BEYOND BRIDGES: ISRAEL AND PALESTINE
SUMMER 2020
MAY 18 – JUNE 2, 2020

PROGRAM SUMMARY

This program is run in partnership between the Center for Transformative Education and the University of San Francisco.
December 2, 2019

Dear friend,

Welcome to the Center for Transformative Education! On the following pages you will find information regarding the summer 2020 Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine program (BBIP). We look forward to having you join this exciting, important, and transformative program!

In peace,

Aaron J. Hahn Tapper
Executive Director, CTE

Oren Kroll-Zeldin
Director, Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine (BBIP)
Introduction – CTE and BBIP

The Center for Transformative Education

The Center for Transformative Education was founded in September 2008 as a new educational initiative offering educational programs that empower participants to help transform societies into their potential. Utilizing the expertise our educators have gained in the fields of experiential education, conflict transformation, and traditional teaching settings, and rooted in formal academic training and certifications, CTE’s program goals are to educate participants about three core areas:

- Identity Formation
- Marginalized Groups
- Social In/Justice

In this pursuit, we examine multiple aspects of societies, including, but not limited to, analyses and engagement regarding social relations between and within communities. Ultimately, we strive to empower participants to practice just alternatives to the status quo.

CTE’s educational models are rooted in western and local-cultural methodologies of working with groups in conflict, thereby creating a groundbreaking organic model of facilitation that can be used in any conflict setting. Previously we ran summer experiential programs in the Balkans as well as a facilitation training course implemented in partnership with the School for Peace in Wahat al-Salam/Neve Shalom, Columbia University, and the University of San Francisco. Currently, we are only running one summer experiential program—in Israel and Palestine. Called Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine (BBIP), summer 2020 is our fourth iteration of this trip.
Beyond Bridges: Israel and Palestine (BBIP)

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most complicated conflicts in modern history. The BBIP summer program introduces the chronology and context of this conflict while exploring and analyzing the role of religion, nationalism, violence, non-violence, culture, and social and economic factors related to various stakeholders in the conflict. In this process participants engage in a variety of carefully designed hands-on activities that further their understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and raise their awareness of the potential for transforming this conflict. In this manner, BBIP programs combine rigorous academics and text study with experiential education and practical hands-on training, allowing participants to explore questions at the core of all conflicts.

This creates spaces for both personal and collective growth, helping participants gain new understandings of the roles they play in international conflicts, and how this relates to their political identities. Moving beyond the stage of practical peace agreements, or “beyond bridges,” we challenge participants to look at long-term solutions to end inter-communal conflict, transforming societies into their true potential.

BBIP - History

In partnership with the Center for Global Education at the University of San Francisco, the Center for Transformative Education’s BBIP program was launched in summer 2010 with a pilot group of eight participants from three American schools: Swarthmore College, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of San Francisco. We ran similar programs in summers 2011 and 2012, with 16 students in each group. All three of these iterations ran for three-weeks, engaging participants in both the dominant Jewish Israeli and Palestinian narratives while simultaneously giving participants the opportunity to meet with individuals and organizations working to end, and even transform, this decades-old conflict. Summer 2020 is our fourth iteration of this summer program, and offers a newly revamped two-week program.
BBIP – Program Description

This program is unique in three fundamental ways:

1. **Comparative Approach** - We utilize the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an entry point into re-examining and de-additionalizing conflicts around the world, such as the conflicts in the Balkans and Northern Ireland.

2. **Study Group** - We consider each participant to embody particular political identities. As such we not only engage with Palestinian and Israeli sites, speaker presentations, and academic texts, but also have students study themselves and their location in the world.

3. **Experiential Education** - We travel in Israel and Palestine, exploring this region with local Israelis and Palestinians. This gives participants insights and opportunities one cannot get from books alone.

Structurally speaking, for two weeks during the summer program participants travel together in Israel and Palestine while engaging in three distinct activities:

A. **Presentations** – We meet members of various Israeli and Palestinian communities, including scholars, religious and political leaders, activists and organizers, and members of civil society. Examples of these presentations include:
   - Nationalism and Ethnicity in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza
   - Spheres of Political Life in Israel
   - Spheres of Political Life in the West Bank and Gaza
   - Communal Narratives and War
   - ‘Religious’ Jewish Israelis, Christian Palestinians, and Muslim Palestinians
   - The Role of the Media in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
   - Non-violent Activists in Israel and Palestine
   - Violent Extremists in Israel and Palestine
   - Introduction to Joint Israeli-Palestinian NGOs
   - Identity Politics and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
   - The Role of the United States in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
   - The Role of International NGOs in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
B. **Workshops** – We examine various themes in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and how they compare to patterns found in other conflicts (e.g., the Balkan wars and the Northern Ireland Troubles). Examples of these workshops include:

- Introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Introduction to Comparative Conflict Analysis
- International Law and Conflict
- Violence and Non-violence in Conflict Areas
- Nationalisms and Nations
- The United States, the International Community, and Foreign Policy in Conflict Areas
- Religion and Conflict
- The Politics of Identity
- Narratives and Conflict
- Gender and Society
- Lessons Learned? The Balkan Conflicts, the Northern Ireland Troubles, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

C. **Group Discussion Sessions** - Participants engage in facilitated sessions where they reflect on their backgrounds, socialization processes, and systems of knowledge production. This will not be a “group process”\(^1\) but will be similar to classroom discussions as they normally take place in university settings. This will also be an opportunity for students to explore what it means to be a ‘third party’ to a conflict as well as an opportunity to discuss thoughts and emotions as connected to this intense program.

Integral to the summer educational experience, and in particular our workshops, is our course reader, a reading packet comprised of two sections of scholarly articles: (a) Introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and (b) Comparative Conflict Analysis and Transformation. We distribute the reading list prior to the summer program as participants are expected to arrive in Israel and Palestine having already read the materials.

BBIP – Sample Daily Schedule

Here are a few sample daily schedules:

**Day One**
8AM Breakfast [Hotel, Jerusalem]
9AM Group Activities [Hotel]
9:30AM Depart for Tour of Bethlehem
5PM Return from Tour
6PM Group Dinner [Jerusalem]
7PM Group Discussion/Workshop/Preparation for next day’s trip 
(e.g., Jerusalem)

**Day Two**
8AM Breakfast
9AM Group Activities
9:30AM Depart for Tour of Old City of Jerusalem
4PM Return from Tour
6PM Dinner, students given per diem
7PM Group Discussion/Workshop/Preparation for next day’s trip 
(e.g., Jaffa and Hebron)

**Day Three**
8AM Breakfast (to go)/Depart for Tour of Jaffa/Group Activities (on bus)
9AM Tour of Jaffa
3PM Return to Jerusalem
3:30 Depart for Hebron for Special Activity
4PM Special Dinner with BBIP Staff Member’s Family
9PM Return to Jerusalem
## BBIP – Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 2, 2019</td>
<td>- Application forms posted on-line.</td>
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<td>- Completed applications are reviewed in the order they are received (on a rolling basis) until CTE has a maximum of 16 students.</td>
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<td>March 1, 2020</td>
<td>- Last day to submit $500 non-refundable deposit without incurring a penalty.²</td>
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<td>March and April 2020</td>
<td>- Mandatory Pre-Program Orientation (held on USF’s Campus; specific dates to be determined). Detailed information on this required component of the program will be solidified in the beginning of 2020.</td>
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<td>May 18, 2020</td>
<td>- BBIP officially begins. Students depart SFO for Ben Gurion International Airport (Tel Aviv, Israel).</td>
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<td>May 19, 2020</td>
<td>- Students arrive in Jerusalem. Program begins. Students are based in Jerusalem for the entire program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2, 2020</td>
<td>- BBIP officially ends. Students depart TLV for SFO.</td>
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² For more information on the various ways to make this payment, see “How to Submit the $500 Deposit,” found below.
BBIP – Academic Credits/Units

By participating in the summer 2020 BBIP program students will receive four academic credit/units through the University of San Francisco. The per credit/unit costs will be determined by USF and posted on-line by the end of 2019. Whether or not a participant wants or needs academic credit, because the program is run through the University of San Francisco all participants need to pay four academic credits to go on the summer 2020 BBIP program, no matter their “student status” (i.e., including those participants who have already graduated from a university).

BBIP – Who Can Apply?

The summer 2020 BBIP program is open to anyone over the age of eighteen regardless of profession or nationality. Undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled at the University of San Francisco will be given priority over non-USF students. Thereafter, currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at American-based schools will be considered. In addition, we accept students not currently enrolled in a university, whether such individuals have never taken a college course, are university alumni, or are retired from a previous profession and currently engage in lifelong learning programs. All students who are not currently enrolled at USF need to complete a Visiting Student form, which can be found on-line through www.usfca.edu/visitingstudents/. This applies to all non-USF participants, whether currently enrolled in another university or not.

