

# Irena Kalhousová, Ph.D.

Orcid: 0000-0002-4446-1867

Email: [irena.kalhousova@fsv.cuni.cz](mailto:irena.kalhousova@fsv.cuni.cz)

URL: [www.herzl.cuni.cz](http://www.herzl.cuni.cz)

Address: Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, U Kříže 8, Praha 5, 15800, Czech Republic

## • CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2019 - now      **Assistant Professor**, Department of International Studies and Department of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, CZ
- 2019 - now      **Head of the Herzl Center for Israel Studies**, Charles University, CZ
- Direct an internationally recognized, university-wide research and teaching Center focused on modern Israel and relations between Israel and Central European countries. Teach and design both graduate and undergraduate courses. Moderate and organize academic workshops and public discussions. Responsibility for the Center's further development, PR, and fundraising.
- 2020 - now      **Research Fellow**, Peace Research Center Prague: Center of Excellence Focused on the prevention, management, and transformation of conflicts in world politics, Charles University, CZ
- Write academic papers and analyses on Israel and Europe-Israeli relations.
- 2003 – now      **Live Media Commentator**, TV, Radio, and Printed and Electronic Media
- Provide live commentaries covering Israel, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and current Middle Eastern affairs for Czech and international media; wrote commentaries (49 live appearances in 2020, 56 in 2021, 46 in 2022, 170 in 2023).

## • EDUCATION

- 2014 - 2019      **Ph.D. London School of Economics and Political Science, UK**  
Department of International Relations  
Thesis Title: "Our Jews, our Israel: Origins of the Foreign Policy of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary Towards Israel." Supervisor Dr. Federica Bicchì
- 2006 - 2007      **M.Phil. University of Cambridge, UK**  
Department of International Relations and European Studies  
Thesis title: "EU-Israeli Bilateral Relations." Supervisor: Professor Christopher Hill
- 2001 - 2005      **B.A. Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel**  
Department of Political Science

## • AWARDS

- 2024      **Miloslav Petrusek Prize for Presentation and Promotion** for long-term development of the third pillar of the university through activities in the

media, participation in public discussions and lecturing activities in high schools, Rector, Charles University

2023

**A Special Recognition of the Dean** for commentaries on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the media, Faculty of Social Science, Charles University

## • RESEARCH GRANTS

2022-2026

**PRIMUS: A four-year research grant**, Charles University, CZ

Interdisciplinary research at the intersection of foreign policy and memory politics focused on how traumatic events affect international relations of European states.

- Primary Investigator: Lead an international, seven-member research team.
- Topic: "The Past is Present: The Use and Misuse of Traumatic Historical Events in Foreign Policy."
- Budget: \$490.000

2020-2023

**e-NOTE: European Network on Teaching Excellence**, funded by the EU's Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership Framework

Research focused on "teaching excellence" in Higher Education in the EU. In cooperation with six universities across Europe.

- Research Fellow: Develop best practices in the field of online and offline teaching

## • PUBLICATIONS

### Journals (peer-reviewed)

- 2024, Kalhousová, Irena and Emmanuelle Blanc, "Conceptualizing the Foreign Policy Roles of States dealing with Historical Trauma: The Case of Israel," *European Journal of International Relations*. Doi: 10.1177/13540661241278305.
- 2024, Kalhousová, Irena, Eugene Finkel & Jiří Kocián, "The Traumatic Past is Back: Historical Analogies and European Responses to the War in Ukraine," *International Affairs*. 100(6), pp. 2501-2523, Doi: 10.1093/ia/iiae228.
- 2024, Kalhousová Irena, Sarah Komarová, Tereza Plíštilová, Michal Smetana & Marek Vranka, "Elite-Public Gaps in Attitudes towards Israel and Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: New Evidence from a Survey of Czech Parliamentarians and Citizens," *East European Politics*. Doi: 10.1080/21599165.2024.2415641.
- 2021, Kalhousová, Irena, „Ženy v izraelské společnosti," [Women in Israeli Society] *Nový Orient*, 74(3), pp. 50-60.
- 2020, Kalhousová, Irena & Stela Rubínová, "The Visegrád Group and Its Voting Patterns on the Israeli-Arab/Palestinian Conflict in the UN General Assembly," *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, 14(3), pp. 457-475.
- 2015, Kalhousová, Irena, "Relations between Israel and the Czech Republic: From Sentiment to Pragmatism?" *Strategic Assessment*, 18(3), pp. 93-104.
- 2013, Kalhousová, Irena, „Íránský jaderný program: nástroj domácí a zahraniční politiky," [Iranian nuclear programme: A domestic and foreign policy tool] *Vojenské rozhledy*, 22(54), pp. 42-57.

