

Postdoctoral Fellows



Fareeda Abo-Rass

University of Haifa >> Smith College

Fareeda Abo-Rass was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Barriers and facilitators to mental health service use among Hispanic and African American minorities in the U.S.”. This research will explore a comprehensive set of sociocultural barriers and facilitators to mental health service use among Hispanics and African Americans in the U.S., and examine two models, integrating these factors as correlates of mental health services use for each minority. She is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Conflict Management & Resolution Program in Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

In her PhD research, Fareeda examined health-related quality of life, illness representations, self-stigma and self-esteem among younger and older Israeli Arabs diagnosed with depression. During her PhD studies, she was awarded the Council for Higher Education – Planning & Budgeting Committee Scholarship for outstanding PhD students in Israel, and the Jewish-Arab Center in University of Haifa Scholarship for outstanding female Arab students.



Gil Baram

Tel Aviv University >> Stanford University

Gil Baram was awarded the Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research on “Attribution 4.0: A New Approach to Strategic State Response to Cyber Attacks”. In this research Gil will focus on national decision making during cyber conflicts and the reasons state actors are likely to decide various attribution strategies against states and non-states adversaries. She completed her Ph.D. research at the School of Political Science, Government and International Relations at Tel Aviv University. Gil has held fellow positions with the Centre of Excellence for National Security at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and the Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center at Tel Aviv University. Her Ph.D. research examined under what circumstances governments choose public acknowledgment of cyberattacks over secrecy, by developing a pioneering analytical model that allows decision makers to predict their adversary’s strategy, supported by an original coded database of cyberattacks.



Ziv Ben-Zion

Tel Aviv University >> Yale University

Ziv was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Behavioral, Neural and Molecular Mechanisms of PTSD" at Yale University.

Ziv received his B.Sc. in Neuroscience (Biology & Psychology), Summa Cum Laude, from the Sagol School of Neuroscience at Tel Aviv University in 2015. His Ph.D. in Neuroscience was conducted at the Sagol Brain Institute at Tel Aviv University. Ziv's Ph.D. research focused on uncovering neural and cognitive moderators of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptom trajectories. In his postdoctoral studies, he aims to further elucidate the neural mechanisms underlying anxiety- and stress-related disorders, in order to advance novel mechanisms-based treatments and improved clinical outcomes for individuals suffering from these debilitating disorders.



Asaf Gayer

University of Haifa >> Princeton University

Asaf Gayer was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled: “Integrating the Qumran Papyri into Papyrological Research: The Case of 4QpapRitual Marriage (4Q502)”. Asaf’s project will examine the literary papyrus manuscripts from Qumran in light of Mediterranean scribal culture, comparing the Qumranic materials with Egyptian papyri from Oxyrhynchus. Asaf’s research focuses on the study of ancient Jewish manuscripts, mainly from the region of the Dead Sea. His work is characterized by the use of digital tools and techniques along with traditional philological work, illuminating the material aspects and the literary structure of a composition, unveiling its motifs and traditions and its interrelations with surrounding literary cultures.

Asaf is currently a postdoc fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, working on the Isaiah scrolls from Qumran cave 4. Asaf’s dissertation explores the literary motif of measuring and weighing in Qumranic wisdom tradition and in other second Temple Jewish literature.



Yael Gazit

Tel Aviv University >> Yale University

Yael Gazit was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "Philosophical Progress and Appropriation." His research aims to suggest a novel account of philosophical progress in which philosophical appropriation plays a central role. It purports to do so by grafting a close analysis of Robert Brandom's appropriation of Hegel, onto a detailed reconstruction of Wilfrid Sellars's approach to the history of philosophy, that will result in one tradition, on which both philosophical views are provided, and an exemplification of historical development by appropriation.

In her PhD research, Yael had begun laying out a philosophy of appropriation, focusing on its value as an insightful tool of philosophical understanding. She was awarded a Rotenstreich Scholarship for outstanding PhD students in the Humanities and the Dan David Prize Scholarship for outstanding doctoral and post-doctoral researches.



