

Report on EAIS 3rd Annual Graduate Workshop, March 2019

We were thrilled to welcome 17 PhD students from 14 institutions across seven countries to our 3rd Annual Graduate Workshop on Israel Studies which took place on Sunday, 17 March 2019 at SOAS University of London.

Dr Jacob Eriksson, EAIS Postgraduate Membership Secretary (University of York), was the lead workshop facilitator supported by Dr Joanna Dyduch, EAIS Chair; Dr Peter Bergamin (University of Oxford), and Dr Moriel Ram (SOAS University of London).

The workshop was split into three sessions: History, Politics, and Culture. Within each session, the PhD students were given 20 minutes to showcase their research and the challenges it presented for them, followed by feedback from the workshop facilitators with suggestions for resolving any difficulties they were facing with their research.

The workshop concluded with the most popular session of the day: a roundtable discussion on the theme of 'Life after PhD', chaired by Dr Moriel Ram. In this concluding session, the PhD students gained valuable intelligence on the career options available to them once they had acquired their doctorates as well as practical advice on where to find research vacancies, what to mention in job applications, and how to conduct themselves at interview.

'It was such a pleasure for me to participate in such a well-organized, clearly-structured workshop; to have the opportunity to share and discuss my research with other PhD students from the field of Israel Studies; and to get valuable feedback on my work from the experienced academics gathered there.' – Anna Klingofer-Szostakowska (University of Warsaw).

'One of the highlights of the Annual Graduate Workshop is undoubtedly the participation of many experienced scholars from a variety of disciplines. I learned a lot from their comments. The session about post-doctoral life was very useful as well. Personally, it was imperative for me to talk about my own research dilemmas and I found this workshop was the best place to discuss the question of using universal theories better to understand Israeli society.' – Doron Timor (Tel Aviv University).

'Having been present at the very first EAIS graduate student workshop, in 2012, it was very heartening indeed to see how this event has grown and matured, in terms of numbers, representative institutions, scope of research interests, and, not least, quality of presentation.' – Dr Peter Bergamin (University of Oxford).

'The workshop explored various research strategies, provided a platform for presenting work in progress, and discussed how to overcome methodological challenges to develop an academic career in Israel Studies; it was a fantastic opportunity to meet and engage with

new voices, exchange ideas, and to learn about the next generation of research in the field.'
– Dr Moriel Ram (SOAS University of London).

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the workshop facilitators who gave their valuable time and shared their considerable expertise voluntarily on a Sunday. Quite simply, the Annual Graduate Workshop would not have taken place without their generous assistance.

Our 4th Annual Graduate Workshop will take place in early 2020. Further details will be published on our website in due course – keep watching the EAIS Events listing.