



Peace-building and Environmental Leadership Seminar (PELS) – Fall 2013

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Seminar description

PELS (PB) is a compulsory, non-credit component of the Arava Institute academic studies program that consists of discussions, workshops, guest lectures, and field trips. The seminar includes professional facilitation from Jewish-Arab teams experienced with intra-group dialogue. It builds on the unique opportunity offered by the Arava Institute, in a student body comprised of Palestinians, Israelis, Jordanians and internationals, to address issues of nationality, religion and ethnicity in a supportive learning community. **Current Affairs** is an optional student-run forum to discuss current political events, offered outside of the compulsory weekly PELS sessions. Participants share news items, readings, videos, or other resources to shape the discourse. In these informal discussions, students take the responsibility to educate each other about headline events, and to investigate together relevant political and social developments, as they arise. PELS also promotes student-led initiatives on campus regarding holidays, interfaith and cultural activities, and environmental initiatives and campaigns.

PELS Goals

The PELS program provides a framework for dialogue and tools to communicate, creating a shared vision of the Middle East together. It offers encounters with role models and training in a wide array of skills (emotional, cognitive and technical) to empower future action.

The students will develop:

- Cultural understanding, respect, empathy and self-reflection
- A sense of empowerment, agency and initiative
- A sense of shared community, even during times of conflict

The students will acquire:

- Skills for effective and open communication
- Informed perspectives on the politics of the Middle East
- A general understanding of coexistence initiatives and environmental campaigns today

Week	Session/Date	Topic	Focus	Activity	Facilitator/ lecturer
Orientation w0	PB1 Thursday, October 3 07:30-9:30	Group-building	Perspective and sense of place	Walk to Sand dunes; Camera exercise; Common Ground exercise: Letter to self	Michelle Shachar
	Campus Life/PELS Thursday, October 3 19:00-22:00	Dialogue	Theater, movement, and music to bridge communities and opinions	Part I: Performance of playback theater techniques to improvise real-life stories drawn from audience experiences. Part II: Workshop	Kartoushkes Playback Theatre Ensemble, Palestinian and Israeli actors and musicians
W1	PB2 Tuesday, October 8 14:00-15:30	Identity	Building an inclusive community	Seminar Intro; Dialogue groups; Group goals & agreements Passport exercise	Michelle Shachar
	PB3 Wednesday, October 9 10:00-11:30	Dialogue	Cross-cultural communication	Culture Clash game; Dialogue groups; Discussion	
W2	PB4 <i>Dual Narratives Workshop</i> Sunday, October 13 12:30-15:30	Narratives (Collective)	Learning each other's historical narratives	Part I: Presentation about joint Palestinian and Israeli curriculum development project Part II: Workshop Group exercise; Uni-national meetings; Discussion	Dr. Sami Adwan, Professor of Education at Bethlehem University and Founder/Co-Director, Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME); and Shai Miselman, Midrechet Sde Boker Environmental High School
W3	PB5 <i>PELS Jerusalem Trip</i> Sunday-Monday, October 20-21	Narratives; Interfaith Dialogue; Activism; Leadership	<i>*MEDJI Multiple Perspectives tour: The Holy City of Jerusalem</i> Led by Israeli and Palestinian peace builders, AIES Alum Liel Maghen and Faraj Lati, highlighting different narratives. MEJDI was founded by conflict resolution professionals affiliated with George Mason University's Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution (CRDC). <i>*The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development</i> Interfaith Panel on the Environment .	Michelle Shachar	

