

### Postdoctoral Fellows



**Neomi Frisch Aviram**

University of Haifa >> The University of California, Berkeley

Neomi Frisch-Aviram was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Street Level Identities: Exploring Street Level Worker's Identity from a Micro, Meso, and Macro-Level Perspective”. In her PhD at the University of Haifa, she studied street-level policy entrepreneurship training in public organizations. In her postdoctoral research at the University of Chicago, she will combine theoretical and experimental approaches to explore how personal, organizational and cultural identities of street level bureaucrats relate to each other to affect decision making, and in turn, public service delivery. Neomi has a B.A degree in sociology and Jewish philosophy from the Hebrew University and an M.A degree in political science from the Hebrew University. Neomi is the recipient of ASPA's Best Paper Award (2017), ASPA's Founders' Fellows Award (2018) and the University of Haifa Public Administration Division Prize for Excellence (2019). Neomi's postdoctoral project aims to help policy makers and public administration managers as they work to construct programs and policies for preparing and maintaining a high-quality public service.



**Leena Badran**

University of Haifa >> University of California Berkeley

Leena Badran was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Protecting the Health of People with Severe Mental Illness: The Role of Outpatient Commitment” at the University of California Berkeley. The proposed project aims to decide on the best service approach to help people with severe mental illness (SMI) improve their physical health and reduce their vulnerability to life-threatening conditions resulting from physical health problems. Her PhD research focused on the recommendations among Imams and Muslim social workers towards marriage, divorce and parenting of persons with intellectual or psychiatric disabilities based on vignettes which compiled based on rulings of the Sharia courts in Israel.

Her dissertation won “Ora Gilbar Award” – for outstanding PhD proposal and the “Council for Higher Education – Planning & Budgeting Committee” Scholarship for outstanding PhD students in Israel. Leena holds a B.A in Social Work from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with distinction and MA with distinction in the community Social Work from University of Haifa.



**Or Eivgi**

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev >> University of California, Irvine

Or Eivgi was awarded the Fulbright Post-doctoral fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Seeing one out of many: Discovering single-molecule kinetics of olefin-metathesis polymerization catalysts” at.... He is focusing on the study of single molecule polymerization catalysts using fluorescence microscopy at the University of California, Irvine. The aim of this research is to open new horizons for catalysis and polymeric materials research. The properties of essentially all polymers, arise from the sum of individual selectivity choices at the single-catalyst level. Yet little is known about this single-catalyst behavior, because it is typically obscured by average catalyst behavior in the bulk. Fluorescence microscopy techniques have the ultimate sensitivity to observe single molecules, freeing the researcher from prior limitations. In his PhD at Ben-Gurion University, Or developed methods to carry out selective photochemical reactions using molecular UV filters and developed new photoswitchable metathesis catalysts. These catalysts can be used for various light induced olefin metathesis applications including the 3D printing of polymeric materials using light.



**Britt Hadar**

Tel Aviv University >> Princeton University

Britt Hadar was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “The Effect of Social Power on the Exploration-Exploitation Dilemma”.

Britt has a BA in psychology and philosophy, MA in cognitive psychology, and a PhD in social psychology, all from Tel Aviv University. Britt's research explores how sense of social power affects basic information processing mechanisms. In her postdoctoral research at Princeton University, she will combine cognitive and computational techniques to study how sense of social power affects the tradeoff between exploration and exploitation in decision-making.



### Ofir Yehuda Haim

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Princeton University

Ofir Haim was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “On the Fringes of the Iranian World: The Social History of Medieval Afghanistan in Light of the Afghan Geniza”. The project explores the early Islamic history of the eastern Iranian world and the neighboring regions by viewing the society both “from below” and from its territorial and denominational fringes. It is based on an analysis of the “Afghan Geniza,” a rich trove of texts in a variety of languages, principally Persian, Arabic and Hebrew, which is still not fully available to the broader academic community. His PhD research, conducted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, focused on the intellectual and religious heritage of the Jewish Persian-speaking communities during the first centuries of Islam. During his doctoral studies, Ofir was the recipient of the Rotenstreich scholarship for outstanding PhD students.



