



Robert Bosch **Stiftung**



The Robert Bosch Foundation funding the Werner Otto scholarships

REPORT 2016

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funding the
Werner Otto Scholarships

2016 Report

In 2016 the Werner Otto Scholarships Program is celebrating a jubilee as it has been 15 years since the first scholarships were given to Arab women studying towards a higher degree. Back in 2001 the Association of German Friends recognized the lack of support towards ambitious female Arab students who had finished their first academic degree and wished to continue their studies. Consequently, the German Friends Association decided to grant financial support to talented students in order to relieve the burden of study fees and living expenses. Since the initiation, the program's goal has always been the empowerment of Arab women within their traditional society as well as within the Israeli society at large.



Our partner at the University of Haifa is the Jewish-Arab Centre, an interdisciplinary institute for scientific research which has achieved recognition for its successful work in the field of Jewish-Arab cooperation. Together with the German Friends it is identifying the best applicants and supporting scholarship holders with any academic or personal problem. Until now, more than 150 scholarships have been granted and there is a growing community considering themselves part of the "Werner Otto family". Additionally, the WO Network gives scholars and alumnae the opportunity to exchange expectations and experiences. This consequently improves the program as well as the professional perspectives of every single woman.

This year we are very grateful for the major contributions made to the German Friends' donation by the Robert Bosch Foundation and the von Holtzbrinck family. To express our gratitude five of this year's scholarships are named Robert Bosch Stiftung Grant in the Werner Otto Graduate Arab Women Scholarship Program 2016.

As the chairwoman of the Association of German Friends of the University of Haifa I am a tireless supporter of the idea of tolerance and equality. When I hand the awards to the new Werner-Otto scholars I always feel deeply honoured and excited. The pride in the faces of the students and their families strengthens my resolve to continue our support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel". The script is cursive and elegant.

Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel

Chairwoman

German Friends Association of the University of Haifa

The Werner Otto Scholarship program is a joint sponsorship of the German Friends of the University of Haifa and the Jewish-Arab Center. Through the program, which marks its 15th anniversary this year, scholarships have been awarded to more than 140 Arab women from diverse academic fields and professions, who were pursuing graduate degrees at the University of Haifa. Many of these women have since graduated, some with doctoral degrees.



Werner Otto scholarship alumnae can be found in academic institutions in Israel and abroad, in the public service and in the private sector. It is particularly encouraging to see so many women challenge themselves and pursue PhD studies while also advancing in their careers and raising families. The Werner Otto scholarship recipients also contribute to their communities and to society. The program's alumnae network started out working on community projects and other activities three years ago. An overview of past network activities appears at the end of this report. In my vision I see a bright future for the alumnae network. Since I started my role as the head of the Jewish- Arab center I worked in order to strengthen the Network and skills of the Werner Otto scholarship Recipients, I initiated activities like an English workshop, a conference that focused on the research work of the alumnae and published a booklet with their researches and abstracts. We are very proud of the accomplishments of all of the program alumnae, and believe in the empowerment of Arab women and see them as a wonderful example to young Arab women, to Arab society in particular, and to Israeli society at large.

We are very grateful to Ms. Sonja Lahnstein, Chairperson of the German Friends Association, for making this program possible and for her contribution to its continued development, and to the Zeit-Foundation Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius for their support in the program in this academic year. We hope this cooperation will continue and expand, and more Arab woman can pursue academic degrees and contribute to upgrade the social change in the academic and social society.

Prof. Rassem Khamaisi

Head of the Jewish-Arab Center

2016 Scholarship Recipients

Shahrazad Sirhan Tarboush PhD, School of Marine Sciences

Shahrazad Tarboush-Sirhan 28 years old. She is a Druze woman, mother of a wonderful girl named Celine and married a great husband, Mhemad. Today she works as a PhD. Student, studying the dynamics of methane bubbles in muddy aquatic sediments at the Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Marine Geosciences, Haifa University. She finished her M.Sc., (2013), in particles and high energy physics (Experimental), at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. She enjoyed taking part and working on one of the largest particle collider in the world, detectors (ATLAS). Her B.Sc. was also in physics.



