

The Werner Otto Scholarships

**A Cooperation between the
Jewish-Arab Center and the
Association of the German Friends
of the University of Haifa**

**Generously funded by the
Robert Bosch Foundation**



Started by the German Friends Association in 2001, the Werner Otto Scholarship Program supports talented and ambitious Arab women for 17 years by now. In their attempt to achieve the aim of a higher degree, the high cost of living in Israel unfortunately often represent an obstacle which is difficult to overcome. The scholarship helps with the needed financial support. In addition to providing academic knowledge, the most important thing for the program has always been the empowerment and encouragement for women living their own culture as well as being an important part of the Israeli society.



We are fortunate to work together with the University of Haifa to achieve these goals. With its academic excellence and its students of all the different sections of Israeli society, the University is a role model for the whole country. A particularly outstanding part of the University is the Jewish-Arab Center. The interdisciplinary institute for scientific research is an extraordinary place where Jewish-Arab cooperation is filling with life. Together with the German Friends Association, the institute identifies the most brilliant candidates for the scholarship and supports the participating women in an admirable way with no matter which problem. We are very happy about the possibility to enrich the Werner-Otto-Family every year with new, impressive young women.

The Werner Otto Program has granted over 170 scholarships already. It inspires me to hear about all the personal and professional successes, which the alumnae experienced in their lives. These outstanding women contributing in WO conferences, exchanging experiences and supporting our new scholarship recipients shows that they still feel bonded with the program. That makes me proud. The program is really establishing a change towards a diverse, tolerant and regardful society.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel".

Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel
Chairwoman
German Friends Association of the University of Haifa

The Werner Otto Scholarship program is one of the most influential projects for Arab Women in the University of Haifa. The program is a joint sponsorship of the German Friends Association of the University of Haifa and the Jewish-Arab Center. Over the years, scholarships were awarded to more than 164 Arab women from diverse academic fields and professions at the University of Haifa.



As the new head of the Jewish-Arab center, I strongly believe that the University of Haifa, the most heterogeneous university in Israel, can and should facilitate a meaningful dialogue between Jews and Arabs, on campus and within the surrounding communities. I have dedicated myself to research and field work along the lines of creating meaningful encounters with "the other". I am not a new figure to the German Friends of the University of Haifa. My relations with this supportive organization go back some years already, as I am the initiator and director of the "Haifa meets Frankfurt" project, which does exactly that. Today, I see the next challenge right before my eyes – the ability to reach out to “the other”; to see him or her, not just to look at them; to bring them closer and create opportunities for both sides to collaborate. The Werner Otto scholarship empowers young Arab women and opens up new opportunities for academic collaboration for Jewish and Arab scholars. Thus, the program scholars and alumnae contribute to their communities and as such to the Israeli society as a whole.

In my tenure, I plan to advance three main themes which I believe would contribute to the make-up of Jewish and Arabs relations, on campus and within its surrounding communities: Art and creation in a shared space (a conference to be held on June 11) ; entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for our Arabs graduates (a conference and a job fair to be held on June 20) ; and culture of commemoration as it applies to Jews, Arabs and Germans. I intend to integrate the WO recipients into the centers activities and provide them with a stage to expose their studies. In the upcoming June event, two of the WO scholars are among the speakers of the conference.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the German Friends of the University of Haifa, especially to Mrs. Sonia Lahnstein and Ms. Nicola Teuber for their ongoing support, which ensures the continuity of this initiative. I am looking forward to continuing working together to achieve our common goals for the University of Haifa and for all people of Israel.

