

# Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center (HMS) 2019/20 Annual Report



Photo: Courtesy of the port of Haifa



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# HMS Executive Committee Board Meeting Background Information Guide, June 25, 2020 – 17:00

This paragraph will provide a review of the reasons for the establishment of the Maritime Policy and Strategy Research Center (HMS) as well as summarize the Center's mission. In addition, a brief introduction of issues to be discussed on June 25th is included. We look forward to your participation in the HMS Executive Board meeting as we reflect on our past and chart our future.

## Establishment of HMS

The motivation for the establishment of HMS was straightforward: The dichotomy between the growing economic and military significance of the Israeli maritime domain and the relatively limited focus as well as funding given by Israeli politicians, the security establishment and other policymakers.

Until the creation of HMS, Israel did not possess a research center for maritime policy and strategy—neither in academia nor in research institutes. Accordingly, we believe that HMS is filling this critical void. In becoming the leading Israeli academic multidisciplinary research center in issues of maritime strategy with focus on the Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea, HMS is addressing issues that have previously received limited focus.

The establishment of HMS further establishes the University of Haifa as the center of excellence within Israel for study of the Mediterranean, complementing the established and highly regarded Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel (MERC I).

## HMS Mission

The Center's mission is to promote and conduct innovative interdisciplinary academic research on central issues pertaining to maritime policy and strategy in the broadest terms, in addition to high-quality research on specific maritime

issues which have strong public interest. Accompanying our emphasis on academic research, HMS provides policy-oriented analysis, options and recommendations for decision makers, public leaders and the strategic research community in Israel. Simultaneously, the Center promotes and leads public discourse on these specific issues.

HMS encourages novel and creative thinking which will broaden and enrich traditional thought and analyses. While focusing on this ambitious mission, the Center is aware of the inherent tensions between pure academic research, and policy analyses and prescriptions of a traditional think tank—including its important role in leading public discourse. In our first few years we are still learning to navigate these twin—and sometimes competing—objectives.

We would like to expand the Center's activities in the future and to become a “think tank” for policy makers, public leaders and the citizens of Israel and recognized internationally for its maritime expertise in strategy and policy.

The ongoing challenges and opportunities in the Middle East in general, and in the Eastern Mediterranean in particular, along with the growing importance of the maritime domain to Israel's national security and prosperity, create a unique opportunity for HMS to position itself as a leading center of excellence in this area.

Currently, HMS is collaborating with leading research centers around the world and we aspire to widen and deepen these relationships in the future. Due to the lack of experienced researchers in the different maritime strategy disciplines, we have set a goal for ourselves to train young researchers in these respective fields. Unfortunately, this endeavour will take time, academic guidance and, of course, financial resources. The funding issue, in particular, remains the greatest challenge to achieving HMS' ambitions.

# Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center, Director and Chairman's Address

## June 25<sup>th</sup> Discussion Overview

This meeting is the third assembly of the HMS Executive Committee. This year, as with so many other matters, it is held under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic. Within a short period of time, HMS has already managed to establish itself within the University of Haifa and gain recognition in the Israeli public and in similar centers internationally. However, it has not yet managed to position itself as a center of excellence, due to its size and the resources available to it.

- The Covid-19 epidemic continues to affect the activities of the Center as well as other institutions around Israel. Nevertheless, since the previous conference, a number of HMS achievements can be highlighted. Several new members have joined the HMS Executive Committee a development which will undoubtedly contribute to the growing status of HMS in Israel and internationally. The pandemic revealed existing dilemmas and created new opportunities, some of which are relevant to the political level as well as touch certain aspects of HMS's mission statement. The dialectics between the trends of isolation and nationalism – and cooperation and globalization – will be emphasized for the foreseeable future. We anticipate this emphasis to be reflected in HMS's research and policy-oriented papers.
- The Ezri Research Center for Iran and the Persian Gulf was recently integrated within HMS. This creates new opportunities as well as challenges, including additional administrative burdens for existing HMS staff members.
- Emphasis continues on expanding diversity within HMS. This year a woman was awarded for the first time one of the three scholarships the Center offers. Leadership responsibilities expanded for the Center managers Zehavit Meir-Salman.
- HMS has established a formal relationship with the Israeli Navy. As part of this development, the deputy Chief of the Navy was appointed as a member of the Center's Executive Committee.
- HMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Rim Policy and Investment Council (ERPIC) in Cyprus and already held two meetings with this institution. This collaboration enables the Center to liaise with researchers and public figures in the Eastern

Mediterranean region. We continue to look for other partnering opportunities.

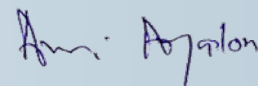
- Given the critical importance of climate change, research is being expanded on this topic. We already had our first article published on climate change. Moving forward, HMS will need to examine the impact of anticipated increasingly severe climate events throughout the region, including waves of immigration and the intensification of violence within societies. In addition to examining the impact of climate change on organizations or countries, policy options must be formulated for decision makers to analyze and ultimately ameliorate the resulting effects. HMS, therefore, is making climate change a research priority.
- The first class of MA students in National Security and Maritime Strategy, led by HMS Director Prof. Shaul Chorev under the School of Political Science at the University of Haifa, held its commencement ceremony.
- The HMS website has been expanded and upgraded.
- The number of MA and doctoral students supported by HMS increased. (8 M.A. research student – 6 Ph.D candidate).
- HMS enjoyed increased exposure to the Israeli public through published articles and television appearances. Relationships with relevant Israeli Government ministries and politicians are being developed. We will continue to work towards raising our profile—both with the public and with the government at both the national and local level.
- Despite generous and on-going donations by some members of the HMS Executive Committee, the Center has not been able to raise the necessary resources to fulfil its goals. Fundraising will continue to be integral to our success.

While a fact-to-face gathering would obviously have been preferred, we are certain that the June 25<sup>th</sup> discussion will be comprehensive and assist us as we continue to advance HMS' academic and public standing—including advancing the awareness to Israel's citizens and leaders regarding the importance of the maritime component to Israel's economic vitality as well as security.

Shaul Chorev



Ami Ayalon



## Vision

**To be a leading Israeli academic multidisciplinary research center in Maritime Policy & Strategy, focusing on the Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea Regions**

## The Center's Objectives

- Academic research into central issues in Maritime Policy & Strategy
- Joining the University of Haifa wide efforts to lead the field of Marine Research in all its aspects
- Enhancing UoH unique relations with Israel's Security Establishment
- Serving as a "Think Tank" for policy makers
- Shaping Israeli public discourse, and promoting it in cases it does not exist, through policy papers, symposiums and media appearances
- Creating long lasting collaborations with leading institutions worldwide in the maritime domain
- Educating young researchers in the various disciplines of Maritime Strategy
- Providing the IN Naval Academy and with the IDF Joint Staff College academic and intellectual education

## Collaborations

Hudson Institute, USA

National Maritime Foundation (NMF), India

European Rim Policy and Investment Council (ERPIC), Cyprus

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), USA

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSiS), Singapore

Signal, China-Israel Organization

Mediterranean Foundation for Strategic Studies (FMES), France



## The Prof. Naftali Wydra Institute for Ports and Shipping Research

Israel is an economic island, with virtually all of its foreign trade transported by sea. Recognizing the crucial strategic importance of shipping and ports for the State of Israel, the University's President and Board of Governors have decided in 2017 to integrate the Wydra Institute of Shipping and Ports as a division within the Maritime Policy & Strategy research center. The University of Haifa views this move as an important component in its overall policy as outlined above, both nationally and internationally.

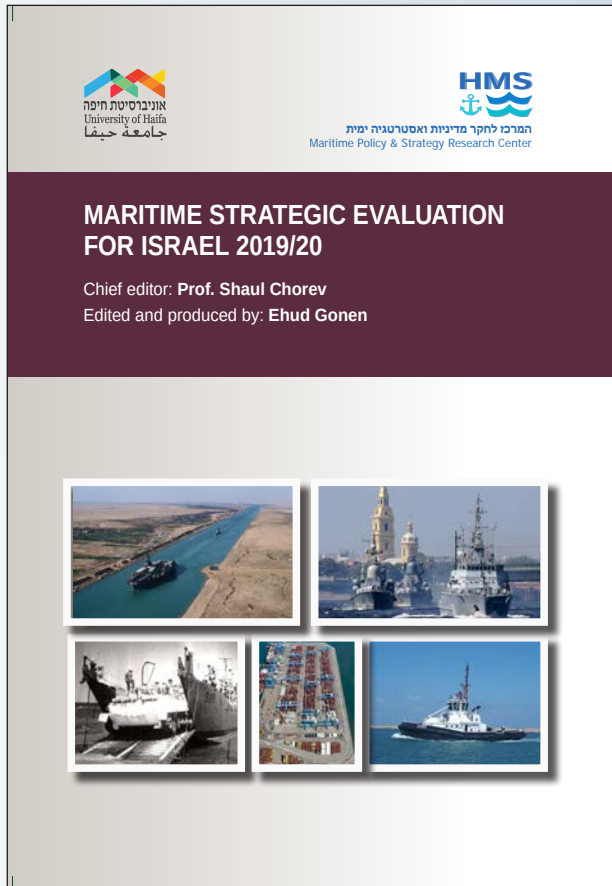


## The Ezri Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies

As of December 2019, the Ezri Center has been Integrated within the HMS Center. The Integration took place following the request of the family and the recommendation of the HMS EC chairman, Admiral Ayalon, to integrate the research centers to be headed by Prof. Chorev. We consider the integration of the centers as very important step in the maritime strategy research filed.