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3 Note that all student participants must read all of the information found on this U.S. Department of State webpage, including all relevant links. All travelers seeking to enter or depart Israel are subject to strict immigration and security screening. This may include prolonged questioning, physical searches, and ultimately travelers may be denied entry or exit. All student participants should read the “Entry, Exit, and Visa requirements” on the U.S. State Department website to familiarize themselves with the complexities of entry and exit into Israel and the West Bank. If you have questions or concerns about visa requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your individual circumstances.
BBIP – Program Fees

The costs to participate in the summer 2020 BBIP program include Program fee + r/t flight + 4 credits/units + travel insurance (strongly encouraged). More specifically:

1. Program fee*
   - $3,610 (NOTE: SEE BELOW.)
   - Additional costs will be added for those students applying after March 1, 2020.

2. R/T Flight*
   - We estimate that this cost will be approximately $1,000. (NOTE: SEE BELOW.)

3. Academic credit:
   - Summer 2019 cost for undergraduate students to take a 4-credit course was $4,740 or $1,185/credit. We estimate that for summer 2020 this cost will be closer to $4,900. USF will solidify this amount by December 31, 2019.

4. Travel Insurance
   - We strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance to cover the costs of a potential cancellation. We estimate that this cost will be approximately $250. More information about this particular insurance plan can be found here. This option will be discussed in further detail at the pre-departure briefing in early March.

**APPROXIMATE TOTAL: $500 + 4 credits (tbd) + travel insurance (tbd)**

* The actual program fee—the tangible amount that will be paid per student—is $3,610. However, all USF students will receive a $1,400 scholarship from the Dee Swig Israel Scholarship Fund. In addition, effective December 9, 2019, all students will receive additional monies toward their program fee as well as their r/t flight if they agree to participate in BBIP as a Germanacos Fellow (see below for more details). In doing so, in lieu of the full program fee ($3,610) and the r/t flight, each student only needs to pay the

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4 As stated previously, regardless of whether or not a participant wants or needs academic credit, because the program is run through the University of San Francisco all participants need to pay four academic credits to go on the summer 2020 BBIP program, no matter their “student status” (i.e., including those participants who have already graduated from a university).
$500 non-refundable deposit. For more information, see below, under “BBIP – Scholarships.”
BBIP – How to Submit the $500 Deposit

You are able to submit the deposit in one of the following methods:

1. **In-Person – via Student Accounts in Lone Mountain 203**

   Students can remit a check or cash payment in-person in Lone Mountain room 203. It is important to designate the $500 deposit as a TUITION PREPAYMENT for the respective term you intend to enroll (i.e., Summer 2020). If you do not designate the payment as a tuition prepayment the deposit may be applied to any outstanding balance you owe to USF.

2. **Online Payment – as a Student Payer via e-check**

   Go to the following webpage: [https://myusf.usfca.edu/billing-tuition/pay](https://myusf.usfca.edu/billing-tuition/pay)

   Select the appropriate term in which the deposit will be applied (i.e., Summer 2020, and designate it as a TUITION PREPAYMENT.

3. **Online Payment – as a Guest Payer via credit card**

   Go to the following webpage: [https://myusf.usfca.edu/billing-tuition/pay](https://myusf.usfca.edu/billing-tuition/pay)

   Select the appropriate term in which the deposit will be applied (i.e., Summer 2020, and designate it as a TUITION PREPAYMENT.

**IMPORTANT:** Whether you pay in-person or online, upon submitting your deposit you must retain a copy of the receipt or deposit transaction as proof. Thereafter, email it to the BBIP Director, Oren Kroll-Zeldin (omkrollzeldin@usfca.edu).
BBIP – Scholarships

Dee Swig Israel Scholarship Fund

The program fee cost of $3,610 + the r/t flight cost does not include the $1,400 scholarship from the Dee Swig Israel Fund. Per the directives of this scholarship fund, this scholarship is only for USF students and must be reimbursed in full if a student withdraws from the program.

Germanacos Fellowship

The program fee cost of $3,610 + the r/t flight cost does not include the Germanacos Fellowship. Per the directives of this scholarship fund, this scholarship is only for USF students and must be reimbursed in full if a student withdraws from the program.

The Germanacos Fellowship is designed for BBIP students to enhance their community engagement in the academic year immediately following the summer program. Based on their learning and personal experiences on BBIP, the Fellowship empowers students to return to their communities and work from within to create positive change. During the duration of the Fellowship, students will have direct access to USF faculty and community partners—specifically, but not limited to, those directly involved in the summer BBIP program—as they make sense of their educational experience in Israel and Palestine and engage more meaningfully with social justice issues in their own communities.

