

Postdoctoral Fellows



Miri Adler

[Weizmann Institute of Science](#) >> [Broad Institute](#)

Miri Adler was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Principles of Cell Communication Circuits for Tissue Homeostasis in Health and Disease”. In her PhD at the Weizmann Institute of Science she studies how different cell types communicate through the production of growth factors in order to maintain healthy celltype ratios.

In her postdoctoral research at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard she will combine theoretical and experimental approaches to explore cell communication circuits in response to inflammatory cues and environmental stresses. Miri's aim is to study the principles underlying the communication between different cell types that allow tissues to respond properly to perturbations such as injury and inflammation. Understanding these principles is important since it can illuminate how homeostasis is derailed in diseases including degeneration, fibrosis and cancer.

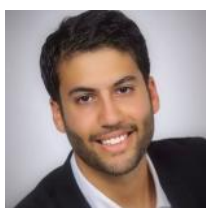


Miri Blau

[The Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#) >> [Columbia University](#)

Miri Blau was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "Quantum integrated photonic circuits for Quantum Networks" at Columbia University. This research aims to investigate quantum photonic integrated circuits (QPICs) based on the platform of classical photonic integrated circuits developed for the telecommunications industry. Quantum communications, enabled by quantum photonic integrated circuits, will allow for absolute secure worldwide communications.

Miri's Ph.D. research deals with space division multiplexing (SDM) for overcoming the capacity crunch experienced in conventional, single-mode fiber based optical communications. She demonstrated how SDM fiber and novel optical networking components can achieve higher capacities at lower implementation costs.



Maor Farid

[Technion – Israel Institute of Technology](#) >> [Cornell University](#)

Maor Farid was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project focusing on nonlinear dynamics and chaos. He is particularly interested in modelling of mechanical systems, which aim to increase seismic protection of structures and facilities with major national interest.

In his PhD degree, he worked on modelling and exploration of liquid sloshing in partially-filled storage tanks, investigating their robustness for major earthquakes. This study, carried in parallel to his military service as a captain in the 'Brakim' excellence program, was later awarded by the PAZI foundation of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission. Maor completed his PhD at the age of 24 at the Technion. Maor is the founder and CEO of 'Lilmod Lehatsliach' (Hebrew: Learn to Succeed) association, a non-profit organization, aiming to promote youth at risk and undergraduate students from the Israeli periphery. Recently, he was elected on the Forbes list of 30 under 30 for 2019.



Demitry Farfurnik

[The Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#) >> [University of Maryland](#)

Demitry Farfurnik was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research on enhancing the quantum properties of semiconductor quantum dots. In particular, Demitry plans to utilize advanced schemes for extending the coherence times (during which a system maintains its quantum properties) of quantum dots, towards the development of integrated quantum photonic devices for scalable quantum information processing on-chip.

This project will strongly rely on Demitry's PhD research, during which he utilized such (dynamical decoupling) control schemes for extending the coherence times of nitrogenvacancy centers in diamond, while demonstrating improvements in magnetic sensing and novel studies of many-body physics.



Valeri Frumkin

Technion – Israel Institute of Technology >> Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Valeri Frumkin was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Hydrodynamic Quantum Analog Systems Beyond the Faraday Threshold” at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). This research will investigate the complex interaction of bouncing droplets with Faraday waves arising at a gas-liquid interface, allowing deeper understanding of hydrodynamic quantum analog systems. His PhD research was focused on developing novel theoretical models for transporting liquids in microscopic lab-on-a-chip environments by means of the thermocapillary effect.



Samer Gnaim

Tel Aviv University >> The Scripps Research Institute

Samer Gnaim was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research titled "Fishing the Bio-active Target: New Opening for Diazirine Photoaffinity Probes," under the supervision of Prof. Phil S. Baran at the SCRIPPS Research Institute, La Jolla, CA.

In this project, he will utilize chemical synthesis to establish the basis for target identification of biologically active compounds, such as; small molecule drugs, amino acids, linear and cyclic peptides. This will be accomplished by simple modification of unactivated C-H bonds of the bioactive molecule with diazirine functional group, used to link the bioactive molecule to its target. Such studies would pave the way for a variety of applications such as tagging of nucleic acids, antibodies, and even enzymes with the aim to understand their mechanism of action. His PhD research focused on the development of new approaches for targeted drug delivery systems, and the development of self immolative chemiluminescence probes for diagnostic and theranostic purposes. Samer is the recipient of the “ICS-Prize” for an excellent graduate student awarded by the Israel Chemical Society.