### Book Chapters (peer-reviewed)

- 2024, Kalhousová, Irena, "Israel and Central Europe," In: *Routledge Handbook on Israel's Foreign Relations*, Eds. Peters, Joel and Rob Geist Pinfeld, Routledge. ISBN 9780367499761.
- 2021, Kalhousová, Irena, „Írán: skryté soupeření a hybridní operace," [Iran: hidden rivalries and hybrid operations] In: *Vzestup a podoby hybridní války*, Eds. Kurfürst, Jaroslav a Jan Paďourek, Academia, ISBN: 978-80-200-3237-9.
- 2016, Kalhousová, Irena, "Unwilling to Succeed: The Czech Position on U.S. Missile Defense – Between Strategy and Public Political Debate," In: *Arms Control and Strategic Stability in the Middle East and Europe*, Eds. Landau Emily & Anat Kurz, Tel Aviv, ISBN: 978-965-7425-94-7.
- 2013, Kalhousová, Irena, „Nahý v trní: aneb pozice Izraele v proměněném arabském světě," [Israel after the Arab Spring] In: *Arabské revoluce: Demokratické výzvy, politický islám a geopolitické dopady*, Ed. Beránek, Ondřej, Academia, ISBN: 978-80-200-2298-1.

### Working papers (peer-reviewed)

- 2020, Kalhousová, Irena, *Láska či pragmatismus. Vztahy České republiky, Polska a Maďarska k Izraeli*, [Pragmatism or Love? Polish, Czech, and Hungarian Relations towards Israel] New Directions.
- 2017, Kalhousová, Irena, „Idee a praxe české zahraniční politiky," [Ideas and Practices in the Czech Foreign Policy] In: *Maximum možného? 25 let samostatné české a slovenské zahraniční politiky*, Eds. Dostál, Vít & Grigorij Mesežnikov, Kultbüro Sachsen e.V.
- 2009, Kalhousová, Irena, "The Hopelessness of the Middle East Peace Process," *The New Presence* (2).

### Work in progress

- Kalhousová, Irena, *Our Jews, Our Israel! Origins of the Foreign Policy of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary towards Israel* [Book manuscript R&R – Cambridge University Press].

### Writings for non-academic public

#### BOOK

- 2024, Kalhousová Irena and Ondřej Kundra, *Izrael ve stínu 7. října* (Israel in the shadow of October 7th), Respekt Publisher, Praha.

#### ARTICLES

- 2024, Kalhousová, Irena, „Israel's Struggle for Peace at Home," *Australian Outlook*, 7.11. <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/israels-struggle-for-peace-at-home/>
- 2024, Kalhousová, Irena, „Izrael rok po útocích: Země zůstává rozpolecena, ale Netanjahu získává zpět podporu" *Hospodářské noviny*, 8.10.
- 2023, Kalhousová, Irena, „Hamásu se povedlo rozbít i to málo důvěry mezi Izraelci a Palestinci. Trauma z říjnového masakru přetrvává po generace," *Hospodářské noviny*, 29.12.
- 2023, Kalhousová, Irena, „Izrael v politické krizi: hrozí, že z něj bude nedemokratický, náboženský a výlučně etnický stát," *Hospodářské noviny*, 7.3.
- 2022, Kalhousová, Irena, „Páté předčasné volby v Izraeli jsou tu. Přežije je izraelská demokracie?" *Hospodářské noviny*, 1.11.
- 2022, Kalhousová, Irena, „Izrael se zlobí na Lavrova. Ale myslet bude hlavně na to, jak se vyhnout konfliktu s Moskvou," *Hospodářské noviny*, 5.5.