12/12/38

Prof. Adital Ben Ari
Head of the Jewish- Arab center

Mira Sabbah- Khoury

PhD, Department of community Mental Health

Mira earned her bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature and Education from the University of Haifa, Israel. She obtained her first master's degree (summa cum laude) in community counseling and education from the Counseling and School Psychology Department at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA. Mira holds a second master's degree (with honors) in school counseling from Oranim Academic College, Israel. She also has a teaching certificate as well as rich field and academic experience. She has experience in different therapeutic and psycho-educational settings, such as psycho-educational groups for addicts and inmates in prison. Currently, she is a school counselor in the Franciscan Sisters' School at Nazareth. Mira is a doctorate student in the department of Community Mental Health, University of Haifa, supervised by Prof. Marc Gelkopf and Dr. Talya Greene. Her research investigates "Threat Perception within the Arab Minority as compared to the Jewish Majority in Israel and its Role in the Interplay between Risk Factors and Distress." As part of her doctorate, she is currently focusing on a study of ethnicity, threat and symptoms: assessing inter and intra group differences in Israel. She was previously awarded a few awards, such as the Mary Splitter scholarship from the Counseling and School Psychology department in the University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA. Research is one of the domains she enjoys doing in life and one of her studies was published in the International Journal of Psychology: "A Comparative study of the competence of counselors in the United States in counseling Arab Americans and other racial/ethnic groups."



Rabab Abu Elheja

PhD, Department of Gerontology

Rabab is 35 years old, married + three children. She lives in Fureidis, north of Israel. Rabab is a Pharmacist at Ben-Yehuda nursing home in Haifa. Her B.Sc.Pharm degree is from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She also has a master's degree in Gerontology from the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences at University of Haifa.



Her choice to be a gerontologist and a researcher in this field stems from the curiosity to understand deeply the psychological, behavioral and cognitive changes resulting from age progression. Therefore, her thesis focused on the psychology of aging and provided a

new perspective on the relation between life stories and successful aging. She wishes to be one of the pioneers in the study of aging in Arab society in Israel, which is an unique and challenging society.

Her doctoral studies integrate two fields of knowledge, pharmacology and gerontology by focusing on the relation between neurocognitive processes and loneliness in older age.

However, many studies have been done about the subject. Loneliness is still a very interesting phenomenon with devastating consequences on individuals' physical and mental health among the elderly. There are many social and physiological interventions that may reduce the negative effects of loneliness, but the costs and lack of compliance to such therapies challenges researchers to seek for alternatives such as short-term medical treatments and adjunct therapies. Till today, there is no such medication. But a neuro-hormone that is produced in the human body called oxytocin (OT) may be very promising.

OT may be related to loneliness, due to its ability to promote social interaction and intimacy in response to social stimuli. Although OT works as a prosocial hormone and genetic evidence was found to exist between OT receptors and loneliness, the connection between exogenous and endogenous OT and loneliness has not been previously tested.

Her doctoral studies focus on the relation between OT levels in the body and loneliness among elderly people, because OT may be involved in the socioemotional regulation that is unique to this age. Such regulation helps elderly people to deal with the coming ending of their life and enable them to invest in meaningful and close relationships. Hence, it is possible that elderly people suffering from loneliness have low levels of endogenous OT or a decreased sensitivity of OT receptors. Therefore, raising OT levels by giving exogenous OT can be used to improve its prosocial effects.

This field of studies may provide profound insight into the research on loneliness by testing new aspects of this phenomenon - the prosocial effects of OT on loneliness can form a basis for future studies in order to find effective medicinal therapies for this loneliness.

Amani Hawari Ali

PhD, Department of Arabic Literature

Amani is currently pursuing her PhD in Arabic Literature at the University of Haifa. Her dissertation is titled "Feminism in the Literature of Yousuf Idrees and Zakariyyā Tāmir ". Her research assumes that these two male writers wrote



feminist literature and that male writers can be feminist in their ideas and style of writing. Her interest in this research is part of her general interest in all marginalized and silenced groups in the different societies and the way they were presented and advocated in the literature, especially by writers from such disadvantaged and discriminated cultures.

Amani finished her master's in Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Haifa and wrote her thesis on the Mu'tazilite doctrine while her research focused on the writer and thinker Al-Jāhiz. She showed how political and social interests affect and shape dogmatic statements.