### Noa Katz

Technion – Israel Institute of Technology >> Stanford University

Noa Katz was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "Programming Safe Neurogenesis with Synthetic Biology". This research will implement engineering-inspired therapeutic strategies to enhance nerve regeneration, without compromising safety. This will be achieved by implementing Synthetic Biology tools to apply quantitative and precise control over axon regeneration at the injured site. Her PhD research focused on the application aspect of protein-RNA interactions, as well as basic insight on a structure-function relationship of RNA. More specifically, she implemented high-throughput experimental techniques with machine learning approaches to improve RNA imaging technology.



### Israel Kellersztein

Weizmann Institute of Science >> California Institute of Technology

Israel Kellersztein was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled: “Bioinspired Bouligands: Length-scale Matters” at Caltech. This research will investigate the origins of structural robustness in helicoidal architectures to attain a better scientific understanding on how nature uses hierarchical structures to manage different mechanical stresses to maximize functionality, leading to synthetic bioinspired composite materials with enhanced structural properties. Israel’s PhD research at the Weizmann Institute of Science studies the relationship between structure and mechanical performance of the exoskeleton of scorpion pincers at different length-scales. By studying these biological composites, Israel is working to determine the design principles to create engineering materials with superior strength and toughness.

Israel has been involved in youth education programs, developing hands-on lab projects suitable for the age group and skills of the young participants and mentoring them throughout their projects.



### Maayan Keshev

Tel Aviv University >> University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Maayan Keshev was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "The interaction of discourse and syntax in language comprehension: A cross-linguistic study of person agreement". The project will focus on the robustness of linguistic representations in incremental sentence comprehension, asking how well readers manage to get to the end of the sentence with a precise memory of what they previously processed. Specifically, the project aims to exhibit, using eyetracking-while-reading experiments, that the sentence’s meaning may interfere with memory of syntactic features.

In her PhD research, Maayan investigated the extent to which readers consider the possibility of minor errors (e.g. typos). She suggests that readers use rational inference considering the possibility of errors, and elaborate frequency mapping of different sentence types.

Maayan was a fellow of Arian de Rothschild fellowship for women doctoral (2016-2020). She also holds a M.Sc. from Sagol School of Neuroscience and graduated from the Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students (both at Tel Aviv University).



### Muhammad Khatib

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology >> Stanford University

Muhammad Khatib was awarded the Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “A Tissue-Like Electrically and Chemically Functional Platform for Neural Recording and Modulation” at Stanford University. This research aims to explore new multifunctional devices capable of forming intimate interfaces with neurons without provoking severe foreign-body responses. This would facilitate the detailed mapping of neural activities and serve as efficient neuroprosthetic links with electronic circuits. Such devices can be used for tackling fundamental questions in neuroscience and as powerful tools for treatment of neurological diseases. His PhD research focused on the development of soft sensing materials and electronic skins for wearable diagnostic applications, robotics, and prosthetics.



### Natalie Fardian Melamed

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Columbia University

Fulbright-ISEF fellow, Natalie Fardian-Melamed was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research focusing on investigating and controlling light-matter interactions at the nanoscale, and using light to probe local environments, revealing unique physical and chemical behaviors at relevant length scales and in real conditions. Throughout her PhD research, Natalie has measured and characterized the electronic level structure and morphology of various novel DNA-based molecules at different temperatures, through single molecule scanning tunneling microscopy and spectroscopy (STM and STS) studies. In the course of her postdoctoral studies, Natalie intends on developing an optical analog to the STM probe, enabling the elucidation of optoelectronic properties of unique, and technologically relevant, nanostructures - on the single-digit nanometer length scale.



### Gal Mendelson

Technion – Israel Institute of Technology >> Stanford University

Gal Mendelson was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project focusing on data driven resource utilization. He is particularly interested in developing and analyzing a data driven load balancing framework for computer cluster applications such as data centers and cloud computing. In his PhD degree in Electrical Engineering, he worked on the design and analysis of new load balancing algorithms for systems with challenging resource constraints and performance cost tradeoffs in the areas of low communication, replication and cancellation and consistent hashing. Gal’s work on diffusion scale analysis of time varying queueing networks was awarded the 2019 Informs Applied Probability Society best student paper award.



