



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

THE INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (IGS³)



1st Annual Report 2022-23

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

October 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IGS ³ Inception and Vision	3
Letter from Head of IGS ³ , Prof. Itai Sened	4
IGS ³ Team	5
International MA Programs	6
Excellence Scholarship Program	9
Guest Faculty and Visiting Scholars	10
Partnerships and Collaborations	15
Research	17
Conferences and Workshops	18

IGS³ 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's biggest and most prominent faculty, attracting young bright faculty members, and an ever increasing number of students.

The Faculty of Social Sciences inaugurated the International Graduate School for Social Sciences (IGS³) on March 2022 in order to expand its international academic activity and become a focal point for international research and its international, higher education programs. The new school includes all the Faculty's 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 on 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.

After eighteen months of operation, our vision and goal for the future is to double the number of our international students (both at the MA programs and research track), expand the network of academic collaborations with leading universities across the world, develop new MA programs and boost the impact of TAU's Social Sciences in the global academic arena.

LETTER FROM HEAD OF IGS³, PROF. ITAI SENED



The new International Graduate School of Social Science reflects the vision of the President of TAU: enhancing TAU's visibility and leadership in the international arena. On the one hand we attract 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, we essentially 'bring 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 excellent students and researchers to stay here with us. Ultimately, thanks to its dynamic entrepreneurial spirit, the school will become an international hub for the exchange of ideas and growth of knowledge in many areas of the social sciences that are at the heart of the human experience and critical challenges of our times.

Everyone talks about the hi-tech nation, but we have a great deal more to offer. Israel has accumulated immense knowledge and experience in many non-technological areas, and Israeli expertise is in great demand all over the world. Our school's programs cover sustainability, climate change, security, conflict resolution and cyber governance. 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Itai Sened". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Professor Itai Sened

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

IGS³ TEAM



Prof. Paul Romer, Professor by Special Appointment

Prof. Paul Romer from NYU is the 2018 Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics, and one of the world's most inspiring thinkers in his field. Prof. Romer is a staunch supporter of the IGS³ and has agreed to lead the School's excellent cohort of visiting scholars.



Prof. Itai Sened, Head of IGS3, Dean of the Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences

Prof. Sened is the Dean of the Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences at Tel Aviv University. He returned to TAU after serving for 12 years as director of the Institute for New Institutional Social Sciences at Washington University, which was established by Nobel Laureate Douglass C. North. He is the founding head of the Boris Mints Institute for Strategic Policy Solution to Global Challenges and the founding Head of the School of Social and Policy studies at TAU.



Ayelet Fishman. Adv., Administrative Director of BMI

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. The graduates of these programs receive a Master's degree from Tel Aviv University.

Our programs are drawing 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. The IGS³ trains its students as professionals who will become leading entrepreneurs and policy makers all around the world. One of the new school's main goals is to double the number of international students – from 150 today to 300.

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 thesis track. 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/>

The International Program in Security and Diplomacy



Israel is at the focus of the world's attention in both security and diplomacy matters. It is also the center of enormous professional expertise in both these fields. Embodying that unique knowledge and skill, our International MA in security studies and Diplomacy program brings together internationally renowned scholars and former leading practitioners in both security and diplomacy, offering students

an exceptional learning experience in English. Educational tours and meetings with Israeli and foreign officials are incorporated into the curriculum. Students come from all over the world and 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. The outlook of the program is global, with a special focus on Israel and the Middle East. 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. For further information: <https://secdip.tau.ac.il/>

The International Program in Sustainable Development



The program combines class-based and experiential learning. In the course of their studies, students will take active roles in developing and field-testing practical and innovative solutions to crucial development challenges that combine technological, cultural, psychological, and economic-behavioral dimensions. The first two semesters include dedicated courses about the economics, psychology, policy, and technological dimensions of sustainable development, as well as 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. These faculty possess rich experience in combining applied research and social impact in both developed and developing countries. For further information: <https://en-social-sciences.tau.ac.il/devcoun>

The International Program in Cyber Politics and Government



Israel is one of the global centers of cyber leadership in strategy and technology, and TAU is at the heart of this 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

NEW PROGRAM – The International Program in Social and Policy Aspects of Climate Change



This new M.A program will focus 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. As the climate crisis is well underway, rapidly emerging as an existential global challenge in the 21st century. Climate change in fact is 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 is intended for two main audiences: (1) students wishing to pursue academic careers in the social sciences who seek new research opportunities in the rapidly expanding field; (2) individuals holding undergraduate degrees in the social sciences and other fields who seek to enhance their professional development and get a higher starting point in a rapidly evolving labor market. The program's intellectual prospect is forward-looking, emphasizing up-to-date, thoughtful creativity based on cutting edge science.

