



The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2008

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AICE Announces Winners of AICE Israel Studies Conference Grants

CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND — The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) announced today the recipients of the AICE Israel Studies Conference Grants. These prestigious awards are meant to encourage scholarship in Israel-related fields by supporting academic conferences.

This year's grant recipients, who will each receive \$10,000 to support their conferences, are the Jewish Studies Program at Tulane University for "The Breadth of Russia in Israel," the Center for Israel Studies at American University for "Israel Biz at 60: Lessons and Directions in Israel's Business and Economy," and the Taub Center for Israel Studies at New York University, for the 24th meeting of the annual conference of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS), this year titled "Converging Narratives."

"The Breadth of Russia in Israel" will explore the influence of Russian Zionism and Russian culture on Israeli history. Specifically, this conference will explore the Russian context of the intellectual origins of the Zionist ideology and the influence of Russian culture on Israeli political, social, and artistic life up to the present.

“Israel Biz at 60: Lessons and Directions in Israel’s Business and Economy” will assess the contemporary achievements of the Israeli private sector, 60 years after the founding of the state. It will include three keynote speakers and a series of panels representing a cross section of business and economic topics. The main goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity to examine an aspect of Israel that has not been studied on a broad scale.

“Converging Narratives,” is named after one of the conference’s sessions that will bring Israeli and Palestinian historians together to discuss differing narratives of their shared history. At this conference, an estimated 250-300 academic participants will present more than 200 papers in the areas of Israel and the Diaspora, history, literature, cinema, political science, sociology, arts and culture, and law.

AICE’s Executive Director, Mitchell Bard, added, “We are concerned that most of academia about Israel focus on the conflict with the Arabs, but a full understanding of Israel requires discussion about the many other facets of Israeli society, culture and politics. By supporting conferences that involve a range of disciplines, and a variety of perspectives, we hope to encourage academic thought that engages with all aspects of Israel. We also believe these conferences make the study of Israel available to a wider audience – they allow entire communities to learn and think about Israel.”

The AICE Israel Studies Conference Grant is a project of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization created in 1993.

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