## HMS Annual Report, Maritime Strategic Evaluation for Israel 2019/20

Prof. Shaul Chorev and Ehud Gonen (eds.)

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Executive Summary

From the desk of the Head of the Maritime Policy and Strategy Research Center (HMS)

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*Shaul Chorev*

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*Shaul Chorev*

The Indo-Pacific Region  
*Benni Ben Ari*

The Russian navy – central trends in 2019 and their implication in the Middle East  
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*Shlomo Gueta*

The Egyptian Navy – Its Origins and its Future (Is it on its way to becoming a "green water" navy?)  
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Review of the Israeli Government's Decision on Foreign Direct Investment screening against the background of China's Belt and Road Initiative  
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*Ofir Kafri*

The Challenges in Operating Autonomous Vessels in an Era of Globalization –The Case of Autonomous Cargo Ships  
*Roi Naglar*

The Energy Sector in Israel: Opportunities and Challenges in the New Decade  
*Elai Retig*

Potential Impacts of Climate Changes on Israeli Maritime Security  
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Tsunami in the Mediterranean  
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The SAAR Missile Boats: The Israel Navy's Surface Warships  
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Maritime Terror in Israel  
*Shakked Dabran*

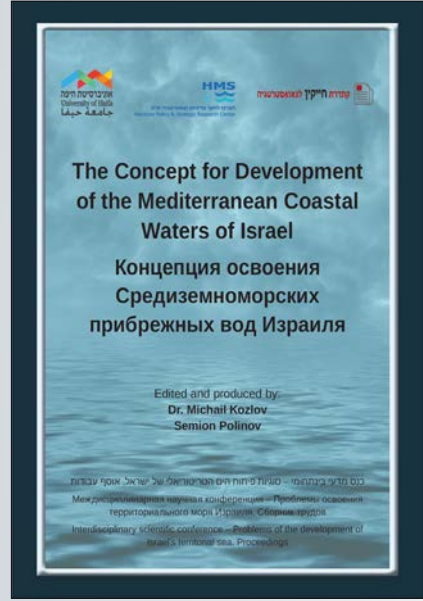
Summary of the Annual Israeli Maritime Assessment  
*Shaul Chorev*



The 3<sup>rd</sup> publication of HUDSOM-HMS consortium – The Eastern Mediterranean in the New Era of Major-Power Competition: Prospects for U.S.-Israeli Cooperation – Joint Report, HMS & Hudson Institute



By Peaceful Means – The Settlement of the Conflict on the Maritime Border Between Israel and Lebanon in the Aspect of the law of the Sea – Dr. Benny Spanier



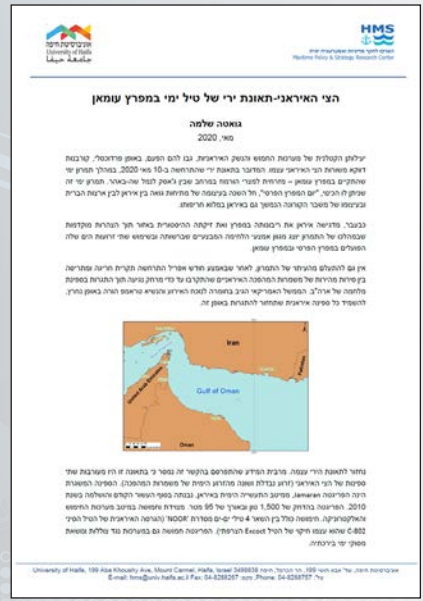
The Concept for Development of the Mediterranean Coastal Waters of Israel – Dr. Michail Kozlov and Semion Polinov (eds.)



“Our Sea“ – Lessons in Mediterranean Strategy – Dr. Arieh Rona



Geo-strategic aspects in the operation of the 'Chinese' port in Haifa – Ehud Gonen



Iranian Navy: Firing Accident in the Gulf of Oman – Shlomo Gueta

**Lessons Learned from the Corona Virus Outbreak and the Maritime Trade to and from Israel**

Professor Shaul chorev, Captain Alex Gerson

April 2020

Israel's healthcare system is currently gearing up to cope with the recent Corona virus outbreak, and the main entry point to the country, Ben-Gurion International Airport, is mostly deserted – a clear illustration of the severe impact suffered by global air transportation due to the Corona virus epidemic.

In contrast, in Israel's sea ports, which serve as a gateway for Israel's maritime trade, things are more or less proceeding as usual. In an attempt to calm the public from the onslaught on supermarket shelves, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in his Facebook account that "Most of the supply to the State of Israel comes by sea – products, raw materials, including food, and there is no reason to stress the supermarkets. There is an adequate amount of food and there will be enough food." Indeed, Israeli ports have so far been successful in maintaining the atmosphere of "business as usual" and continue loading and unloading cargo ships arriving and departing. Much of this is due to the solidarity of the port employees, who in regular time are usually viewed negatively by the public for their "casualty behavior". Nevertheless, in past emergency situations such as the Yom Kippur war of 1973 or the second Lebanon war of 2006, these employees didn't hesitate to work tirelessly in order to keep Israel's maritime port open, minimizing damage to the Israeli economy.

A historical study regarding the influence of epidemics and diseases on the entry into Israel via the sea ports during the early 19th century, reveals that epidemic and disease events have already occurred in the ports as our region. At that time, the Middle East was a region in conflict, and during the second wave of the Spanish flu pandemic in November 1918, the vast troop movements in and out the region hastened the pandemic, with "Jaffa... in all likelihood the first port of entry for the virus on the Levantine coast, carried by British ships from Alexandria or Port Said". The basic procedure to handle them were quite similar to those of our modern era. An article published in the "Haaretz" newspaper described a quarantine of two days on all ships from the Port of Alexandria, which would be expanded to include all the following ships from all along the coast.

The main difference between the 19th and early 20th century and the current situation is that at this time, about 99 percent of Israel's goods, cargo, raw material and foreign trade (in and out) is done via the sea ports.

Yael Katz, The Impact of the 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic on Greater Syria, London School of Oriental and African Studies, 2017

**Lessons Learned from the Corona Virus Outbreak and the Maritime Trade to and from Israel – Prof. Shaul Chorev and Captain Alex Gerson**

**מיליטריזציה של תחום הסביבה – מעורבות ממשלתית**

שלמה גועטא  
מרץ 2020

בשנים האחרונות, תחום הסביבה הפך להיות מוקד תשומת לב רבה יותר בקרב הציבור ובעולם המדיניות. תשומת לב זו באה לידי ביטוי גם במסגרת המערכת המשפטית, בעיקר בארצות הברית, שבה התפתח תחום הסביבה למקור חשוב של פעילות ממשלתית. תחום זה הפך להיות מוקד תשומת לב רבה יותר בקרב הציבור ובעולם המדיניות. תשומת לב זו באה לידי ביטוי גם במסגרת המערכת המשפטית, בעיקר בארצות הברית, שבה התפתח תחום הסביבה למקור חשוב של פעילות ממשלתית.

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**"Al-Kuds" Force under the Leadership of Qasem Soleimani – Involvement in the Naval Zone – Shlomo Gueta**

**גלי סערות בעל זרמה חם התיכון**

ד"ר חיי גורן, ד"ר אהרן שניידר, ד"ר נמרוד גולן  
מרץ 2020

ב-27 במרץ 2019 חוללה סערת גלים במזרח התיכון עם עומק של כ-10 מטר. הסערות הללו, בהמשך, גרמו לנזק רב לאוניות מסע, ובעקבותיהן נאלצו כ-100 אנשים להימלט מהאזור. הסערות הללו, בהמשך, גרמו לנזק רב לאוניות מסע, ובעקבותיהן נאלצו כ-100 אנשים להימלט מהאזור.



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**Stormy Waves in the Eastern Mediterranean – Prof. Shaul Chorev, Dr. Benny Spanier and Dr. Hay Eytan Cohen Yanarocak**

**שני סינים הם יותר גדול**

שלמה גועטא, עהוד גונן  
מרץ 2020

בשנים האחרונות, תחום הסביבה הפך להיות מוקד תשומת לב רבה יותר בקרב הציבור ובעולם המדיניות. תשומת לב זו באה לידי ביטוי גם במסגרת המערכת המשפטית, בעיקר בארצות הברית, שבה התפתח תחום הסביבה למקור חשוב של פעילות ממשלתית.

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**"Two Chinesees and a One Big Port" – Prof. Shaul Chorev and Ehud Gonen**

**ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ НОВОЙ ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ РЕАЛЬНОСТИ**

**FORMING A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL REALITY**

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**תחום הסביבה**  
Gotta say, adapting, Forming a New Reality.

**אגendum:**  
Развитие экологически устойчивого общества и устойчивого развития. Создание экологически устойчивого общества и устойчивого развития. Создание экологически устойчивого общества и устойчивого развития. Создание экологически устойчивого общества и устойчивого развития.