Between 2009–2015 she took various jobs: teaching, guiding high school students in physics research and mathematics. She worked with the Ministry of Education, AXIOMA, AHERET, and Branco Weiss (Institutes for the Development of Thinking). In 2009 she started her social educational program (Young Physicists), with the support of the Ministry of Education and IT-Works Association, Shahrazad initiate and managed the program. Between 2005–2006 she worked in one of the Maghar community center programs for girls –she helped, as a selected project manager to plan, initiate and start the first women's gym in Maghar and to train a group of girls to run the institute.

2014 – 2015: initiating "Halom" teaching program in Druze schools, in this program physics is taught through inquiry. 2013 – 2015: Technicon Department of Education - a member of a commission, that counsel and promote projects that can improve the education in Israel. 2011 – 2013: partner in initiating the first space center in the Druze community. 2008 – 2011: Technicon, Student Promotion Unit – assistance Druze girls to blind in academic life and to excel in their studies. 2005 -2011: Maghar community center – taught flute, physics, chemistry and math.

Janan Saadi
MA, Department of Human Biology

Janan Saadi, 23 years old is a student who lives in a little Bedouin village called Bsmat Tivon, she lives there with her parents and two younger brothers.

She has a B.Sc degree in Nutrition science, which she did at the Hebrew university of Jerusalem, during her last year there she took part in a project in Prof. Betty Schwartz's lab that studied mechanisms linking obesity to altered metabolism in mice colon

carcinogenesis, a study which was published later on. Currently she's doing her master degree in human biology at the University of Haifa. She does her research in an immunology lab, she studies the role of a protein called UCP2 during the resolution of inflammation. She has always been an excellent student with very high grades and had much interest in science and research.

In addition, she works at Davidson institute in the "math and science online" program, its aim is to encourage pupils to have more interest in math and science by presenting them in a more enjoyable way.

She tries to be involved in social activities as much as she can, during high school she was a member in Mosawa Centre, where they learned about the rights of the minorities, they collected donations for people in need, wrote some articles and shoot a short film about the situation of the minorities in the country. After school she volunteered in Rambam hospital in Haifa (a total of 60 hours).

In her last year in the Hebrew University she took part in a project called "together" and mentored a group of 5 Arab female students that were in their first year in the faculty of agriculture in Rehovot, the help she provided was mainly social because at the time it wasn't very common for Arab students to study there and many of them left the University because of the difficulty in adapting to the new environment.

Finally, last summer she participated in "breaking the ice", a project in which Jewish and Arab students try to prove that they can survive together in hard conditions. After preparations and some assignments here in the country they went for a 2 weeks hiking trip in the Swiss Alps, away from technology they learned personal things about each other and discussed some political and social subjects. When they came back they worked together on two projects, one for adults (including the parents of the members of our group) and the other for students- both Jews and Arabs, the two projects were a success.

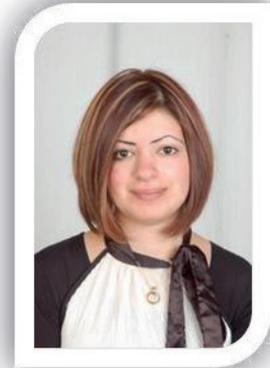


Janan Saadi has many plans for the future, including a Ph.D and travelling around the world for a few months with nothing but a small backpack.

Hiba Zaidan
PhD, Department of Psychology

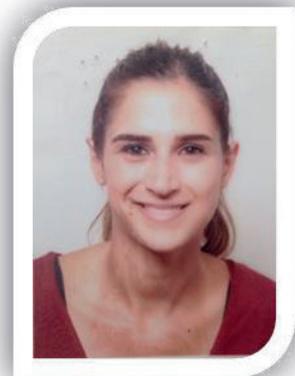
Hiba Zaidan was born and raised in Daliyat al-Karmel, a Druze village high on the slopes of Israel's Mt. Carmel. She obtained her high school diploma in new all-Druze High School of Science and Leadership in the village Yarka, Galilee. She was in the first graduating class of this school.