- 2022, Kalhousová, Irena, „Proč je Izrael tak opatrný v podpoře Ukrajiny a odsouzení Ruska?“ *Hospodářské noviny*, 9.3.
- 2021, Kalhousová, Irena, „Škodí Zeman Izraeli? I ten potřebuje slyšet kritiku, obzvláště když přichází od přítele,“ *Hospodářské noviny*, 13.12.
- 2021, Kalhousová, Irena, „Populista Netanjahu – jedna z příčin současného konfliktu,“ *Hospodářské noviny*, 18.5.
- 2020, Kalhousová, Irena, „Referendum proti Netanjahuovi skončilo patem,“ *Deník E15*, 5.3.
- 2020, Kalhousová, Irena, „Kdo rozumí Izraeli ví, že není jen zlý nebo hodný,“ *Hospodářské noviny*, 27.5.
- 2020, Kalhousová, Irena, „Palestinci přicházejí o jedno z posledních es,“ *Hospodářské noviny*, 17.8.
- 2020, Kalhousová, Irena, „Na Blízkém východě možná vzniká koalice proti politickému islámu,“ *Hospodářské noviny*, 6.11.
- 2017, Kalhousová, Irena, “What Should Bibi Know before Landing in Budapest for the V4 Summit?,” *Visegrad Insight*, 11.7.
- 2015, Kalhousová, Irena & Pavlína Schulz, “The Wingmen: A Story of Czechoslovak Pilots and Air-Force Technicians in the Service of Israel.” *The Times of Israel*, 20.4.
- 2014, Kalhousová, Irena, „Izrael v proměnách času,“ *Prostor*, 103/104, pp. 155-175.

## • TEACHING

Areas of teaching interests: Modern Israel, The Israeli-Arab Conflict, Relations between Europe and Israel, with a special focus on Central Europe, International Relations, Politics of Memory

Courses taught:

- Israel: Politics and Society (undergraduate)
- The Israeli-Arab/Palestinian Conflict (undergraduate)
- Israel's Foreign Policy (undergraduate)
- History, Memory, and Politics: Central Europe and Israel (graduate)

## Teaching Awards

2024, 2023, 2021 **Golden Course Faculty Teaching Award** for the best undergraduate course, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, CZ

## Guest Lectures

2023 November **University of Heidelberg**, Germany  
Topic: “Trauma and Foreign Policy: Israel and the Gaza Strip”

2021 January **University of Hawai’i**, Honolulu, USA  
Topic: “From the “Jewish Question” to the Love of Israel: The Role of Memory Politics in the Foreign Policy of Poland and Czechia”

2020-2021 **Lauder Schools of Prague**  
Course taught: “Falafel and Kalashnikov: The Contemporary Middle East”  
A course for junior and senior high-school students

2019 **Jagellonian University, Krakow**, Poland (part of the Erasmus+ Higher Education: Staff Mobility Agreement)  
Topics: Qualitative Methodologies in International Relations, How to Write a PhD

## Prior Teaching Positions

- 2015 – 2018      **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, London School of Economics, Department of Government, UK  
Course taught: "Political Systems in Europe"
- 2007-2012      **Lecturer**, Anglo-American University, Prague, CZ  
Courses taught: "The EU-Israel Relations," "The Arab-Israeli Conflict," "The History of European Integration," "Institutions of the EU"
- **ACADEMIC TRAINING**

2020      **Teaching with Impact**, The Israeli Institute, USA  
A three-day workshop designed for scholars who teach on modern Israel

2015 – 2016      **Postgraduate Certificate (Associate Level) in Higher Education**, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK  
Modules completed: "Developing Teaching Practice," "Supporting Students Learning," "Course Evaluation and Quality Frameworks"