**Abstract:** The ecological aspects of the development of the Mediterranean coastal zone of Israel are considered and it is shown that the stability of factors influencing the ecology does not fundamentally limit itself to standard environmental regulatory methods, but makes it an active creative process to create an environmentally friendly environment in the coastal zone.

**The Formation of a New Marine Environmental Reality – Kozlov Michail and Semion Polinov**

**דיפלומטיה ימית**

ד"ר נירית לנג  
מרץ 2020

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**Maritime Diplomacy – Dov Raz with Nirit Lang**

**הובלה ימית**

קלי ויבול בלתי ממונחים – חדרון עדין וארוך

רבי-יובל אלמנדר נוסע

יולי 2020

**רקע**

התחילת המסע נבעה מן המשימה המרכזית של חיל הים, להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור. חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור. חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור.

**החלטות**

כדי שיהיה ניתן להפעיל את חיל הים באזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור.

**הובלה ימית**

אתגרים בהפעלת כלי שיט אוטונומיים בעידן הגלובלי

במסגרת הפרויקט יאטנרס התמקדה כל שני האוספים בערך המלחמה בתוך רשתות אבטחת מידע ומערכות אוטונומיות. הפרויקט יאטנרס התמקדה כל שני האוספים בערך המלחמה בתוך רשתות אבטחת מידע ומערכות אוטונומיות.

**רקע**

הפרויקט יאטנרס התמקדה כל שני האוספים בערך המלחמה בתוך רשתות אבטחת מידע ומערכות אוטונומיות. הפרויקט יאטנרס התמקדה כל שני האוספים בערך המלחמה בתוך רשתות אבטחת מידע ומערכות אוטונומיות.

**השלכות הקורונה על פעילות הצי הרחבי – שלב ראשון**

עידן גילד

20 במרץ 2020

**רקע**

התחילת המסע נבעה מן המשימה המרכזית של חיל הים, להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור. חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור.

**צילום של קורונה**

התחילת המסע נבעה מן המשימה המרכזית של חיל הים, להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור. חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור.

**Unmanned Commercial Vessels - A Long Way to Go – Capt. Alexander Gerson**

**Challenges in Operating Autonomous Vessels in the Global World – Roe Nagler**

**Consequences of the Coronavirus on the Russian Navy – Ido Gilad**

**התגברות נוכחות הציים הזרים במרחבי הים הערבי**

עידן גילד

21 ביוני 2020

**רקע**

התחילת המסע נבעה מן המשימה המרכזית של חיל הים, להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור. חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור.

**החלטות**

כדי שיהיה ניתן להפעיל את חיל הים באזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור.

**שימוש בצי הפינת Show במרחבי הים הערבי**

(התקדלה להפעלת המשימה במרחב הים הערבי)

עידן גילד

2 ביוני 2020

**רקע**

התחילת המסע נבעה מן המשימה המרכזית של חיל הים, להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור. חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור.

**החלטות**

כדי שיהיה ניתן להפעיל את חיל הים באזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, חיל הים נדרש להבטיח את אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור, שכן אזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור מהווים את אחד מאזורי המפרץ הפרסי והערב הסגור.

**The Indo-Pacific Region**

**Benni Ben Ari**

About a decade ago, the term Indo-Pacific became part of the political lexicon in place of the term Asia-Pacific which had been used until then to describe the Asian-Pacific geostrophic region, in economic, geographic and political terms. The new region includes the Indian Ocean and its coastlines in the west, including the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, and up to the central Pacific Ocean in the east and even up to the West Coast of the US. The region includes East and Southeast Asia and the northern coast of Australia.

The term Indo-Pacific appeared for the first time in an article by Captain Dr. Guyropet S. Kharunas of India on cooperation between India and Japan, in 2013, and in a national security document published by the Australian government in 2017, which declared that: "A new Indo-Pacific strategic region is beginning to emerge, connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans throughout Southeast Asia." This definition has been adopted by the US (Trump Administration, 2017) in order to describe the region of Asia as a whole without differentiating between East Asia and Southeast Asia, it includes the South China Sea, the Indian Ocean, all of the coastal nations (36 in number) and two oceans: the "Pivot to Asia" policy, which was adopted by the United States and whose name was changed to the "Indo-Pacific Pivot", involves the shift of US' geographic, geopolitical and economic focus from the Middle East to Asia. The ASEAN countries also adopted the definition at the Manila Conference of 2019.<sup>1</sup>

The significance of the new name for the region is the recognition of the growing economic, military and political importance of the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean, which constitute a single strategic unit. From a geographic perspective, it is essentially a "super-region" in which sub-regions are still important. The region includes a number of important choke points: the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el Mandeb Strait and the Malacca Straits, the straits between the Indonesian islands and also the South China

1. Guyropet S. Kharunas, November 14, 2017, INDO-PACIFIC CONCEPT: RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT, <http://www.india-pacific.com/india-pacific-concept-retrospect-prospect>; Henry A. Kiss, The Diplomat, January 23, 2018, The Origin of Indo-Pacific as Geopolitical Concept, <https://thediplomat.com/2018/01/the-origin-of-indo-pacific-as-geopolitical-concept/>

2. Niall FitzGerald, Quartz, November 7, 2017, <https://www.quora.com/1211339/india-pacific-all-about-indo-pacific-the-name-behind-the-name-is-using-to-what?m=1>

3. ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations, <http://www.aicm.com/en/>

4. Tachya Sulamman, 24-6-2019, South China Sea Naming Post, <https://www.southchinesea.com/>

**Increasing Presence of the Foreign Navies in the Arabian Sea – Ido Gilad**

**The Use of "Dhow" Boats in the Arabian Sea – Ido Gilad**

**The Indo-Pacific Region isn't Quiet at all – Dr. Benni Ben Ari**



## On going reasarch

Researcher	Research
Dr. Nizan Feldman	Rallying Around the “Flag of Convenience”: Merchant Fleet Flags and Sanctions Effectiveness
Ido Gilad	Russia Maritime presence in the East Mediterranean
Ehud Gonen	States' Reaction to China's Outward Direct Investment in the Field of Seaports and Related Infrastructures
Shlomo Gueta	EEZ of Egypt in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea
Shlomo Gueta	Egyptian Navy in the New Era, 1800-2020
Shlomo Gueta	Turkish Naval Forces: Mediterranean Policies and Emerging Exclusive Economic Zone
Shlomo Gueta	Egyptian Navy Towards and during the June 1967 War: As the Magnitude of Expectations so are the Disappointments
Shlomo Gueta	The Surprise of October 1973 War: How did the Egyptian Navy Succeed to Mine the Southern Gulf of Suez?
Ofir Kafri	Components of national cyber security arrays in the civil maritime sector
Tzevy Mirkin	The Navy as an instrument of the Soviet foreign policy during the Cold War
Roe Nagler	Integrating autonomous technology into social networking: The case of autonomous merchant ships.
Semion Polinov	Lessons learnt from Epidemics to address Climate Change
Semion Polinov	Addressing Climate Change by reducing Anthropogenic CO <sub>2</sub>
Semion Polinov	Increased anthropogenic activity in The Mediterranean since the opening of the Suez Canal

<b>Researcher</b>	<b>Research</b>
Semion Polinov	Need for Development of Adaptive Geostrategies to Address Climate Change: An Indian and An Israeli Perspective
Semion Polinov	Spatial and temporal assessment of oil spills in the Mediterranean Sea
Semion Polinov	Estimating near port shipping activity using VIIRS images
Semion Polinov and Shlomo Gueta	Increased maritime presence in the Eastern Mediterranean region and expected impacts on Israel
Dubi Raz	Military Innovation in an environment of Uncertainty: Crisis as a change generator
Dr. Elai Rettig	“When Maritime Regional Energy Cooperation Fails: the struggle for Europe’s Energy Union, East-Asia’s Energy Framework, and the East Mediterranean’s gas development”
Dr. Elai Rettig and Dr. Ziv Rubinovitz	Small-State Oil Trade as an Admission Ticket into New Regional Networks: Israel’s Quest for Oil in South America and the North Sea”
Itai Sela	Estimating the Security Cost of the Strategic Cyber Threat in the Maritime Arena
Nir Zarchi	Energy Policy and Critical Infrastructures in the Maritime Arena

# Events

**June**  
2019

**2nd Assembly of the Executive Committee of HMS Center**



**June**  
2019

**Participation of Prof. Shaul Chorev at the Annual Vienna Strategy Conference 2019**



**June**  
2019

**Research Delegation from Shanxi Normal University, China (via Signal) at the HMS Center**



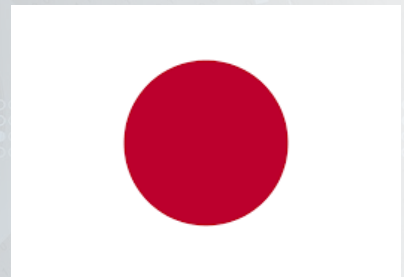
**July**  
2019

**The 1st Annual Conference for the Israel Navy Intelligence Division**



**July**  
2019

**Visit of the Commercial Attaché of Japan to Israel, Ms. Saori Kitamura, to the HMS Center**





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**July**  
2019

Prof. Chorev Television interview  
with Channel 13 (Arik Weiss)



