

THE LESTER AND SALLY ENTIN FACULTY OF HUMANITIES		הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין
THE COHN INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND IDEAS		המכון להיסטוריה ופילוסופיה של המדעים והרעיונות ע"ש כהן

Annual Report 2007-08 Program of Activities 2008-09

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1. Overview:

I am happy to present herewith the annual report of activities of the Cohn Institute for the year 2007-08, as well as some of our plans for the upcoming academic year, 2008-09.

Unlike many other “institutes” at Tel Aviv University, the Cohn Institute functions as both a research and a graduate teaching unit. This unique double status has both advantages and disadvantages that we have come to realize over the years and have become part of our academic routine. As in previous years, I present this report to the Academic Committee of the institute, and like the reports of the university's other institutes, it pertains mainly to activities related to our being a research unit and to the financial aspects associated with this side of our charter. At the same time, it also relates to some aspects of our teaching, inasmuch as the two components of the institute's identity cannot be separated in a clear-cut manner.

After several years of turmoil and instability at TAU at large, the last couple of years, including 2007-08, have been years of relative stability for the university at large and for the Faculty of Humanities in particular. At the same time, however, 2007-08 was a year of continued restraint. We have somehow got used to working within the new administrative and teaching constraints that, for better or for worse, have come to define our routine in pursuing the academic aims of the institute in the given circumstances to the best of our abilities.

The academic year 2007-08 was marked by the celebration of the Institute's 25th year of activity, which we celebrated with a moving as well as academically challenging event that took place in May 2008. All eighteen invited speakers were Cohn Institute alumni, who hold teaching positions at academic institutions in Israel or abroad. It was highly rewarding, as well as intellectually stimulating, to witness this impressive contingent of bright, young scholars in a concentrated display of the many fields and approaches we have been covering in our work at the institute all these years. We also organized interesting discussion panels devoted to the current state and the future of our discipline and of the humanities at large. Needless to say, Yehuda Elkana, who founded the institute (together with Amos Funkenstein ל"ר), was among the invited speakers. Unfortunately, health conditions prevented Barbara and Bert Cohn from attending, to the great regret of all.

In the course of the year, we continued to develop most of our standard activities, such as seminars and workshops. Professor Henk Bos (University of Utrecht, Emeritus) was our Silverman Visiting professor in the Spring Semester. He is one of the world's leading experts in the history of mathematics in the early modern period and taught a seminar on that topic, which several of our students and part of the faculty attended and enjoyed. The Annual International Workshop, planned to deal with New Approaches to the Philosophical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics (in honor of Professor Itamar Pitowski, from the Hebrew University) was postponed to December 11-14, 2008. We also enjoyed the presence of two Post-Doctoral Fellows whose fellowships were funded by a special grant the Institute received from outgoing president, Professor Itamar Rabinovitch. The two fellows were selected after an open call for candidates was issued to which twenty three applicants responded.

For the coming year we plan to continue in similar fashion. The Silverman Chair will be occupied by Professor Dominik Perler (Universität Humboldt, Berlin), whose is a leading expert in the history of medieval science. The Annual International Workshop will be devoted to “Transformations of Lamarckism: 19th –21st Centuries”, to mark the 200th anniversary of the publication of Lamarck's seminal *Philosophie Zoologique*.

The Cohn Institute is able to maintain a very high level of academic activity thanks to its endowment that has grown healthily over the last few years. We believe that we are using these resources productively, in line with our academic mission. However, to ensure that these activities are warranted the future they richly deserve, we need to begin seriously to consider the question of the future generation of scholars who will eventually take over from us. The quantity and quality of the PhD graduates we have produced over the years along with the many applicants for our Post-Doctoral Fellowships, the vast majority of whom were not institute graduates, bears firm witness to the potentially large number of excellent scholars capable of joining us at any moment. The meager number of new hires planned by the university for upcoming years, and that of the Faculty of the Humanities in particular, render exceedingly difficult the task of meeting the Cohn Institutes most pertinent challenge. Based on the generous donations of Barbara and Bert Cohn we have been able to fund one new position at the institute, which we hope to fill in the next academic year. The process of advertising the position and vetting the candidates has been put in motion..