### Yael Milgram

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Yael Millgram was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue her research project titled: “Choosing Rumination in Depression”. The project aims to examine whether and how often people who suffer from depression voluntarily choose to use rumination- an emotion regulation strategy associated with depression maintenance and recurrence. Such investigation could provide clues into potential motivational factors underlying the use of rumination in depression.

Yael completed here B.A., M.A. and PhD in clinical psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her PhD focused on assessing what depressed individuals want to feel (i.e., emotion goals), and the potential implications of emotion goals in depression for mental health.

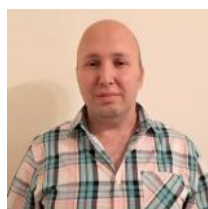


### **Tamar Rotman**

Ben Gurion University of Negev >> Columbia University

Tamar Rotman was awarded a Fulbright post-doctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project “Constructing Identities in Late Antique and Early Medieval Hagiography”. Her project examines hagiographical collections that were written during the sixth and seventh centuries in Italy, Gaul and Spain. The project offers new methods to study the identity discourse in the early Medieval Latin West by combining methods and theories taken from history, philology, literature, and religious studies. In her PhD research, which was conducted at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Tamar focused on the hagiographical collections of the sixth-century bishop Gregory of Tours. She demonstrated there that these works were written for the purpose of recording the ecclesiastical history of Merovingian Gaul and forging a Gallo-Christian identity. Her study shows that Hagiography is an extremely important cultural product and, as such, it sheds precious and unique light on current events, social changes, political quarrels, religious conflicts, and cultural tendencies. As a post-doctoral fellow at Bar Ilan University, Tamar conducted a study on the auto-hagiography of Gregory of Tours, thus offering new ways to understand sainthood and identity in the early Middle Ages.

Tamar holds a B.A. in Art History and History, an M.A. in History, and a PhD in History. All were received by Ben Gurion University of the Negev.



### **Roy Zektzer**

Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Joint Quantum Institute, NIST/University of Maryland

Roy Zektzer was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research on constructing a nano-scale electro-optic quantum interface. Roy plans to develop nano-photonic devices that could strongly interact with Q-bits embedded in solid crystals while preserving their long coherence time. These Q-bits can be manipulated by RF signals and optical signals, enabling communication between quantum computers and quantum sensors.

Roy received his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Roy's Ph.D. work deals with the challenge and the opportunity of integrating atoms (rubidium) and molecules (Acetylene) with nano-photonic devices. By precisely controlling light-matter interactions, Roy was able to fabricate and demonstrate chip scale devices that excite atoms in the same way as in a bulky free space system, with centimeters long interaction regions. Such excitation is achieved using circularly polarized light and with no excess broadening and decoherence.

## Master's Degree Fellows



### **Tal Abuloff**

Tel Aviv University >> Harvard University

Tal received her LL.B. in law, magna cum laude, from Tel Aviv University. During her studies, Tal served as Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious Tel Aviv University Law Review ('Iyunei Mishpat'), and as a research and teaching assistant in various courses. Today, Tal clerks for the Hon. Deputy Chief Justice Hanan Melcer of the Supreme Court of Israel. Tal's areas of interest focus on the intersection between corporate governance, public administration and technology. As a Fulbright fellow, Tal will pursue her LL.M. at Harvard University, focusing on the effects of big-tech monopolies (like Facebook, Google or Amazon) on various civil rights and liberties.



### **Jenan Abu Shtya**

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> University of Pennsylvania

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Jenan, will pursue her LL.M degree as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, focusing on human rights, land law and social change issues.

Jenan received her LL.B degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During her studies in the law faculty, Jenan served as a teaching and research assistant in various fields. In the past two years, Jenan has worked at Agmon &co Rozenberg HaCohen & Co Law Firm, as a legal intern and later as an advocate, in the planning and construction department.



