



Credit: Rony Levinson

MOUNTAIN & SEA

# LAND & SEA

## REVOLUTIONIZING ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH IN ISRAEL

“From high-resolution drone imagery and laser mapping to DNA analysis and virtual reality reconstructions of ancient cities, new tools and techniques are transforming the field of archaeology,” explains Prof. Israel Finkelstein, a world-renowned researcher who was recruited to head the new School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures.

“The fact that archaeology studies was already quite strong at the University made my decision to join relatively easy. University of Haifa has fully embraced the marriage of archaeological sciences with emerging technologies. Our vigorous commitment to interdisciplinary research and emerging technologies is going to revolutionize archaeological research in Israel.”

The mission of the new School is to elevate archaeology research in Israel, serving as a catalyst to lift Israeli universities to the upper echelon of international archaeology rankings. The School will be the first-of-its-kind in Israel to integrate the full scope of archaeological activities – on land and at sea – under one roof.

“We are building a supportive research environment where physicists, geneticists, mathematicians, geographers, historians and anthropologists can interact on a regular basis. Moreover, there’s quite obviously a



Credit: Skyview Ltd.

lot of synergy between the Hecht Museum’s activities and the School. Ultimately, we plan to generate a comprehensive research agenda and apply the latest scientific techniques to ensure that our past comes alive,” says Prof. Finkelstein.

### Meet Prof. Israel Finkelstein

Prof. Israel Finkelstein was recruited by UoH to establish the new School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures. Finkelstein is widely regarded as a leading scholar in the archaeology of the Levant and as a foremost applicant of archaeological data to reconstructing biblical Israelite history. Known as something of an iconoclast, Prof. Finkelstein received the prestigious Dan David Prize (2005) for his creative scholarship that has “transformed the study of history and archaeology in Israeli universities.”





## The School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures will be home to four departments:

### Department of Archaeology

is committed to advancing and transforming our understanding of the past landscape, material culture and history of Israel through innovative research and teaching.



### Department of Maritime Civilizations

conducts underwater explorations along the Mediterranean coast and elsewhere. The Israeli coast has one of the densest concentrations of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean. **The only such department in Israel.**



**NEW IN ISRAEL**

### 2022-2023 Department of Archaeological Sciences

seeks to achieve the highest standards of excellence in science-driven archaeology research and education. By integrating exact and life sciences into archaeology studies, we will gain a better understanding of evolution and ancient lifestyles that will help us make better decisions about the future.



**NEW IN ISRAEL**

### 2022-2023 Department of Conservation of Material Culture

will be focused on utilizing best practices in conservation science and practice for the protection of cultural heritage. Our graduates will play a vital role in protecting and preserving the art, objects, and historic sites that tell the story of our lives, history and society.



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

## Winning ERC Projects to tackle Big Scientific Questions



### THE FUTURE OF OUR COASTAL CITIES Dr. David Friesem

*Investigating Neolithic coastal settlements and responses to environmental dynamics using high-tech archaeological technologies, which will be critical to protecting coastal communities from rising sea levels.*



### FOOD SECURITY Dr. Nimrod Marom

*Merging archaeology and biology to investigate human-environment interactions in antiquity, and its effects on ancient food-webs and the fragile Judean Desert ecosystem.*



### CLIMATE CHANGE Prof. Guy Bar-Oz

*Restoring heritage grape cultivars in the Negev desert and investigating the impact of climate change on local ancient agriculture.*