For further information: [MA in Social and Policy Aspects of Climate Change | Tel Aviv University \(tau.ac.il\)](#)

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 science and sustainability, using a unique multidisciplinary approach. To that end, we established the [Excellence Fellowship Program](#).

This program accepts up to 10 students every year from the BA Dean's list and from all the Faculty's schools and departments. The program takes the students from B.A. to Ph.D. in 7 years and nurtures them to be the university's future excellent researchers and global leaders.

The program's academic leader is [Prof. Paul Romer](#), 2018 Nobel Prize Laureate, who oversees the students' academic progress and meets them several times a year. The program's leading values are inter-disciplinary studies and research, academic excellence, sustainability and the ability to lead social and academic science and policy.

The program provides the students a holistic package of financial and academic support to enable them to focus on their studies and research: full tuition / research scholarships; available funds for academic needs and travel; academic guidance and support; exposure to the best social scientists in the faculty and access to our international network of academic partners. As the research stage, the students will be mentored by IGS³ academic advisors' team, comprised of renowned academics from the world's leading universities. During their Ph.D., the students will spend at least one year in a prestigious graduate program abroad.

The first cohort of students started the program on October 2022, and the second cohort was already selected to join the program on October 2023.

GUEST FACULTY AND VISITING SCHOLARS

IGS³ hosts 10-15 Guest Faculty and Visiting Scholars annually, who engage in an array of academic activities: teach full courses, participate in conference, 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.



These are the scholars who have honored us with their wisdom and expertise (in order of arrival):

2021–22 academic year¹



Prof. Paul Romer, NYU (USA)

One of the most brilliant and stimulating thinkers in the world today, engaged in various activities during his two visits with us: conducted workshops for outstanding students and young faculty, delivered a lecture to the Friends of TAU, launched our Excellence Scholarship Program, participating in the Cyber week and a lot more.



Prof. Miranda Schreurs, Technical University of Munich (Germany)

A globally renowned academic in the fields of climate and environmental policy, advisor to the UN, governments and international organizations.

¹ In order of arrival to TAU during the year.



Dr. Stefan Wurster, Technical University of Munich (Germany)

Specializes in policy analysis in areas closely linked to sustainability, such as education, research, innovation, environmental policy, and energy policy.



Dr. Eldad Davidov, University of Cologne (Germany)

Specializes on quantitative research methods and empirical social Research; cross-cultural comparisons; structural equation modeling and more.



Prof. Lena Hansen, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)

Focuses her research on International Relations Theory and Security Studies, with a particular emphasis on post-structuralism, feminism and constructivism.



Prof. Mitchel Small, Carnegie Mellon University (USA)

A specialist in integrated assessment of public systems, such as drinking water regulations, local and global air pollution, site remediation, environmental health risk assessment (EHRA), and methods for assessing and promoting environmentally sustainable products and infrastructure.



Prof. Anat Admati, Stanford University (USA)

Graduate Business School -George G.C. Parker Professor of Finance and Economics. Her disciplinary interests lie in the interaction of business, law and policy, and specifically governance and accountability mechanisms in the private sector and in government. Admati is also Faculty Director of the Corporations and Society Initiative at the GSB, whose mission is to raise awareness and increase understanding of the complex interactions among people, corporations and governments.



Prof. Elias Dinas, European University Institute (Italy)

Researches the dynamics of political socialization, the downstream effects of institutional interventions and the legacy of authoritarian rule on the ideological predispositions of citizens in new democracies.



Prof. Yaakov Trope, Professor of Psychology at NYU (USA)

Professor Trope's research focuses on the cognitive, motivational and affective mechanisms underlying social judgments and decisions. His work examines psychological distance effects, namely, how temporal, spatial, and social distances affect the representations of objects and, thereby, predictions, evaluations, and choice.



Prof. Emanuel Adler, Munk School, University of Toronto (Canada)

Professor Adler's interests include international practices and communities of practice, the evolution of international order, a constructivist reconsideration of strategic logic, including deterrence, European security institutions, international relations theory — in particular, constructivism, epistemic communities, security communities, and communities of practice — and Israel's relations with the world.



Prof. Micheline Ishay, Korbel School of International Studies, Denver University (USA)

As a distinguished scholar and professor of human rights and international studies at the Korbel School, her research draws from her multiple cultural backgrounds. Her teaching and writing are truly interdisciplinary, combining theory, politics, history, law, art, economy, security and policy analyses.



Dr. Merla Kubli, St. Gallen University in Switzerland

researches climate and sustainability policy, as well as business models of energy systems.