### Shadin Azaizeh

The Academic College at Wingate >> Temple University

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Shadin Azaizeh, was awarded the Fulbright scholarship to pursue her Master's in Sports Business at Temple University with the focus area: Recreation and Event Management.

Shadin was born and raised in Nazareth. She is a professional basketball player, a graduate of the Wingate Institute. She worked as a PE teacher at CHW Hadassim High School at Even-Yhoda. Her aim is to help the Arab sector to develop professional basketball facilities that works on enhancing the young basketball players' mental and physical skills.



### Tamar Baruch

Tel Aviv University >> New York University

Israeli filmmaker Tamar Baruch (b.1987) graduated from the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University and from York University in Toronto and was a student of Jewish Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany. Her short films, including Gloria (2013), Power of Attorney (2014), and Stranger of the Dunes (2017), have been screened at film festivals worldwide, and received First Prize at the Jerusalem Film Festival and Amazon Most Promising Director Prize at the Montreal World Film Festival, amongst others. She has also been nominated for an Israeli Academy Award (Ophir), earned a MacDowell Fellowship, and is a recent laureate of the Israeli Ministry of Culture's Early Career Film Award.

At NYU Tamar will pursue a Master's Degree in documentary filmmaking as a Fulbright Fellow.



### Gal Ben Haim

Bar Ilan University >> Harvard University

Gal Ben Haim received her LL.B. in Law, Summa cum Laude, from Bar Ilan University. During her studies, Gal served as editor-in-chief of 'Mechkarei Mishpat' – Bar-Ilan Law Studies' Journal and worked as research and teaching assistant for various professors. Upon graduation, Gal served as a law clerk to the Hon. Justice Uzi Vogelman of the Supreme Court of Israel. Gal currently works as an attorney at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Gal was awarded the Fulbright scholarship to pursue her LL.M. studies at Harvard University, focusing on international criminal law and women's studies.



### Nur Jabarin

The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology >> Columbia University

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Nur, aims to do her master's in Critical, Curatorial and Conceptual practices in Architecture at Columbia University.

In 2019, Nur Jabarin received her B.Arch. degree in Architecture and Town Planning from the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology.

Nur is socially active and volunteers in several NGOs, such as Molham Volunteering Team for helping Syrian refugees worldwide, and other local forums. Throughout her academic life, Nur has participated in several political and social projects that allowed her to employ her profession as an architect in serving her community. Among them was her undergraduate thesis, where she investigated urgent contemporary questions that exist in the Palestinian society including citizenship, displacement, and existence as refugees, and how they are linked to various aspects of heritage.



## Israeli Fellows 2020

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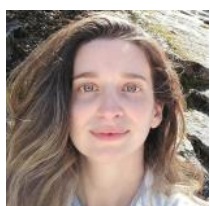
**Lina Makhuli**

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Columbia University

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Lina, was awarded the Fulbright scholarship to pursue her LL.M at Columbia University, focusing on the issue of intersectionality and Palestinian women's rights.

Lina received her LL.B in Law from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During her studies, Lina served as teaching assistant and as a research assistant in the field of Criminal Law and Women's Rights.

Upon graduation, Lina clerked at the Israeli Supreme Court for the Hon. Justice Esther Hayut and Hon. Justice Salim Joubran. She works as an associate in the administrative litigation department at S. Horowitz & Co, one of Israel's largest and highly rated law firms. In addition, Lina is one of the founders and a board member of the non-profit organization "Kulan (Together) – for the promotion of feminist discourse and action in Israel".



**Nitsan Plitman**

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Nitsan Plitman was awarded a Fulbright Master's Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "A Religion Shaped by Government: Examining the Place of Israeli Government in Designing and Changing Jewish Religious Law".

Nitsan holds an LL.B. in Law and Jewish Thought from the Hebrew University) magna cum laude) where she also worked as a teaching assistant and as editor-in-chief of 'Mishpatim' law review. She is currently finalizing an M.A. degree in Jewish Thought at the Ben-Gurion University for which she received the 'Michel Halperin Prize' in the fields of ethics, law and policy, for her promising thesis research proposal "The State of Israel as a Halachic Adjudicator". Nitsan is interested in the overlapping realms of religious and secular law and sees Israel as a unique study case for examining how religions change when becoming institutionalized and how secular structures discourse in religious terminology. Before her current Fulbright grant Nitsan worked as a legal advisor for the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) in the department of Supreme Court litigation.

## Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows



**Boaz Tsabar**

Boaz Tsabar was awarded a Fulbright Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship to pursue an internship and research project on the "Challenges of teacher education in multi-cultural and conflictual environments". Boaz has a B.A. in Education, Philosophy and History, and a PhD in Philosophy of Education, both from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He currently serves as the Head of "Teaching and Learning" MED program at the David Yellin College of Education, and as a senior lecturer in Philosophy of Education at the Hebrew University Teacher Training department. His pedagogical and research activities explore the different political, ethical and existential challenges of teachers working in Israeli public schools today.



**Osama Tanous**

Public Health Policy and Management

Osama Tanous is a 2020 Fulbright Hubert Humphrey fellow. He aims to explore the social and political determinants undermining the health of the Palestinian citizens of Israel and possible ways for health promotion initiatives.

Osama is a specialized pediatrician working in Haifa; he finished his MD and is currently finishing his Master's in Public Health, both at Tel Aviv University. He is a graduate of the "Introduction to Clinical Research Training" program from Harvard Medical School, Global and Continuing Education, Okinawa, Japan.

Osama is a clinical instructor in The Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion. He was awarded outstanding lecturer in 2015 and is a Committee Member in the medical school enrollment exams and in charge of the midterm exams in pediatrics for 5th year medical students. Osama is a volunteering pediatrician in the mobile clinic of Physicians for Human Rights in the West Bank and Gaza.

### International Writing Program Fellow



**Sarah Blau**

Sarah Blau was awarded a Fulbright International Writing Program fellowship (at the University of Iowa) to write her fourth novel, temporarily titled "And Who Are You Today?"

Blau is an author and playwright. Her short stories were published in various anthologies in Israel and abroad. She edited and presented widely on television and radio, bringing a feminist perspective to Jewish topics. Her works are an intimate exploration of mythology, history and Judaism. In 2014, she staged a one-woman, semi-autobiographical show, "Thy Shall Write," in which she herself portrayed a novelist nursing a broken heart while struggling to finish her great novel – a modern, romantic adaptation of the Biblical story of Jael and Sisera.

Her books include: The Book of Creation (2007), Those Well-Raised Girls (2012), Stake (2014), The Others (2018)

Plays: The Last One (2004), Thy Shall Write (2014), Rhinoplasty (2105)

### Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program for International Teachers (DAI)



**Hagay Shacham**

Amakim-Tavor High School >> Arizona State University

Hagay Shacham is a mathematics teacher in Amakim-Tavor regional high school in Kibbutz Mizra. He also serves as the 9th grade coordinator at the school. Hagay is a graduate of the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, where he earned his academic degrees, B.Sc. in Mathematics, B.Ed. in teaching of Mathematics and M.Sc. in Mathematics. Hagay is engaged in finding ways to encourage active learning by high school students, believing that this way of learning is more significant and has a better effect. His main goal is to shift the focus of the learning from teacher-centered learning to student-centered learning. Through his fellowship he is hoping to further explore this area, getting to know current activity and finding ways to implement more aspects of active learning in the day-to-day learning in high schools.

### Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Fellows



**Arwa Ayoub**

Bar-Ilan University

Arwa Ayoub received her B.A in Generative Linguistics and English Literature from the Hebrew University and her Master's degree in Translation and Research of Translation from Bar-Ilan University. She has worked in various forms of translation, including interpreting. Her most rewarding and fondest memory was working as an interpreter (2016) for the YMCA youth department, which is a program for Arab and Jewish youths. This experience solidified her strong belief that language is a bridge between cultures. She believes that separation is an illusion, and the most effective way to break that illusion is to know the other, and for that, a bridge is needed. The FLTA experience will be a great opportunity to expand her learning as well as to teach others.