The Germanacos Fellowship has three main components:

1. Community Engagement Project – In conjunction with USF faculty and BBIP staff, each Germanacos Fellow will design and implement a Community Engagement Project rooted in conflict transformation, social justice, and/or human rights. This project will focus on either the students’ campus or home community. The Fellows have creative license to design, build, and implement a project that they believe will have meaning in their community.
2. **Community Presentations** – Each Germanacos Fellow is required to make a public presentation about BBIP in their “home community” within six months of the conclusion of the trip. The presentations should focus on the educational experience as well as the role that their own social identities play(ed) in shaping their understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and other social justice issues.

3. **Post-Trip Meetings** – Germanacos Fellows are expected to attend two post-trip group meetings. During these meetings, fellows will continue the group learning that started during the summer program, meet with local social justice activists, and report back to the group about the progress of their Community Engagement Projects.

**Arrupe Scholarships**

There are a limited number of Arrupe scholarships, reserved for the most deserved students in terms of economic need. These scholarships will be anywhere from $500 to $1,000, depending on resources, as determined in spring 2020.

**Additional Scholarships - Suggestions**

As for other scholarship opportunities, we recommend that students look into other scholarship opportunities as early as possible. Please note that many of the scholarships are for people with particular social identities and/or specific backgrounds (e.g., Californian, Hispanic, Jewish, etc).
BBIP – What does the Program Fee cover?

The Program fee covers all ground transportation related to the program (including travel to/from Ben Gurion International Airport but not travel to/from SFO), three meals per day, all entrance fees for program-related visits, and hotel accommodation.

BBIP – Sleeping Accommodations

Throughout the program students will stay in tourist-class accommodation located in Jerusalem (e.g., previously we’ve had 3-star hotel accommodation). Generally, students will be placed in two-person or three-person rooms. Single rooms can be arranged upon request for additional fees.
**Withdrawal**

If a student chooses to withdraw from the program—for any reason—they must notify the BBIP Director immediately in writing (it is permissible to send an email from the applicant’s personal email address that CTE has on file). The request to withdraw from the program will be effective as of the date that written notification is received by the BBIP Director. Students may not officially withdraw from the course through a telephone conversation, though it is permissible, and even encouraged, to first unofficially withdraw in person or via a telephone conversation and thereafter send in written notification to complete the official withdrawal.

A student who withdraws from the program will be responsible for any expenses incurred on their behalf prior to the date of withdrawal from the program, an amount to be determined by CTE and USF. All of such expenses are non-refundable. If a student pays for additional Travel Insurance, they might be covered for such a withdrawal; there are various coverages based on what plan the student purchases.

Finally, note that the scholarship funds provided by the Dee Swig Israel Fund as well as the Germanacos Fellowship will also need to be reimbursed in full if a student withdraws from the program.

**Program Cancellation**

In the event that USF has to cancel the program, whether prior to the start date or during the program itself, enrolled students will be notified in writing. Specifics will be given at that time.
BBIP Program Staff

As of December 2019, Oren Kroll-Zeldin is the Director of the summer 2020 BBIP program. He is currently solidifying a second faculty member in addition to two on-the-ground summer BBIP staff members who are based in Jerusalem. Check back soon for updates.

Oren Kroll-Zeldin, a full-time faculty member at USF, holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology and Social Change from the California Institute of Integral Studies where he also received an MA in Cultural Anthropology and Social Transformation. He is the Assistant Director of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice where he teaches courses on Jewish culture, identity and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and also serves as the associate director of Hebrew San Francisco: Ulpan, a three-week intensive Hebrew language program offered each summer at USF. Additionally, he is the co-founder and lead curator of Mapping Jewish San Francisco, a new digital humanities project of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice that takes a collaborative approach to examining the complex history and unique religious, cultural, and political identity of the Jewish San Francisco Bay Area. In 2017, he received the USF Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award.

Oren is also the director of the Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine program with the Center for Global Education at USF and the Center for Transformative Education and has led numerous study trips to Israel/Palestine. He is an experienced facilitator for groups in conflict and was trained by the former director of the pre-eminent School for Peace in Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salaam (Oasis of Peace). His facilitation work brings together people from diverse backgrounds and focuses on issues relating to identity, power, privilege, conflict, and social justice. Oren’s writing has appeared in numerous journals, books, and online publications including Jerusalem Quarterly, Tikkun, International Journal of Education for Social Justice, and +972 Magazine.
CTE Staff

As of December 2019, Aaron Hahn Tapper is the Executive Director of the Center for Transformative Education, which he co-founded in 2008.