2022–23 academic year



Prof. Jeremy Wolfe, Harvard University (USA)

His research focuses on visual search and visual attention with a particular interest in socially important search tasks in areas such as medical image perception and security. His most cited works concern the development of his Guided Search theory.



Prof. Erik Jones, European University Institute (Italy)

Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute. His research focuses on European politics and political economy.



Prof. Charles Tenenbaum, Sciences-Po Lille (France)

His research foci are Contemporary Peacemaking by European Actors, International and European debates, International mediation and conflict resolution



Prof. Paul Romer, NYU (USA)

See above.



Dr. Gordon Lafer, University of Oregon (USA)

His work focuses primarily on industrial and policy research, and he has written widely on issues of economic and employment policy. In 2009-10, Lafer was on leave from the University of Oregon serving as Senior Policy Advisor for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor.



Prof. Morten Kringelbach, Oxford University (Great Britain)

As the founding director of the Centre for Eudaimonia and Human Flourishing, Prof. Kringelbach's research goal is to reverse-engineer the human brain and in particular to elucidate the heuristics that allow us to survive and thrive. He focuses on elucidating *hedonia* (pleasure) and *eudaimonia* (the life well-lived), and how they are affected in health and disease.



Dr. Hélène Neveu Kringelbach, University College, London (Great Britain)

Dr. Neveu Kringelbach has carried out fieldwork in various countries in Africa and Europe. Her research is concerned with the ways in which immigration policies and social change affect these families' trajectories and the affective relationships they maintain across space and time.



Prof. Steve Fleming, University College, London (Great Britain)

The question that drives his research is: what supports the remarkable capacity for human self-awareness? To address this question he combines experimental and theoretical approaches, such as psychophysics, computational modelling and neuroimaging.



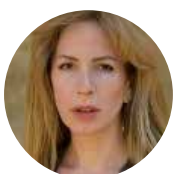
Dr. Gerald Schneider, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Professor of International Politics and Executive Editor of European Union Politics. His main areas of research are European Union decision making, the causes and consequences of armed violence, international political economy, bargaining and conflict management, as well as administrative inequality.



Prof. Atsushi Tago, Waseda University, Tokyo (Japan)

Prof. Tago's academic goal is to promote scientific International Relations studies by using large-N data, quantitative text analysis, survey experiments.



Prof. Ays'e Zarakol, Cambridge University (Great Britain)

Prof. Zarakol's research is at the intersection of historical sociology and IR, focusing on East-West relations in the international system, history and future of world order(s), conceptualisations of modernity and sovereignty, rising and declining powers, and Turkish politics in a comparative perspective.



Prof. Daphna Shohami, Columbia University (USA)

Prof. Shohami's main research areas are cognitive neuroscience, learning and memory, judgement and decision making: How are decisions shaped by past experience? When are decisions guided by explicit knowledge, and when by implicitly learned associations or biases?



Prof. Yaakov Trope, NYU (USA)

See above.



Prof. Joel Mokyr, Northwestern University (USA)

Prof. Mokyr is one of the most prominent economic historians in the world. His research focuses on the economic history of Europe, and specializes in the period 1750-1914. His current research is concerned with the understanding of the economic and intellectual roots of technological progress and the growth of useful knowledge in European societies, as well as the impact that industrialization and economic progress have had on economic welfare.



Prof. Guido Tabellini, Bocconi University (Italy)

Guido Tabellini is the Intesa Sanpaolo Chair in Political Economics at Università Bocconi. He was Rector of Università Bocconi from 2008 to 2012, and specializes in political economics.



Prof. Daniela Giannetti, University of Bologna (Italy)

Prof. Giannetti's research interests are in the field of rational choice approach to politics and comparative politics. She is the author of several book chapters and articles published in major international journals.

For further information about our guests' activities, please visit our [website](#).

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

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

Collaborative Degree agreements



We are offering our students the opportunity to earn two MA degrees, one from Tel Aviv University and the other from our partner university, in two years, spending one year at each university. Our partners are chosen from the best universities in the world, and our current agreements are with the School of Advanced International Studies at [Johns Hopkins University in Bologna](#) and [Sciences-Po Lille](#).

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

Hosting students from around the world



We are always happy to host students from around the world in our faculty, enabling them to experience our academic environment and interact with our students.

On November 2022 we hosted a group of students from the Travel UN organization. The [week-long visit](#) included academic lectures by TAU professors and field trips to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, focusing on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.



On July 2023 we hosted a delegation of students and researchers from the [Russian-Armenian University](#) in Yerevan, reciprocating a visit of TAU students and professors to Yerevan the prior summer. This collaboration is based in our Conflict Resolution and Mediation, focusing on the intractable conflicts both countries are involved in, studying them and trying to come up with ways of mitigating or even solving them.



