



The Lowy Quarterly

News & updates from TAU's global home. Thursday, November 28, 2024.



Message from the Vice President

Prof. Milette Shamir
TAU Vice President International

Yesterday, a ceasefire with Hezbollah began to take effect. Calm along our northern border is certainly welcome, even if we still feel a long way away from peace. As war continues in Gaza, and we continue to struggle to bring home the hostages, academics in Israel have also had to face another threat: a government coalition that promotes legislation aimed at silencing our voices.

Of course, this other threat is by no means unique. All over the world, we witness the systematic vilification and targeting of academic institutions by populist regimes who either brand academics as “liberal elites” or turn our institutions into tools of state propaganda. Sometimes it feels as if we are the only ones who see the price the world will pay if universities are weakened.

Let us not forget that our greatest strength lies in our ability to create networks of cooperation and solidarity that reinforce our research—simply look at what our scientists accomplished following COVID-19's global outbreak. Or look at how we are working together to prevent new pandemics from arising, fight climate change, cure diseases, and present viable pathways to peace, economic justice, and so much more.

Academic creativity, innovation, and collaboration offer the world its best chance for a better future. In times when our societies may fail to recognize this, we must make the case ourselves—boldly, together, and with an unwavering commitment to our shared values.

Yours in solidarity,
Milette

Featured

- Thirty years ago, the Peace Index and the Konrad Adenauer Program for Jewish-Arab Cooperation were created, during a period of unmatched hope following the 1993 signing of the Oslo Accords. [Read about the work of these \(and other peace programs\) over the decades at TAU.](#)
- Researchers from Tel Aviv University and the University of Lisbon [have created a nasal-spray COVID-19 vaccine](#) that can be stored at room temperature.
- For this year's international week, [TAU dove into all things American](#)—from Dixieland music to the 2024 post-election reality.
- [MA in Security and Diplomacy alumna Tiffany Harris opens up](#) about her global career in community building, and her current work fostering Jewish connection and resilience.
- In [this video from The Economist](#), Prof. Yossi Yovel's Bat Lab—an option for international students at TAU—reveals how members use AI to unravel the secrets of animal communication.
- TAU, Northwestern University and the University of Toronto held [a virtual matchmaking event for researchers in healthy longevity and aging](#).
- For the first time ever, [two Israelis competed simultaneously at the global Falling Walls summit](#) in Berlin, resulting in a third-place win and a reminder of academic community.



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