The Center for Israel Studies (CIS) at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism maintains a research hub on David Ben-Gurion’s political thought. Its aim is to identify and analyze the political ideas of Israel’s first and long-serving Prime Minister. As part of this research hub, we are planning a three-day workshop that will deal with the type of national leader of Ben-Gurion’s centrality in other countries. We plan to discuss these different cases under the category of “Nation Builders,” a concept that we intend to elucidate and analyze during the workshop.

We invite contributions from scholars who deal with the ideas and praxis of nation builders in fields such as society, politics, education, culture, economics, religion, ideology, and foreign affairs. The number of participants in the workshop is limited. Only papers that are directly connected to specific nation builders will be considered (to the exclusion of those that deal with nation-building in general).

Researchers who are admitted to the workshop will be expected to submit extended drafts of their papers (2000–4000 words) by April 30, 2019. These drafts will be circulated among the workshop participants in advance to ensure a productive and interactive discussion during the workshop. The full versions of these papers will later serve as the basis for a peer-reviewed joint publication.

Scholars interested in participating in the workshop are invited to submit a proposal (in English) by February 28, 2019. Submissions should be sent by email to bgucis2019@gmail.com They must include contact information, academic affiliation, a 300-word abstract outlining the proposed research, and a brief description of the potential contribution of the paper to the workshop topic.

Confirmations and approval of workshop participation will be sent out by March 31, 2019.

The workshop will take place at the Sede Boqer Campus of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Accommodation and meals will be provided.