Shay Golan

Bar-Ilan University >> University of California, Berkeley

Shay Golan was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Stringology in Modern Models of Computation". This research will focus on algorithms for string problems in models like the streaming model and the distributed model. Such problems arise when processing massive amounts of information that cannot be stored or handled by a single computer.

Shay has a BA from the Open University of Israel and an MA from Bar-Ilan University, both in Computer Science. His PhD research at Bar-Ilan University focuses on algorithms for string problems in the streaming model of computation. During his PhD he developed novel tools for solving streaming pattern matching problems.



Gilad Itach

Bar-Ilan University >> The University of Chicago

Gilad Itach was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Between North and South: A Comparative Study of Assyrian Policies in the West, based on the Finds in the Provinces of Kinalia and Samaria". At the University of Chicago, he will research the Neo-Assyrian empire's control of its western periphery by means of a comparative study between different provinces. Gilad's PhD research was conducted at Bar-Ilan University and focused on different aspects of the influences of the Neo-Assyrian Empire on the southern Levant, mostly as regards the province of Samaria.

Gilad is an archaeologist who works at the Israel Antiquities Authority. In recent years he directed excavations at several biblical sites in Israel.



Yael Kariv-Teitelbaum

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> University of Pennsylvania

Yael Kariv-Teitelbaum was awarded a Fulbright-ISEF Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "The Comeback of the State? Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic". The research will explore the role of the regulatory state in times of crisis, focusing on the similarities and differences in governments' regulatory responses to the coronavirus crisis and its reflection of their national regulatory style.

In her PhD research, Yael is studying the privatization of regulation. She examines this rapidly evolving phenomenon by tracing its intellectual origins, classifying different modes and mechanisms, identifying common legal concerns and new regulatory challenges and analyzing central promises and pitfalls. Yael was awarded the President's doctoral Fellowship for an Outstanding PhD student, the Cheshin Fellowship for Law Faculty Research Fellows, and the Hoffman Leadership and Responsibility Fellowship. Yael has an LL.B. degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Law and Psychology (Summa cum laude).



Ido Levin

Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> University of Washington

Ido Levin was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project focusing on active solids. He is particularly fascinated by shape-morphing structures, especially in the interplay between their shape, geometry and mechanical properties. In his PhD he studied, experimentally and theoretically, shape-morphing pathways of active thin sheets. His research was supported by the Azrieli Foundation.



Hanan Mazeh

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev >> University of Pennsylvania

Hanan Mazeh was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Constructing Jewish Legal Territory: The Land of Israel in the Palestinian Talmud”. The project, part of a research group at The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, explores the reconceptualization of the Land of Israel as a “halakhic territory” in the field of agricultural law in the corpus of rabbinic texts from Roman Palestine from the first century CE. It aims to shed light on the rabbis’ attempts to give meaning to, and thereby to preserve some form of control over, the Jewish territory as part of their identity struggle as a conquered community under Rome.

Hanan is a Kreitman postdoctoral fellow in History at Ben-Gurion University and an awardee of the Rothschild postdoctoral fellowship. His PhD dissertation in Jewish History at Ben-Gurion University focused on halakhic developments and rabbinic attitudes towards non-Jews and their presence in the Palestinian Talmud, by an integrated philological-historical examination of one of its tractates. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in Talmudic Studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

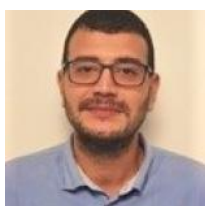


Lior Michaeli

Tel Aviv University >> California Institute of Technology

Lior Michaeli was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Optical Dynamic Control of Macroscopic Objects”, under the supervision of Prof Harry Atwater at Caltech. This research deals with mechanical manipulation of millimeter-to meter-scale objects by light, through its ability to exert forces. The research is part of the ambitious goal of the Breakthrough Starshot Initiative to launch laser-driven lightsails for space exploration.

Lior received his MSc and PhD in Physics from Tel Aviv University. In his PhD, conducted under the supervision of Prof. Tal Ellenbogen and Prof. Haim Suchowski, he investigated collective effects in two-dimensional nanoparticle arrays, known as metasurfaces. Among his results, he extended the formalism to analyze the collective dynamics to the nonlinear optical regime, where he found and demonstrated new resonant condition for enhanced nonlinearity.



