



Continuity and Discontinuity of Agrotechnological Transfer in the Eastern Mediterranean Region between Late Antiquity and Early Modern Times

Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystems as a Case Study

February 6-8, 2023 | Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan

Monday, February 6th, 2023

The Shimshon and Chana Feldman International Conference Center,
Building 301, Weisfeld Hall, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan

- 08:30** **Gathering and Refreshments**
- 09:00** **Session 1: Opening Talks**
Chair: Joel Roskin (BIU)
GREETINGS
- 09:30** **KEYNOTE Gideon Avni (IAA):** The Mechanism of Penetration of New Agricultural technologies to the Southern Levant during the Early Islamic Period – an Overview
- 10:10** **Itamar Taxel (IAA):** Early Islamic Settlement and Land-Use Patterns Along the Mediterranean Coast of Israel
- 10:35** **Sefi Porat (IAA):** 'Classic Agriculture Under Irrigation' and 'Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystems' at Caesarea
- 11:00** **Coffee Break**
- 11:20** **Session 2: Contexts of Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystems along the Coast of Israel**
Chair: Gideon Avni (IAA)
Revital Bookman (U. of Haifa) and Joel Roskin (BIU): The Levant climate during the Holocene
- 11:45** **Itamar Taxel (IAA) and Joel Roskin (BIU):** Early Islamic Plot-and-Berm Groundwater Harvesting Agroecosystem south of Ancient Caesarea: Preliminary Results of Fieldwork in 2020-2022
- 12:10** **Joel Roskin (BIU) and Itamar Taxel (IAA):** Possible Links between Three Traditional Groundwater Harvesting Agroecosystems along the Mediterranean Coast of Israel
- 12:40** **Ehud Weiss (BIU):** *Tour of Archaeobotanical Laboratory*
- 13:00** **Lunch**
- 14:15** **Session 3: Ancient Agricultural Enterprises in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin and Middle East**
Chair: Guy Bar-Oz (U. of Haifa)
KEYNOTE Bethany J. Walker (U. of Bonn): Putting Knowledge to Practice: "Reading" Ancient Landscapes
- 14:55** **Luca Zavagno (Bilkent U.):** The Transformation of the Byzantine Insular Agroecosystems in the early Middle Ages (ca. 600-ca.900): The Cases of Sicily, Cyprus, and Crete
- 15:20** **A. Katharina Rieger (U. of Graz) and Thomas Vetter (U. of Greifswald):** Regional Constraints and Local Options for Dryland Agriculture in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean: The Eastern Marmarica (NW-Egypt) as Case Study for Discontinuities
- 15:45** **Peter Brown (Radboud U.):** Ridges, Canals and Tidal Irrigation: Exploring a Possible Early Islamic Agricultural System in the Hinterland of the Medieval City of Basra, Southern Iraq
- 16:10** **Coffee Break**
- 16:30** **Session 4: Early Islamic Agriculture in Israel**
Chair: Ehud Weiss (BIU)
Kathleen M. Forste (Boston U.): Urban orchards and Rural Fields: Agricultural Specialization and Land-use in the Early Islamic Levant
- 16:55** **Daniel Fuks (U. of Cambridge):** The 'Islamic Green Revolution' and the Archaeobotanical Evidence from the Negev Highlands, Israel
- 17:20** **Uzi Avner (DSASC):** Hyper-Arid Desert Agriculture in the Southern 'Arabah Valley, Israel
- 17:45** **Synthesis, Outlook and Brief Discussion**
moderated by Jed O. Kaplan (U. of Hong Kong)
- 18:30** **Dinner on Campus**

Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

Field trip

- 09:00** **Field Excursion**
Caesarea P&B Agroecosystem – Itamar Taxel (IAA), Joel Roskin (BIU)
- 12:00** **Lunch and Discussion** - Caesarea National Park
- 12:45** **Caesarea National Park**
Excursion focusing on Early Islamic finds - Peter Gendelman (IAA)
- 15:30** **Return to Kfar Maccabiah Hotel**