Members of the Institute staff have also invested much effort in creating additional research funding. Thus, we are currently recipients of three GIF and one NSF grant (for details see below). In addition, a project presented by Rivka Feldhay and Adi Ofir was selected by the Minerva Foundation as the basis for the creation of a Humanities Center at TAU, with a fund of 4 Million Euro, to be matched by the university.

The present report was prepared by the Institute's secretary, Mrs. Anat Zion, and by myself, and we hope that it helps providing a clear picture of our past activities and our plans for the upcoming academic year.



Professor Leo Corry
Director, The Cohn Institute

2. Academic Activities: Colloquia and Conferences

2.1. The Bar Hillel Colloquium

FOR THE HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE (27th ANNUAL SERIES, 2007-2008).

Jointly sponsored by The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, The Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv University, and, The Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

- Michael Dickson, University of South Carolina - **Lecture in Memory of Professor Mara Beller**: "Can Anything Be Salvaged from Bohr? Quantum Theory from a Human Point of View"
- Christopher Pincock, Purdue University: A Priori Contributions to Scientific Knowledge
- Orna Harari, Tel Aviv University: The Unity of Aristotle's Category of Relatives
- Evelyn Fox Keller, MIT: Tracing the Mirage of a Space Between Nature and Nurture
- Philip Kitcher, Columbia University: Ethics after Darwin
- Barbara Maria Stafford, University of Chicago: Beyond Brain Modularity: Visual Formulas and the Encapsulation of Thought
- George Weisz, McGill University: Reinventing Chronic Disease in the 20th Century
- Simona Ginsburg, Open University: The Transition to Experiencing: An Evolutionary Approach

2.2. Workshops and Conferences

- **"Science and Scholarship in Yiddish"**. A symposium to mark the publication of a special issue of Science in Context In collaboration with The Goldreich Family Institute for Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture. November 19th, 2007.
- **"The Cohn Institute at 25. Celebration Colloquium"**. May 11-13, 2008. Speakers included Insititue alumni who currently hold positions at TAU (not including the Institute) or at other universities in Israel or abroad: Ariella Azoulay, Bar Ilan University; Raz Chen, Bar-Ilan University; Noah Efron , Bar-Ilan University; Miran Epstein, University of London; Danny Filc, Ben-Gurion University; Michael N. Fried , Ben-Gurion University; Iris Fry, The Technion; Ofer Gal , University of Sydney; Tal Golan , niversity of California, San Diego; Asaf Goldschmidt, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University; Orna Harari, Department of Philosophy & Department of Classical Studies, Tel Aviv University; Meir Hemmo, University of Haifa; Adam S Hofri, The Hebrew University; Nurit Kirsh, Bar-Ilan University; Yitzhak Melamed, The University of Chicago; Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin, Ben Gurion University; Ishay Rosen-Zvi, Talmud, Hebrew Culture, Tel Aviv University; Hanan Yoran, Ben Gurion University.

2.3. Research Seminar 2006-07

- Ori Belkind, Richmond University: “Primitive Motion Relationalism and Spacetime – How to Explain the Principle of Relativity.”
- Shaul Katzir, The Cohn Institute: “Hermann Aron (1845-1913): From Academic Physics to technology and Industry”.
- Jenina Welleman, The Cohn Institute: “Developmental series: The role of visual representations in the embryological investigations of Christian Heinrich Pander and Karl Ernst von Baer”.
- Meirav Amir, The Cohn Institute: “The Return of Biology as Destiny: The Appearance of Biological Clock and Women's Reproduction System”.
- Izthak Binyamini, The Cohn Institute: “Jaques Lacan: Return to Freud and the Jewish-Christian Ethics”.
- Michal Raz, The Cohn Institute: “Psychosurgery, Psychoanalysis, and the Psychiatric Discourse in the USA (1935-1955).”
- Michael Elazar, The Cohn Institute: “The Jesuit Honore Fabri and the Principle of Inertia.”
- Leon Jacobovic-Effron, The Cohn Institute: “Magic, Heresy, and Forgiveness in the Reception of Dante as a Secular Theologian.”
- Evelyn Fox Keller, MIT: "Rethinking the Meaning of Biological Information."
- Andreina Contessa, The Hebrew University: "Art, Science and Monastic Life: The Transmission of Culture in Early Medieval Manuscripts."
- Henk Bos, Universitaet Utrecht: "On the Interpretation of Exactness in Early Modern Mathematics".
- Professor Kirsti Andersen, University of Aarhus, Denmark: "The Mathematical Theory of Perspective from Alberti to Monge: Its Development, Its Prestige, and Its Use".
- Hagai Boaz, Tel-Aviv University: “The Political Economy of Organ Transplants.”