Molhm Nassir

Bar-Ilan University >> SCRIPPS Research Institute, San Diego

Molhm Nassir was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research titled “ Formation of C-N Bond-Based on Phosphorous 4-Member Ring Intermediate,” under the supervision of Prof. Phil S. Baran at the SCRIPPS Research Institute, La Jolla, CA. In his research project, he will focus on the development of C-N bond. This methodology will provide a very useful tool in both organic and medicinal chemistry. It is envisioned to be easy, simple, non-expensive, and with minimum synthetic steps for a formation of amines and amides. In addition, it is metal-free catalysis which makes it more suitable for industrial needs.

Molhm completed his PhD. at Bar-Ilan University where his research focused on “Synthesis and Evaluation of NPP1 Inhibitors as Potential Drugs for the Treatment of Osteoarthritis/CPD”. Nassir is currently part of a research group at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem that focuses on the developments of novel methodologies for the investigation of stereoselective cycloaddition reactions of organoborons.



Adi Sherzer

Ben Gurion University of the Negev >> University of California Berkeley

Adi Sherzer was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled: "Imagining a People: The Israeli Chief Rabbinate and the Jewish World." The research focuses on the formation of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate as a state "church" during the 1940s and 1950s and seeks to investigate the intersections between religion and nationalism and between Israel as a symbolic homeland and the Jewish Diaspora. Adi's PhD dissertation focused on the place of Jewish symbols, rituals and traditions during the first Israeli Independence Days. His further studies include an analysis of David Ben-Gurion's attitude to the Jewish past, and an overview of Israeli military education.

Adi was a guest fellow at Max-Webber Kolleg (Erfurt University), a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the head of the Research Forum for the Study of Liberal Judaism and Jewish Renewal in Israel, Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel & Zionism.



Assaf Shocher

Weizmann Institute of Science >> University of California Berkeley

Assaf Shocher was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Transformation Relation Neural Networks" at the University of California Berkeley. His PhD is in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Vision at the Weizmann Institute of Science. He developed a framework called "Deep Internal Learning" for training a signal-specific neural network on a single datum for various tasks, exploiting its internal statistics. Assaf received his M.Sc. from the Weizmann Institute, B.Sc. in Physics and B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Assaf was also awarded the Rothschild Fellowship.



Orly Tonkikh

University of Haifa >> University of California Davis

Orly Tonkikh was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "Relationship between continuity of care, nurse-family caregiver collaboration and functional outcomes of hospitalized older adults: a mixed methods study" at the University of California Davis. Her research will use mixed methods sequential explanatory design to learn the mechanisms by which caregivers and nurse staffing affect outcomes of hospitalized older adults. The findings could guide managers and policymakers when designing new big-data and health information technology models to generate a streamlined fit between the infrastructure and supply patterns of nursing care and the needs of the growing older population.

Orly's PhD was conducted at the Cheryl Spencer Institute of Nursing Research at the University of Haifa, where she focused on the association between nurse staffing, hospitalization processes and functional outcomes. Orly was awarded the Health Sciences Person-In-Training Award from the Gerontological Society of America and an advanced studies scholarship for outstanding research students from the Cheryl Spencer Institute of Nursing Research and the Graduate Studies Authority at the University of Haifa.

Master's Degree Fellows



Etai Bar-Hanan

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Etai received his B.A. in Education and Political Science (magna cum laude) from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is a member of its Educational Leadership Program. During his studies, Etai worked as a research assistant at the Hebrew University School of Education. After serving as an advisor for the Director General of the Ministry of Education, Etai joined Teach First Israel and became a high school teacher in Bat-Yam. Today he serves as Director of Pedagogy in his school. Etai's areas of interest focus on school-based interventions aimed at fostering academic motivation, as a means of tackling achievement gaps.

Etai was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue his master's degree in Education Leadership, Organizations and Entrepreneurship at Harvard University.