Ms. Hawari Ali holds two bachelor degrees: one from the University of Haifa in Arabic Language and Literature, and another one from Kent State University, Ohio, USA, where she majored in Psychology. She lived two years in Germany and obtained a certificate in German language knowledge from Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz. Then she lived 13 years in the United States, where she worked as a teacher in public schools in California.

Ten years ago, Ms. Hawari Ali returned with her family to live in her homeland, and settled in Nazareth Illit. Since then, she has been working as a high school Arabic teacher in Nazareth. She is married and has a daughter and a son. She holds dual citizenship, Israeli and American and is fluent in four languages, Arabic, English, Hebrew and German.

Laura Mansour – Sheabar

PhD, Psychology Department

Laura is a PhD candidate in the psychology department at the University of Haifa and an intern in the clinical psychologist at Haemek Medical Center and Children at Risk Organization. She works with preschoolers with autism and teenagers with emotional problems such as eating disorders, depression, and anxiety. As a young Arab psychologist and researcher specializing in the clinical field among diverse populations in the Arab sector, she sees great necessity in expanding the body of psychopathology research amongst Arab societies. Her experience as a clinical psychologist in public sectors has brought to her attention the importance of promoting a culturally sensitive understanding when dealing with mental disorders. Congruently, there are various findings that point to the role of society in the development of psychopathology which further emphasize the need for cross-cultural research.



In her doctoral studies, she examines cultural differences in eating disorders and mentalization. *Mentalization*, which refers to the capacity to reflect and interpret behavior in terms of internal mental states such as thoughts, feelings, and intentions (Fonagy & Target, 1996). Deficient mentalization in patients with EDs has been recognized as an underlying psychological mechanism supported by empirical findings drawn on western patients, but none on non-western samples (Skarderud & Fonagy, 2012). Several studies have revealed cultural variations in the capacity to reflect and interpret behaviors in terms of internal mental states (Heyes & Frith, 2014). She will rely on the theoretical distinction between independent self-construal, implying focus on the self and interdependent self-construal, implying focus on others (Markus and Kitayama, 1991; Wu & Keysar, 2007) to suggest cultural differentiations in mentalization with regard to self and others. Thus, she raises the question whether there is a cultural difference in mentalization deficiencies regarding the self and others, and whether they have differential relations with EDs among Jews and Muslim Arabs in Israel.

Samah Idrees Ghazawi

MA, Department of Computer Science

Samah is 30 years old and a mother of one child and soon to be a mother of two children. As a mother, it is important to her that her kids see her as a working and researching mom. By that, she hopes to make a positive influence on their view of an Arab woman in our society.

Samah received her BSC degree in Computer Science from the University of Haifa and continues on to her MSC studies also in Computer Science at the University of Haifa. Generally, she is interested in every aspect of Computer Science but currently her main studies and research is on stringology, in particular, similarity between genomes. A family of genomes is often modeled as a set of permutations on genes that are common to all organisms of the family. Therefore, we compute similarity between permutations. Comparing permutations is a challenging computational problem of practical importance in many applications in bioinformatics and Social Science.

Samah has a huge passion for research, finding new results and moving forward into a better studied world. Therefore, she intends to continue her studies for PHD degree immediately after finishing her MSC degree.



Sojud Hijazy

MA, the Department of Learning Disabilities

Sojud completed her bachelor's degree in Psychology and English Language and Literature, and is currently studying for her master's degree in Learning Disabilities. Her thesis deals with the relationship between reading acquisition in Arabic and the development of inner speech among Arabic speaking children.



Generally, she is interested in psycholinguistics research, such as the impact of cognitive, metacognitive and linguistic variables on academic skills, language processing and bilingualism development.

Sojud worked as a research assistant as part of a universal course and for the "Hand in Hand" organization- a network of integrated bilingual schools and kindergartens for Jewish and Arab children, where multiple aspects of language and cognitive development are studied.

