

Final Report: Junior Research Stay at University of British Columbia

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Integrating nature conservation and sustainable development: the cases of  
Megiddo Biosphere Reserve and the Mount Carmel Biosphere Reserve

03.12.2016-26.12.2016

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem fellowship basically was my second research stay related to the field research of my PhD Dissertation. It offered me an opportunity to conduct further interviews at the case study sites in Israel, namely the Mount Carmel Biosphere Reserve and Megiddo Biosphere Reserve. This opportunity was rather important phase of the research, which followed after the first field research. In this way I could fill in the data gaps I located during academic analysis of the data gathered from the first research stay. I also took the chance to meet with some of the interviewees from the previous year and reflected on my findings so far.

Having been researching already in 2015, I wanted to take this opportunity to disseminate my preliminary research findings to other interested researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Therefore, I took an active role in the 12th Annual Graduate Conference In Political Science, International Relations and Public Policy In Memory of the late Yitzhak Rabin, held from 13–16 December 2016 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This annual international Conference gathered researchers from Israeli and international universities to present research findings in 18 thematic workshops. Additionally, 7 workshops on various innovative research methodology issues applied in political science were offered to the conference participants.

I could benefit from participating in this Conference in various ways. During the first conference days I had a chance to attend two of the offered research methodology workshops, namely: Political Text as Data, chaired by Yair Fogel-Dror (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Introduction to GIS in Social Sciences, chaired by Adi Ben-Nun, Director of the Hebrew University GIS Center.

In the thematic workshop day, I took part in the workshop Environmental Politics: new Insights on its Causes, Processes and Effects, where I presented my paper: Reconciling Humans and Nature: Prospects and Boundaries in Participatory Policy-Making.

This intensive workshop included presentations from seven researchers. It gave me the opportunity to hear what other students are working on and learn from their research. However, most important benefit for me is that during the workshop I gathered valuable feedback for the paper I presented, which directly contributes to the quality of my dissertation.