Wednesday, February 8th, 2023

The Shimshon and Chana Feldman International Conference Center,
Building 301, Weisfeld Hall, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan

- 08:30** **Gathering and Refreshments**
- 09:00** **Session 5: Detail and Integration of Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystems**
Chair: Daniel Fuks (U. of Cambridge)
Joel Roskin (BIU), Lotem Robins (BIU), Itamar Taxel (IAA), Alvero Campelo (U. Fernando Pessoa), Helder I. Chaminé (Polytechnic of Porto) and Manuel Abrunhosa (U. of Coimbra): Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystems from Iran to Iberia: Possibly Linked?
- 09:30** **Rubén Sanchez (Independent agroecologist):** Multidisciplinary Approach to the Navazo as a Traditional Agroecosystem in Sanlucar de Barrameda (Spain)
- 09:55** **Lotem Robins (BIU), Joel Roskin (BIU), Adam Ostrowski (U. of Haifa), Itamar Taxel (IAA), Naomi Porat (GSI), Sarah Pariente (BIU) and Revital Bookman (U. of Haifa):** Geospatial, Stratigraphic and Chronological Analysis of the Development Stages of the Caesarea Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystem
- 10:20** **Elle Grono (U. of Haifa):** Soil Modification Practices at the Micro-scale: Preliminary Results of Micro-geoarchaeological and Micro-botanical Analyses on the Caesarea Plot-and-Berm Agroecosystem
- 10:45** **Coffee Break**
- 11:00** **Session 6: Inception and Proliferation of Agricultural Terraces in Israel and Transjordan**
Chair: Luca Zavagno (Bilkent U.)
Yuval Gadot (TAU), Nitsan Ben Melech (TAU) and Omer Zeevi (TAU): Knowledge Transfer and the Terrace Culture of Jerusalem's Highlands between the Iron Age and the Late Islamic Periods
- 11:25** **Naomi Porat (GSI) and Yuval Gadot (TAU):** Soil Erosion, Preservation and Recycling in Mountain Bench Terraces, Judea Mountains, Israel
- 11:50** **Oren Ackermann (AU), Yaakov Anker (AU), Helena M. Zhevelev (BIU), and Tal Svoray (BGU):** Terracing between Sub-humid Mediterranean to Arid Climate Zones – Optimization of Past to Future Environmental Conditions
- 12:15** **Bethany J. Walker (U. of Bonn):** Ancient Terracing in Palestine and Transjordan Compared: State-of-the-field in Modalities, Methods, and Project Designs
- 12:40** **Lunch**
- 13:40** **Session 7: Broadening the Picture**
Chair: Bethany J. Walker (U. of Bonn)
Nimrod Wieler (IAA), Jenny Marcus (IAA), Pablo Betzer (IAA), Daniel Varga (IAA), Noam Greenbaum (U. of Haifa), Oren Ackermann (AU) and Yotam Asscher (IAA): Proxies for Identifying Buried, Sand-based Vineyard-Supporting, Byzantine Agricultural Soils in the Yavneh Hinterlands, Southern Israeli Coast
- 14:05** **Joshua Schmidt (U. of Haifa), Yuval Ben-Bassat (U. of Haifa) Meirav Meiri (TAU) and Guy Bar-Oz (U. of Haifa):** Notes on the Indigenous Viticultural Heritage of the Dabouki Cultivar
- 14:30** **Dotan Halevy (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute):** A Waste Land? Sand Dwellers and their Cultivation in the Gaza Region during Late Ottoman Times
- 14:55** **Jed O. Kaplan (U. of Hong Kong):** The Influences of Agrotechnology and Climate Variability on Crop Productivity in the Eastern Mediterranean: Hypothesis Testing with Numerical Modelling
- 15:20** **Coffee Break**
- 15:30** **Session 8: Wrap-up**
Lessons Learned – Panel and Discussion: moderated by Bethany J. Walker (U. of Bonn), Itamar Taxel (IAA) and Joel Roskin (BIU)
- 16:45** **Summary and Farewell:** Joel Roskin (BIU) and Itamar Taxel (IAA)

Registration in advance is required