Muhammad Jbara

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology >> Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Muhammad Jbara was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Macrocyclization of therapeutic peptides to target protein-protein interactions” at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This research is aimed to develop new synthetic method to expand the field of known macrocyclic peptide inhibitors to perturb important Protein-protein Interactions for therapeutic peptides development. His PhD research was conducted in the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. This research focuses on the development of new tools for the chemical synthesis of complex modified histone proteins in order to understand the molecular basis of epigenetics. He discovered novel chemical approaches using palladium complexes to accelerate the synthesis and manipulation of various challenging proteins.



Tammy Katsabian

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Fulbright-ISEF fellow, Tammy Katsabian was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Managerial “Outsourcing” in the Internet Age and its Implications on Equality and Due Process in the Workplace”. This research examines how the internet age, particularly technological devices based on information sharing, have enabled numerous anonymous new actors to participate in the workplace environment, and to directly affect the employee’s professional track and her right to be protected from unjust conduct or discrimination. In her PhD research, Tammy focused on labor rights in the internet age. The research is based on sociological, legal, and internet scholarship and is presented in a series of three articles on the effects of the internet age on sphere, time, and community in the labor field. Tammy was awarded the President’s Doctoral Fellowship for an Outstanding PhD student and the “Research Fellows” Scholarship by the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University. Her article on Working Time in the Internet Age (Hebrew) received Menachem Goldberg Prize given for an excellent article in the subject of labor law. Tammy has an LL.M. degree from Yale Law School, LL.M. degree from Tel-Aviv University (magna cum laude) and LL.B. degree from Bar Ilan University (magna cum laude).



Ariel Kopilovitz

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> The University of Chicago

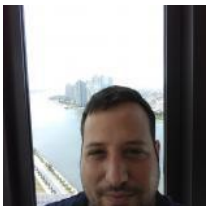
Ariel Kopilovitz was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Shedding New Light on Ancient Writings: The Āl-Yāhūdu Tablets and Exilic Biblical Literature" at the University of Chicago. This research will investigate the identity, history, culture, and religion of the Judean exiles in Babylonia during the first generations after the destruction of the First Temple, as manifested in the Āl-Yāhūdu cuneiform tablets and the exilic period biblical literature. His PhD research was conducted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and focused on the descriptions of Israel's future in Ezekiel's restoration oracles. During this period Ariel taught at the Bible department.



Nimrod Jakob Keynan

Tel Aviv University >> Stanford University

Nimrod Jakob Keynan was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Modeling Temporal Dynamics of the Human Brain Function" at Stanford University. The project aims to conduct deep longitudinal phenotyping of individuals to model both inter and intra-individual variations in brain functions across time and its relation to changes in cognitive and emotional processes. Such deep phenotyping of individuals could facilitate the development of novel, personalized and mechanism-based diagnosis and treatment in psychiatry. His PhD was conducted at the Sagol Brain Institute, Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center & Tel- Aviv University. The PhD focused on developing a novel and scalable method for volitional neuromodulation of the human amygdala to enhance stress resilience.



Moran Koren

Technion – Israel Institute of Technology >> Stanford University

Moran Koren was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled: "Market Design with Incomplete Information: Improving Efficiency of Transplant Organ Allocations." The research will investigate the efficiency of allocation systems in the presence of uncertainty. Special emphasis will be given to the allocation process of deceased donor transplant organs. By combining theoretical modeling with an econometric estimation, the research will look into the efficiency of existing allocation systems and design mechanisms which better utilize this scarce resource. Moran's PhD research, conducted at the Technion, studied questions of information aggregation in economic systems. His research extended the literature of information cascades to novel environments, inspired by applications in economics and computer science. Moran was awarded an Excellence Scholarship by the Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management at the Technion and have received research grants from the Bernard M.Gordon Center for System Engineering, and the Harold and Inge Marcus Endowment for Technion/PSU IE Partnership. Moran also holds a B.A. (magna cum laude) in economics and business administration from the Hebrew University, and a research-oriented M.A. in economics from the joint program of the Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University.



Hillel Mali

Bar-Ilan University >> New York University

Hillel Mali was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "From Priestly Literature to the Order of Holy Things: The Relationship between Ritual and Law." In this project, he examines the ways in which ritual language and ritual texts influenced the creation and development of rabbinic law.