Bashir Bashir

Tel Aviv University >> Stevens Institute of Technology

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Bashir, was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue his Masters in Data Science focusing on data-driven decision making at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Bashir received his B.A. in Psychology and Business from Tel Aviv University. During his studies, Bashir served as a strategic consultant for NGOs, wrote his thesis on the issue of code-mixing in the context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and volunteered as program coordinator for several social and cultural projects. The Council of Higher Education and Tel Aviv University awarded him as one of the most influential students in social involvement. His thesis was published in the Journal of Language and Social Psychology.

Upon graduation, Bashir served as a strategic consultant at Maoz and later as a data analyst in Hi-Tech after graduating from Google's first Data Analysis Bootcamp.



Yonat Ben Ozer

Tel Aviv University >> Yale University

Yonat received her LL.B. in law, magna cum laude, from Tel Aviv University. She is also a graduate of the Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students at Tel Aviv University. During her studies, Yonat worked as a teacher's assistant in the areas of administrative law, welfare law and labor law, and served as a board member of the Tel Aviv Review of Law and Social Change. She was also a fellow in the TraffLab research project, focused on a labor approach to human trafficking, at Tel Aviv University, in which she researched worker-driven social responsibility. Upon graduation, Yonat served as a law clerk for the Hon. Justice Anat Baron of the Supreme Court of Israel. Yonat currently works as an associate in Erdinast, Ben Nathan, Toledano and Co.

Yonat was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue her LL.M. studies at Yale University, focusing on human trafficking and workers' rights.



Alamia Biro

Tel Aviv University >> University of Pennsylvania

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Alamia, was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue her studies at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education (Penn GSE) - MEd program in Education, Culture, and Society.

Alamia is a BA graduate of Comparative Literature and American Studies from Tel-Aviv University. She has been working in the field of education for more than a decade and managing the Arab sector in Educating for Excellence for the past 3 years. Following her Master's degree Alamia's goal is to improve the educational system within the Arab community, in Jaffa, and later in the Arab society in Israel in general. She seeks to prepare the youth for the "day after" K12 education, building a solid, structured and holistic path for educational achievement. In addition, she is interested in researching the effects of inter-generational conflict on education, especially in traditional societies and peripheral areas.



Liat Dasht

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Yale University

Liat received her LL.B. in Law and a B.A. in Philosophy, summa cum laude, from The Hebrew University. Liat's areas of interest revolve around legal reasoning, constitutional law, and the intersections of law and philosophy. During her studies, Liat served as Editor-in-Chief of the online edition of The Hebrew University Law Review. She worked as a research and teaching assistant in both the Faculty of Law and the Philosophy Department, and as a research assistant at the Israel Democracy Institute. Upon graduation, Liat served as a law clerk to the Hon. Judge Ruth Ronnen in the Economic Division of the Tel Aviv District Court.

Liat was later awarded the Irving-Isadore Weinberg Prize for Excellence in Public Law for a research paper dealing with rules and standards in the proportionality test. For her research paper titled "The Relevance of Autonomy in Post Mortal Rape", she received the Law and Philosophy Forum Prize. Liat was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue her LL.M. at Yale Law School, where she intends to develop her research focusing on the relationship between legal reasoning and the normative status of constitutional judgements.



Shir Eshkol

Tel Aviv University >> Columbia University

Shir received her LL.B. in law, magna cum laude, from Tel Aviv University. During her studies, Shir served as an assistant editor of "Theoretical Inquiries in Law" and as a research and teaching assistant for various professors.

After graduation, Shir served as a law clerk to the Hon. Justice Yoram Danziger of the Israeli Supreme Court and as a senior law clerk to the Hon. Judge Ruth Ronnen of the Economic Affairs Court (at Tel-Aviv District Court). Shir is currently working as an associate at one of the top law firms in Israel and has over 5 years of experience as a litigator.



Nader Maray

Technion Institute of Technology >> Texas State University-San Marcos

Fulbright Master's Outreach fellow, Nader, was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue a Master's Degree in AI and Robotics at Texas State University-San Marcos. Nader received his B.Sc. in Computer Science, cum laude, from the Technion - Institute of Technology. During his studies, Nader completed various research projects specializing in his main fields of interests AI, Robotics and Machine Learning. Simultaneously, he completed a two-year internship as a student researcher at IBM Research labs in Haifa as part of the Hardware Verification team.