As part of her MA studies, she has experience in diagnosing and intervening children and adults with learning disabilities or academic difficulties. In addition, Sojud started working in diagnosing students with learning disabilities at a high school in Haifa. Furthermore, for more than four years she was a tutor for students from different backgrounds; learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, university preparatory program students and first year of BA students.

Sojud is looking forward to continuing her doctoral studies in the field of psycholinguistics and in addition she is looking ahead to establish a learning center for diagnosing and supporting children and adults with learning disabilities, where all interventions will be based on up-to-date reliable research.

Edline Dallal

MA, School of Social Work

Edline is 28 years old and lives in Haifa. Currently, she is studying for her master degree in the faculty of Social Work, Department of Leadership and Social Change at University of Haifa.

This is her third year of study, in which she is preparing her thesis on the "Coping strategies for undocumented Palestinian who lives in Israel In an Intersectionality perspective".



The purpose of this study is to examine the survival, barriers, and obstacles affecting the lives of undocumented Palestinians who live in Israel, including ways of dealing with their unique situation, identifying barriers, difficulties and factors that help to advance the lives of families living in the shadow of lack of status in the country. This group lives in the country, but due to its lack of status, it has experienced damage on a number of levels, especially in terms of health, housing, work, and welfare.

In order to examine and investigate the economic survival of undocumented Palestinians who live in Israel with their unique situation, and in identifying the obstacles, difficulties and factors facing individuals and families, she relies on four main strategies for economic survival among people living in poverty: (1) coping through the labor market; (2) coping with state institutions; (3) coping through social networks; (4) coping through the support of organizations. In a way that complements the examination of economic coping strategies, this study examines the effects of the lack of rights / lack of status on the Palestinian population without status in relation to two aspects: (1) the future orientation aspect (influence on future planning and life control); (2) effects mental state.

The present study will be based on the intersectionality theory of an understanding framework for understanding the way in which the research population is able to deal with the ethnic, national, gender and class structure typical of the State of Israel. This framework will allow for a cross-sectional analysis of several categories that operate in parallel, and have a significant marginality among the research population.

The study is expected to contribute greatly to theory and practice, since it deals with the study of a growing social phenomenon that has not yet been studied in Israel, by examining ways of coping with the absence of social rights, and by identifying the obstacles facing them from poverty and the situation of absence. This study also strives to assist in the formulation of public practice and policy for this social group.

Nebal Khoury

MA, Graduate School of Creative Arts Therapies

Nebal is 27 years old, from Nazareth. She completed a bachelor's degree in special education at University of Haifa. After her graduation, she went on to pursue her first master degree specialty in Autism and Developmental Disabilities, while also studying to receive a Teaching Certificate at University of Haifa. During her studies she worked both in the research field, mainly in education studies, and in the practical field, teaching children with Autism disorder. In addition, she was involved in many volunteering programs, helping disadvantaged children and youth. In the year 2016 she started her studies towards her



second master degree in art therapy. Currently, she is in her second year. In this degree, she is running a research about the effect of nonsense play parental intervention, based on medical clowning features, on the quality of parent-child interaction, among children with mental retardation. Playing in a clownish spirit is characterized by high playability, humor and pleasure, an active presence in front of the child and giving him a place to lead the playful situation. These aspects are often lacking in parents' education and their implementation is even more complex among parents of children with special needs. To conclude, her study is a within subject quantitative study measuring the quality of parent-child interaction before and after a designed intervention. This study may have a major effect on helping parents learn their child's emotional world and broaden their perspective on alternative educational methods.

Ranya Rayan

MA, Department of Mathematics

Ranya is 23 years old, she completed her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Statistics at University of Haifa, and is currently studying for her Master's degree in pure Mathematics with a thesis supervised by Professor Toufik Mansour.



