studies, Public Policy and much more. The program’s intellectual prospect is forward-looking, emphasizing up-to-date, thoughtful creativity based on cutting edge science.

For further information: <https://en-social-sciences.tau.ac.il/climate>

The program held a special **“ESG in Practice” workshop** this May, where the students learned how a meaningful ESG method connects sustainability with business strategy and creates added value and risk control for companies (ESG refers to the environmental, social, and governance factors that investors measure when analyzing a company’s sustainability efforts from a holistic view).



EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

One of our main objectives is to educate and train the next generation of researchers, experts, policy makers and leaders in the fields of social sciences, using a multidisciplinary approach. To that end, we established the **Excellence Fellowship Program**.

The Excellence Fellowship program accepts a handful of outstanding students each year from the Dean's list of all Faculty's schools and departments, and welcomed its third cohort this year. The program takes the students from B.A. to Ph.D. to nurture them to be the university's future excellent researchers and global leaders.

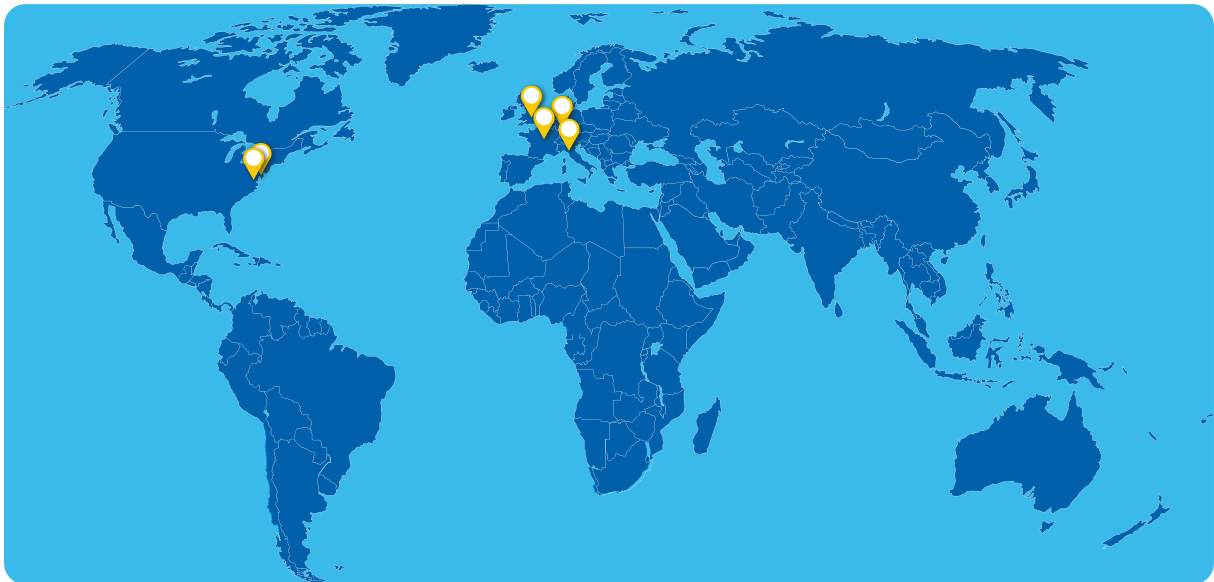
The program's academic founder is **Prof. Paul Romer**, the 2018 Nobel Prize Laureate, who follows students' academic progress, meeting them several times a year. The program's leading values are inter-disciplinary, academic excellence, and the ability to lead rigorous social, academic and policy undertakings.

The program provides the students with a holistic package of financial and academic support to enable them to focus on their studies and research: tuition and research scholarships; available funds for academic needs; academic guidance and support; exposure to the best social scientists in the faculty and access to our international network of academic partners.



GUEST FACULTY AND VISITING SCHOLARS

IGS³ hosts several Guest Faculty and Visiting Scholars annually, who engage in an array of academic activities: teach full courses, participate in conferences, give seminars, hold meetings with faculty members and research students, and much more. These visitors are an essential part of our academic eco-system and play a key role in exposing our students to the international academic environment. We appreciate our guests' commitment and support and especially cherish it this year.



These are the [scholars](#) who have honored us with their wisdom and expertise (in order of arrival during the academic year):



Prof. Miranda Schreurs, Technical University of Munich

Prof. Schreurs holds the chair for Climate and Environmental Policy at the Munich School of Politics. Her research interests include the energy transition and climate policy in Europe, the USA, and Asia. She also addresses political issues relating to the final disposal of high-level radioactive waste in her role as co-chair of the National Advisory Committee.



