

RESEARCHER PROFILE

Dr. Elai Rettig

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HORIZON EUROPE TOPIC(S) OF INTEREST:

HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-03: The role of perceptions, formed by traditions, values and beliefs, in shaping European societies and politics in the 21st century

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD CALL TOPIC

My research focuses on the securitization of energy policy in regional politics, especially in Europe and the East Mediterranean area (Israel, Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Cyprus). I examine how and why elites employ different forms of nationalist rhetoric to justify or resist regional energy cooperation initiatives that aim to reduce CO2 emissions, and how different perceptions of sovereignty, trauma from war, and social cohesiveness affect audience receptiveness towards security-heavy arguments in the energy and environmental policy spheres.

For this call topic, I am looking for a team to compare audience perception in different European countries to elite rhetoric concerning the use of renewable energy as a tool to achieve “energy independence” and “dominance” against foreign threats, rather than environmental rhetoric focusing on climate change. My research is qualitative, focusing on discourse analysis, elite interviews, archival research, and analysis of government protocols. I offer the team access to resources and policymakers in Israel and its surrounding region for comparative case studies with European cases.

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BRIEF PROFILE

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, specializing in energy policy, national security, and international environmental politics. I conducted my post-doctoral studies in the Environmental Studies Program at Washington University in St Louis. Prior to that I was a visiting scholar at the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies (ISCS) at George Washington University (Washington DC), a lecturer in the Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University (Houston, Texas), and a "Neubauer Fellow" at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel-Aviv University (Israel).

My research examines patterns of international conflict and cooperation over shared energy resources and environmental threats. My previous papers focused on the politics of energy trade, the role of oil in Israel's foreign policy history, and the challenges of transitioning to renewable energy sources in the Middle East. I publish my research mainly in peer-reviewed journals in international relations, such as *International Studies Quarterly* (ISQ), *Foreign Policy Analysis*, and *International Journal of Press/Politics*. I've also written policy-oriented papers and briefs for Israeli and European research institutes, among them the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). I also write opinion pieces to Israeli and US media and testified before committees in the Israeli parliament (the Knesset) on issues relating to Israel's energy security policy.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

1. Rettig, Elai. Securitizing Energy Cooperation: Israel's Regional Shift in the East-Mediterranean, *Foreign Policy Analysis* Vol. 17, no. 3 (2021). pp. 1-18
2. Rettig, Elai The Impact of Natural-Gas Discoveries on Israeli Politics, Geopolitics & Socioeconomic Discourse, in David Jalilvand and Kirsten Westphal (eds.) *The Political and Economic Challenges of Energy in the Middle East and North Africa*, Routledge (2018). pp. 169-181.
3. Rettig, Elai and Oden Eran. The EU's Energy Challenges, in: Rosner, Yotam and Adi Kantor (eds.), *The European Union in Turbulent Times: Challenges, Trends, and Significance for Israel*. INSS Memorandum 175, Tel Aviv University (2018). pp. 103-112.
4. Rubinovitz, Ziv and Elai Rettig. Crude Peace: The Role of Oil Trade in the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Negotiations, *International Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 62, No. 2 (2018). pp. 371-382
5. Rettig, Elai. Limits to Cooperation: Why Israel Does Not Want to Become a Member of the International Energy Agency, *Israel Affairs*. Volume 22, No. 2. (2016). pp. 512-527

BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY PROFILE

Established in 1955, Bar Ilan University (BIU) is currently one of Israel's largest universities with a total undergraduate and graduate student enrollment of 19,000. With more than 1,600 senior and junior faculty members, BIU has achieved an international reputation for academic and research excellence, especially, but not limited to the fields of artificial intelligence, renewable energy, bio-medicine, brain sciences, cancer, cyber security, cognitive sciences, environment, quantum technologies, medicine, archaeology, nanotechnology and advanced materials.

Building on our past and current successes in FP6, FP7, H2020 and ERC projects, BIU is committed to strengthening its research and innovation infrastructure and supporting multidisciplinary innovative research initiatives with its 55 research centers and 60 endowed chairs. In addition, the Bar Ilan Center for Smart Cities is recognized by the EU SMART SPECIALISATION PLATFORM as a Digital Innovation Hub.

The Department of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University is considered one of the best in Israel. It has acquired an international reputation in its field, due to its top-rated faculty, extensive course offering, and the level of its students and graduates. The Department operates several leading research institutes, among them are the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies, one of the leading institutions in all matters regarding foreign affairs and national security; the Argov Center for the Study of Israel and the Jewish People; the Program for Conflict Management and Negotiations Studies, and more.