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**July**  
2019

A Lecture for the Master's program  
student by Former Minister for  
Intelligence and Deputy Prime  
Minister Mr. Dan Meridor



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**August**  
2019

Tour to Haifa Port as Part of the  
Seminar "The Role of the Sea in  
Israel's Security"



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**August**  
2019

Visit to Israel Shipyards Port as Part  
of the Master's Program "National  
Security and Maritime Strategy"



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**September**  
2019

Researchers Gathering for Joint  
Discussion before Publication of  
Research Papers



**September**

2019

Meeting with the Director General of the Ministry of Intelligence, Hagay Tzurielto, and launching of Research Collaboration between the Ministry and HMS Center



**September**

2019

A Festive Dinner to Mark the end of the First Cycle of the Curriculum “National Security and Maritime Strategy”



**September**

2019

Maritime Cybersecurity Workshop as part of the British Council Synergy Program



**October**

2019

International Scientific-Practical Conference: “Problems of Integrated Sustainable Development of the Coastal Zone”, Netanya



**October**

2019

Series of Lectures for Marine Senior Officers Association, Oct. 2019 – Feb. 2020



**November**  
2019

50 Years Since the Opening of the Suez Canal



**November**  
2019

Visit by a Delegation from National Maritime Foundation (NMF), India to the HMS Center



**November**  
2019

Participation of HMS Research Fellow at Opanav EastMed 2019 Conference in Crete



**December**  
2019

Conference for Directors of Tel Aviv-Yafo high-schools to Promote the Maritime Field at Israel's High-schools



**December**  
2019

HMS Center Researchers Gathering to learn from Dr. Gideon Tibor about "Strategic Changes in the Eastern Mediterranean"/ "Bat Galim" Incident"



**January**

2020

Lecture by French Naval Attaché to Israel, Lieutenant Colonel Arnaud Peyronnet, about France's Maritime Policy



**February**

2020

The Annual Conference – Geostrategy and Maritime Aspects



**February**

2020

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference for the Technology, Logistic and Material Division



**February**

2020

Annual Conference for the Technology and Logistics Division



**April**

2020

Joint Workshop with Samuel Neaman Institute for National Policy: "Israeli Economy during Covid-19 Crisis, Recommendations for Policymakers"



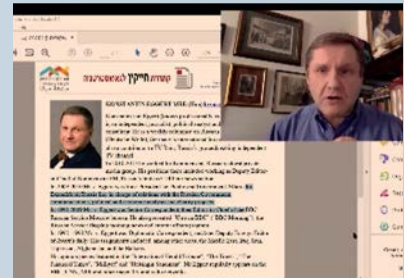
**April**  
2020

**Rear Adm. (Ret.) Hadar Kimhi  
Lecture about Development of Naval  
Doctrine of the Star Class Boat**



**May**  
2020

**Konstantin von Eggert Lecture  
about Policy and Strategy of Russia  
Federation at the Middle East**



**May**  
2020

**Joint Video Conference with  
the School of Sustainability,  
Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya and  
MITVIM institute: “Israel and Gaza  
– Challenges and Opportunities for  
Regional Cooperation”**



**May**  
2020

**Regional Joint Conference  
Organized by European Rim Policy  
and Investment Council (ERPIC):  
“The Effect of the Pandemic on the  
Eastern Mediterranean Region”**



# University Administration



## Prof. Ron Robin – President

Prof. Ron Robin is an expert in American History, with a PhD in American History from the University of California at Berkeley (1986). Prof. Robin was a faculty member at the University of Haifa for over twenty years, during which he held several official positions, including Dean of Students. In 2006, Prof. Robin joined the faculty at NYU where, amongst other things, he served as Senior Vice provost and was responsible for establishing two NYU international campuses-in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai.

Prof. Robin is the author of six books and dozens of articles. He has written about the political, cultural and media aspects of the Cold war between the US and the former USSR (Harvard Press), and about Politics and Culture in the American academia (Princeton)

Under his leadership, the University of Haifa has identified global interdisciplinary research in collaboration with leading international research institutions. The interdisciplinary approach allows the University to develop varied areas of knowledge under the auspices of joint, innovative and unexpected “umbrellas”.

Prof. Robin's previous roles at the University and his many years as a faculty member have provided him with an in-depth knowledge of the diverse University student community, a community that is a mirror image of Israeli society. The role of the University is to provide its graduates with tools based on academic knowledge and critical thinking that will allow them to occupy leading positions in Israeli society.



## Prof. Gustavo Mesch – Rector

Prof. Gustavo Mesch is a world renowned expert in the field of technology and society, specifically in Cyber and society, social effects of new media, youth internet culture, internet crime and deviation, and parent-child relationships in the new media. Prof. Mesch holds a PhD from Ohio State University (1993). He is a published author and has published dozens of articles in scientific publications.

Prof. Mesch has served as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences between the years 2013-2016 and under his leadership the Faculty has reached many achievements: the Faculty has been ranked as one of the top Faculties in Israel under international standards including the prestigious Shanghai Ranking.

Prof. Mesch has served as Chair of the Information & Communication Section of the American Sociological Association, and Editor-in-Chief of the Sociological Focus, the official Journal of the North Central Sociological Association (U.S.). He also served as the editor of the section on Communications and Media in the International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences. Amongst others, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Israeli Internet Association.



## Prof. Ido Izhaki

Prof. Ido Izhaki is an expert in Ecology, with a PhD in Environmental Biology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1987). He is a faculty member at the university for over 25 years. He holds several official positions within and outside the university, including the Director of Carmel Research Center, Chairman of the Department of Biology and Chairman of the Zoological Society of Israel. He also served in many governmental committees in various topics such as global warming, the effect of wind farms on flying organisms and the estimation of ecosystem services in Israel.

# HMS Staff



**Director, Prof. Shaul Chorev**

Shaul Chorev is a retired Israeli Navy Rear Admiral and a Professor in the International Relations division of the School of Political Science, University of Haifa (HU). He is the Head of the Maritime Policy & Strategy research center At the HU, Head of the Reuven Chaikin Chair for Geostrategy, HU & head of the M.A. program in National Security and Maritime Strategy. Prof Chorev lectures on maritime strategy and Israel defense policy, international security, arms control technology transfer, and innovation system in the defense laboratories.

From 2007 to 2015, he served as the Head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission. Chorev has also held numerous senior positions in the Israeli defense establishment, including: Assistant to the Minister of Defense for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations; Commanding Officer of the Haifa Naval Base; and Commanding Officer of an Israeli Naval Flotilla (missile boats & submarines). He was the project manager of the Dolphin Submarines Project in the German Shipyards (HDW & TNSW) between 1989 and 1992. Chorev holds a BA in Economics and Political Sciences from Bar Ilan University (1985), an MSc. from the United States Naval Postgraduate School (1989), and a Ph.D. from Bar Ilan University in Science Technology and Society (2005).



**Chairman Admiral (Ret.) Ami Ayalon**

Head of the Center for Democracy and National Security at the Israel Democracy Institute: Chairman of AKIM Israel (the National Association for the Habilitation of Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities). Ayalon is one of the founders of Blue White Future ("BWF"), a non-partisan political movement, committed to securing the future of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state through facilitating an inclusive discourse to promote a two state solution. Admiral (Ret.) Ayalon is a former Director of Israel Security Agency (the Shin Bet) and a former commander of Israel's Navy. He has served as a cabinet minister and a member of the Knesset. Along with Sari Nusseibeh, he has headed the People's Voice peace initiative in 2002. Ayalon holds a BA in economics and political science from Bar-Ilan University (1980); is a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island (1982); holds an MA in public administration from Harvard University (1992); and an MA in Law from Bar-Ilan University (2010).

## Executive Committee



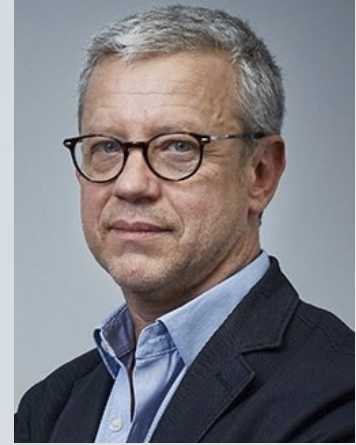
**U.S. Admiral (Ret.) Gary Roughead**

served as the U.S. Navy's 29<sup>th</sup> Chief of Naval Operations after holding six operational commands and is one of only two officers in the history of the Navy to have commanded both the U.S. Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. As the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Roughead led the Navy through a challenging period of transition in fiscal, security and personnel matters. He accelerated the Navy's capability and capacity in ballistic missile defense and unmanned air and underwater systems. He reestablished the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Fleets to better focus on the Western Hemisphere and cyber operations respectively and introduced bold programs to prepare for the primacy of information in warfare. In retirement, Admiral Roughead is the Robert and Marion Oster Distinguished Military Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and serves on the boards of directors of the Northrop Grumman Corporation, Maersk Lines, Ltd and the Center for a New American Security. He is a Trustee of Dodge and Cox Funds and serves on the Board of Managers of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. He advises companies in the national security and medical sectors.



