

Prof. Dr. Patrick Cramer,
President of the Max Planck Society
Old Town, 80539
Munich, Germany

12.02.2024

Dear colleagues,

We write as Israeli Jewish scholars, working in Israel and worldwide, in support of Prof. Ghassan Hage and in protest of the accusations against him. Prof. Hage is an outstanding contributor to the field of anthropology, who has made a professional impact on us all. His critical analysis of ethno-nationalism - be it Australian, Israeli, or Palestinian - and his vision of an alter-politics for Israel/Palestine both invoke an alternative to nationalist political structures and the possibility of egalitarian co-living between Jews, Christians, Muslims and others.

The significance of this moral and intellectual vision to anthropologists in Israel was reflected in Prof. Hage's invitation to deliver a keynote address to the Israeli Anthropological Association (IAA) in 2016. Though he refused the invitation, the published correspondence between Prof. Hage and Prof. Nir Avieli, then President of the IAA, demonstrates his sensitivity to the complexity of the political situation in our country. His stance is political and critical, but it is not antisemitic. Accusing Prof. Hage of antisemitism is malicious and betrays a lack of good faith.

As Jews, some of us descendants of victims of the Nazi Holocaust, and some who research the Holocaust and racist violence more generally, we take this opportunity to voice our concern over the conflation between criticism of Israel and antisemitism, which is putting Jewish life in the diaspora, and Germany in particular, at risk.

It is well-known that Prof. Hage is a proponent of the boycott of Israeli academic institutions as part of the BDS movement. While many of us disagree with the methods of this movement, we acknowledge that its guidelines do not mandate discrimination against individual Jews or Israelis, and can affirm that Prof. Hage does not practice such discrimination. Several

Israeli Jewish scholars have had the privilege of consulting and debating with him, and have always been welcomed with respect, kindness, and a professional response.

In the harsh time our world is going through, a time of polarization, deep mistrust, nationalist radicalization, and the persecution of dissenting voices, we urge you not to succumb to the brutal silencing of critical voices, and to uphold the academic value of unbiased evaluation and fair dealing.

Best regards,

Signed:

| Name | Affiliation |
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| Matan Kaminer | Queen Mary University London |
| Dr. Livnat Konopny Decleve | The Hebrew University of Jerusalem |
| Erella Grassiani | University of Amsterdam |
| Yael Assor | Martin Buber Society of Fellows |
| Eilat Maoz | Hebrew University |
| Dr Ophira Gamliel | University of Glasgow |
| Professor Avner Ben- Amos | Tel-Aviv University |
| Dr Avital Barak | Research fellow, IFILNOVE, Nova University |
| Naor Ben-Yehoyada | Columbia University |
| Keren Assaf | UNM |
| Mieka Polanco, Gender- Based Violence advisor | Jefferson Consulting |
| Dr. Hilla Dayan | NYU Remarque Center visiting Fellow |
| Dr. Dafna Hirsch | The Open University of Israel |
| Itamar Haritan, PhD Candidate | Cornell University |
| Dr. Shifra Kisch | Utrecht University |
| Prof. Nitzan Shoshan | El Colegio de Mexico |
| Barak Kalir, Associate Prof. | University of Amsterdam |
| Dr. Hadas Weiss | Humboldt University of Berlin |
| Dr. Regev Nathansohn | Sapir College |
| Itamar Shachar, Assistant Professor | School of Social Sciences, Hasselt University |
| Alma Miriam Katz | Social anthropology and museum ethnography department, the university of Oxford. |

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| Eli Osheroff | Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Humanities, The Hebrew University, Haifa University |
| Dr. Guy Shalev | Ben Gurion University |
| Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin | Tel Aviv University |
| Dr. Anat Matar | Beit Berl College |
| Anat Rlmon Or PhD | Isha L'isha Feminist Research Center |
| Dr. Yali Hashash | The Technion and Open University of Israel |
| Dr. Ronnen Ben-Arie | Anti-occupation bloc Haifa |
| Gaia Dan | University of Haifa |
| Professor Amalia Sa'ar | The open university of Israel |
| Dr. Tamar Schneider | BGU |
| Rafi Grosplik | CES |
| Dr Uri Gordon | Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies |
| Udi Raz | University of East London |
| Professor Emeritus Nira Yuval-Davis | Ben Gurion University, Israel |
| Niza Yanay, Professor Emerita | Columbia University |
| Yinon Cohen, Professor | PhD student, Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths University of London |
| Daphna Westerman | ben Gurion University of the negev |
| Prof pnina Motzafi Haller | Hebrew university |
| Dr yael berda | University of Haifa |
| Yuval yonay | university of haifa |
| micah leshem emeritus | university of haifa |
| professor of psychology | university of haifa |
| Prof. Yehouda Shenhav | Tel Aviv University |
| Dr. Alma Itzhaky | Leibniz Zentrum für Literatur und Kulturforschung |
| Dr. Inna Leykin | The Open University of Israel |
| Neve Gordon, Professor of Human Rights Law | Queen Mary University of London |
| Tal Dor | Nanates Université |
| Hedva Eyal | PhD |
| Anonymous | Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Ben Gurion University of the Negev |
| Tamar Barkay | Tel Hai College |
| Uri Hadar, Professor | Tel Aviv University |
| Sigel ronen | philosophy, performance music. |
| Nomi Erteschik-Shir, Emerita | Ben-Gurion University |
| Nitzan Lebovic, Professor | Lehigh University |
| Dr. Smadar Sharon | Tel-Aviv University |
| Prof. Amos Goldberg | The Hebrew University of Jerusalem |

* A copy of this letter was sent to Dr. Ursula Rao, Dr. Biao Xiang, and Dr. Marie-Claire Foblets.