



From the Executive Director

Douglas Gerwin

*W*ith this issue, we introduce to you Ilan Safit, PhD, the new editor of our *Research Bulletin*. Like his predecessor Elan Leibner, Ilan comes to us from Israel but has spent much of his adult life in the United States.

For two years, Ilan taught humanities in the high school of the Rudolf Steiner School in New York City, but most of his career to date was spent in the world of professional writing and university teaching. For the past two decades, Ilan has taught a wide range of subjects in the humanities at SUNY Stony Brook, Pace University, Queens College, NYU, and the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he earned his MA and PhD in comparative literature. Currently, he holds the position of Visiting Scholar in the German Department of New York University. Ilan had also earned a Master's degree in Film and Television Studies from the University of Amsterdam.

While teaching at the college level, Ilan was simultaneously chief editor for ten years of *Yediot Aharonot America*, a weekly magazine and website for Israeli émigré communities in North America, for which he also wrote stories and reviews, as well as a regular op-ed column. In this context, he brings to his latest assignment at the Research Institute broad experience as writer, editor, lecturer, and commentator on contemporary cultural issues.

In 2009, Ilan launched the Center for Ethical Thinking at Pace University, an academic center dedicated to promoting discussion of contemporary social, political, and environmental issues from an ethical perspective. Among the titles of the symposia he organized at the Center—telling indicators of the breadth of his interests—were “Thinking Ethically,” “On Education,” “On Islam,” “The Other 9/11,”

“Representations of Violence,” and “Welcome to the Political Circus.”

Ilan's study of anthroposophy and Waldorf education, which started during his undergraduate days at Tel Aviv University, eventually took him to Holland (where he met his wife, a Waldorf graduate) and then to the United States. His reflections on the future of Waldorf education are included in this issue of the *Research Bulletin*.

In taking over as editor of the *Bulletin* from Elan Leibner, who has returned to class teaching at the Kimberton Waldorf School, Ilan joins a circle of colleagues at the Research Institute deeply involved in the world of publications and media, including Patrice Maynard (Director of Waldorf Publications and Development) and Marianne Alsop (who oversees our Online Waldorf Library, or OWL). Patrice and Marianne report later in this issue on their work, including the release of new titles as well as a selection of articles and books in electronic form—a growing number of them in Spanish and the first few of them in Mandarin translation.

Ilan will also be involved in the later stages of a wide-ranging survey of North American Waldorf graduates recently launched by the Research Institute under the guidance of Liz Beaven and now being managed by Connie Stokes. The survey—which will focus on the most recent 25 years of alumni from the 40 extant Waldorf high schools across North America—is slated to be released in time for the centenary of Waldorf education in the 2019–2020 academic year.

We are delighted to welcome Ilan onto the team of the Research Institute!