Hiba obtained her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Haifa in 2008, and her M.A (summa cum laude) from the University of Haifa in Psychology / Behavioral Neuroscience. She is currently a doctoral student, Hiba's research, which garnered her a Presidential Award for Innovative Research, is focused on gaining a better understanding of how stress prior to pregnancy may have a long term effect on children and even grandchildren. Discovering the neurobiological mechanisms underlying stress before pregnancy may one day enhance our ability to screen for risk factors for stress-related disorders and possibly lead to earlier remedial or preventive intervention. Outside the lab, she takes part in volunteering activity of promoting academic education, especially science, for high school students. In addition, she assists new students from her village in the enrollment and admissions process to colleges and universities.



Leem Kardosh
MA, Department of Learning Disabilities

Leem Kardosh, 25 years old from Nazareth. In 2013, she finished her bachelor's degree studies in education for learning disabilities, and integrating arts in education, at Tel-Hai College where she was awarded a Certificate of Distinction for her achievements. Currently she is studying for a master's degree (third year) in learning disabilities, diagnosis and treatment, a track with a thesis in the subject: "Development of Phonological Awareness in Native Arabic Speaking Kindergarten Children".



In addition to a Teaching Certificate in Special Education at the University of Haifa, she has submitted, as part of her studies, four Seminar papers in the field of learning disabilities (two academic studies, a quantitative study and a combined study).

As part of her working experience during bachelor's degree studies, she managed a "mentoring project" as a field coordinator in The Center for Peace and Democracy, Tel Hai College (after screening which included examining responsibility capacities, meeting deadlines, leadership and teamwork). Moreover, she has experience in building and conducting a workshop in efficient learning strategies and memory for adults in higher education, as part of her studies for master's degree. she gave private lessons to children with learning difficulties from primary schools, alongside providing personal tutoring to students at Tel Hai College and the University of Haifa, including assistance in understanding and illustration of educational material while providing efficient work strategies for planning and organization of time, strategies for building and summarizing schema regarding learning materials and more.

Today Leem kardosh works as a Didactic Diagnostician to students in public schools, middle and high school at the University of Haifa. The work focuses on identifying students with learning disabilities while offering an intervention plan in accordance with the student's needs. In addition, she is working as the person in charge of scheduling and supervising tests for learning disabled students, through Yahel Center (Support Unit of learning disabled student) - University of Haifa. As for voluntary work, she has volunteered in the Child Association - Nazareth, treatment of preschoolers, up to 5 years. Her voluntary focused on giving variety of educational activities. In addition to that, volunteering in summer camps with a different age group in Nazareth.

Manal Shahtot
MA, Department of Counseling and Human Development

Manal Shahot, teacher for children with hearing loss. Her first degree was education for deaf children in Tel-Aviv University and her master was in Early Education and Development- A Multi-Disciplinary Program in Haifa university. The aim of her study is to examine whether there is a difference between social information processing (SIP) of young children (5-6 years old) with hearing loss compared to the same process in children with normal hearing with similar age. Social information processing is how we react to particular social situation from exposure to which to respond to that situation. The literature review shows that research on the subject of social information processing in children



with hearing loss is missing, including in preschool age. The proposed research will come to fill in the blank, and will test whether there are differences in social information processing in children with hearing loss in early childhood, and these processes in children with normal hearing. In addition, it will examine if there is a disruption at some point during the processing of social information among preschool children with hearing loss.

Mariam Abu Wasel Eghbariah
MA, Faculty of Management, Natural Resources
& Environmental Management

Mariam Abu Wasel Egbariah, recently married.

