

Prof. (PhD) Galia Sabar

Prof. Galia Sabar, President of the Ruppin Academic College, is a leading scholar in African Studies. In 2016, she was selected to the Presidency of Ruppin Academic Center (RAC), one of the leading colleges in Israel.

In the early 2000s, Prof. Sabar led the initiation and augmentation of the Inter-University program in African Studies within the Israeli academia. Between 2009-2015 she was Chair of African Studies at Tel Aviv University and Co-chaired the university's Forum for Gender Studies.

For the past 25 years, Prof. Sabar research has focused on four main themes: Ethiopian Jews (in Ethiopia and Israel); World Migrations with special emphasis on African migrants and refugees; Socio-political factors affecting HIV/AIDS prevention education in East Africa; and the relation between religion and politics in Africa. Her publications include five books, two edited volumes and over 40 articles in academic journals.

Prof. Sabar is a world-renowned lecturer. She has participated in hundreds of international conferences worldwide including in Ivy League universities in the US, top rated universities in Europe, and within the African continent.

In an attempt to translate her research into effective tools for change, Prof. Sabar is an activist in several Israeli and international NGO's including *The Jerusalem AIDS Project*, *Hotline for Migrants and Refugees*, *IRAC: Israel Religious Action Center and NALA – fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases*. Over the years, she has developed several hands-on professional trainings and workshops. She was part of a team that created the first HIV/AIDS prevention program for Ethiopian Jews in Israel and led an international team that designed Rwanda's national program to fight HIV/AIDS in the late 1990s.

Prof. Sabar took an active part in designing an intervention program to eradicate neglected tropical diseases in Ethiopia and other East African countries. Within the field of migrants and asylum seekers, she constructed and conducted several training courses between 2014-2016 for Israeli medical personal on socio-medical issues pertaining to migrants and asylum seekers. Hundreds of medical professionals took part in this unique training. In addition, she initiated and conduct Israel's first medical interpreting course for Tigrinya- and English-speaking asylum seekers. All these initiatives were created in collaboration with leading Israeli physicians. They were aimed at minimizing the language and cultural gaps asylum seekers and Israeli medical staff face in their mutual encounters within the health care system.

As part of her struggles to translate academic knowledge into social change and break the boundaries between the academic arena and social and political realms, Prof. Sabar played an active role in unique gatherings with world leaders and Nobel Laureates including Bishop Desmond Tutu, Dr. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Prof. Wangari Maathai, Wole Soyinka, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and His Highness Mohammed VI, King of Morocco.

Prof. Sabar has been granted several local and international rewards. These include awards from The Israeli Academic Women's Association and The Horowitz Institution for Development Award. In 2015 the Mayor of Tel Aviv awarded her a special prize for her international development efforts and in 2017 Tel Aviv University awarded her the "Inspiring (women) researcher award".

Above all this, for her work that combines academic excellence and social action she received the *Unsung Heroes Award*, granted by the Dalai Lama in 2009.

The Ruppin Academic College educates over 5,000 students for first and second degrees in its two campuses. These students study in four major schools: Engineering; Social studies; Business, Economics and Management; and Marine Sciences. The College is committed to developing knowledge and professional know-how through innovative study programs aimed at serving Israel's most vital social and economic challenges.

The Ruppin Academic College strives to develop a new generation of leaders who possess moral conscience, social involvement and environmental awareness.

Recognizing the global rapid and profound technological innovations, Prof. Sabar is leading RAC in updating its curricula and modalities of learning. In order for its graduates to be well prepared for their future within a changing job-market, essential up-to date skills are fully integrated within the curricula and cutting edge academic programs have been initiated.