Differential equations interest Ranya the most, her thesis deals with differential equations involving the Para-Grassmann variables, and talks about the supersymmetry idea that is introduced via the symmetry between Mathematics and Physics, and solving several known mathematic differential equations involving the Para-Grassmann variables.

Besides her academic studies, in 2015 she also became a teaching assistant at University of Haifa at the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science.

Ranya finished her teaching certificate and immediately started her work as a high school teacher of mathematics with a wide and rich experience in tutoring. For more than five years, she tutored high school pupils in preparation towards their finals in mathematics, and took a part in a project of tutoring B.A students at their first year at the University.

Ranya is looking forward to continuing her doctoral studies in mathematics after finishing her MA degree.

Mariana Elias

MA, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Mariana is 26 years old, from the village of Cana, located in Galilee, north of Israel. She is an audiologist and a speech-language pathologist. Mariana graduated high school at Saint Joseph school in Nazareth in 2009 and finished her bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Haifa in 2016. Currently she works as an audiologist at Assaf Speech-Hearing Center in Afula and Nazareth Illit and as a Speech-Language pathologist at the Child Development Center at the French Hospital in Nazareth.



Mariana started her master's degree in October 2017. In her thesis she is investigating the novel word learning amongst native Hebrew speaking students learning Arabic as a foreign language. Mariana will test the patterns of learning different types of words, especially words with form overlap between Hebrew and Arabic such as cognates (overlapping in form and meaning across languages) and false cognates (overlapping in form but not in meaning across languages). The aim of the study is to answer three main questions: (1) are false-cognates easier or harder to learn than unambiguous control words? (2) how does the newly acquired meaning of a shared form affect the processing of this form in the first language? and (3) how individual characteristics modulate such foreign language learning?

After finishing her master's degree, she is interested in continuing her PhD degree so she can further investigate the characteristics of bilingualism and multilingualism amongst younger populations, especially children, and remain part of the academic world. She aims to keep thriving in her clinical career and working with different populations such as children on the Autism spectrum.

Heyam Abd Elhade

MSc, Department of Information Systems

During 2015-2016, Heyam worked in the department of Information Systems at the University of Haifa as a teaching assistant in the course “Object Oriented Programming” JAVA.

In the year 2016, she received a BSc degree in Information Systems from the University of Haifa, with honors.



In 2017, Heyam started her master's degree at the department of Information Systems at the University of Haifa and worked as a teaching assistant in the course "Data Communication".

Currently, she is a master's student at the department of Information Systems at the University of Haifa, and works as a teaching assistant in the department.

Her thesis is in the field of "Text Mining and Natural Language Processing", the title of her research is "Automatic Identification of Rhetorical Elements in Pre-Islamic Arabic Poetry".

In the thesis, a unique challenge is awoken, when scholars of Arabic poetry explore the procedure of writing poetry via different explorations. One of the explorations focuses on the use of rhetorical elements in it, where one of the insight is to identify these elements. The main problem is that the manual identification process is time-consuming and requires high level specialists in Arabic literature.

In order to identify rhetorical elements, one should understand the properties of each element. The proposed research will suggest, demonstrate and evaluate an automatic framework for identifying rhetoric elements in classical Arabic poetry mentioned above, which is based on natural language processing (NLP) techniques.

Sireen Baransi

MA, Department of Psychology

Sireen is currently a MA student in Social Psychology at the University of Haifa, after graduating a Bio-Statistics MA program, also at the University of Haifa. She works as a teaching assistant for the courses "Statistics and Research Methodologies" for advanced degrees in Oranim College, "An Introduction to Statistics", and a Psychology course at the University of Haifa. In addition, Sireen volunteers at the Women Against Violence association for years, specifically at the help center for victims of sexual and physical violence.