Hillel completed his PhD ("Descriptions of the Temple in the Mishna: History, Redaction and Meaning") under the supervision of the late Professor Aharon Shemesh. He joined a research group led by Dr. Naphtali Meshel, "Thinking Rite: A New and Ancient Science of Ritual" at The Hebrew University, focusing on new comparative models for the analysis of ritual systems. Hillel is the recipient of the President's Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Students (2014-2018), Nathan Rotenstreich Scholarship for Outstanding Graduate Students (2016-2018), the Orion Center Research Scholarship (2018), and Riklis Prize for Academic Excellence in Jewish Studies (2018). Hillel established the ensemble, "Nigun Yerushalmi," which performs world music played on antique instruments.



Tom Noah

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> University of Southern California

Tom Noah was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “How the Sensation of Being Watched Affects Self Regulation in Learning and Problem Solving”. Tom has an LLB in law and cognitive sciences, an MA in cognitive sciences, and a PHD in social psychology with specialization in the study of rationality, all of them from the Hebrew University. Tom’s research explores how the feeling of being observed by others affects cognitive processes of judgment, decisions, and self regulation.



Asaf Ziderman

Tel Aviv University >> Harvard University

Asaf Ziderman was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Humanizing Metaphysics: Toward an Action-Based Ontology." This research project seeks to reconstruct an ontological picture of reality that views the world as consisting primarily of actions. Asaf examines works of the Jewish social thinkers Moses Hess, Karl Marx, Martin Buber, Hannah Arendt, as well as the analytic philosophers of action John Macmurray and Edward Pols. Asaf’s PhD research project, conducted at Tel Aviv University, reconstructs Buber’s dialogical thought as a philosophy of action. It shows that dialogical philosophy is essentially an internal argument in the field of philosophy of action, namely that an action in its perfected form is necessarily dialogical, i.e. carried out vis-a-vis a ‘You’. During his PhD research, Asaf was a Fox International Fellow at Yale University for one year. Asaf is currently an Ignatz Bubis Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research center at the Hebrew University.



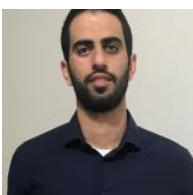
Peter Zilberg

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> University of California, Berkeley

Peter Zilberg was awarded a Fullbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Fluid Borderlines-The Elamite-Babylonian Frontier During the Seventh and Sixth Centuries BCE” at the University of California, Berkeley. The study wishes to challenge our perspectives on Imperial control over peripheral areas and to present a unique and well-documented case study of frontier zones in antiquity by examining the case of the frontier between Iran and Babylonia, just before the rise of the Persian Empire (c. 550 BCE). Peter wishes to examine interactions between various ethnic groups and to better understand the impact of imperial powers on the unique cultural, social and economic situation in the frontier.

His PhD research analyzed socio-economic aspects of displaced and migrant minority groups in Babylonia and Iran. Peter was awarded The Rotenstreich scholarship for outstanding PhD students and was previously a member of the Mandel-Scholion research center.

Master's Degree Fellows



Raji Awies

University of Haifa >> Fordham University

In 2016, Raji Awies received his LL.B degree in Law & Economics from the University of Haifa. During his academic life, he took part in the university debate team, in which he participated in many competitions across the country, sculpting critical thinking whilst improving his rhetorical abilities. He has developed a lot of interest in corporate and contract law and specialized in startups. Raji completed his internship in one of the largest law firms in the country, Lipa Mier & Co. in the commercial and High-tech department. In 2018, he was admitted to the Israeli bar association and nowadays, he practices commercial law.



Mika Bak

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Mika Bak received her B.A. in Education and International Relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2017. She will be studying towards her Master's Degree in International Education Policy at Harvard University. Mika served as a Hebrew teacher in Gondar, Ethiopia, working with the local Jewish community, leading her to be interested specifically in education of immigrant children. Nowadays, Mika works for a non-profit, JDC Israel, which works towards reducing socio-economic gaps and creating a strong and effective civil society through increasing coordination and collaboration among important government sectors.



Roni Belenki

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev >> Columbia University

Roni Belenki received her B.Sc. in Neuroscience, cum laude, from Ben-Gurion University. During her studies, Roni was selected to be in the 'Ashalim' honors program. Upon graduation, Roni worked at the Be Free Israel national movement to promote the separation of religion and state in the country. Today, Roni works as the Vice President of the Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel, where she established the Public Policy Department. As a Fulbright fellow, Roni will pursue her Master's degree in Public Policy at Columbia University, focusing on Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy.

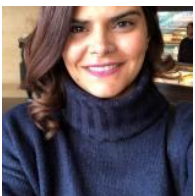


Mo'taz Ershied

University of Haifa >> Columbia University

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Mo'taz Ershied, received a scholarship to study Law at Columbia University. Mo'taz received his LL.B in Law, cum laude, from the University of Haifa. During his studies, he worked closely in several roles with numerous professors, as a teacher's assistant in Contract Law & Punishment Law, and as head of "Career Project" in pursuit of equality in academic education.

