

# THE 2<sup>nd</sup> UBIAS DIRECTORS MEETING in JERUSALEM

## SHAPING THE FUTURE

### Navigating in a Challenging World

March 4 - 6, 2013

**Minutes of the final discussion in Jerusalem March 6, 2013**

**Hosted by the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies**

**at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Participants:

- Sonja Asal, LMU Munich
- Clarissa Ball, University of Western Australia
- Juergen Barkhoff, Trinity College Dublin
- Patrizia Brigidi, University of Bologna
- Dapeng Cai, Nagoya University
- Barbara Cimatti, University of Bologna
- Caitriona Curtis, Trinity College Dublin
- Carsten Dose, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Study (FRIAS)
- Gerd Folkers, Collegium Helveticum Zurich
- Sue Gilligan, University of Birmingham
- Martin Grossman, University of Sao Paulo
- Sari Kivistö, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
- Michal Linal, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Britta Padberg, Bielefeld University
- Joanna Pfaff-Czarneka, Bielefeld University
- Lea Praver, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Eliezer Rabinovici, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Naoshi Sugiyama, Nagoya University
- Jani Vuolteenaho, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies

The minutes report on the discussions and decisions of the final day of the meeting. They were informed by the communications of the preceding two days.

In the opening session, participants were greeted by **Asher Cohen**, Rector of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**Eliezer Rabinovici** presented a rationale and a historical perspective for Institutes for Advanced Study, and reflected on the special role of such institutes in the context of the host university.

**Carsten Dose** and **Britta Padberg** gave an account of their learning experiences as participants of the different exchanges between UBIAS institutes and offered some initial points for discussion. The ensuing program points offered some glimpse on the strength of the Israeli Research Environment as well the complex political situation of the country and the region.

Excursions to the Old City, the Israel Museum and the Yad Vashem memorial site gave participants an intense and moving impression of the history of the Jewish people and the Israeli state.

A special session worth mentioning was the discussion with **Manuel Trajtenberg** (Chair of The Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education of Israel). His long-term perspectives on future challenges of the Israeli Higher Education System and Higher Education in general proved very stimulating for the discussion on the role of UBIAS, as there was a clear understanding, that the special function of our institutes must be understood in the light of the challenges for Higher Education and research in general and research oriented universities in particular.

The discussions of the final day summed up several discussions of the previous days. This protocol thus concentrates on the sessions on the last day of the conference.

#### **(a) UBIAS Intercontinental Academy 2014/15:**

**Naoshi Sugiyama**, **Cai Dapeng** and **Martin Grossmann** reported on the preparatory work already done on the first UBIAS Intercontinental Academy which will be held in Sao Paulo IEA in March 2014 and in Nagoya IAR in March 2015, focused on the concept of "TIME."

Participants were impressed by the quality of preparations and the efforts which both institutes have put into this program. Participants encouraged both institutes to continue preparations in that line and take any decisions necessary for the successful realization of the academy. There was unanimous support for all measures and plans.

The two institutes responsible asked members for support in the following questions: There is one additional seat in the Academy Committee still vacant which should ideally be filled by a researcher suggested by member institutes. The Academy committee will be in charge of nominating the 15 to 20 participants. These young researchers from all over the world shall be selected on the basis of nominations given by the UBIAS members. Further information as well as the call for proposals will be sent by a separate mail to all UBIAS members as soon as possible.

The participants discussed and approved the organizational and scientific concept of the Intercontinental Academy (IA). They underscored the importance to involve outstanding scholars as

Academic Members. Their scientific reputation will be crucial for the attractiveness of the IA. Furthermore it was suggested to specify the theme in order to ensure a lasting benefit for the participating researchers.

### **(b) Future Intercontinental Academies**

There was an agreement that the second UBIAS Intercontinental Academy could possibly be held in 2015/2016.

Several institutes indicated their interest to organize the next IA. The project should be initiated by two UBIAS members respectively and should be focused on a topic relevant to a wide range of disciplines, making use of the ability of the network to suggest outstanding researchers (both academic directors and junior participants from many different countries, disciplines and backgrounds).