Although the Arab society in Israel underwent modernization processes, it is still controlled by traditional and patriarchal values, which guarantee superiority for men and perpetuate women's inferior status. Such a distorted development strengthens social norms that associate public leading roles to men, while making attitudes towards women leaders less sympathetic. As a result, fewer women succeed in achieving high leadership positions, and their perception of themselves, and the perception of others towards women leaders is harmed. Therefore, her thesis examines the under-representation of

Arab women in leadership positions, by testing the effects of women leader models on perceptions of women's capability to lead. It also examines the effects of models of women with fulfilled vs. unfulfilled potentials, the unfulfilled being women who gave up on their leadership careers and on their possible self as a leader among the women population. The research is under the supervision of Prof. Jenny Kurman.

Social Activities in the Network- Werner Otto Scholarship Recipients

During 2018, the Jewish- Arab Center held various activities in the WO network and plans to organize more in order to empower the scholarship recipients and strengthen the network bonds.

An English course

This year we opened an English course for the WO scholarship holders. The goal of the course was to enable the scholars to practice their English speaking skills and improve their conversational expertise. The course focused on every day English and gave them tools that will aid them in future presentations and meetings.

Network Meetings

As part of the WO network, we had several meetings in Nazareth with the WO scholarship recipients. The meetings were set to bond the scholars and form ideas about future activities like conferences. In each meeting, at least fifteen scholars participated and contributed. We also held a meeting in the Jewish- Arab Center, where the WO met the new Head of the Jewish –Arab Center Prof. Adital Ben Ari and have gotten to know one another. Each scholar presented her research and spoke about the importance of the scholarship for her.



Upcoming “Art and creation in a shared space” conference

In June 11, the Jewish- Arab Center is organizing a special conference called “Art and creation in a shared space” and two WO scholars will take part in it. This conference deals with one of the themes that the Jewish- Arab Center is aspiring to promote. In recent years, extensive research focusing on the relationship between art and social and community activities has been taking place in Israel and around the world. While the arts have traditionally served as a mirror of society, of late, the “role” of art is beginning to expand. Due to changes brought on by globalization and the weakening of central authority, the world of art has taken upon itself new social and community responsibilities that were once the sole purview of governments. The center strongly believes that the arts are an effective vehicle for creating meaningful dialogue between Arabs and Jews on campus and in northern Israel. Our core assumption is that engagement in the arts contributes to quality of life. Quality of life contributes to a society's wellbeing and to its capacity to invent, create, and express itself. This creative capacity, in turn, directly and indirectly influences the arts. When the system functions, arts engagement expands and deepens, quality of life is enhanced and the creative capacity of a society increases.

אמנות ויצירה במרחב משותף

מוקדן: מוצע

فن وإبداع في الحيز المشترك

יום שני, כ"ה בסיון תשע"ח
11/06/2018
 באולם מס' 207
 המשכן לאמנויות ע"ש ראובן הכהן,
 אוניברסיטת חיפה

יום הלימודים: 11/06/2018
 במبنى الفنون، على اسم رAOBEN KAHAN
 قاعة رقم 207
 جامعة חיפה

מחנה המופע ד"ר הוא שלמות סלעית

למידע נוסף - לתשאילים:
 04-8240156

12.00	התנסות ויזום ס'ל	12.00	אמנות ויצירות
12.30	נצרות	12.30	קוללות לרוב, והמאמץ
12.45	התקפת התחזות הומוסקסואלית	12.45	הרושם עדיילן מן זמני רוסטקוויטש
13.15	השיר הולנד נשען על תוספת המושג המשי	13.15	הרושם בוראן מאהאדי, רוסטקוויטש
14.00	ההסקת קהל	14.00	הרושם בוראן מאהאדי, רוסטקוויטש
14.15	ד"ר רותם בראבחה, משרד המינוח והמכונות	14.15	הרושם בוראן מאהאדי, רוסטקוויטש
15.00	סקנדל קטין מופע סמפוזיום "אמנות בארץ"	15.00	הרושם בוראן מאהאדי, רוסטקוויטש

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