As an environmental engineer, during her first degree studies, there were no discussions about climate change and environmental degradation. What mattered was finding solutions for all kind of environmental problems across the world, such as water supply, sewage collection, wastewater treatment and etc. She believes that is the purpose of engineering studies. Now, after being an engineer who can handle any environmental engineering problem, she has decided to continue her graduate studies, to expand horizons, and to get another point of view of the environmental aspects here in Israel.

Mariam has chosen to study at the Natural Resources and Environmental Management faculty at University of Haifa. Now, at her third year, she is working on her thesis, "Model for optimal management of high quality effluents for irrigation". An important subject for research and development especially when water scarcity and climate change are becoming main global problems. When using treated wastewater as irrigation water is contributing to save fresh water for potable use and these effluents are a reliable source of water. As an environmental engineer, she has worked as water and wastewater planning engineer at a water and wastewater planning office. During her second degree studies, she has worked as a teaching assistant in Statistics for environmental studies (graduate course).



Ranin Khayr
MA, Department of Communication Disorders

Ranin Khayr, 28 years old from Abu Snan village. She is an audiologist and speech pathologist. She has a B.A degree in English literature and in communication disorders from Haifa University. Ranin is a third year student in the M.A degree program in communication disorders. She works at Bnai Zion Medical Center in the cochlear implant program. Her work includes cochlear implant evaluations for adults and children, cochlear implant mapping, hearing tests and speech perception tests. She also work as a research coordinator in the surgery department in Galilee Medical Center. Her thesis for the M.A degree focuses on bimodal hearing (the use of a hearing aid in one ear and a cochlear implant in the contra lateral ear) in adult recipients with moderate-severe hearing loss in the non-implanted ear. The aim of the study is to evaluate the performance of combined electric hearing through CI and acoustic hearing through HA in bilateral-bimodal users with moderate-to-severe hearing loss in the non-implanted ear.



Seham Hamzi
PhD, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Seham Hamzi, mother of 3 children. Seham is a PhD student in the Geography and Environmental Studies department at Haifa University. She is currently in her second stage of studies, her research focuses on Spectroscopy as a tool for evaluating and monitoring chemical and physical properties of ash and topsoil layer after. In 2011 Seham received the Prof. Asher Schick award from the Hebrew University in the field of Geomorphology for her graduate research work. Her thesis has received the first place among graduate works presented by four universities in Israel. The thesis subject was “Temporal Changes in Chemical Properties of the runoff and erosion after forest fire, exemplified by the Biriya forest fire”. In addition to all that, Seham is a Future Scientists Program Coordinator on behalf of the Ministry of Science in Sakhnin Municipality.



Dona Elias

MA, Department of Mathematics

Donna elias, twenty-five years old.

She is a Graduate BA of Mathematics and Economics. She is now a master's degree student of Mathematics and Mathematics Education. Dona works as a mathematics teacher in a high school, and as a teaching assistant at the Department of Mathematics in the University of Haifa. Her thesis on mathematics deals with Latin Squares and their generalizations.



Heba Daoud

MA, Department of Communication Disorders

Heba Daoud is 27 years old and lives in Rameh village, Galilee, Israel. She is a 3rd year Master student of audiology in cognitive hearing program - speech and language therapy department at Haifa University. Heba works in the education and treatment center of children with hearing loss at Tiberius (Northern District, Ministry of Health) leading training programs for Arab speech therapists and teachers, focusing in single and group therapy programs for hard of hearing children, and improving acoustic accessibility of classrooms in schools. Since 2012, she works also as a speech therapist in "Audio Center", a hearing aid clinic at Kiryat Bialik.



Heba's field of interest is language development of children with hearing loss. Her thesis will examine the relation between speech perception and language skills in Arabic speaking school-age children with hearing loss. This study will correlate the mutual benefit of hearing role in language development and language role in developing hearing skills in these children.

Moreover, she is active in several community contribution programs at her town, taking part in after-school activity programs, and mentoring 1st year university students.

