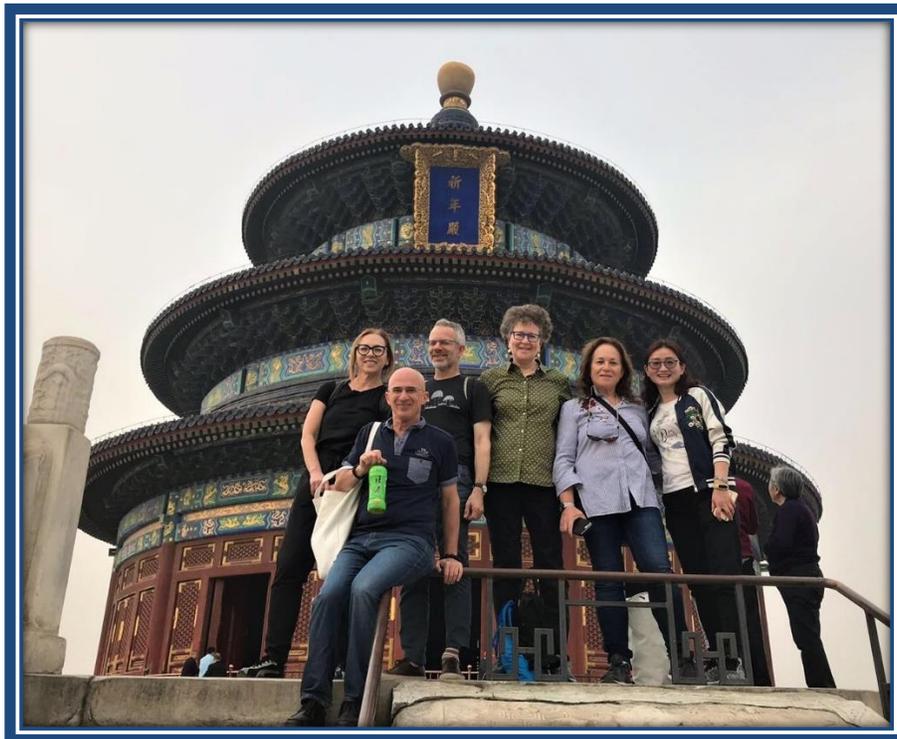




### Modern Hebrew Language Conference in China

Members of the School of Hebrew participated in a Hebrew language conference in China from March 22-25, 2018. The conference was called *Teaching Hebrew and Israeli Culture in a Global Context: New Approaches* and took place at Peking University in Beijing. It was organized by Peking University (PKU), the Middlebury School of Hebrew, VT, and the University of Cambridge, England, and generously supported by The Israel Institute, Inc. (Grant ID #20217). Peking University is home to the Teaching and Research Division of the Hebrew Language and Culture.



The goal of the seminar was to convene practitioners, researchers, and students of Hebrew and Israeli culture from several institutions of higher education across China to explore innovative curricular and pedagogical approaches that connect Israeli culture and the Hebrew language.

The event was attended by 28 people and included sessions on the following topics:

- How to articulate and aspire for realistic learning goals.

- Recommended content and sequence of academic courses.
- Assessment tools for summative and informative purposes.
- The role and characteristics of co-curricular activities.
- The profile of the ideal Hebrew language instructor.
- Different ways to integrate culture into language instruction, and recommendations on how to develop courses on Israeli culture as part of an Israel Studies program.
- Israeli Literature: A summary of the history of Modern Hebrew literature and the ways it shaped Israeli culture. Examples from key texts will be given.
- Israeli Cinema: A summary of the history of Israeli cinema as a reflection of major trends in the development of Israeli culture. Excerpts from key films will be shown.
- Discussion on practices related to the Hebrew lesson and how to maximize the lesson as a resource for both language and culture.

China is experiencing great growth in Hebrew and Israel Studies programs. They have serious need for more trained instructors, in both Hebrew and various Israel Studies-related disciplines, and resources (textbooks, source books, movies and more). What they most desire is a reciprocal relationship with institutions outside China, like Middlebury, where they can send their graduate students and instructors to train (not at an Ulpan but in graduate programs that would train them as teachers), and that can serve as a resource for recruiting instructors to come to China to teach.