**Prof. Ilana Berman-Frank**

The current Director of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences (University of Haifa), Ilana transferred to University of Haifa after 15 years at Bar Ilan University (BIU). Ilana completed her BSc. in Biology and Ecology at the University of California, Irvine (USA) and her PhD (joint Bar Ilan University and the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (IOLR), as well as an initial post-doctoral fellowship from the Hebrew University, at the Kinneret Limnological Laboratory (Sea of Galilee). After 4 years of post-doctoral work at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, NJ (USA), Ilana returned to Israel to head the Aquatic Ecology and Biological Oceanography Laboratory focusing on how global changes and environmental stressors influence the organisms forming the base of the aquatic food-webs with research spanning local to global scales in diverse environments including the Sea of Galilee, the Mediterranean and Red Seas, and the South Pacific Ocean. Prof. Berman-Frank has served as President of the Israeli Association of Aquatic Sciences; Chair of the Education Committee of the Mediterranean Research Center of Israel (MERC); Co-Chair of the International Group of Aquatic Primary Productivity (GAP); member of the Board of Directors for "EcoOcean" and other local and international capacities promoting marine sciences.



**Dr. Bruno Tertrais**

Deputy Director, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique (Foundation for Strategic Research), Paris. Dr. Tertrais graduated from the Institut d'études politiques de Paris in 1984. He also holds a Master's degree in Public Law of the University of Paris (1985), and a Doctorate in Political Science of the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (1994). In 1990-1993, he was the Director of the Civilian Affairs Committee, NATO Parliamentary Assembly. In 1993, he joined the Policy Division of the French Ministry of Defense. In 1995-1996, he was a Visiting Fellow at the RAND Corporation. From October 1996 until August 2001, he was Special Assistant to the Director of Strategic Affairs at the French Ministry of Defense. In September 2001, he joined the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS) as a Senior Research Fellow, working on geopolitics and international security issues, with a special emphasis on transatlantic, Middle East and Asian security, as well as a particular focus on military and nuclear policies. In November 2016, he was appointed Deputy Director of FRS. He was a member of the Presidential Commissions on the White Paper on Defense and National Security appointed in 2007 and in 2012. Tertrais is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and a member of the editorial board of the Washington Quarterly.





**Prof. Geoffrey Till**

Emeritus Professor of Maritime Studies, Previously Dean of Academic Studies at the UK Command and Staff College and Head of the Defence Studies Department of King's College London, Geoffrey Till is now the Emeritus Professor of Maritime Studies of King's College London and Chairman of the Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies. Since 2009, he has been Visiting Professor in the Maritime Security Programme at the Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. Before that he taught at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, the Royal Naval College Greenwich, the City University London and in the War Studies Department of King's College London. A former Honorary Captain in the Royal Naval Reserve, he has taught at well over 40 national staff colleges around the world. Geoffrey Till's main interests are in maritime security and naval development. At the moment he is leading a project that looks at the way countries today 'grow' their maritime power and at the problems and challenges they face in seeking to do so. His 29 books have been translated into 14 languages. He has contributed to a number of maritime research projects for the UK Royal Navy, the US Department of Defence and the US Navy Department and for the Navy of the Republic of Singapore.



**Prof. Zvi Ben-Avraham**

Head of the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel, Founding Director of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences at the University of Haifa, Professor Emeritus at Tel Aviv University, the Department of Geosciences and Director of Dead Sea Research Center. Ben-Avraham earned his Ph.D. in Marine Geophysics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1973. He has held professional positions in several research institutes and universities worldwide (Stanford University, University of Cape Town, Free University Amsterdam, University of California Los Angeles), and served in editorial positions for several scientific journals of geosciences (Tectonics, Tectonophysics, Annales Tectonicae and more). Prof. Ben-Avraham is a member of several academies of sciences including Academia Europaea, Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was awarded numerous prizes including the prestigious Israel Prize in Science in 2003 and has served as a Scientific Advisor to the President of the State of Israel.



**Prof. Piki Ish-Shalom**

The A. Ephraim and Shirley Diamond Family Chair in International Relations and Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he pursued his Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations. Currently he is a member of the Steering Committee of the Standing Group of International Relations (SGIR) of ECPR. Formerly he was the Director of the Leonard Davis for International relations Associate Professor (2012-15). He was a postdoctoral fellow at the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International affairs and at the Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, both at Harvard University. In addition he was the Israel Institute Visiting Professor as well as a Visiting Associate Professor at Stanford University (2015-16), visiting scholar at the New School University in New York (2000-2001), at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) (2012), and at the Institute for the Human Studies (IWM) in Vienna (2001). He is the author of Democratic Peace: A Political Biography (University of Michigan Press, 2013), as well as articles in different scholarly journals. Once upon a time he served as a submarine navigation officer in the Israeli Navy.



### Prof. Dan Tchernov

Vice President for Resource Development and External Relations since October 2017. Dr. Tchernov is a Marine Biologist and the founder of the Marine Biology Department at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences (2010). Dr. Tchernov heads the coastal research facility as part of the Helmsley Charitable Trust Mediterranean Research Center. He also heads the Morris Kahn Marine Research station. His main interests are in Climate Change Biology, Coral Biology, Marine Ecology and Conservation Biology.

Dr. Tchernov was born in Jerusalem in 1967. He graduated from the Hebrew University in 1994 with a degree in Biology and completed his PhD in Oceanography at the Hebrew University in 2003. He did his postdoctoral research at the IMCS at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Between the years 2004-2009 he served as the Administrative Director of the Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences in Eilat and between 2009-2011 he served as the Deputy Director of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences.

Dr. Tchernov is married to Dr. Beverly Goodman, has four children and lives in Caesarea.



### Brian Michael Jenkins

Brian Michael Jenkins is a senior adviser to the president of the RAND Corporation and author of numerous books, reports, and articles on mostly terrorism-related topics, including *Will Terrorists Go Nuclear?* (2008, Prometheus Books). He formerly served as chair of the Political Science Department at RAND. On the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of 9/11, Jenkins initiated a RAND effort to take stock of America's policy reactions and give thoughtful consideration to future strategy. That effort is presented in *The Long Shadow of 9/11: America's Response to Terrorism* (Brian Michael Jenkins and John Paul Godes, eds., 2011).

Commissioned in the infantry, Jenkins became a paratrooper and a captain in the Green Berets. He is a decorated combat veteran, having served in the Seventh Special Forces Group in the Dominican Republic and with the Fifth Special Forces Group in Vietnam. He returned to Vietnam as a member of the Long Range Planning Task Group and received the Department of the Army's highest award for his service.

In 1996, President Clinton appointed Jenkins to the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. From 1999 to 2000, he served as adviser to the National Commission on Terrorism and in 2000 was appointed to the U.S. Comptroller General's Advisory Board. He is a research associate at the Mineta Transportation Institute, where he directs the continuing research on protecting surface transportation against terrorist attacks.



### Mr. David Lubarsky

David earned his undergraduate degree from UCLA in Economics and History and an MSc in Russian Government from the London School of Economics as well as an MA from UCLA in Political Science. He has worked for a variety of financial services firms, both in the United Kingdom and the United States, focusing primarily on taxation matters arising from intra-company transactions of multi-national companies. He has also worked on financial issues for a US defense contractor. Presently David's efforts are focused on public policy interests and philanthropic endeavors. He brought together the RAND Corporation and the Israel Democracy Institute – sponsoring a Washington, DC workshop entitled “The Challenge for Democracies Facing Asymmetric Conflicts.” David currently serves as a board member of the West Coast Steering Committee for the American Society of the University of Haifa and is also a member of the Community Advisory Board of the UCLA Younes & Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies. Previously he served on the Board of Governors for the Los Angeles Athletic Club.



**Prof. Andrew S. Erickson**

Professor of Strategy in the U.S. Naval War College's China Maritime Studies Institute (CMSI). Erickson is currently a Visiting Scholar in full-time residence at Harvard University's John King Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, where he has been an Associate in Research since 2008. He is member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the editorial boards of *Naval War College Review* and *Asia Policy*. Erickson's publications include pioneering work concerning China's sea forces and emerging naval operations in the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, and Mediterranean. In 2017 Erickson received NWC's inaugural Civilian Faculty Research Excellence Award. In 2012 the National Bureau of Asian Research awarded him the inaugural Ellis Joffe Prize for PLA Studies. Erickson has taught courses at NWC and Yonsei University. In 2013 he deployed aboard USS Nimitz in the Pacific as a Naval Postgraduate School Regional Security Education Program scholar. Erickson received his Ph.D. and M.A. from Princeton University. Proficient in Mandarin Chinese and conversant in Japanese, he has lived and performed academic work in China, Japan, and Korea.



**Mr. Shlomi Fogel**

Shlomi Fogel is experienced businessman and entrepreneur with long experience with establishing companies. He is active in broad scale of areas, between them logistics, real estate, funding, industry and agriculture. Shlomi Fogel is one of the owners of Ampa Group, owners and chairman of Israel Shipyards and one of the owners of Gold Bond Group.



