



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



מרכז האוניברסיטה העברית לקיימות
The Hebrew University Center for Sustainability
مركز الجامعة العبرية للاستدامة



Scientific Progress

Prof. Scott Kirkpatrick from (Computer Science and Engineering) and Prof. Sorin Solomon (Institute of Physics) joined an international group of researchers to study challenges in network science and their applications on infrastructures, climate, social systems and economics. Network science is a research field at the intersection of computer science and physics. The researchers showed how new insights from advanced network science can greatly impact infrastructure networks used for transporting goods, energy, and information. These insights can be used for making existing infrastructure systems more efficient and resilient.

Since its inception, the Authority for Research and Development (ARD) is the main administrative department responsible for encouraging, furthering, and facilitating all research activities at HUJI. Among its responsibilities, ARD identifies potential sources of funding for research in Israel and abroad, while also managing the university's research grants. In addition, it implements the research policy of the ARD Executive Committee, and identifies and maximizes research of a potentially commercial and industrial nature.

Community Impact

HUJI's center for innovation and entrepreneurship, in cooperation with the Asper Foundation, celebrates innovative startups that create a positive impact globally through the Asper Prize, a competition awarding the startup winner with ILS 100,000. The prize, initiated in order to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit amongst HUJI students, researchers, and alumni, has adopted the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a core theme, where startups are tasked with elaborating which SDG Goals their products address.

The Asper HUJI Creativity Challenge is an annual competition aimed at developing and fostering creative ideas in the field of sustainability. Every year a seemingly useless, old-fashioned object is chosen for which students are asked to build a useful and relevant prototype, while filming their efforts. The winner receives an ILS 5,000 prize from the center. Over the last two years hundreds of students took part, suggesting new uses for plastic bottles, single socks, coffee, and much more.

Studies and Learning Initiatives

The JLM Impact Consortium offers an online course on design-driven innovation, focusing on human needs and product-oriented thinking to harness the power of science, design, and engineering for a positive change, and to foster an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jerusalem. The course is open to researchers and students from HUJI, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, and the Azrieli College of Engineering.

The Trans-disciplinary Innovation Program is an intensive six-week international entrepreneurship program at the Hebrew University Business School dedicated to students in technology, science, innovation, entrepreneurship, and business. The first four weeks of the course include computer vision, big data, bioengineering, and entrepreneurship, followed by two weeks of dedicated time to develop a start-up idea. All this culminates in a final event where students have the opportunity to pitch ideas to a panel of investors, accelerators and industry leaders.

Actions on Campus

Asper-HUJI Innovate is the University's center for innovation and entrepreneurship, fostering the university's innovation potential to solve substantial problems through entrepreneurship. The center promotes the university as a supportive environment for entrepreneurship, cultivates an entrepreneurial mindset and skills amongst students, researchers and staff, and serves as a catalyst for the development of innovative startups and social enterprises. The centre offers workshops, courses, mentorship programs and other tools needed for turning an idea into a reality.

Yissum is the Tech Transfer Company of HUJI, bridging between trailblazing research and the wider global market. Yissum provides unparalleled experience and passion for the commercialization of technology for global impact. HUJI continues to excel at recruiting great minds and providing a fundamental academic space for curiosity-driven research. Together with the university's outstanding scientists and collaborations with industry leaders, Yissum provides a platform for technology commercialization, corporate engagement, and economic development. In their podcast "Out of the Lab," Yissum takes the listeners on a fascinating journey of breakthrough science, from idea to fruition, with narratives from researchers.

The mentor program at HUJI's Business School connects young graduates and students finishing their degree with alumni of the school who have successfully completed their career journey, and are now executives in industry and the public sector.