Aaron J. Hahn Tapper, the Mae and Benjamin Swig Professor in Jewish Studies and the founding Director of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice, has been at USF since 2007. An educator for more than two decades, his primary academic interest is the intersection between identity formation, social justice, and marginalized groups. Aaron completed his PhD in the Religious Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he studied the History of Religions, the Sociology of Religions, Nonviolence and Religions, Politics and Religions, and Modern Islamic Movements. His Dissertation focused on the relationship between power, the sociopolitical context of Israel and Palestine, and Jewish and Islamic religious law (halachah and shari’a, respectively). He also received an MTS from Harvard Divinity School, where he focused on World Religions, and a BA from Johns Hopkins University, where he majored in Psychology.

In 2003 he founded Abraham’s Vision, a conflict transformation organization that ran educational programs within and between the Muslim, Jewish, Palestinian, and Israeli communities, for whom he served as Co-Executive Director through May 2013. Aaron has lived and studied abroad in a number of places, including Bir Zeit, Cairo, Fes, the Hague, and Jerusalem. Academically fluent in multiple dialects of Hebrew and Arabic, he has received numerous awards and fellowships for his work, including the Harvard University Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, and the Wexner Graduate Fellowship.

He has co-edited two volumes—*Muslims and Jews in America: Commonalities, Contentions, and Complexities*, with Reza Aslan (2011) and *Social Justice and Israel/Palestine: Foundational and Contemporary Debates*, with Mira Sucharov (2019)—and written *Judaisms: A Twenty-First-Century Introduction to Jews and Jewish Identities* (2016). During the 2013-14 academic year, Aaron was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Australia. Affiliated with the University of Melbourne and Monash University, he traveled around the country conducting research on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (sometimes referred to as the “First Peoples” of Australia) have received former Prime Minister Bob Hawke’s Federal Recognition Agreement.
Minister Kevin Rudd’s political apology, delivered in February 2008. He is currently writing a book on this research, comparing the situation of Australia’s First Peoples with that of Native Americans.
Travel to Israel and Palestine (according to the US Dept. of State)


Visa Information

Citizens of the United States do not require a visa to enter Israel, but must have a passport valid for at least six months beyond the duration of one’s stay. American citizens may also be required to provide a round-trip ticket and/or proof of sufficient funds. US citizens do not need a visa to visit the West Bank. Students who do not currently hold a US passport are responsible for obtaining any and all visas or other immigration documents to enter Israel. Please check with the BBIP Director, Oren Kroll-Zeldin, before beginning this process. For more information see: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country/Israel.html.

Medical Information (according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regularly updates their suggestions regarding travel to Israel and Palestine. For more information see: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/israel.
University of San Francisco

USF Vision

The University of San Francisco will be internationally recognized as a premier Jesuit Catholic, urban university with a global perspective that educates leaders who will fashion a more humane and just world.

USF Mission

The core mission of the university is to promote learning in the Jesuit Catholic tradition. The university offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional students the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as persons and professionals, and the values and sensitivity necessary to be men and women for others. The university will distinguish itself as a diverse, socially responsible learning community of high quality scholarship and academic rigor sustained by a faith that does justice. The university will draw from the cultural, intellectual, and economic resources of the San Francisco Bay Area and its location on the Pacific Rim to enrich and strengthen its educational programs.

USF Core Values

The University’s core values include a belief in and a commitment to advancing:

- the Jesuit Catholic tradition that views faith and reason as complementary resources in the search for truth and authentic human development, and that welcomes persons of all faiths or no religious beliefs as fully contributing partners to the University;
- the freedom and the responsibility to pursue truth and follow evidence to its conclusion;
- learning as a humanizing, social activity rather than a competitive exercise;
- a common good that transcends the interests of particular individuals or groups; and reasoned discourse rather than coercion as the norm for decision making;
- diversity of perspectives, experiences and traditions as essential components of a quality education in our global context;
• excellence as the standard for teaching, scholarship, creative expression and service to the University community;
• social responsibility in fulfilling the University’s mission to create, communicate and apply knowledge to a world shared by all people and held in trust for future generations;
• the moral dimension of every significant human choice: taking seriously how and who we choose to be in the world;
• the full, integral development of each person and all persons, with the belief that no individual or group may rightfully prosper at the expense of others;
• a culture of service that respects and promotes the dignity of every person.