



קול המרכז 12

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Newsletter of the Melton Centre for Jewish Education
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

M.A. in Jewish Education

The Melton Centre is pleased to announce that the Masters (M.A.) program in Jewish Education can now be completed within one calendar year. The Masters is a personal, multi-disciplinary study program specifically designed for educators, enabling a wide range of educators to further their expertise in Jewish Education. The new flexible framework of the Masters program makes it ideal for educators on sabbatical from overseas programs. The students in this program include educators in formal and informal

frameworks worldwide who are interested in the social sciences, educational philosophy, Jewish Studies, and questions of Jewish culture and identity as they relate to education.

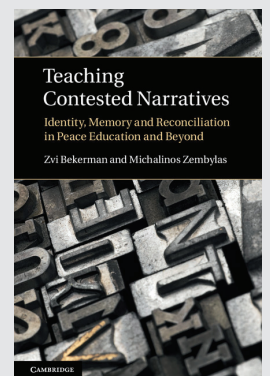
For further information, please contact Eti Gershon-Cohen, Secretary of Student Affairs, telephone (02 588-1282, email etige@savion.huji.ac.il).

Congratulations to Dr. Marcelo Dorfsman

The Melton Centre would like to congratulate **Dr. Marcelo Dorfsman**, the Melton Centre's expert on distance-learning pedagogy, on the approval of his doctoral thesis, *The Evolution of Teachers' Pedagogical Thinking in the Process of Preparing On-Line Courses for Jewish Education in the Diaspora*. The Melton Centre looks forward to benefiting from Dr. Dorfsman's knowledge and expertise as he goes from strength to strength in the years to come.

New Book Co-Authored by Zvi Bekerman: Teaching Contested Narratives

A new book, *Teaching Contested Narratives: Identity, Memory and Reconciliation in Peace Education and Beyond*, co-authored by **Zvi Bekerman** with **Michalinos Zembylas**, has recently been published by the Cambridge University Press. Through a detailed analysis, *Teaching Contested Narratives* reveals the works of identity, historical narratives, and memory as these are enacted in classroom dialogues, canonical texts, and school ceremonies. Presenting ethnographic data from local contexts in Cyprus and Israel, and demonstrating the relevance of this data to educational settings in other countries that suffer from conflict, the authors explore the challenges of teaching narratives about the past in such societies. They discuss how historical trauma and suffering are dealt with in the context of teaching and highlight the potential of pedagogical interventions for reconciliation.



New Online Course in Israel Education by Dr. Marc Silverman

A new online course, **Four Roads to Israel: The Place of Israel in Contemporary Jewish Culture and Education**, taught by **Dr. Marc Silverman**, will soon be offered through Virtual Melton. Foremost among the challenges for Israel educators is the profound influence of present-day Jews' and Jewish educators' Jewish self-understanding on the way these educators mediate Israel. One's self-understanding includes the experience and understanding of Jewish life, culture, identity, and education. Understanding Israel requires understanding the people of Israel, this people's Torah and God, and the place of nations of the world in Jewish existence and culture. This necessity produces a considerable number of diverse and opposing conceptions of what present-day Israel is or should be. The new course, aimed at Israel educators, addresses what conception of Israel the educator wishes to teach and why, the educator's objectives and goals in teaching this approach to Israel, and what pedagogical theories and methods will best serve these objectives.

Four Roads to Israel enables the deep deliberation by educators required for effective and honest Israel Education.

Melamed Program in Argentina

The Melton Centre has supported and been associated with the **Melamed Institute for Teacher Training** in Argentina for six years. The Melamed Institute has recently begun to accept students from Uruguay and Brazil thanks to a flexible study framework and online courses. This year the Melamed Institute accepted three cohorts of students, including 70 students from three different countries: **Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil**.

Since 2006, many young men and women have participated each year in the Melamed Institute. The program is under the sponsorship of the **National University of San Martin in Buenos Aires**, while the Melton Centre is responsible for all courses in Jewish education. Each cohort takes two online semester-long courses per year, and spends a semester at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem within the framework of the Masa Program. These courses are recognized towards a teaching certificate and a B.A. in Education at the University of San Martin.

This year the Melton Centre's Unit for Technology-Enabled Education began six new online courses for the Melamed Institute, conducted over two semesters. In addition to these courses, the Unit for Technology-Enabled Education offered "live" online courses through a web-conferencing system that is used by several programs at the Melton Centre, and will also be used to support the Melamed Institute. The experience of these "live" online courses strengthens the feeling of belonging to the learning community in the course, as well as enhancing the effectiveness of the study itself.