Research collaborations

Tel Aviv University is primarily a research university, and our researchers are engaged in various research collaborations with universities around the world. Our mission in IGS³ is to support and facilitate these collaborations.



One of our prominent research partners is the [European University Institute](#) in Italy: a leading research institute holding only professors and Ph.D. students. The TAU-EUI collaboration includes Ph.D. students' exchange, joint conferences and collaborative research projects.

Among our other partners are the Munk School in the University of Toronto, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and SIPA school at Columbia University.

RESEARCH

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 dozens of research students, both Israelis and international, and is best suited to serve as the infrastructure for supporting research students within the IGS³. The IGS³, assisted by the infrastructure of the Boris Mints Institute, enables us to increase the number of international research students at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Tel Aviv University.

IGS³ has strong research connections to [Archimedes – The Israeli Knowledge Center for Applied System Analysis](#). This new research center 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](#), the 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.

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 10 such students with us, and aim to double that number in the years to come. Additionally, we support TAU students' travels to research workshops abroad, such as the TAU-NRW summer school in September 2022 and the Winter School in [Konstanz](#) on February 2023.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS



During our 18 months of activity we hosted, organized and participated in several significant conferences and workshops, both at home and abroad. These conferences enable us to showcase the remarkable research conducted by our faculty and students, create new connections and exchange ideas.

Hosting the IIASA leadership at an inter-disciplinary conference:

IIASA-Israel Research Symposium on Sustainability Pathways (November 2022)



IIASA is a prominent international research institute, focusing on system analysis. IGS³ hosted an event celebrating IIASA's 50th Anniversary and the Renewal of Israel's Membership in this important research organization.

On November 2022, TAU had the honor of hosting the organization's entire management in a big event in which all the heads of the universities in Israel will participate. This inter-disciplinary symposium showcased various research projects jointly conducted by Israeli researchers and IIASA experts, and demonstrated the enormous potential for future collaborations. Photos and presentations can be found [here](#).



Left to right: Prof. Milete Shamir, TAU VP for International Affairs; Prof. Itai Sened, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences; Dr. Gansen Pillay, Interim Head, Communications and External Relations Department, IIASA

A New World Order: Sciences-Po and the Boris Mints Institute (January 2023)

After recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the world plunged into one of its darkest moments in modern history unveiling some fundamental challenges within the political, economic, and social tissues of our society. The war has demonstrated multiple faults of the existing systems of governance, on both the national and international levels.

The Sciences Po – Tel Aviv University conference aims to explore facets of this frightening reality to see if we can come up with some strategic responses to these global challenges. Ignoring such challenges would lead to catastrophic consequences for humanity as such. Developing new institutional solutions and reorganization of existing ones is vital towards creating a common global eco system for humanity for the future.



Left to right: Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, Former TAU President; Dr. Boris Mints, Founder and President, Boris Mints Institute; Prof. Sergei Guriev, Provost, Sciences-Po; Prof. Robert Axelrod, BMI Prize Laureate; Prof. Itai Sened, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences; Prof. Paul Romer, Nobel Prize Laureate; Prof. Itzhak Ben Israel, Head of the Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center; Prof. Milete Shamir, TAU VP for International Affairs

The conference included keynote speeches by Prof. Paul Romer of NYU, Nobel Prize Laureate, and Prof. Robert Axelrod of the University of Michigan, Laureate of the 2022 Mints Prize. Additionally, there were fruitful discussions in four panels: The Middle East in a Contemporary Global Perspective; The Aftermath of the War in Ukraine; The New Institutional Order; and A Cyber World and the future of Digital Governance.

Further information, photos and presentations can be found [here](#).

In addition to these two major events, we supported and organized the following events:

- February 2022: [The Inaugural Conference](#) of the Association for Cognitive Bias Modification.
- May 2022: The Annual BMI conference, including a lecture by [Prof. Katalin Kariko](#), a co-developer of the mRNA Covid vaccine.
- September 2022: A [webinar](#) titled: "The State of the World when Peace returns to Ukraine", featuring world renowned academic experts.
- December 2022: Supporting a [conference](#) organized by the School of Political Science, Government and International Affairs: Political Representation Discourse in light of the Crisis of the Israeli Democracy.
- January 2023: a practical [mediation workshop](#) with the mediation expert Susan Podziba.
- April 2023: [a special talk](#) by Dr. Nimrod Rosler: "Two-states, one state or dead-end? Data from the latest Palestinian-Israeli joint poll".
- May 2023: The Annual [Boris Mints Institute Conference](#): "Institutions, Society and Global Policy".