Applications with a short proposal on the topic and potential scientific convenors (not more than 3 pages) may be submitted to the Steering Committee, to be decided in March 2014. Funding issues as well as 1.5 years preparatory work should be taken in consideration.

An open call for proposals will be sent after the meeting of the Steering Committee in Vancouver in September 2013, and will be posted on the UBIAS website.

### **(c) UBIAS Network; Organizational Issues**

Decisions on how to proceed further in the UBIAS network were informed by an intense and stimulating debate about the role and function, first of UBIAS as institutes fostering academic excellence, secondly by the role and potentials of the UBIAS Network.

The debate drew from the inputs of Eliezer Rabinovici's opening remarks, from the documentation of the earlier UBIAS meetings and from prepared statements by several participants.

Taking into account the manifold differences between our institutes, participants agreed that the core identity of the institutes was twofold:

- Supporting excellent research
- Opening up opportunities for innovative projects.

The innovativeness of projects can of course take on many different forms and also reflects the profile and the given strengths of the respective home universities. In this respect, many UBIAS strive to be a center of creative impulses for their home university.

*The discussion showed again, that the participating institutes share a core set of values and aspirations, that can and does form the basis for future cooperation and exchange.*

The following points were agreed upon by participants:

- Schedule for Future Meetings
- The next Steering Committee meetings will take place in:
  - September 2013 in Vancouver preliminary to the UBIAS scientific conference
  - March 2014 in Sao Paulo during the first part of the Intercontinental Academy
  - The place of the next meeting of the UBIAS directors in 2015 is yet undecided.
  - Nagoya IAR will consider if it might be responsible for this meeting in connection with the second part of the planned Intercontinental Academy. Decision will be made in Vancouver.

The participants agreed that the Steering Committee should include all the institutes which have already hosted a Directors' Meeting (i.e. Freiburg, New Delhi and Jerusalem), as well as the IAS that is scheduled to host the upcoming Directors' Meeting.

### **General Format of Directors' Meetings**

Frequent directors' meetings are seen as valuable and important in exchanging experiences as well as to observe and reflect the global movement of IAS.

They should thus be held every two years. In addition, meetings which are open for paper presentations (i.e. Vancouver) are also welcome.

The following general schedule for directors meetings was suggested by the participants:

- Exchange of experiences made within each UBIAS, stating strengths and difficulties
- Dialogue on the development of higher education and research
- Additional network activities
- Information about the (historical, political, social, and economic issues of the) country where the meeting is held
- Continuous debate on general issues: inter-disciplinarity, evaluation, new forms of collaboration and organizational issues

### **Website**

Participants viewed the UBIAS website as an important part of communicating activities of the network the academic world. It was suggested that continuous communication among the UBIAS members should be supported by the installation of a private area on the UBIAS website. Summaries of the meetings and focused information about the UBIAS members could be published there in a personalized section (password based).

The website could also serve as a place of knowledge collection. FRIAS, Freiburg will continue to run the website for the time being and will work on a concept for such a private, password protected section.

## **New Institutes**

The participants also discussed how to deal with new institutes which are interested in joining the UBIAS network. They reconfirmed that UBIAS is open for new members. However, in order to preserve a common sense of purpose, institutions interested in participation should meet the following criteria:

- Association with a respectable university
- Dedication to excellence/high academic standards
- Fellowship program of a certain size, offering residential fellowships for an international community of scholars
- Openness to topics and projects from different disciplines, especially those, that cross traditional boundaries – between disciplines, countries, different research cultures etc.
- Frequent participation in, and contribution to, the UBIAS meetings

New membership should normally be based on the recommendation of an existing UBIAS member, but independent applications are also possible.

The decision will be made by the Steering Committee.

General comment: The meeting was seen as a great success by all participants. Special thanks were expressed towards the hosts, who throughout had made this conference possible.

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