2.4. Other Activities

2.4.1. Funkenstein Prize

Roy Wagner for his PhD Thesis: “A Post-Structural Reading of a Logico-Mathematical Text.” Advisors: Adi Ophir and Anat Biletzki.

2.4.2. Elkana Fellowship

Ehud Lamm; PhD Student.

2.4.3. BU exchange Program

2007-08: Dr. Eli Dresner (Dept. of Philosophy); Dr. Roy Wagner (Post-Doctoral Fellow); Einav Katan (PhD candidate).

2008-09: Daniel Kremer (PhD Student); Itzhak Yossef (MA Student).

2.4.4. Silverman Professorship

Professor Henk Bos, University of Utrecht (History of Mathematics in the Early Modern Period).

2.4.5. Post-Doctoral Fellows 2007-08

- Dr. Shaul Katzir – Funded by TAU President and the Cohn Institute
- Dr. Janina Wellmann – Funded by TAU President and the Cohn Institute
- Dr. Simon Cook – Partially funded by the Ministry of Absorption
- Dr. Avner Ben-Zaken - Funded by ISEF and the Cohn Institute

3. Publications 2006-08

The following lists of publications comprise academic works published in the years 2007 and 2008 by the institute's staff, post-doctoral fellows, and students.

3.1. Authored Books and Monographs:

Ophir, Adi and Ariella Azoulay. 2008. *This Regime which is Not One: The Israeli Regime and the Occupation of the Palestinian Territories*. Tel Aviv, Resling.

Zuckermann, Moshe. 2007. *Zeit der Lemminge. Aphorismen*, Wien.

3.2. Editorial Work – Books and Collections

Brunner, Jose. 2007. "Demography – Democracy – History." *Tel Aviv Yearbook for German History* 35.

Brunner, Jose. 2008. *Väterliche Autorität und mütterliche Macht. Elternbilder im deutschen Diskurs*. Tel Aviver Jahrbuch für deutsche Geschichte/Tel Aviv Yearbook for German History 36 (Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag).

Ophir, Adi, Michal Givoni, and Sari Hanafi (eds.), 2007. Forthcoming. *Occupation: Technologies of Power in the Palestinian Territories*. New York: Zone Books.

3.3. Articles in Professional Journals

Amir, Merav. 2007. "Bio-Temporality and Social Regulation: The Emergence of the Biological Clock", *Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics* 18. pp. 47-72.

Amir, Merav. 2007. .253-243 :32 תיאוריה וביקורת", *הביושה בשיוח הקווירי*, " לא רק גאווה: הביושה בשיוח הקווירי", תיאוריה וביקורת 32: 243-253.