After his graduation, Mo'taz clerked in the litigation department of Yigal Arnon & Co., one of the biggest and highly rated law firms in Israel. Soon after, he passed the Israeli Bar Exams and was certified as a lawyer. Mo'taz's areas of interest focus mostly on private law and technology. His aim is to research how the private law & technology field could develop new and dynamic instruments to increase pluralism within the technology work sector in Israel.

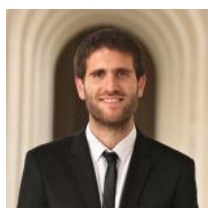


Haya Haddad

Tel Aviv University >> The New School

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Haya, is planning to start her Master's degree in International Affairs specializing in human rights and social justice at The New School.

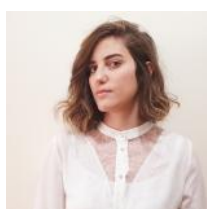
Haya received her B.A in Political Science and English Literature from Tel Aviv University. Haya is socially and politically active, she volunteers in several NGOs such as the Orthodox Scouts, and other local forums. Throughout her academic studies, she led a radical change by canceling discriminatory policy against her mother tongue. In 2014, Haya participated in the Bridge Builders program in Norway, a program which enhances the process of reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis. Haya worked as a research assistant during her B.A studies. Currently, she is the mentor for high-schoolers from Kfar Yassif. She meets them weekly and discuss with them several significant issues like social activism, human rights, identity conflict and public speaking skills.



Amit Haim

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Stanford University

Amit Haim received his LL.B in Law and B.A in Humanities, cum laude, from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During his studies, Amit worked as research assistant at the Hebrew University, the Israel Democracy Institute, and the Israel Ministry of Justice – Attorney General Criminal Division. Upon graduation, Amit served as a law clerk to the Hon. Justice Uzi Vogelman of the Supreme Court of Israel. Amit's areas of interest focus on the intersection of public administration and technology, and specifically automated decision-making. As a Fulbright fellow, Amit will pursue his JSM at Stanford University as a SPILS fellow, focusing on the implementation and the effects of automation and Artificial Intelligence in administrative decision-making.



Rana Khalaila

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Georgetown University

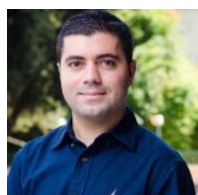
Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Rana, will be pursuing her LLM, specializing in taxation, at Georgetown University. Rana Khalaila received her LLB and accounting degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Rana tutored first-year accounting students on behalf of the Equal Opportunities for Arab Students Unit. Rana completed her legal internship at the criminal department of the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office. Later on, she worked as a tax inspector (Financial Institutions Unit) at the Assessing Officer of Large Enterprises - Israeli Tax Authority. Nowadays, Rana works as an attorney at the Fiscal Department in the State Attorney's Office.



Tal Koren

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Stanford University

Tal Koren has earned his B.Sc. in Computer Science and Cognitive Science (magna cum laude) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2013. During his studies, Tal worked as an evaluator of quantitative reasoning questions at the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation, and as General Motors' first research intern in Israel, as part of a human-machine interaction research group. After graduating, Tal joined a start-up company in the field of interactive TV as a product manager. In the last three years, Tal held several product management positions at Twiggle, a start-up company developing artificial intelligence and natural language understanding technology for e-commerce. Over the years, and especially through his volunteer work as a private math tutor, Tal became increasingly fascinated by education as a catalyst for human development, which spurred his academic interest in the learning sciences. This led to his decision to pursue graduate studies in education, with a joint focus on the cognitive foundations of learning and educational technology. Tal was awarded the Fulbright scholarship to study an M.A. in Learning, Design, and Technology at Stanford University.



Mohanad Salaimi

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Georgetown University

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Mohannad Salaimi, was awarded the Fulbright scholarship to study for an LL.M in tax law at Georgetown University.

Mohanad received his LL.B/B.A. in Law and Accounting from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Mohannad is a lawyer and a Certified Public Accountant in Israel. As a law student, Mohannad was elected as Chairman of the Ambitions Forum, at the Arab Law Students Association at the Hebrew University. Upon finishing his studies, Mohannad pursued a one-year legal internship in Meitar Liquornik Geva Leshem Tal, one of Israel's largest international law firms. Then he began a two-years accounting internship at the global firm PwC, which he has recently completed. His work in both internships focused on providing tax consultancy services to several international and domestic companies. In addition, Mohannad has also served as a teaching assistant in various courses taught at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya.



