

Postdoctoral Fellows



Tomer Langberg

University of California, Berkeley >> Tel Aviv University

Tomer Langberg was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled, 'Dysregulated excitability as a pathogenic mechanism of Alzheimer's Disease,' with Inna Slutsky's neuroscience laboratory at Tel Aviv University. This work will explore how changes to the synaptic connections between neurons might underlie the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's Disease.

His PhD research was conducted at the University of California, Berkeley where he tested how changes to neuronal excitation and inhibition are coordinated in neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism and intellectual disability. Prior to his PhD, Tomer researched the genetic inheritance of epilepsy susceptibility at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and later tested inducible genetic strategies that drive resistance to mood disorders at Harvard University.



Roni Masel

New York University >> Ben Gurion University

Roni Masel is a 2020 post-doctoral fellow at the Frankel Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. She received her B.A. in Hebrew literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and recently completed her PhD in Jewish Studies at New York University. Roni is currently working on a manuscript, *Disruptive Pleasure: Violence and the Grotesque in Hebrew and Yiddish Literatures*, which considers fictionalized episodes of anti-Jewish violence in Hebrew and Yiddish, and formulates a new way of writing a joint historiography of both literatures in central and eastern Europe. Her research interests also include diaspora and the diasporic turn in Jewish studies, translation studies, history and materiality of the book, and queer and postcolonial theory.

Roni's work appeared or is forthcoming in *Studies in Yiddish*, *Mikan va-eylakh* and *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*. Her research was supported by YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Taub Center for Israel Studies, and Jordan Center for the Study of Russia.



Camilah Powell

Rice University >> Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Camilah Powell was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, entitled "The Living & Self-Cleaning Water Treatment Membrane", at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, where she will join the research group of Professor Christopher J. Arnusch. Her project investigates the development of a magnetically responsive membrane that can facilitate a self-cleaning function upon exposure to an external magnetic field. Camilah received her Ph.D. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from Rice University under the tutelage of Professor Michael S. Wong.

She conducted her Ph.D. at the NSF funded Nanotechnology Enabled Water Treatment (NEWT) ERC, where she developed a magnetic nanoparticle recovery water treatment system and exploited the magnetic properties of nano-sized materials for water-related catalysis and adsorption.



Thomas Prendergast

Duke University >> Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Thomas Prendergast was awarded the Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "'The First Imperial Turn: Habsburg Sociology and the European Nation-State, 1870-1914'" at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with Dr. Dmitry Shumsky. This research asks how European actors sought to legitimize multinational statehood in the face of new, nation-centric political and legal theories around the turn of the twentieth century. He answers this question by analyzing the production and circulation of the concept of "empire" in and between East Central Europe, Western Europe and the wider non-European world.



Ariel Resnikoff

[University of Pennsylvania](#) >> [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#)

Ariel Resnikoff was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project entitled “Excavating the Translingual-Hebrew Archive: With Special Reference to the Collected Papers of Avot Yeshurun and Harold Schimmel.” As a Fulbright Scholar at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he will continue his investigation, translation and digitization of key materials by the poets, Avot Yeshurun (1904-1992) and Harold Schimmel (b. 1935), most notably, organizing for the first time Harold Schimmel’s collected papers into a cohesive and searchable archive.

Ariel received his PhD in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory from the University of Pennsylvania in 2019. His writing has been translated into Russian, French, Spanish and German, and a long excerpt of his doctoral dissertation, *Home Tongue Earthquake: The Radical Afterlives of Yiddishland*, recently came out in the Berlin-based magazine, *Schreibheft, Zeitschrift für Literatur*. His first full length poetry collection, *Unnatural Bird Migrator*, is forthcoming with the Operating System in 2020.



David Weinreich

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

David Weinreich was awarded the Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research under the tutelage of Professor Karel Martens at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

David earned his Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on the impact that governance and financial structures can have on accessibility to jobs and essential services, particularly for disadvantaged populations. David’s Fulbright research deals with cross-national norms and institutions that support public transit systems in Israel and EU countries, and the cross-jurisdictional structures in place for ensuring robust public transport access and coverage. This applies both to traditional public transit services and new publicly-supported on-demand systems. The Fulbright fellowship will allow Weinreich to conduct international comparative work, providing a better understanding of the structures that make public transit more robust in Israel and the EU.

