

The Lausanne Model, 100 Years After: The Practice of Uprooting Populations in Comparative Perspective

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
Mandel Building (Room 530), June 7-8, 2023

Co-Organizers

Prof. Abigail Jacobson, Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr. Sagi Schaefer, Department of History, Tel Aviv University

Workshop Rationale and Aim

The year 2023 marks the centennial for the Lausanne Conference, which replaced the failed Treaty of Sèvres and officially settled the conflict between the defeated Ottoman Empire and the Entente States following World War I. A major element of the Lausanne Treaty was an agreement on population exchange between Turkey and Greece. This agreement put a retroactive stamp of approval and made final the exile of hundreds of thousands of Greek speaking Christians from Asia Minor as a result of the Turkish War of Independence. It added many more to their number and uprooted around 400,000 Muslims from northern Greece. This population exchange signaled the first time in which forced population transfers were incorporated in an international treaty. Despite the extensive price paid by the uprooted populations, the treaty was seen by many as a success story and has served a model for many states and national projects ever since.



Indeed, moving populations became a tenet of state violence, affecting many millions worldwide. Regimes have resorted to uprooting populations throughout history, usually as part of wars and strategic alignment against enemies. The twentieth century has seen this practice shift from a unilateral hostile move into the realm of inter-state or international treaties and become an acceptable and even preferred solution to inter-state tensions and conflicts. Decision makers, diplomats, and scholars came to see it as a way to alleviate tensions and prevent future conflicts. Following the unprecedented violence of the Second World War, population movement in order to homogenize nation-state citizenries became de rigueur in Europe. This change further legitimized the forceful transfers of populations as a strategy of state building and stability and emboldened more states to adopt it unilaterally. In the 1990s it was labeled "Ethnic Cleansing" and universally vilified, when pursued violently in the wars that accompanied the collapse of Yugoslavia.

With the centenary to the Greco-Turkish war and the Lausanne Treaty this workshop aims to examine this practice and its consequences for states and populations in comparative perspectives.



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The Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations
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Antisemitism and Racism

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Panels and Participants

DAY 1: Wednesday, June 7

8:30: Gathering

9:00-10:15: Opening Session:
Opening and Greetings.

Omer Bartov (Brown University): Between Uprooting, Displacement, and Replacement: Some Historical Examples and Contemporary Controversies.

10:30-12:30: Session 1:

Agents of Uprooting and their Perspectives

Chair: Manuela Consonni, The Hebrew University

Philipp Ther (University of Vienna): The British Track of Ethnic Cleansing.

Rotem Geva (Hebrew University): India and Palestine: A Transnational and Comparative History of Partition.

Lunch

14:00-16:00: Session 2:

Property and other Economic Implications

Chair: Ofer Ashkenazi, The Hebrew University

Ümit Kurt (The University of Newcastle, New South Wales): Reading the Economic Consequences of Lausanne Convention within the Context of *Emval- / Metruke* (Abandoned Properties) Laws. (Via Zoom)

Iris Nachum (Hebrew University): Uprooted people and compensation: Three case studies.

16:30-18:00: Session 3:

Experiences and Consequences of Mass Uprooting

Chair: Sagi Schaefer, Tel Aviv University

Anna Holzer-Kawalko (Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem): A Difficult Neighborhood. Polish and German Expellees in Lower Silesia, 1945-1947.

Eyal Ginio (Hebrew University): The Retracing of Communal Borders in Eastern Thrace following the Balkan Wars: Cısr-ı Mustafa Paşa (Svilengrad) as a Case-Study.

Dinner



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** Photo :Bain News Service, Publisher. *Christian refugees from Asia Minor*, None. [Between 1922 and 1925] Photograph. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2014715695/>.



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DAY 2: Thursday, June 8

8:30-10:30: Session 4:

International Law and Diplomacy: The Lausanne Conference and Beyond

Chair: Yaël Ronen, The Academic Center for Science and Law

Lerna Ekmekcioglu (MIT): A Case of Post-Genocide Partition Denied: Armenian Demands for a "National Home" at the Lausanne Conference.

Ori Manor (Tel Aviv University): The Lausanne Population Exchange and the League of Nations from the Prism of International Refugee Rights History.

Karin Loevy (NYU): Territoriality in the Lausanne Conference: Tracing Connections between the Rise of Population Transfers and the Shift in the Concept of Territoriality in International Law post-WWI.

11:00-13:30: Session 5:

Citizenship and In-State Deportation: The Israeli-Palestinian Case

Chair: Abigail Jacobson, The Hebrew University

Areej Sabbagh-Khoury (Hebrew University): Citizenship as Accumulation by Dispossession: The Paradox of Settler-Colonial Citizenship.

Laura Almagor (Utrecht University): Shared Discourse, Different Narrative: The Jewish Territorialist Movement and Population Politics, 1943-1960.

Lily Eilan (Hebrew University): Al-Bassa-Shlomi, 1945-1967: A Palestinian-Israeli Case Study of Uprooting and Settlement.

13:45-15:30:

Concluding Session: Population Exchange: Ethical and Legal Considerations

Chair: Oren Yiftachel, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Raef Zreik (Ono Academic College and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute): Population Exchange and the Morality of Nationalism: Preliminary Reflections.

Itamar Mann (Haifa University): Entangled Displacements.

Arie Dubnov (George Washington University): Alternatives to the Lausanne model: looking at the past to think of (a better?) future.

15:45: Tour in Jerusalem



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