**Dr. Efrat Sopher**

Dr. Efrat Sopher earned a Bachelors degree in International Relations from the University of Southern California, while concurrently serving at the Consulate General of Israel to Los Angeles. Dr. Sopher earned a Masters degree also in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Efrat earned a Post Graduate Diploma in law from the College of Law, London, and practised as a solicitor both in a London firm and as in-house Counsel. Dr. Sopher earned a PhD in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science; specialising in Israeli foreign policy towards Iran 1948-1979, also examining the human element within foreign policy strategic formation and implementation. The PhD thesis revealed and analysed documents that have previously been sealed from public view. Dr. Sopher has advised governments and organisations on foreign policy in the Middle East and beyond. She is an active member of the World Jewish Congress Jewish Diplomatic Corps and has represented the WJC worldwide, including at the United Nations Human Rights Council. Efrat serves as Chair of the Board of Advisors at the Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at the University of Haifa, and is a Trustee for the University of Haifa UK.



**Capt. (Ret.) Dov Shafir**

Dov Shafir is a naval officer, who served in Flotilla 13 (Shayetet 13) and commended it twice 1960-1965 / 1967-1968. During his service Shafir Studied two years at Ecole superieure de guerre naval in Paris, accomplishing his M.A. Degree. Later on he became the head of the manpower division in the navy. Following his release from the IDF in 1975 he managed together with Brigadier Daniel Shimshonii a strategic consulting agency called STRATIS, which was founded by Sam Zax, a Chicago banker. The agency conduct research for IDF General Avraham Tamir that was passed to Ret General Aaron Yariv from Tel Aviv University. Shafir served as a board member of Teva pharmaceutical industries from 1975-2007. He is currently a member of the Ashkelon Academic College managerial board, and a trustee of the University of Haifa. In 2014 he along with Prof. Fred Tauber – president of the University of Haifa, funded the center for maritime strategy, and convinced Rear Admiral (Ret.) Prof. Shaul Chorev to lead it. Over the years Shaffir donated scholarships to students of sea-related fields of science. In 2014 he became the largest benefactor to the restoration of the ancient ship in Ma'agan Michael – lead by the department of marine civilization and initiated by Prof Yacov Cahanov – and helped recruit additional donators.



**Mr. Tamir Frank**

Director of the Research Authority in University of Haifa. Tamir holds a B.A. in Business Administration, is a graduate of the U.K. army Officers Course and holds an M.A. in Political Science. Served for many years in the Israeli Defense Forces at officer positions and worked as Senior Director at “ELBIT” Technology Company.

## Academic Committee



**Prof. Rotem Kovner**

Rotem Kowner is professor of history at the Department of Asian Studies, specializing in modern Japanese history and naval history. His research focuses on military and naval aspects of Japan's modern wars, with a particular interest in the Russo-Japanese War and World War II. His books include *The Forgotten Campaign* (2005), *Historical Dictionary of the Russo-Japanese War* (2006, 2017), *The Impact of the Russo-Japanese War and Rethinking the Russo-Japanese War* (editor, 2007), *Race and Racism in Modern East Asia* (co-editor with Walter Demel, 2013-2015), and *From White to Yellow* (2014). Prof. Kowner is the founder and first chair of the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Haifa and the co-founder and chair of the Israeli Association of Japanese Studies (IAJS), and serves on the editorial board of several academic journals. Currently he is the director of the liberal arts program in Haifa and the inter-university graduate program (with the Hebrew University) 'The Asian Sphere'.



**Prof. Shlomo Hareli**

Prof. Shlomo Hareli is a social psychologist studying social perception of emotions. He is a Faculty Member of the Department of Business Administration of the University of Haifa and served also as the Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Research of Emotions and the head of the Behavioral Sciences in the School of Social Sciences, University of Haifa. The main research fields of Prof. Hareli focus on social aspects of emotions, among others, he studies how perceivers form social judgements based on perceived emotions and the antecedents of social emotions. In each context, the research focuses also on the processes involved. Hand in hand with empirical work, Prof. Hareli also contributes to the theoretical understanding, defining and characterizing of social emotions and social processes related to emotions, including from a functional perspective.



**Prof. Arnon Golan**

received his BA (1982), MA (1986, Cum Laude) and PhD (1994) degrees in geography from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is an associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Haifa. Prof. Golan's main area of interest is historical and political geography. His former work concentrated on the impact of war and post-war processes on the transformation of human landscapes in Eastern and Southern Europe following the Great War and in Israel during and following the 1948 war. His current research concentrates on the historical geography of Palestine/Israel, mostly on different aspects of urbanization between the 1930s and 1960s.



### **Prof. Abraham Marmur**

Abraham (Avi) Marmur received his D.Sc. in 1974 at the chemical engineering department, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, then spent two years in Buffalo, NY as a postdoc with Eli Ruckenstein. He returned to Technion in 1976 as a faculty member and is now a Professor Emeritus. During this period, he spent two Sabbatical years, one at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and another at the IBM Almaden Research Center. Prof. Marmur has worked and published extensively in the field of interfacial phenomena for more than forty years and has been consulting for major companies. He has also participated in many international conferences and has been active in lecturing in universities and industrial sites in many countries. In addition, he was an editor of *Reviews in Chemical Engineering*, and was on the advisory committee/editorial board of *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science*, *Journal of Adhesion Science and Technology*, *Advances in Colloid and Interface Science*, *Colloids and Surfaces A*, *Surface Reports*, *Entropy*, and *Surface Innovations*. At Technion, Prof. Marmur received awards for excellence in research and in teaching. In 2017 he received the Association of Advanced Materials Medal. His goal is to study the fundamentals of interfacial phenomena, such as the definition of surface tension, correlations for interfacial tensions, correct ways of measuring contact angles, superhydrophobicity, unexplored cases in nucleation, etc.



### **Dr. Gil Gambash**

Chair of the Department of Maritime Civilizations, Head of the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, Director of the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, Faculty of Humanities, University of Haifa.

Gil Gambash is the chair of the Department of Maritime Civilizations at the University of Haifa, and the co-founder and director of the Haifa Centre for Mediterranean History. He is also the head of the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa. He wrote his PhD in Princeton and Oxford, focusing on the relationship between the Roman empire and its provinces. His current research interests center on ancient Mediterranean empires, particularly with regard to aspects of maritime connectivity, mobility, and logistics.



### **Dr. Yoram Evron**

Yoram Evron is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Haifa. Focusing on China's national security and foreign relations, his research and teaching interests include China's military procurement, arms proliferation, and military modernization, China-Middle East and China-Israel relations, as well as Asian powers' involvement in the Middle East and China's relations with small and medium developed states. Dr. Evron is the founder and director of the Business in Asia B.A. program and the Asia Markets M.A. program, both of them in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Haifa. His articles have been published in *Journals* such as *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *International Relations*, *Pacific Review*, and *Asian Survey*. His most recent book is *China's Military Procurement in the Reform Era: The Setting of New Directions* (Routledge, 2016).

## Research Fellows



### **Rear Adm. (Ret.) Yosef Ashkenazi**

Yosef Ashkenazi, retired from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as Rear Admiral in the Israeli Navy, Following 36 years of service in numerous positions of increasing responsibility. In his last position as the Head of Technology, Logistic and Materiel Command, he conducted two national maritime projects of the Navy in Germany: the production of the new Saar 6 corvettes and the production of the new fifth- and sixth- generation submarines for the IN -Submarine Flotilla. Yosef also led development of the Navy's Weapon Systems and Platforms Multiyear plan. Prior to his recent Navy leadership role, he served as Commanding Officer (CEO) of the Israeli Naval Shipyard and Head of the Planning, Maintenance & Logistics Department at IN Headquarters. RAdm. Ashkenazi graduated from the IN Naval Academy. He holds a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology , and an Executive MBA from Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration at Tel Aviv University. RAdm. Ashkenazi is a graduate of Israel National Defense Collage and holds an additional MA in Political Science and National Security Studies from Haifa University. His main areas of expertise and interest are technology, principally of the maritime arena, management, public speaking, organizational behavior and culture and finance.



### **Dr. Polina Baum-Talmor**

Polina is a postdoctoral researcher in social sciences and maritime studies in Solent's Research, Innovation and Enterprise department. She completed a PhD project (2018) entitled: 'Careers and Labour Market Flexibility in Global Industries: Teh case of seafarers', which focuses on teh flexibilisation of labour among seafarers. Part of teh SIRC-Nippon fellowship (2012-2016), Polina was generously funded by teh Nippon Foundation throughout her studies in Cardiff. Polina also holds an MA in Anthropology (2012) from teh University of Haifa, obtained by completing a written dissertation entitled: 'From sea to shore: An ethnographic account of seafaring experience'. Additionally, she completed a BA in Sociology, Anthropology and Human Resources (2009) at teh University of Haifa and a PGDip in SSRM (Social Sciences Research Methods 2013) from Cardiff University. She developed a genuine interest in seafarers after finishing her BA, which almost led to her joining the maritime industry as a Merchant Navy officer. However, her eagerness to pursue an academic education as well as contribute to seafarers' welfare resulted in Polina embarking on the study of seafarers as her main research subject. Polina has over three years' experience as a research and teaching assistant at the University of Haifa. She taught undergraduate and postgraduate students in several courses, including Introduction to Anthropology (2010, 2011) and Qualitative methods (2011, 2012).



### **Commander (Ret.) Dr. Benni Ben Ari**

Dr. Ben Ari served for 14 years in the Israeli Navy, holding command, training and staff positions. After leaving the Navy, he joined the defense industry and for 38 years held marketing and management positions at Elbit Systems, including head of the international marketing department and managing director of Elbit's activities in Asia. He lived in Singapore for many years, accumulating vast knowledge and practical experience in the culture and business of SEA, and established long lasting relations with various organizations and persons in Singapore and other countries.