Shir Wisenberg

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Shir Wisenberg received her LL.B in Law, magna cum laude, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During her studies, Shir served as Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious Mishpatim Law Review and served as research and teaching assistant in various courses. Upon graduation, Shir clerked at the Israeli Supreme Court for the Hon. Justice Uzi Vogelman. Shir works as an attorney at the State Attorney's civil department. Shir was awarded the Fulbright scholarship to pursue her LL.M at Harvard University.



Soaad Younis

The Academic College at Wingate >> Temple University

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Soaad, is planning to study Sports Business at Temple University.

Soaad is a soccer player who received her B.A. in Physical Education from Wingate College in 2017. Since graduating, she has been working as an exercise specialist at Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba, in the Cardiac Rehabilitation Center, being the only Arab and the youngest staff member in the Center. Her aim is to help her society to develop better health through better and equal sports and fitness training programming.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow



Heftziba Rand-Golan

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Virginia Commonwealth University

Heftziba Rand-Golan is a Social Worker and Psychotherapist. She has completed her BA and MA in Trauma, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Heftziba has been working as the director of Elem center in Afula Israel for the past 8 years. Elem is a center for treatment of childhood sexual abuse and is under the supervision of the Ministry of Welfare. The center provides treatment for minors who have undergone sexual abuse and for their families. The center also offers treatments and diagnoses for children with harmful sexual behavior. As part of the Humphrey program, Heftziba is hoping to create partnerships and pool resources for victims of sexual assault.

International Writing Program Fellow



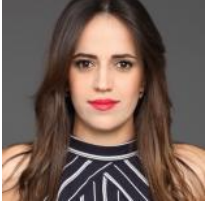
Roy Arad

Roy Chicky Arad was awarded a Fulbright International Writing Program Fellowship (at the University of Iowa) to write his eighth book, a poetry collection temporarily titled, "Round Things". Arad is a poet, author, journalist, musician, and social activist. Arad invented Kimo poetry, a hairy Hebrew version of Haiku.

His books include: The Kushite, 2000 (Shadurian); Aerobic, 2003 (Shadurian); Paintings and Poetry, 2003 (Tal Esther); Guns and Credit Cards, 2009 (Plonit); The Israeli Dream, 2010 (Xargol); The Pelican, 2013 (Xargol); and The Aircraft Carrier, 2014 (Maayan). Additionally, he released seven musical albums.

Arad is the editor of Maayan poetry, prose and ideas magazine, a journalist for Haaretz newspaper and one of the founders of the "Cultural Guerrilla" group.

Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Fellows



Hanan Abu Salih

University of Haifa >> University of Kansas

Hanan Abu Salih received her BA in English language and literature and in Learning, Instruction and Teacher Education from the University of Haifa in 2016. Hanan has been running her own business (English courses) since graduation, and at the same time working as an English lecturer at The College of Sakhnin for Teacher Education (the pre-academic programs), and as an English teacher at two high schools. Hana believes that learning foreign languages enables us to open up to new cultures and see the world from different viewpoints, and that being a Fulbrighter provides her with the opportunity to disseminate her knowledge of the Arabic language and culture, which she finds challenging yet very rewarding.



Serin Adawi

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Bucknell University

Serin Adawi graduated in 2015 from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem with a Bachelor degree in English Literature and Education and is currently completing a Master's in English Literature. For three years, she has been teaching English as a foreign language and running English enrichment centers in the north and center of Israel. Sireen will participate in the program as an Arabic teaching assistant at Bucknell University. She strongly believes that language and culture go hand in hand, where the knowledge of one helps with the acquiring of the other. She will apply her teaching skills to help promote understanding of the Arab culture and language. She aspires to develop her teaching skills further; and hopes to learn as much as possible about the American culture and history through personal experience.



Yara Mahajna

University of Haifa >> Mercy College

Yara Mahajna is a multidisciplinary artist. She received her B.A. in visual arts with honors from the University of Haifa, where she is currently pursuing a Master's degree in visual arts. Yara will take part in the Fulbright FLTA program at Mercy College in New York. She is an alumna of the MEPI leadership program from Roger Williams University, and the community arts program in Beit Berl College with Artilution organization. Yara initiated a volunteering project that aims to create a society of well-read individuals and taught English through arts in elementary schools. She worked and volunteered as an art teacher in elementary schools and art galleries. Currently, she holds the position of public relations coordinator and teaches performance art to foreign students in the collaborative art center in Givat Haviva. Yara believes that art is a powerful tool in education, and she is working towards better-integrating arts in the public education system.