			<p><i>*Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom (WAS-NS)</i> Overnight visit to cooperative village jointly founded by Israeli Jews and Israeli Palestinian Arabs.</p> <p><i>* Environmental Education in Sur Baher</i> Tour and hands-on activity with local schoolchildren and Khaled Abu Khaff, manager of Only Green, the first environmental education center in East Jerusalem.</p> <p><i>* Peace Building and Activism Through Art</i> Muslala Project art exhibit (HaMaslul HaYarok). Tour in Musrara + meeting with Reuven Abergil, co-founder of Black Panthers Social movement .</p> <p><i>*Coexistence and current decision-making in Jerusalem</i> Talk with Professor Meron Benvenisti, former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem under Teddy Kollek, during which he administered East Jerusalem and served as Jerusalem's Chief Planning Officer; former columnist for Ha'aretz Newspaper; Lecturer/ Researcher on Jerusalem, Northern Ireland conflict, Israeli-Palestinian relations, Palestinian vanished landscape, and bi-nationalism</p>		
	PB6 Wednesday, October 23 10:00-11:30	Dialogue	PELS Trip Reflections	Discussion	Michelle Shachar
W4	PB7 Tuesday, October 29 14:00-15:30	Dialogue	Compassion in conflict situations	Intro to <u>Compassionate Listening</u> Guided exercises; Dialogue groups; Discussion	Michelle Shachar
	PB8 Wednesday, October 30 10:00-11:30				
W5	PB9 Tuesday, November 5 16:00-19:00	History; Leadership; Political Analysis	Conflict Resolution and the Peace Process	The Regional Envelope and Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations based on the Arab Peace Initiative	Walid Salem, Director / Founder of Center for Democracy and Community Development (CDCD) in East Jerusalem; Lecturer on Democracy, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution at Al Quds University; Coordinator of Regional Network for Arab Peace Initiative; and Coordinator of Middle East Citizen Assembly; Co-author of "Shared

					Histories: a Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue"
W6	PB10 Wednesday, November 13 13:00-16:00	History; Leadership; Political Analysis	Conflict Resolution and the Peace Process	Toward Resumption of Israeli- Palestinian Negotiations: An Israeli Security Perspective	Gilead Sher, former Israeli Chief Negotiator during Camp David and Taba talks; Senior Research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, Head of the Center for Applied Negotiations (CAN); Attorney and Senior Partner in Gilead Sher & Co. Law Offices; Co-founder of Blue White Future; Chairman of the Board of Sapir Academic College
W7	Sunday, November 17 TBA	<i>Negev Trip Preparation Session with Dr. Elli Groner & Michelle Shachar</i>			
	PB11 <i>Negev Trip</i> Monday-Wednesday, November 18-20 <i>(in conjunction with Ecology</i> <i>Class)</i>	Environmental Justice: <i>Settlement,</i> <i>Ecology, &</i> <i>Equity</i>	Meet with regional leaders, scientists working for academia & industry, local planners, educators, citizen advocates, & villagers		Michelle Shachar and Dr. Elli Groner
W8	PB12 Tuesday, November 26 14:00-15:30	Dialogue	Negev Trip Reflections	Discussion	Michelle Shachar
	PB13 Wednesday, November 27 10:00-11:30	Dialogue Leadership	Political Reality Today	Student-run session	Michelle Shachar
W9	PB14 <i>Neve Shalom Encounter</i> <i>Workshop</i> Tuesday, December 3 16:00-18:00; 19:00-21:00	Dialogue Identity	Conflict Resolution; Intergroup conflicts within Arab and Jewish society	Guided exercises; Uni-national meetings; Discussion	Sigalit Givon and Wasim Biroumi, Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom (WAS-NS), School for Peace (SFP)
	Wednesday, December 4 9:00-12:00				

W10	PB15 Tuesday, December 10 14:00-15:30	Dialogue	Group Reflection	Guided exercises; Dialogue groups; Discussion	Michelle Shachar
	PB16 Wednesday, December 11 10:00-11:30	Dialogue Leadership	Political Reality Today	Student-run session	Michelle Shachar
W11	PB17 (tentative) Date TBC	Conflict Resolution Theory	Strategic Peace-building and International Conflict Resolution	Peace building on a Global Scale	Kai Frithjof Brand-Jacobsen, Founder/Director of the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR); Consultant/Advisor/Practitioner on conflict transformation, war-to-peace transitions, and post-war reconciliation in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Russia, Moldova, South Eastern Europe, Mexico, Colombia, Cambodia, southern Thailand, Burma, Somalia, Aceh, North America, and the Middle East
W12/13	No PELS				
W14	PB18 Tuesday, January 15	Exercises and open discussion to bring closure to Fall PELS			Michelle Shachar