### **Rear Adm. (Ret.) Ido Ben Moshe**

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Ido Ben-Moshe is former Head of Naval Operation of the Israel Defense Forces. He served in Israel's Navy for more than 3 decades, in leading positions. Ben-Moshe received his master degree in Social Science from the University of Haifa and a bachelor degree in Computer Science from the Inter Disciplinary Center in Herzliya. Ben-Moshe also Graduated the Israeli National Security College.



### **Dr. Ehud Eiran**

Dr. Ehud (Udi) Eiran is an Assistant Professor of International Relations, in the School of Political Science at the University of Haifa. He was the founding Co-Director (with Dr. Aviad Rubin) of the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center (while in development). Dr. Eiran holds degrees in Law and Political Science from Tel-Aviv University, Cambridge University, and Brandeis University. Eiran held research appointments at Harvard Law School, Harvard's Kennedy School, and Brandeis University and was a lecturer in the Department of Political Science at MIT. Prior to his academic career Dr. Eiran held a number of positions in the Israeli civil service including a legal clerkship for two Attorney Generals, and as Assistant to the Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Advisor. Eiran is interested in the spatial and temporal dimensions of international conflicts with a special emphasis on territorial and maritime strategies. He also works on negotiation, mediation, and intelligence studies. He is a retired Army Major.



### **Dr. Ram Erez**

is a national security specialist. As a research fellow, he deals mainly with issues of naval strategy & deterrence.

Ram holds a Ph.D. in International relations from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem.





### **Dr. Nitzan Feldman**

Nitzan Feldman is an assistant professor of international relations, in the school of political science at the university of Haifa. He has published studies about the connection between political events and economic processes in leading academic journals. Formerly a post-doctoral student at the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations and the Truman Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dr. Feldman teaches international political economy, international relations, and quantitative research methods at the Hebrew University and at Tel Aviv University.



### **Capt. (Ret.) Arie Gavish**

Arie Gavish (Gambash) has 26 years of experience in commanding and staff positions in the Israeli Navy (retired as a Navy Captain), including commanding on various Israeli Navy vessel types, senior managing roles of large organizations, business planning and strategy building, broad Navy Headquarter roles, internal and external partners' management. 20 years of experience managing and leading two major ports in Israel: Ashdod Port and Haifa Port (before and after the ports' reform 2005, respectively), which are a national strategic asset, and serve as a critical axis in Israel's economic structure.

Managing Ashdod Port along the construction of the "Eitan Port", and while maintaining full operation of the existing port, included business and strategic management, working side by side with Israel's Ports Authority, building partnership programs, leading complicated negotiations with labor unions, process improvement and implementing systematic working routines. Managing Haifa Port on behalf of the Israeli Port Authority, included focusing on deep expertise in the ports' regulation field, building and positioning a new port operation method called "Land Lord", constructing strategies of port security and safety, loading and unloading processes, and implementing these in the operational day-to-day.



### **Capt. Alexander Gerson**

1998-2016, service at the Israeli Administration of Shipping and Ports, Ministry of Transport. The last 6 years in the capacity of Director of Shipping and Ports Inspectorate (Deputy Director General). In close professional contact with the European Maritime Agency (EMSA) and the Centre of Contingency and Response to Oil Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC and Italian Coast Guard). Lecturer on Dangerous Goods and Prevention of Ship-sourced pollution in national and international fora, as well as the Israeli Maritime Community. Obtained MSc at the University Of Southampton-Solent UK, in International Maritime Studies Ports and Environment. Obtained the rank of "Master Mariner Unlimited" as of 1979. Sailed and commanded ships of all types on worldwide routes for 30 years. Currently still in Command of a VL Bulk Carrier (Israel-Colombia). 1998-2016, Representative for the State of Israel at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, taking active parts in many professional/legal debates and promoting the national interests of Israel. Military service in the Israeli Navy as commander of patrol boat in the Gulf of Suez.



### **Rear Admiral (Ret.) Oded Gour Lavie**

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Oded Gour Lavie is a Research Fellow in the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center. He is the Chairman of the Dolphin Association of former submariners. He is active in several entrepreneurial projects in cyber, energy and agriculture. Gour-Lavie recently finished a 30-year career in the IDF, and his last position was Head of Strategic Task Force after operation Protective Edge, as part of the planning directorate. He is the former Head of the Naval Operations and Doctrines Division in the Israeli Navy and former Commander of the Israeli Submarine Flotilla. received his Master's in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, participated in the Wexner Israel Fellowship Program. He graduated Com-Laude in Electronic Engineering from the Israeli Institute of Technology – Technion, Haifa.



### **Capt. (Ret.) Shlomo Gueta**

Shlomo Gueta was born on October 1952. From 1971 to 1993, he served in various roles within the Israeli Navy intelligence command. Rising through the ranks to Captain (navy) in 1990, his last active role was the position of naval intelligence head of research. During his military service, Shlomo completed a bachelor's degree with honors at Tel Aviv University, majoring in extended studies of the history of the Middle East, along with a minor in general history and statistics. In parallel, he graduated the National Senior-Level Intelligence Course. Upon retiring from active duty in 1993, Shlomo participated in executive management business administration course ("T.L.M.") at Tel Aviv University graduate school of business. From 1994-2019, he continued to serve as a senior naval officer (res.) and was charged with composing and analyzing intelligence research projects on various subjects. Already as civilian, Shlomo's experience in management heightened between 1993 and 2014 during which he held several senior management roles at the Raanana Municipality: starting with the position of head of the environmental department, head of the administrative steering committee (which led to the establishment of a residential neighborhood), head of the engineering and infrastructure department, VP for strategic planning and finally chairman of the city of Raanana water corporation.



### **Dr. Avinoam Idan**

Dr. Avinoam Idan is a geostrategist, focused on the strategic role of geography in shaping international relation and landlocked states. His area of interest includes the Euro-Asian subcontinent, particularly Russia, the post-Soviet space and the Chinese Belt Road Initiative. (BRI) Dr. Idan is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program, based in Washington DC. In addition, he teaches at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Israel (IDC). Prior to his academic work, Dr. Idan served for over thirty years in a government security agency under the Prime Minister's Office. In this framework he spent seven years in Moscow – first in the Israeli delegation of Interests, during the break-up of the Soviet Union, and later, following the reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Russia, at the Israeli Embassy. He was also involved in the establishment of ties between Israel and the newly independent states in the Caucasus and Central Asia.



### **Rear Admiral (Ret.) Yoram Laks**

RADM (Ret.) Yoram Laks joined the Israeli Navy in 1981, graduated the Israeli Naval Academy and served in the operational field as a missile boats commander, squadrons commander and Intelligence posts. Served as the Head of the Naval Academy, Commanding Officer of the Ashdod Naval Arena, Naval attaché in Washington DC and as the Head of the Israeli Naval Intelligence. Yoram earned a B.A. in Economics and Management at the University of Haifa, Graduated the US Naval Command College and own MBA degree from Salve Regine University, Newport, Rhode Island. From 2016 Research Fellow in Research Center for Maritime Policy and Strategy, University of Haifa.



### **Rear Admiral (Ret.) Dr. Israel Leshem**

Israel Leshem is an adviser in the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center. He is Senior Lecturer in the project of the naval cadet's course in the University of Haifa. Dr. Leshem served for 31 years in the navy & I.D.F. His last position was General Comptroller for the I.D.F in the office of the General Controller for the Ministry of Defence. He is former Commander of the Israeli Submarine Flotilla and representative of the navy in the committee for Peace with Egypt. Received his M.A. in American History from Tel Aviv University and Ph.D. Cum Laude from the University of Haifa. Director of the Galilee District in the Clalit Health Services and Director in the Municipality of Kiryat Tivon. Senior Lecturer in the Galilee Management Institute. Published the book "Black Sea – White Horizon" about the discrimination in the U.S. navy in W.W.II. Helped Herman Wouk translating his book – "War and Remembrance".



### **Dr. Carmela Lutmar**

Carmela Lutmar is a researcher and instructor in the Division of International Relations in the School of Political Sciences at the University of Haifa. She holds an MA in Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, and received her PhD from New York University (2004). Dr. Lutmar was a research associate, and Lecturer at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University (2005-2009). Her research interests include leadership, regime changes, mediation in civil wars, and postwar governance in war torn societies. Major publications include a book on *Leadership Changes and Regional Stability*. (with Lesley Terris), Rowman and Littlefield Publishers (forthcoming in 2018), an edited volume on *Peacebuilding in the Asia Pacific* (with James Ockey), Palgrave-McMillan Publishers (forthcoming in 2018), and an edited volume *Regional Peacemaking and Conflict Management: A Comparative Approach*, Routledge (with Benjamin Miller, 2015) as well as various articles on leadership change such as "Leadership Changes and Civil Wars Agreements: Exploring Preliminary Links," *Peace Economics, Peace Science, and Public Policy* 22(4): 439-449 (with Lesley Terris, 2016).