Heba's future programs include:

- Research of language and communication in Arab hard of hearing children.
- Development of intervention programs for parents and therapists of Arab children with hearing loss, concentrating at the special needs of Arabic speaking community.

Nevine Immanuel
PhD, Faculty of Law

Nevine Immanuel is a lawyer and lives in Ramla, Israel. In October 2014 she started her PhD studies in law at the University of Haifa by the supervision of Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal. The thesis is entitled “Suspended Sentences-Empirical Study”. The research will provide a first-of-its-kind empirical study of the activation practices of Suspended Sentences in Israel, and the deterrent effect of this type of punishment.



She accomplished her LL.M. (Master of Laws) (without thesis) from Bar-Ilan University in Criminal Law. In 2014, she completed her thesis as a part of pre-research track at the Faculty of Law, University of Haifa. The subject of the thesis was “Suspended Sentence as a Mitigating Factor”, supervised by Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal.

Nevine’s fields of interest are Criminal Law and Procedure, Punishment and Empirical Legal Studies. She began her practice as a jurist in the court system in 1999. Initially as an intern at the Chamber of the Honorable Judge, Oded Al-Yagon, retired President of the Magistrates' Courts, South District. Once she was certified as a lawyer in 2001 till 2010, she worked as a legal assistant to the Honorable Judges, Oded Al- Yagon and Moshe Mechlis, retired Presidents of the Magistrates' Courts, South District.

From 2010 till 2012 she worked as a legal assistant to the Attorney of the Administration of Courts in Jerusalem. In this role, she was responsible for the criminal field and represented the court system before the state authorities, including the Parliamentary Committees and the Ministry of Justice.

From March 2013 till September 2015 she worked as a research assistant to Dr. Doron Menashe, senior lecturer at the University of Haifa, Faculty of Law.

Network Social Activities – Werner Otto Scholarship Recipients

A Review of the Second Werner Otto Scholars' Conference on:

"A Second Window to Female Arab Researchers"

As part of our networking activities and ongoing tradition the Jewish- Arab center and the head of the Center Prof. Rassem Khamaisi held a second Werner Otto Scholars' conference in Nazareth/ Yafa. The participants and lecturers in the conference were past and present scholars. About 70 people came to participate and take part in the conference. The organization was carried out by a scholar steering committee that included Dr. Rima Abu Jaber-Baransi, Dr. Rawia Borbara and Shua Sibel.

The conference, held on the 21/05/2016 at Yafa Community Center has met our objectives. First and foremost, it has strengthened the sense among each one of us that we are part of a significant and collaborative project that aims at the advancement of Arab women and their integration into the academic domain. Compared with others, because this conference was organized on behalf of female Arab researchers, it was a friendly, supportive and social encounter.

Nevertheless, despite the overall friendly atmosphere, this conference was an arena for intellectual interchange. The speakers, who were all granted the Werner Otto scholarship, some of which have also become distinguished public figures, delighted our ears with their latest research and findings. The four key panels covered an immense body of research in a variety of fields: literature and language, education (whether mainstream or special), social studies and health. The lectures were followed by intriguing discussions that linked the theories with real life experiences which the audience related to, and discussed.

On the whole, the conference was a huge success for all the participants and for the Werner Otto scholars in particular. It was a unique social and intellectual encounter in which the female Arab researchers felt most welcome and confident, empowered for self-actualization. The event felt to them part of another step towards the advancement of their social position.

Booklet of publication for Werner Otto scholarships:

The Jewish-Arab center published a collection of articles and abstracts in an attempt to encourage Arab women in the academia to publish academic papers. The goal of the booklet is to strengthen the existing network of Werner-Otto alumnae. All in hopes that this will open doors for Arab women in the academia. This booklet includes a selection of studies, proposals and summaries of Werner-Otto grantees.

An English workshop:

Held on the month of July, 2015. The workshop was set up in order to provide students with the necessary skills and confidence to give verbal presentation in English. All in the aim of empowering and reinforcing the scholarships recipients' skills.

Some pictures from the conference:







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