Prof. Daphna Shohamy, Columbia University

Kavli Professor of Brain Science; Director and CEO of Columbia's Zuckerman Institute; Codirector of Columbia's Kavli Institute for Brain Science. Prof. Shohamy explores how memories for specific events, called episodic memory, and habits are constantly informing the decisions we make, as well as the way in which memories and actions are deeply intertwined.



Dr. Luis Chenoni, University College London

an Associate Professor and the Director of the Security Studies Programme in the Department of Political Science. His research focuses on state building and international conflict with a focus on Latin America.



Prof. Russel Cooper, European University Institute

Prof. Cooper is a NBER Faculty Research Associate and the Fellow of the Econometric Society. He has published in macroeconomics, international economics, industrial organization, experimental economics, labor economics and monetary economics. Some of his recent work focuses on fiscal policy in a monetary union as well as exit from a monetary union. Papers on monetary union have appeared in the Review of Economic Studies, the International Economic Review and the European Economic Review.



Dr. Ilai Salzman, University of Maryland

Dr. Salzman is an Associate Research Professor of Israel Studies, and the Director of the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. His scholarship and teaching focus on international security, Israeli foreign and security policy, US foreign policy, and political psychology.



Prof. Astrid von Busekist, Sciences-Po Paris, Lowy Distinguished Guest Professor

Prof. von Busekist is Professor of political theory at Sciences Po, Paris. She is head of the political theory program at the graduate school and has been visiting professor at the Goethe Universität Frankfurt (2020-2021), at New York University (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), Tel Aviv University (2009-2011), and the Université Libre de Bruxelles (2001).



Prof. Sebastian Galiani, University of Maryland

Prof. Galiani is a world's leading economists. His wide research interests and activities range from Trade Economics, through Health economics and onto Development Economics and Applied Microeconomics. Prof. Galiani has worked as a consultant for United Nations, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, and the governments of Argentina, Mexico, Panama and South Africa.



JOINT COURSES

We hosted two courses which were co-taught with international partners:

“Who is afraid of foreigners”



UNIVERSITY
OF COLOGNE

taught in the fall semester by **Prof. Anastasia Gorodzeisky** from the TAU department of Sociology and Anthropology, and **Prof. Eldad Davidov** of Cologne University.

“Aspects of Conflict Resolution: a comparative perspective: The Cyprus and Israeli-Palestinian cases”



taught at the University of Cyprus by **Dr. Nimrod Rosler** and **Dr. Boaz Hameiri**, Heads of our International and Israeli MA Programs in Conflict Resolution and Mediation (respectively) and **Dr. Charis Psaltis** of Cyprus University. The course included students from both parts of Cyprus, Israeli and International students from TAU.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

One of our main objectives as an international school is to create, sustain, and broaden our network of academic partners. Collaborative activities vary from simple faculty and students' exchange, through joint conferences and research projects and up to collaborative degree agreements.

Collaborative Degree agreements



We offer our students the opportunity to earn two MA degrees, one from Tel Aviv University and the other from one of our partner universities, in two years, spending one year at each university. Our partners are global leading universities, such as the School of Advanced International Studies at [Johns Hopkins University in Bologna](#) and [Sciences-Po Lille](#). More than 10 students participated in the collaborative programs this year.

Our collaborative degree programs prepare students for global careers in public service, diplomacy, business, and nonprofit organizations, providing them the opportunity to experience two distinct academic, social, and cultural environments, develop a global perspective, so as to better understand the challenges facing Europe and the Middle East.



We were able to expand our partnership network this year by signing [two new collaboration agreements](#), with [Universidad Torcuato di Tella](#) in Argentina and [ORT university in Uruguay](#). These agreements create a structure in which students spend seven semesters at the BA level at UTDT or ORT and then spend three additional semesters at TAU in one of our MA programs. We are looking forward to welcoming the first student cohort from South America in the fall of 2026.



RESEARCH AND RESEARCH CENTERS

The IGS³ supports the activity of the **Boris Mints Institute** for Strategic Policy Solutions to Global Challenges: a well-established and well-renowned research institute, focusing on interdisciplinary research, aimed at formulating practical policy solutions to current global challenges. The institute supports a wide cohort of research students, both Israeli and international, and is best suited to serve as the infrastructure for supporting research students within the IGS³. The close collaboration with the Mints Institute, as well as its financial and academic infrastructure, enables us to increase the number of international research students at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Tel Aviv University.