Currently, Nader is doing research at Carnegie Mellon University specializing in Robotics and Machine Learning, which will end in a publication.



Shahar Somech

Tel Aviv University >> Columbia University

Shahar received her LL.B. in Law and a B.A in the Multi-Disciplinary program in the Humanities Department from Tel Aviv University.

Prior to her studies Shahar established an NGO that successfully lobbied the Israeli government to change its immigration policy, in order to grant citizenship to undocumented migrant workers and their families. Upon graduation Shahar worked as a parliamentary advisor for the Chairperson of the State Control Committee and as legal advisor for the Attorney General as a data and privacy protection advisor in the Department of Public & Constitutional Law.

Having worked in a wide array of institutions and organizations Shahar's areas of interest focus on the intersection between the public sector and the civil sector, towards creating long lasting collaborations between the two, to achieve effective social change. Shahar was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue her MPA at Columbia University.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow



Sharon Dinur

Architecture and Urban Planning

Sharon Dinur is the Deputy Director for Planning and Architecture in the Department of City Planning at the Jerusalem Municipality.

Sharon holds a B.Arch. in Architecture from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem and an M.A. Architecture and Urban Planning (with distinction) from The Technion - Israel Institute of Technology. Sharon's position requires her to determine the city planning policy on matters such as density, employment, transportation and public space. She is also responsible for developing a planning policy that balances between density and open space, preservation of buildings and preservation of the urban ecology, privacy and public space, density and attraction of young professionals to the city, together with upgrading of public spaces and more efficient mass transportation. Sharon has initiated and managed several city masterplans.

Through her Hubert H. Humphrey fellowship at MIT- Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sharon is hoping to promote the idea that density and diversity can make a city a better place and, combined with sustainable development, is the critical mission of our time.

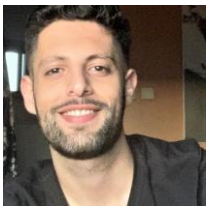
Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Fellows



Katreen Damouni

University of Haifa >> Western Michigan University

Katreen Damouni received her B.A in English Language and Literature from the University of Haifa in 2015 and her teaching certificate from Gordon College. She is currently finishing her fifth year as an English teacher at a Bedouin high school in the south. She will participate in the Fulbright program as an Arabic teaching assistant at Western Michigan University. She believes that language is a major cornerstone of cultural exchange and the building of today's multicultural world. As an FLTA, she will not only grant her students a fresher and more authentic look into her culture but also attain an informed perspective on American life and culture herself.



Adam Adeeb

Tel Aviv University >> SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill

Adam Adeeb received his BA in English Literature and Labor Studies from Tel Aviv University. During his studies, the international environment was an integral part of his experience where he participated in the Model United Nations for three years and met with students from across the globe. He also provided private lessons in Arabic for foreign students and took part in a non-profit organization as a translator. Prior to participating in the FLTA program, Adam worked in a multinational startup company for trading, in the Arabic desk. He believes that through teaching languages, people from different nations can connect and build bridges despite cultural differences.



Maryam Farah

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Coastal Carolina University

Maryam Farah received her B.A in English/Education from the Hebrew University. She pursued and excelled in the special teaching certificate program for outstanding students during her last year of B.A studies. Then, she completed her M.A in Special Education at the Hebrew University where she started working at The Learning Center for the Blind during her last year of studies. She instructed and helped advance EFL students with hearing/visual impairments using various methods she had acquired during her studies. This year has had the greatest impact on her. She spent the year doing what she loves the most: breaking cultural barriers through human interaction and language exchange. She was honored for her Seminar work, which examined the self-perception of non-native speakers of English in comparison to native English speakers. She currently works as an English teacher in a Jewish school and teaches students from different backgrounds and different levels that vary from LD students to native speakers. Most importantly, for Maryam, language is a way to connect with people, see their culture and bring different worlds together.