2016      **ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques**, Bamberg, Germany  
Course attended: "Comparative Historical Analysis"
  - **FELLOWSHIPS**

2022 (one week)      **Fellow**  
An Academic Exchange mission to Israel and the Palestinian Territories

2021 (one month)      **Visiting Scholar**  
Summer Institute for Israel Studies, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, Boston, USA

2018 (three months)      **Visiting Fellow**  
European University Institute, Florence, Italy

2013 (six months)      **Masaryk Distinguished Chair**  
Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel
  - **PRIOR RESEARCH POSITIONS**

2013 – 2014      **Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv, Israel**  
Research Fellow: Wrote white papers on the Middle East and security

2010 - 2013      **Prague Security Studies Institute, Prague, Czech Republic**  
Chief Analyst: Wrote white papers on the Middle East, security, and transatlantic relations for, e.g., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior; managed research projects; organized and chaired conferences; taught securities studies students.

2009 – 2022      **Foundation Forum 2000, Prague, Czech Republic** - Founded by Václav Havel  
Member of the Program Committee: developed and chaired panels.

2008 - 2009                    **Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Prague, Czech Republic**  
Project Coordinator: Conceptual and organizational preparation of the activities and publications of the HBS during the Czech presidency of the European Council; reported on the political development in the Czech Republic.

02/2005 - 07/2005           **Holocaust Museum Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel**  
Processed pages of testimony that commemorate those who perished during the Shoah.

• **CONFERENCES**

- 2024                    **Association of Israel Studies & European Association of Israel Studies, Prague, Czech Republic**  
Conference Paper: How Do States Regain Ontological Security in the Wake of Trauma? The Case of Israel after October 7
- 2023                    **European International Studies Association, Potsdam, Germany**  
Conference Paper: Conceptualizing the Foreign Policy Roles on Traumatized States: The Case of Israel
- 2023                    **ECPR, Praha, Czech Republic**  
Conference Paper: The Traumatic Past is Back: Historical Analogies and European Responses to the War in Ukraine (with Jiří Kocián)
- 2023                    **Association for Israel Studies, New York, USA**  
Conference Paper: "Conceptualizing the Foreign Policy Roles on Traumatized States: The Case of Israel"
- 2023                    **International Studies Association, Montreal, Canada**  
Conference Paper: "The Past is Back: World War II and European Responses to the War in Ukraine"
- 2022                    **European Association for Israel Studies, Oxford, UK**  
Conference Paper: "Czech Attitudes towards Israel: Public Opinion vs Foreign Policy."
- 2022                    **Association of Israel Studies, Bar Ilan, Israel**  
Conference Paper: "Dissident Past and Divergent Present: How Dissident Legacy Influences Diplomacy with Israel."
- 2021                    **European International Studies Association, via Zoom**  
Conference Paper: "Populist Politics of Memory and Foreign Relations: Polish-Israeli Relations through a Theoretical Lens."
- 2019                    **European Association for Israel Studies, Charles University, CZ**  
Conference Paper: "The Visegrad Four and Israel – Much Ado About Nothing?"
- 2019                    **Association of Israel Studies, Kinneret College, Israel**  
Conference Paper: "Polish and Hungarian relations towards Israel: From an Admiration of a Start-up Nation to Respect for an Ethnic Nation.?"
- 2018                    **Council for European Studies, Graduate Workshop, University of Chicago, USA**  
Paper: "The Meaning of Israel in the Foreign Policy of Central European Countries: A Theoretical Outline."
- 2016                    **ECPR Graduate Student Conference, Tartu, Estonia**  
Conference Paper: "A Representation of the Historical Legacy in the Polish Foreign Policy towards Israel."
- 2016                    **European Association of Israel Studies, Graduate Workshop, SOAS, London, UK**  
Conference Paper: "Strange Bedfellows? History and Foreign Policy Analysis."

2016

**Association for Israel Studies, Jerusalem, Israel**

Conference Paper: "A Representation of the Historical Legacy in the Czech Foreign Policy Towards Israel."