IGS³ is connected to **Archimedes – The Israeli Knowledge Center for Applied System Analysis**. Archimedes is a national knowledge center that advances the field of applied systems analysis in Israel, with an emphasis on complex systems and their optimization using Integrated Assessment Models (IAM), multi-agent models, and more. The center's activity is closely intertwined with **IIASA**, a world leading research institute for applied system analysis. The Center strives to encourage the implementation of policy solutions to reduce human footprint, improve the resilience of natural and human systems, and assist in achieving the SDGs Sustainable Development Goals.

Our research network also includes the **Center for Russian Studies**, whose mission is to undertake interdisciplinary research to link developments in Russia's economy and society in recent decades to cultural and political factors. Though these factors are usually analyzed separately, it is important to understand how changes in one sphere determine changes in another. The Center for Russian Studies focuses on five areas of research: cultural transformation, transformation of social structure, political regime changes, transformation of economic institutions and foreign policy events that affected all abovementioned processes.

International Research students

IGS³ supports international research students across the Faculty of Social Sciences: from visiting students who only spend a few months with us to full-time Ph.D. students and post-doctoral young researchers. We currently have 69 such students with us and are looking forward to becoming the academic home for more international research students next year.



CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

During the past year we hosted, organized and participated in several significant conferences and workshops. These conferences enable us to showcase the remarkable research conducted by our faculty and students, create new connections and exchange ideas.



Dr. Boris Mints, President of BMI; Prof. Beatriz Magaloni, Laureate of the BMI Prize; Prof. Milette Shamir, TAU VP for International Affairs; Prof. Itai Sened, Head of BMI

BMI conference at UDG University, Montenegro: “A World Order Under Threat” – November 2024

This conference was a collaborative effort by the Boris Mints Institute (BMI) at Tel Aviv University and the University of Donja Gorica (UDG). The event addressed critical global issues, including political, economic, and institutional challenges. With a focus on fostering innovative strategies and collaborations, the conference gathered leading experts from around the world to share insights and explore solutions.



Stanford University

Russian Studies Center and the Hoover Institute at Stanford University: “Lessons and Warnings from Russia’s Reform Era” – January 2025

This workshop, hosted by the Hoover Institution and the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, aimed to subject the initial research program of CRS to rigorous scrutiny. The core research group of the Russian Studies Center presented the program to an audience of leading global experts, gathered at Stanford University for a day of intensive discussions. The goal was to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed program, providing valuable advice and guidelines to ensure its successful launch.



Center for the Study of Conflicts and their Resolution
The Gershon H. Gordon
Faculty of Social Sciences
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Center for the Study of Conflicts and their Resolution: Acknowledgment and Global Democracy – January 2025

This conference aimed to shed light on whether and how historical acknowledgment, perhaps also material remedies, have the potential to change countries’ relationships, whether such a turn toward historical conflict resolution is wishful thinking, and what challenges LIO will face if the relationship between the “West and the Rest” further deteriorates.

1 2024-5 was the last year of operation for this center.



Prof. Ariel Porat, TAU President

BMI 10th Annual Conference: “Addressing Crisis on all Fronts” – May 2025

The Boris Mints Institute’s 10th Annual Conference explored the challenges reshaping our world: from geopolitical conflict and legitimacy in warfare to urban resilience, cultural fault lines, and democratic inequality. The conference opened with a [powerful keynote by Mr. Tamir Pardo](#), former Mossad Director, offering a sobering national security outlook.

On the second day of the conference, we were honoured to host [Prof. Robert Putnam of Harvard University](#), who shared a sweeping analysis of long-run societal trends in the United States.

[Prof. Michael Turner, UNESCO Chairholder](#), addressed the intersection of heritage and urban resilience in times of poly-crisis, while [Prof. Miranda Schreurs](#) offered a forward-looking vision for Europe amid multidimensional conflict.



Mr. Friedman and Prof. Jamal

Special guest lecture with the New York Times Foreign Affairs Columnist Thomas Friedman: “U.S. Foreign Policy and the Middle East Conflict” – May 2025

The International Graduate School of Social Sciences, The School of Political Science, Government and International Relations, The Dan Department of Communication and the Center for the Study of the United States hosted a special guest talk **Mr. Friedman**, moderated by **Prof. Amal Jamal**, Dean, Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences, and Head of IGS³.

Mr. Friedman shared his insights, thoughts and observations, based on his rich experience as a writer and commentator in our region.



FUTURE PLANS

As a part of our aim of expanding the variety of our MA programs, we are developing a special new MA program, in collaboration with the Lowy International School and a generous group of donors.

We are also building a new structure for a PhD Excellence program, to be launched in the 2025-6 academic year.

Additionally, we are working on creating new academic partnerships with universities and research centers around the world and are very optimistic regarding the fruition of these efforts.