The Jaime Pollak Museum of Jewish History, Memory and the Holocaust in Chile

The Unit for Technology-Enabled Education at the Melton Centre is developing an innovative project in Chile: a museum for teaching Jewish history. We have been working for several months with a company that specializes in translating content into multimedia installations, the Orpan Group. The **Orpan Group's** content managers, with the guidance of the project's academic and educational advisors at Melton and senior faculty from other University departments, develop the materials that will be exhibited in the museum. The distinguished scholars advising on this project included Prof. Isaiah Gafni, Prof. Shalom Rosenberg, Prof. Gideon Shimoni, Prof. Mario Sznajder, and Dr. Nili Wazana as academic advisors, and Dr. Michael Gillis, Dr. Howard Deitcher, and Dr. Yossi Goldstein as educational advisors.

Seminar for Licensed Educators in the Community of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Melton Centre was recently an academic partner in a unique program conducted by the Educational Council of Rio de Janeiro in cooperation with the local Catholic university, **Pontificia Universidade Católica (PUC)**. Thirty-one participants in the program studied in courses in Jewish education and pedagogy for eighteen months, including online courses conducted by the Melton Centre. At the end of the program, the participants arrived for an intensive seven-week seminar at the Melton Centre during which they took six courses related to Jewish education and identity and visited different sites in Israel including educational institutions, museums, and sites of national and historical importance.

One participant in the course reported: "The combination of learning, the study community, and the experience in Israel was one of the factors in the program's success."

Lecture by Prof. Janice Fernheimer

Janice Fernheimer, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, Writing, and Digital Media in the Department of English at the University of Kentucky, recently contributed to the Departmental Seminar at the Melton Centre. Her illuminating talk was entitled **Expanding Jewish Identity's 'Scope': Hatzaad Harishon, Black Jews, and Interruptive Invention**. Prof. Fernheimer's lecture shed light on the experience of Black Jews in America, the way that Black Jews relate to Israel, and the efforts of Hatzaad Harishon in gaining legitimacy for Black Jews, as well as proposing possible directions for furthering the inclusion of Black Jews in Jewish culture in the future.

Melton Fellows for Excellence

The Melton Centre is pleased to introduce the three Fellows for Excellence of the 2010-2011 cohort.

Renato Huarte Cuéllar of Mexico City, Mexico

Renato Huarte Cuéllar has been connected to Israel and the Mexican Jewish community since his involvement in the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement at age 7.

Today he is a professor in the Pedagogy program at Mexico's National Autonomous University (UNAM), focusing particularly on the philosophy of education and the social aspects of education and multiculturalism. He is also a dancer and choreographer, and is the Education Director of the local Jewish Dance Festival. The experience at Melton has helped Renato expand his formal education in Jewish thought, education, theory and practice. Renato plans to work in the world of Jewish Education as a counsellor, allowing those he is in contact with to educate themselves in their own way and to benefit from the cultural richness of Judaism. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in translation and education in the thought of Martin Buber. Renato is also responsible for the establishment of "Limmud México" as one of the international Limmud conferences in Jewish learning.



apply the ideas and curricula she has learned into a Jewish setting as a curriculum coach and staff developer. She has begun a new position as the Director of General Studies at Hillel Torah North Shore Suburban Day School in Illinois and plans to develop new and exciting programs of study in an effort to help American children understand, identify, and support Israel and their Jewish identities.

Dafna Saslavsky of Mexico City, Mexico

Dafna Saslavsky has a long history in education. For 23 years she has worked with students of all ages in the Hebrew School for Culture and in Mount Sinai Hebrew School in Mexico, and has spent six years as principal of the elementary school at the Hebrew School for Culture in Mexico City. She has also been the Director of Jewish Studies in the Hebrew School for Culture. The "Fellows for Excellence" program at Melton has given Dafna the time, tools, and guidance for creating new study plans and frameworks, and will allow her to expand her important work in the Jewish educational system in Mexico and to meet the challenges that currently face this system. Today Dafna trains educators and runs numerous ulpan classes in the Universidad Hebraica, Mexico. Her efforts in Hebrew education are widespread: Dafna supports three didactic courses for teaching Hebrew as a second language, is the coordinator of the elementary school program "Friends in Hebrew," and personally trains 20 teachers in five different Jewish schools in Mexico. Dafna also participates in creating projects in various areas in the Hebrew Department of the Universidad Hebraica.



Dena Dworin of Chicago, Illinois

For the past seven years, Dena Dworin has been a public school teacher in New York, New York. Her own love Judaism has provided her students, Jewish and non-Jewish, with an understanding of the beauty of Jewish culture. Dena's experience in the "Fellows for Excellence" program has expanded her knowledge of Jewish and Israel education, enabling her future plans. Dena has now returned to her native Chicago to

