



**BRITISH
ACADEMY**

for the humanities and social sciences

**Empathy Neuroscience:
Translational Relevance for Conflict Resolution**

The British Academy, 7 & 8 March 2016

Convenors:

Professor Simon Baron-Cohen FBA, University of Cambridge, UK

Haifa Staiti, Gather Fellow, Seeds of Peace, Toronto, Canada

Dr Ahmad Abu-Akel, University of Birmingham, UK

Professor Ruth Feldman, Bar Ilan University, Israel and Yale University, USA

Professor Simone Shamay-Tsoory, Haifa University, Israel

Alex Gabbay, Film Director, London

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Monday, 7 March 2016

- 9.00 *Registration and refreshments*
- 9.20 **SESSION I: Welcome and background to the Conference**
(Chair: Professor Simon Baron-Cohen)
- 9.25 **Opening remarks:** Professor Nicholas Stern (Lord Stern of Brentford) FBA,
FRS, President of the British Academy, and London School of Economics
- 9.35 **Conference overview:** Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, University of
Cambridge, UK
Why a conference on empathy neuroscience and conflict resolution?
- 9.50 **Contextual overview:** Dr Ahmad Abu-Akel, University of Birmingham, UK
Historical and cultural overview to Israel and Palestine: the changing map
- 10.05 *Comfort break*
- SESSION II: Latest research in empathy neuroscience**
(Chair: Professor Simone Shamay-Tsoory)
- 10.10 Dr Emile Bruneau, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
Aspects of empathy relevant to intergroup conflict
- 10.40 Professor Ruth Feldman, Bar-Ilan University, Israel and Yale University, USA
Attenuated brain response to pain of the Other in Israeli and
Palestinian youth
- 11.10 *Refreshments*
- 11.40 Professor Bhisadev Chakrabarti, Reading University, UK
Reward pathways in the brain during empathy
- 12.10 Professor Dale Hay, Cardiff University, UK
The development of empathy: how can it be fostered or lost?
- 12.40 **Open discussion of Sessions I and II**
- 13.05 Close of Session II
- 13.10 *Lunch*

SESSION III: Relevance of empathy neuroscience to the Middle East conflict

(Chair: Professor Ruth Feldman)

- 14.10 Professor Simone Shamay-Tsoory, Haifa University, Israel
Empathy neuroscience and in-group/out-group effects among Israelis and Palestinians
- 14.40 Dr Ahmad Abu-Akel, University of Birmingham, UK
Empathy neuroscience in the Middle-East: the importance of time and space
- 15.10 Nawal Musleh-Motut, Simon Fraser University, Canada
Empathy & Beyond: Witnessing the Holocaust and the Nakba Through Photograph-based Storytelling
- 15.40 *Refreshments*
- 16.10 Professor Sari Nusseibeh, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem
The philosophy of empathy: a Palestinian perspective.
- 16.40 **Open discussion of Session III**
- 17.00 *Close of first day*
- 17.00 Drinks reception sponsored by

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Venue: Music Room, first floor (opposite the Auditorium)

Tuesday, 8 March 2016

9.00 *Refreshments*

SESSION IV: Translating empathy in clinical settings in the Middle East
(Chair: Haifa Staiti)

9.30 Professor James Leckman, Yale University, USA

The Middle East Child Psychiatry Consortium: doctors without borders

10.00 Dr Tawfiq Salman, Palestinian Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center, Bethlehem, Palestine

Recovering empathy post trauma: clinical evidence from Bethlehem

10.30 Dr Talma Hendler, Tel Aviv University

How threat related biases of empathic brain processing may accentuate the middle east conflict?

11.00 *Refreshments*

11.30 Dr Cairo Arafat, Save the Children, Ramallah, Palestine

Empathy in the Palestine-Israel conflict

12.00 **Open discussion of Session IV**

12.25 Close of Session IV

12.30 *Lunch*

SESSION V: Translating empathy in conflict resolution in the Middle East
(Chair: Professor Simon Baron-Cohen)

13.30 Professor Hillel Levine, Boston University/Centre for Conciliation, USA

The role of empathy in conciliation in Palestine and Israel

14.00 Matt Waldman, Associate Fellow, Chatham House, UK

The Missing Peace: Empathy as a Tool of Understanding in International Affairs

14.30 Haifa Staiti, Seeds of Peace and Ned Lazarus, The Israel Institute and Visiting Scholar, University of Maryland

Showcasing best practice: Social programs in fostering empathy between Israeli and Palestinian youth

15.15 Joana Osman, The Peace Factory

Getting to know each other – Peacebuilding with social media

- 15.45 *Refreshments*
- 16.15 **Open discussion of the Conference**
- 16.45 Closing remarks: Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, Cambridge University, UK
- 17.00 *Close of conference*