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- Corry, Leo. 2007. "A Clash of Mathematical Titans in Austin: Robert Lee Moore and Harry Schultz Vandiver (1924-1974)", *Mathematical Intelligencer* 29 (4), 62-74.
- Corry, Leo. 2008. "Albert Einstein and Relativity: One Hundred Years of History - One Hundred Years of Historiography" (Hebrew), *Zmanim* 100, 58-69.
- Corry, Leo. 2008. "Axiomatics between Hilbert and the New Math: Diverging Views on Mathematical Research and their Consequences on Education", *International Journal for the History of Mathematics Education* 2, 1-17.
- Corry, Leo. Forthcoming. "Calculating the Limits of Poetic License: Fictional Narrative and the History of Mathematics", *Configurations*.
- Corry, Leo. Forthcoming. "Hunting Prime Numbers from Human to Electronic Computers", *The Rutherford Journal - The New Zealand Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology*.
- Elazar, Michael. 2008. "Honoré Fabri and the Trojan Horse of Inertia." *Science in Context* 21(1), 1-38.
- Feldhay, Rivka. 2007. "Thomist Epistemology of Faith: The Road from 'Scientia' to Science", *Science in Context*, 20:3, pp. 401-421.
- Fisch, Menachem. 2007. "Legislation and Legal Norm Development in Jewish Law", *Periodica de re Canonica*, 96 (2007), pp. 23-40.
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- Gissis, Snait. Forthcoming. "Interactions between social and biological thinking: the case of Lamarck", *Perspectives on Science*.
- Handel, Ariel. 2007. "כרוניקה של משטר הכיבוש, 1967-2007". *תיאוריה וביקורת* 31, עמ' 173-220.
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- Jablonka, Eva and Ehud Lam. 2008. "The nurture of nature: hereditary plasticity in evolution." *Philosophy of Psychology* 21:305-319.
- Jablonka, E. and S. Ginsburg. 2007. "The Transition to Experiencing: I. Limited Learning and Limited Experiencing." *Biological Theory* 2(3) 218–230.
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3.4. Book Chapters

- Amir, Merav. 2007. "The History of the Future: The Changing Role of the Future in the Construction of the Gendered Body", *Back to the Future of the Body*, ed. Dominic Janes, London: Cambridge Scholars Publications, 41-70.
- Brunner, Jose. 2007. In Glück und Leid. Zum westlichen Vokabular des (Un-) Glücklicheins. In: *Was heißt und zu welchem Ende studiert man die Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts?* Norbert Frei, ed., (Göttingen: Wallstein, 2006).
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3.5. Science in Context

An international journal edited at The Cohn Institute. Published by Cambridge University Press.

Editorial team:

Leo Corry, Cohn Institute, Tel-Aviv University;
Jürgen Renn, Max Planck Institute, Berlin;
Alexandre Metraux, Universität Mannheim.
Assistant Editor: Mr. Boaz Hagin, Tel-Aviv University;
Production Manager: Mrs. Miriam Greenfield, Tel-Aviv University.

SCIENCE IN CONTEXT VOLUME 21 NUMBER 1 SPRING 2008

- **Michael Elazar:** Honoré Fabri and the Trojan Horse of Inertia
- **Miguel de Asúa:** “Names which he loved, and things well worthy to be known”: Eighteenth-Century Jesuit Natural Histories of Paraquaria and Río de la Plata
- **Michael R. Lynn:** Consumerism and the Rise of Balloons in Europe at the End of the Eighteenth Century
- **John C. Burnham:** Accident Proneness (Unfallneigung): A Classic Case of Simultaneous Discovery/Construction in Psychology
- **Naamah Akavia:** Writing “The Case of Ellen West”: Clinical Knowledge and Historical Representation

SCIENCE IN CONTEXT VOLUME 21 NUMBER 2 SUMMER 2008

Vaccines as Medical, Industrial, and Administrative Objects. *Guest Edited by Christoph Gradmann and Volker Hess*

- **Christoph Gradmann:** Locating Therapeutic Vaccines in Nineteenth-Century History
- **Ulrike Klöppel:** Enacting Cultural Boundaries in French and German Diphtheria Serum Research
- **Jonathan Simon:** Monitoring the Stable at the Pasteur Institute
- **Volker Hess:** The Administrative Stabilization of Vaccines: Regulating the Diphtheria Antitoxin in France and Germany, 1894–1900
- **Axel C. Hüntelmann:** The Dynamics of Wertbestimmung
- **Maurice Cassier:** Producing, Controlling, and Stabilizing Pasteur's Anthrax Vaccine: Creating a New Industry and a Health Market
- **Christian Bonah:** Packaging BCG: Standardizing an Anti-Tuberculosis Vaccine in Interwar Europe

