



**Jacques Loeb Centre**  
for the History and Philosophy  
of the Life Sciences  
Prof. Ute Deichmann, Director

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
P.O. Box 653, Beer-Sheva, 8410501, Israel  
Building 39, Room -114 | Phone: +972-8-6472258  
Email: [jloebcentre@post.bgu.ac.il](mailto:jloebcentre@post.bgu.ac.il) | Web: [in.bgu.ac.il/en/loeb](http://in.bgu.ac.il/en/loeb)

## **Science and University in a Neo-Liberal Age: The Transformation of Academia and Research in the “Start Up Nation”**

**Ari Barell**, Post-doctoral Fellow

Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life  
Sciences

Monday, June 27th, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (Building 39), Room 106  
([map](#))

An atmosphere of crisis and despair permeates the discourse around universities today. Prominent intellectuals and academics mourn the state of the university and draw a bleak future for the academic institution unless drastic steps are taken to rescue it.

This pessimism seems a bit surprising in light of the unprecedented achievements of universities in the past 150 or so years. The dramatic expansion of higher education among broad sectors of the population, unprecedented scientific discoveries carried out within the confines of the university (and not outside the institution as it was, for example, during the scientific revolution), and the emergence of a high-tech industry in recent decades - an industry that is intimately connected to the scientific and technological research done in universities - are just few examples of the tremendous success of the research university in the 20th - 21st centuries and the success of its two central projects: academic teaching and scientific research.

This tension between success and crisis will serve as a departure point to discuss the state of academia and scientific research in our time. I will focus on Israel with reference to global processes taking place in universities and other institutions of knowledge around the world. I will touch on the structural

changes that are taking place in Israeli universities: commercialization of academic knowledge and the phenomena of technology transfer companies, the college revolution and the meteoric rise of the Israeli high-tech industry.

At the current moment we are witnessing the emergence of a new knowledge ecology that is global in nature and that places the idea of the “market” at its center. This new ecology affects the institutions of university and science and is simultaneously deeply affected by them.

The Jacques Loeb Centre seminars provide an interdisciplinary forum in which scientists and historians and philosophers of science present and discuss new science-related research with a special focus on the life sciences. Case studies and surveys examine the impact of political, socio-economic and personal factors on the conduct of science, the ethics of research, and the causes of progress and setbacks.

**Faculty and students from all disciplines are invited!**