

Professor Gideon Shelach-Lavi – A short CV - June 2026

Professor Gideon Shelach-Lavi is the Louis Frieberg Chair of East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University. A native of Kibbutz Mishmar HaEmek, he received his B.A. in Archaeology and Asian Studies from the Hebrew University and was a member of the first Israeli student exchange delegation to China (1990–1991). He completed his Ph.D. in Chinese Archaeology at the University of Pittsburgh in 1996 and joined the faculty of the Hebrew University in 1997.

Professor Shelach-Lavi specializes in the archaeology of China and Mongolia. His research focuses on major processes in human history, including the transition from hunter-gatherer societies to sedentary farming communities, the emergence of complex societies, societal responses to climate change, and human–environment interactions. His archaeological fieldwork integrates collaboration with geologists, archaeobotanists, zooarchaeologists, paleoclimatologists, and other specialists. Beyond archaeological excavation, he specializes in systematic archaeological survey and the use of computational geographic models to analyze the spatial organization and demographic dynamics of ancient populations. His current research project, funded by a European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant, investigates a medieval frontier wall system extending more than 4,500 kilometers across northern China and Mongolia.

Professor Shelach-Lavi received the 2022 EMET Prize and was twice a Visiting Member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Asian Archaeology* (Springer) and is a member of the editorial board of *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (Springer Nature). At the Hebrew University, he has held a number of appointments, including Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies, Chair of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, and Vice Dean for Research.