- **Asaf Goldschmidt:** Commercializing Medicine or Benefiting the People – The First Public Pharmacy in China
- **Jeffrey R. Wigelsworth:** Navigation and Newsprint: Advertising Longitude Schemes in the Public Sphere ca. 1715
- **Maarten Van Dijck:** From Science to Popularization, and Back – The Science and Journalism of the Belgian Economist Gustave de Molinari
- **Nicolas Dodier and Janine Barbot:** Autonomy and Objectivity as Political Operators in the Medical World: Twenty Years of Public Controversy about AIDS Treatments in France

Historical Document:

- **Alejandro Gangui and Eduardo L. Ortiz:** Einstein's Unpublished Opening Lecture for His Course on Relativity Theory in Argentina, 1925
- **Albert Einstein:** Unpublished Opening Lecture for the Course on the Theory of Relativity in Argentina, 1925

Vitalism without Metaphysics? Medical Vitalism in the Enlightenment. *Guest Edited by Charles T. Wolfe*

- **Charles T. Wolfe:** Introduction: Vitalism without Metaphysics? Medical Vitalism in the Enlightenment
- **Guido Gigliani:** What Ever Happened to Francis Glisson? Albrecht Haller and the Fate of Eighteenth-Century Irritability
- **Tobias Cheung:** Regulating Agents, Functional Interactions, and Stimulus-Reaction-Schemes: The Concept of “Organism” in the Organic System Theories of Stahl, Bordeu, and Barthez
- **Dominique Boury:** Irritability and Sensibility: Key Concepts in Assessing the Medical Doctrines of Haller and Bordeu
- **Charles T. Wolfe and Motoichi Terada:** The Animal Economy as Object and Program in Montpellier Vitalism
- **Timo Kaitaro:** Can Matter Mark the Hours? Eighteenth-Century Vitalist Materialism and Functional Properties
- **Elizabeth A. Williams:** Of Two Lives One? Jean-Charles-Marguerite-Guillaume Grimaud and the Question of Holism in Vitalist Medicine
- **Philippe Huneman:** Montpellier Vitalism and the Emergence of Alienism in France (1750-1800): The Case of the Passions
- **Elke Witt:** Form – A Matter of Generation: The Relation of Generation, Form, and Function in the Epigenetic Theory of Caspar F. Wolff

4. Research Grants from External Competitive Funds

Main TAU Researcher: Rivka Feldhay

Granting Fund: GIF

Main Collaborator: Jürgen Renn (Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Berlin).

Title: “The Jesuit and Scientific Research between Galileo and Newton: Statics, Dynamics, Mathematics and Astronomy”; “Before Copernicus”.

Total Amount: EUR 225,000 + 225,000.

Grant Periods: (1) 2005 to 2007; (2) 2008-2010 (extension)

Main TAU Researcher: José Brunner

Granting Fund: GIF

Main Collaborators: Norbert Frei (Friedrich Schiller-Universität Jena), and Constantin Goschler (Ruhr-Universität Bochum).

Title: “The Globalization of Wiedergutmachung”.

Total Amount: USD 168,070.

Grant Period: 2008 to 2011.

Main TAU Researcher: Yossef Schwartz

Granting Fund: ISF

Title: “Hebraism as a central component in the shaping of Modern European Mind - the case of Christian Kabbala in the 14th-17th Centuries”.

Total Amount: NIS 392,000 (3 years).

Grant Period: 2008 to 2012.

Main UAB (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) Researcher: Alexander Fidora.

Granting Fund: ERC.

Main Collaborator: Yossef Schwartz (TAU) / Harvey Hames (BGU).

Title: "Latin Philosophy into Hebrew".

Total Amount: 480,000 EUR.

Grant Periods: 2008 – 2011.

Main TAU Researcher: Leo Corry

Granting Fund: GIF

Main Collaborator: Moritz Epple (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt).

Title: “Between modernism and application: A comparative approach to mathematical research culture in the early 1900’s”.

Total Amount: EUR 225,000.

Grant Period: Jan 2009 to Dec 2011.