Senior Scholars



Yousef Abu-Kwaik

[University of Louisville, Kentucky](#) >> [Technion - Israel Institute of Technology](#)

Yousef Abu Kwaik is the Bumgardner Professor of Molecular Microbial Pathogenesis at the University of Louisville College of Medicine. His research focuses on the molecular and biochemical mechanisms by which pathogenic bacteria evade the innate host defenses in order to survive and proliferate within host cells, leading to disease manifestation. He has published 130 papers in outstanding journals and edited three books. He is the founder and chief editor of the journal, “Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology”. He has mentored 15 Ph.D. students and 20 postdoctoral fellows. In recognition of his research innovation, he received the University of Louisville Presidential Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity.



Avner Cohen

[Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California](#) >> [Tel Aviv University](#)

Avner Cohen is a Professor at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in California. He is widely known for his path-breaking historical studies of the Israeli nuclear program. His current research explores the lives and times of the three founding fathers of the Israeli nuclear program in its formative years. He was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar fellowship for his project, “Atomic Biographies – The Lives of E.D. Bergman, I. Dostrovsky, and S. Freier.” He is a two-time winner of the MacArthur Foundation research and writing awards, in 1990 and 2004. He was also a Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace in 1997-98 and 2007-08, and a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC in 2008-09. Currently he is a Global Fellow with the Nuclear Proliferation International History Project at the Woodrow Wilson Center. While he maintains an on-going and broad interest in understanding the nuclear age as a whole, much of Cohen’s work has focused on Israel’s nuclear history against the broader domestic and external aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.



Alexei M. Sivertsev

DePaul University >> Bar-Ilan University

Alexei M. Sivertsev is a Professor in the DePaul University Department of Religious Studies. He received his B.A. from the Historical Archival Institute, Russia State University for the Humanities, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Hebrew and Judaic studies from New York University. His research focuses on the study of Jewish cultural dynamics in late antiquity. Sivertsev was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship for his project: “Urban Communities in Context: Reading Late Antique Synagogue Floors in Roman Palestine as Relational Models.” He will explore late antique synagogue floor mosaics in the Beth Shean area of Israel. The project is part of a broader attempt to understand how Jewish and Christian communities in urban settings described themselves in relation to a variety of symbolic markers, such as language, geography, chronology, and indicators of status.



Noga Vardi

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

Noga Vardi is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University (studying the escape system of cockroaches) and, prior to becoming a Research Professor at UPenn, she worked at the Technion on vision and stereopsis. Noga specializes in all aspects of retinal signal processing, but she is mainly known for deciphering the mechanisms that mediate light signaling in retinal bipolar cells. In 2020, she was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship to investigate the function of mitochondrial porins (VDACs) in photoreceptors.

Master's Degree Fellows



Hunter Coolican

University of Central Florida >> Tel Aviv University

Hunter Coolican received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Central Florida in May 2020. While a student at UCF, he was an active member of the university’s Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps where he commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Space Force. As a cadet, he had the opportunity to go to the United Kingdom as part of the International Air Cadet Exchange to help foster international understanding and goodwill. He has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship to pursue a Master of Arts in Security and Diplomacy from Tel Aviv University. His research interests include strategy, foreign affairs and international space law.



Rachael Costello

Northern Arizona University >> Tel Aviv University

Rachael Costello received a B.A. in International Affairs and a B.S. in Political Science from Northern Arizona University. Her research focused on feminist international relations, violence against women and the German language. During her studies, she held an internship at Victim Witness, a legal non-profit for survivors of assault, and another at the German Marshall Fund of the United States as a Leadership Initiatives intern. After graduating, Rachael worked for two years as a Language and Culture Ambassador for the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport in Granada, Spain, where she taught bilingual education. Rachael is fluent in English and German and has conversational fluency in Spanish. She has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediation from Tel Aviv University. The Fulbright Fellowship will allow her to research women’s roles in mediation, as well as pre- and post-conflict. She also looks forward to continuing her Krav Maga training in its country of origin during her free time.



Kyle Desrosiers

[Baylor University >> Tel Aviv University](#)

Kyle Desrosiers was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediation at Tel Aviv University. Kyle holds a BA in University Scholars with a concentration in fine arts, journalism, and German from Baylor University. He is studying in Tel Aviv in order to further his competency for a career in religion journalism. In particular, Kyle is interested in religious conflict, the ethics of pluralism and dissent, and the relationship among religious institutions and constructs of human identity. He recently submitted an undergraduate thesis entitled, “Things Broken and Things Made New: an oral history of HIV/AIDS and Spirituality,” and is editing an iteration of this project for publication this summer.