### **Dr. Elai Rettig**

Dr. Elai Rettig is an “Israel Institute Teaching Fellow” at Washington University in St Louis and a lecturer in energy management at Rice University in Houston. His research focuses on patterns of international conflict and cooperation over energy resources. Before joining the Maritime Center as a research fellow, Elai was a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies at George Washington University in Washington D.C., and a lecturer at New York University – Tel Aviv. Elai received his PhD in political science at the University of Haifa. He won scholarships from the Israeli Ministry of Energy, the Israeli Ministry of Science, and the Chaikin Chair in Geostrategy



### **Rear Admiral (Ret.) Dr. Arieh Rona**

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Dr. Arieh Rona received his Ph.D. in History from Bar Ilan University and is a Research Fellow in the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center. Dr. Rona served for 31 years in the Israeli Navy, holding many sea command and staff positions. Among them Commander of an Israeli Naval Flotilla, Head of Naval Intelligence and IDF Attaché in Italy. After retiring from the Navy Dr. Rona held the position as Head of the Colleges Department in the Ministry of Education and between the years 1994 – 2009 he was the Head of the Administration of Shipping and Ports in the Ministry of Transportation.



### **Dr. Benny Spanier**

Dr. (Adv.) Benny Spanier is a Research Fellow at the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center. He holds a Ph. D. in law from the University of Haifa. He is interesting and researching international public law and maritime international law, with an emphasis on international tribunals. Within the framework of the Center, he has published a number of articles relating to Israel's maritime boundaries in terms of the law of the sea. He is also a Research Fellow at the Center for Research and Study of Aging at the University of Haifa, and was a visiting lecturer at Syracuse University School of Law in the United States. He is researching and studying the rights of older persons in international law and has published numerous articles in the field.

## Ph.D. Candidate



### **Commander (Ret.) Ido Gilad**

Gilad served in the Israeli Navy for more than two decades. He holds Bachelor degree in History of the Middle East, Master degree in Curriculum Planning, and another conferral Thesis focused on Leadership in extreme conditions, from the University of Haifa. Since 2017 he is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Haifa. His research focuses on Geo Strategy, with the emphasis of Superpowers Maritime presence in the East Med. especially Russia.



### **Mr. Ehud Gonen**

Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Haifa. He held the position of Senior Fellow Researcher at the Harold Hartog School of Government & Policy, Tel Aviv University (2015–2016). He received an MA in International Relationship from the Hebrew University and a BA in Economics and Psychology from the University of Haifa. Gonen also served as a Diplomat (Trade Commissioner) to Singapore (2000–2004) and to Australia (2008–2012) as well as the chief economist of the foreign trade administration (2012–2016).



### **Mr. Tzevy Mirkin**

Tzevy Mirkin is a historian, specialising in the history of the Russian Navy and Russian Naval Strategy. In 2014 taught a course on the history of the Russian foreign policy at the Faculty of Government of the IDC in Herzliya. In the past served as an analyst at the Center for Political Research of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and as a diplomat at the Israeli embassies in Russia and in Latvia. He is Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Maritime Civilizations, University of Haifa.



### **Mr. Semion Polinov**

Semion Polinov holds a B.A. (summa cum laude, 94) and an M.A (magna cum laude, 93) both from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Haifa. Since 2017, Semion Ph.D. student at Department of Marine Geosciences at the University of Haifa. His Ph.D. work deals with "Historical changes in human activities in the Mediterranean Sea and their drivers" using Geographical Information System (GIS), Remote Sensing, and Geo-Statistical analysis. Within HMS, his research focuses on Climate Change and Impacts on Maritime Security in Israel. Also, he leads collaboration with Indian research centers HMF in New Delhi and MRC in Pune. Semion is a course lecturer in Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Marine Geosciences "Practical GIS for Marine Geoscience". Semion was a part of the planning team that leads the preparation of the "Policy document for Israel's Mediterranean EEZ" (2014-2016), Chief of the GIS and data analysis department in the Haifa Hamifratz Port construction project (2016-2020).



### **Commander (Ret.) Itai Sela**

Itai Sela is CEO at Naval Dome cyber defense solution for maritime platforms. Itai served as a Naval Commander and has 25 years of experience in the Israeli Navy and Prime Ministers Office holding numerous field and HQ commanding positions. Itai holds a BA in Social Sciences from Bar Ilan University and an MBA from Ben Gurion University.



### **Mr. Nir Zarchi**

Nir Zarchi is a research fellow at the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center at the University of Haifa since 2015 and Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Haifa. He received his M.A. in National Security & Political Science studies (2014) from the University of Haifa and his B.Sc in Industrial Engineering (2003) from Ben-Gurion University. His research focuses on Energy Policy and Critical Infrastructures in the maritime arena, while using OR methods. Over the years Zarchi has performed several applied researches at the fields of HLS and Maritime Strategy, while serving as a fellow in CEMA (Center for Military Analysis, Rafael).

## M.A. Research Student



**Mr. Itsik Bilia**

Itsik Bilia is a MA student in the National Security and Maritime Strategy program at Haifa University. He holds a degree in Software Engineering (cum laude) from ORT Braude College (2002) and he has 15 years of experience working in the field of software development in several Israeli high tech industry companies, including Rafael, SanDisk and Western Digital. He served in the Israeli Army in the field of Military Intelligence. Itsik also holds a teacher's certificate from the Open University of Israel and a rabbinic ordination diploma from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.



**Mr. Tim Jenkins**

Tim Jenkins is a security consultant with international experience. He has served in both the Australian and Israeli militaries, in combat units and leadership positions. His first MA is in National Security Studies from the School of Political Sciences at University of Haifa and he is currently working on a second MA in Maritime Strategy, with thesis, also at the University of Haifa. Tim holds a BA in Government from the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at IDC Herzliya with double majors in Counter Terrorism & Homeland Security, and Global Affairs & Conflict Resolution. His primary fields of research include geo-strategy, emerging technologies, contemporary issues in the MENA region and the rise of China.



**Mr. Ofir Kafri**

Ofir Kafri studied international security at Sciences Po in Paris, Law and International Relations at University of Haifa and management courses at NYU SPS. He Received the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship and other scholarships for excellence. He attended seminars at NATO, OECD and other international organizations. Ofir has coordinated several academic conferences in Israel and seminars in the EU. He was the general secretary of the Israeli Association for International Studies. He was research group manager and cyber security instructor at the National Security Studies Center. Ofir worked in the field of international maritime security in the private sector. His most recent research has been in the area of global financial sector cyber security, Proliferation Financing, cyber security and mutually assured destruction. His current work focuses on Maritime cyber security.



### Mr. Avi Lebel

Avi is a former Intelligence officer from the Israeli Navy, specialized in counter maritime terrorism and proliferation. In his last position, was the head of the International Policy Planning branch at the Israeli Navy Headquarters, he also served for few years at NATO Headquarters as a Liaison officer for the IDF. He earned a B.A in Economics and Auditing, and MBA in Shipping and Ports Management, both from the University of Haifa. Since 2018, he is a research student at the MA program for National Security and Maritime Strategy.



### Mr. Yaakov Nachman

Yaacov Nachman is a Marine Superintendent at the Administration of Shipping and Ports at the Israeli Ministry of Transport, since 2010. Before that, he served as Marine Electrical Officer on Israeli Merchant ships since 1987 and later as Marine Superintendent, at ZIM shipping company. He is qualified as Port State control Officer, Flag State Inspector, SMC – Search & Rescue (SAR) Mission Coordinator, he was sent to Represent the State of Israel at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London at the Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) subcommittee, and at the European Maritime Agency (EMSA). Also a GOC Examiner for the Israeli Ministry of Communication. Member of Haifa Rowing Club since 1997. Holds an Operator's (Skipper's) License since 2002. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, and MBA in Shipping and Ports Management from the University of Haifa. His research is about Preservation of the Israeli Merchant Navy, and conducted under Prof. Shaul Chorev.



### Commander (Ret.) Roee Nagler

Commander (Ret.) Roee Nagler, served at the Israeli Navy for 25 years in various operative tasks as well as project manager. He holds B. Sc. in Industrial Engineering and is currently a M.A. Research Student in Program of National Security and Maritime Security, University of Haifa. His research project focuses on the feasibility of including autonomous ships in naval shipping conducted under Prof. Shaul Chorev.





### **Commander Dov Raz**

Research student at the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center. Dov Raz was born on the 15th of August, 1979. In 1998, Commander Raz enlisted in the Israeli Navy. In 2000, he graduated from the Naval Academy and served as a naval Officer and commanding officer on various missile & patrol boats. Following this, he attended the IDF Staff and Command College. Between 2010 and 2013, Commander Raz went on to pursue his B.A in political science and national security from Bar-Ilan University. Since 2013 he served in various positions at the Israeli Navy Headquarters both on operational planning and force build up as a head of several branches. Since 2018 he is a research student at the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center. Commander Raz is married and father of 3 children.



### **Mr. Ayalon Roitenberg**

Mr. Ayalon Roitenberg is project manager in the field of infrastructure with 18 years of experience. He holds a B.Sc. degree in Natural and Environmental Sciences, The Hebrew University, and, B.A. in Management, Open University, also, holds a M.A. degree in Marine Civilization from the Haifa University and M.A in Political & National Security science from Bar Ilan University. His research project focuses on the possible effects of opening the northern passage on the Suez Canal.

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*“Anyone who understands our **geographic reality** and its **economic and political implications** will immediately grasp **the value of our sea power for our existence**”.*

*Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion 1950*