5. Teaching

5.1. Student Population (as of October 2008)

MA Registered Students

Preparatory year: 37

MA with Thesis: 26

MA no Thesis: 70

Total MA Registered Students: 132

MA Graduates 2007-08: With Thesis: 9 No Thesis: 17

PhD Registered Students

School of History – Approved Proposal: 13

School of History – Preliminary Stage : 5

School of Philosophy – Approved Proposal: 23

School of Philosophy – Preliminary Stage: 5

School of Cultural Studies – Approved Proposal: 6

School of Cultural Studies – Preliminary Stage: 1

Total Registered PhD Students: 48

PhD Graduates 2007-08: 6

5.2. PhD Dissertations Approved, 2007-2008

Student's Name	Supervisor	Subject
Roy Wagner	Ophir + Prof. Anat Biletzki	A Post-structural Reading of a Logico-Mathematical Text
Dorit Szykierski	Brunner	Fantasmatic Fascination: Freud's secret committee from Bion's group relations perspective

Ronit Peleg	Ophir	Language and Moral: Jean-Francois Lyotard's "Differend"
Arieh Wurm	Fisch	Thought Experiments in Science
Ilana Wartenberg	Corry + Dr. Tony Levy	<i>The Epistle of the Number</i> by Isaac ben Solomon ben al-Ahdab (Sicily, 14th century). An Episode of Hebrew Algebra
Boaz Hagin	Ophir + Dr. Orly Lubin	Death In the Cinema

5.3. MA Theses Approved, 2007-2008

Student's Name	Supervisor	Subject
Ronen Ben Arieh	Ophir	Professionalism as Critique and Resistance. Political and Moral Implications of the Alternative Spatial Planning Discourse
Michael Beckman	Feldhay	History of the Academic Reserarch on Homosexuality
Yair Barak	Yossi Mali	Cameralism: A Historiography that Refuses to Be Sonderweg
Omri Hadar	Feldhay	Imitation and Change: Shakespeare's Translation, The Killing of Caesar and The Prodigal Son
Rachel Levy Hertz	Jablonka	A Critical Examination of the Feminist Perspectives towards Surrogacy
Roy Pitchon	Jablonka	The "Selfish Gene" View in Evolutionary Theory: Analyzing its Validity and Evaluating its Alternatives
Daliah Koren Noruk	Schwartz	The Concept of Time in Abraham Ibn Daud's Philosophical and Historical Works
David Rosenfled	Fisch + Prof. Galia Pat-Shamir	Robert Brandom and the Jewish-Buddhist Dialogue
Haim Schulman	Yavetz + Prof. Miri Eliav Feldon	The Water Supply to Toledo (Spain) in the 16th Century. Juanelo's Artifice and Failed Attempts that Preceded It

5.4. Scholarships Summary, 2007-08

Source	Amount	Remarks
School of History	2	Including 1 President Scholarship
School of Philosophy	1	2 * 0.5
School of Cultural Studies	1	Including 1 President Scholarship
CI's Endowment	2.5	Including 0.5 supplement to schools' scholarships; 0.25 + 0.25 supplements to Rotenstreich scholarship; and 1 supplement for double scholarship
CI's TAU budget	3	
Post-Doc Scholarships	2	Supplements to President's funding
TOTAL	9	

6. Program of Planned Activities for 2008-09

6.1. General

Post-Doctoral Fellows: Dr. Jenina Wellmann, Dr. Simon Cook, Dr. Ori Blekind

Silverman Visiting Professor: Dominick Perler (Berlin, Medieval Science)

International Workshop:

Philosophical Foundations of Quantum Theory – New Approaches (Dec. 2008)

“Transformations of Lamarckism: 19th –21st Centuries”, (June 2009).

6.2. Scholarships Summary, 2008-09

Source	Amount	Remarks
School of History	2	Including 1 President Scholarship
School of Philosophy	2	
School of Cultural Studies	1	Including 1 President Scholarship
CI's Endowment	5	Including 0.5 + 0.25 supplement to schools' scholarships, 0.25 supplement to Rotenstreich scholarship, and 1 supplement for double scholarship
CI's TAU budget	3	
Post-Docs	3	1 Full + 2 Supplements to Misrad Haklita
TOTAL	16	