Daniel Hila

[City College of New York >> Tel Aviv University](#)

Daniel Hila graduated from the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at the City College of New York with a B.A. in political science. As a first-generation American born to Albanian immigrants, Daniel has sought to maintain close ties with the Albanian-American community. He interned with the Consulate of Kosovo in the consular and diplomatic sectors, where he began to develop an interest in foreign affairs and diplomacy. The status of Kosovo inspired his interest in the Balkans, and his studies at City College concurrently inspired an interest in the Middle East. Daniel has been involved with three United Nations General Assemblies and had the unique opportunity to see most world leaders give their remarks to the UN in 2019. He will be pursuing an M.A. in security and diplomacy at Tel Aviv University, where he aspires to gain a personal perspective of the Middle East while continuing his Arabic studies. Daniel hopes to work for the U.S. government in a diplomatic capacity toward the Balkans and the Middle East.



Jade Kosché

[Trinity Law School >> Tel Aviv University](#)

Jade Kosché received her J.D. in Law, magna cum laude, from Trinity Law School. During her studies, Kosché served as Executive Editor of the Trinity Law Review and a graduate teaching assistant for Criminal Law. She also interned with the anti-human trafficking coalition, Chab Dai International, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. While in Cambodia, she authored a manual on understanding human trafficking, which is used to train NGO workers and inform NGO project planning worldwide. Since graduation and admission to the California Bar, Kosché has worked in labor, employment, and insurance law, litigating a variety of cases, including complex litigation matters. She actively volunteers with the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and Sojourn Legal Clinic, a legal clinic for domestic abuse survivors. Kosché has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study for an LL.M in international business law from Tel Aviv University, Buchmann Faculty of Law. Kosché’s proposed project involves researching the desirability and implementation of an international convention on standardizing and codifying corporate responsibility with respect to abuse in supply chains.



Anchor Losch

[West Point Academy >> Tel Aviv University](#)

Anchor Losch received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies from West Point. She has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master of Arts in Environmental Studies at Tel Aviv University. From serving as an English teacher during her semester in Morocco, to volunteering in Uganda, Mongolia, Vietnam and Ecuador, Anchor focused her time on serving communities to give her engineering research context. As a Joseph J. Malone Fellow with the National Council on U.S.- Arab Relations, she spoke at the 2017 Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference and served as a delegate on two separate trips to the Middle East. Anchor also attended the joint Yale-West Point Peace and Dialogue Leadership Initiative in Israel. Anchor serves as the President of both the West Point American Institute of Chemical Engineers and Model Arab League. She is also the head conductor of the Cadet Spirit Band. Anchor will commission as an Engineer officer in May of 2020.



Hannah McDaniel

University of Montana >> University of Haifa

Hannah McDaniel graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Montana with a B.A. in Communication Studies and a minor in International Development Studies. Her focus was primarily communication as a mechanism for social change in the context of non-profit organizations, and she completed an internship with Habitat for Humanity of Missoula. In 2018, Hannah's studies led her abroad to analyze the effects of wartime propaganda on Western Europe, and then to engage with statewide civic leaders as a 2018 Montana New Leadership Fellow. Since graduating in 2019, Hannah has been working as Communications Director for Habitat for Humanity of Missoula in addition to volunteering with another non-profit, Soft-Landing Missoula, which supports refugees in the region. Hannah has been awarded a Fulbright grant to pursue a Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Management at the University of Haifa. The Fulbright Fellowship will enable her to further examine the role of communication in social justice work, particularly across social, political and cultural divides. Hannah looks forward to building relationships within the Israeli non-profit sector, as well as the University of Haifa's uniquely diverse student and faculty bases.

PhD Research Fellows



Kelsey Reed

Virginia Tech >> Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Kelsey Reed was awarded a Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, "Improving Heirloom Tomato Traits through Gene Editing," with Dr. Idan Efroni's lab at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This project aims to extend the shelf life of heirloom tomatoes by precisely modifying target genes through gene editing. The project will result in a more durable and diverse tomato through a method that can be applied to other crops. Kelsey obtained a B.S. in Plant Biology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2018 and is currently a Ph.D. student in Dr. Bastiaan Bargmann's lab at Virginia Tech. She is currently researching how to increase regeneration capabilities of plant protoplasts for crop improvement.



Sean Rao

University of Maryland >> University of Haifa

Sean Rao was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue his research project, titled "Ideology, Credibility, and Political Mobilization in Israel's Arab Sector", at the University of Haifa under Dr. As'ad Ghanem. Sean earned his B.A. in International Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his M.A. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is currently a Ph.D. student in Government and Politics at the University of Maryland-College Park, where he is writing his dissertation on the role of religious and socialist ideologies in political mobilization. He studies whether the use of ideological framing by political parties impacts perceptions of credibility among voters.