China and Israel
Strange Bedfellows (1948-2016)

Professor Aron Shai (Tel Aviv University)

5pm, May 10, 2017 (Wednesday); Rooms 8 & 9, FAMES

Abstract  The Sino-Israeli story is a most thrilling story. It encompasses unique history, culture, complex diplomacy and worldwide business. This is on the whole a success story. An attempt will be made here to feature the wide picture of Sino-Israeli relations from a historical-political perspective, from Jewish-Israeli standpoint and from the author's personal stance. The speaker will devote special place to Israeli firms' activity in China, to the reasons for their respective successes and failures and to Chinese current high-tech, innovation and infra-structural investments in Israel with a special emphasis on contrasting viewpoints regarding this new trend. An attempt will be made to critically examine the process of privatization with a specific emphasis on the government's practice to privatize and sell national infrastructures such as ports, railways to the Chinese and let them operate some of these. This includes the proposed Red-Med Railway (from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean), an important geo-strategic communication line parallel to the Suez Canal. Why did the government sell Tnuva, Israel's largest food manufacturer and distributor, a household name and a Zionist icon, to the Chinese?

All seminars take place on Wednesdays (unless otherwise arranged) at 5pm in rooms 8 & 9 in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Tea will be served at the same venue at 4:45pm. All are welcome!
**Speaker** Professor Aron Shai is the Pro-Rector of Tel Aviv University, The Shoul N. Eisenberg Professor for East Asian Affairs and member at the Departments of History and East Asian Studies. His main field of research is China in the international arena. He served as a guest/Visiting Professor at St. Antony's College and Mansfield College, Oxford; University of Toronto; Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales and Science Po, Paris; Columbia University; New York University, and the Hebrew University, Jerusalem; visitor at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. Also served as the Chair of the History Curriculum Committee of the Ministry of Education, as member of the Council of Higher Education and as the Chair of the History and East Asian Studies Departments, Tel-Aviv University. He also served as Director in two insurance companies, the Israel Phoenix Assurance Company Ltd. and the Israel Credit Insurance Company Ltd. (ICIC). He was awarded B.A. in History and Philosophy and an M.A. in History *cum laude*, the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, D. Phil., St. Antony's College, University of Oxford. He authored ten books: *Origins of the War in the East: Britain, China, Japan 1937-1939; China in International Affairs 1840-1990; Britain and China 1941-1947: Imperial Momentum; The Fate of British and French Firms in China 1949-54: Imperialism Imprisoned; Twentieth Century China; Zhang Xueliang – The General Who Never Fought; Sino- Israeli Relations; The Evolution of Israeli-Chinese Friendship; and two historical novels, Benhazar – Son to a Stranger and She used to Call him Mano.*

Professor Aron Shai’s homepage: [http://www.tau.ac.il/aashai/](http://www.tau.ac.il/aashai/)

Covers of some of Professor Aron Shai’s books (Including editions in English, Hebrew and Chinese)
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