

### Postdoctoral Fellows



#### Zily Burstein

University of Chicago >> Weizmann Institute of Science

Zily Burstein was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, “The Regulatory Mechanism of DNA Transcription,” with Professor Naama Barkai at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Zily’s main interest is in the physics of complex systems and in the application of physics theory to questions in cellular biology. Her current project in the Barkai Lab seeks to advance our understanding of the dynamics regulating the efficiency and specificity of transcription factor binding to DNA. Zily received her PhD in physics at the University of Chicago, where she developed a model for color vision processing in the visual cortex.



#### Chet Bush

University of Mississippi >> Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Chet Bush was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project, “Jerusalem, Sacred Tourism, and the American Civil Rights Movement” at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In this project, he researches the presence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Israel and studies the impact that religious tourism had on the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign, the American Civil Rights Movement, and a burgeoning civil rights tourism. He examines religious tourism as a framework for both personal pilgrimage and community economic uplift.

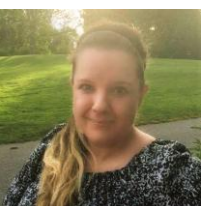
Prior to his studies in Jerusalem, Bush taught American History at the University of Mississippi. He holds degrees from Trevecca Nazarene University (B.A. in Religion), Nazarene Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and the University of Mississippi (M.A. and Ph.D. in History). His research on the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign Mule Train was conducted under the direction of Professor Ted Ownby.



#### Roie Levin

Carnegie Mellon University >> Tel Aviv University

Roie Levin was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his project “Online and Dynamic Algorithms for Linear Programming” with Dr. Niv Buchbinder at Tel Aviv University. He completed a B.Sc. in Computer Science/Applied Mathematics as well as a B.Sc. in Mathematics at Brown University, after which he spent two years as a predoctoral fellow at the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Seattle. Roie's PhD is in Algorithms, Combinatorics and Optimization (ACO) at Carnegie Mellon University under the supervision of Prof. Anupam Gupta. Roie's research spans algorithms for uncertain environments (online/dynamic/streaming algorithms), and submodular optimization (the discrete cousin of convex optimization).



#### Julia Reed

Harvard University >> Bar-Ilan University

Julia Reed will undertake a project entitled "Biblical Bodies: Reading Anatomies in Early Modern Jewish and Christian Medicine" with Professor Yehuda Halper in the Department of Jewish Philosophy at Bar-Ilan University. She is currently collaborating with Katja Krause’s research group at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, “Experience in the Premodern Sciences of Soul and Body,” and studies the relationships between the body and the soul in early modern medicine and Christian theology. Julia's PhD is in Religious Studies from Harvard University, and she works at the intersections of the history of medicine, Christian thought and theology, comparative religion, and early modern philosophy. She's particularly interested in the social and epistemic authority of physicians (i.e., how we learn to trust doctors, and about what), the relationships between disease and sin or evil, and how religious and medical authorities intersect, diverge, and come into conflict over time.



**Nicholas Rogers**

Duke University >> Tel Aviv University

Nicholas Rogers was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project entitled, “Disruption of Inter-organismal Communicators (Extracellular Vesicles) by Microplastics” with Dr. Ines Zucker at Tel Aviv University. This research will seek to evaluate the ability of extracellular vesicles (which are membrane-bound particles produced by all cells to mediate inter-cellular or inter-organismal communication) to adsorb to microplastic particles in aquatic systems, which could then interfere with the ways in which microbes communicate with one another.

Nicholas received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering with a focus on environmental engineering and sustainability at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and his Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Duke University. His doctoral research was focused on studying extracellular vesicles from yeast and bacteria as colloids to predict/model their fate in agricultural systems.



**Nicolle Simonovic**

Kent State University >> University of Haifa

Nicolle Simonovic was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her project, “Examining psychological determinants of and cultural factors involved in vaccine hesitancy,” under the mentorship of Dr. Anat Gesser-Edelsburg at the University of Haifa. In this research, she will examine public attitudes and perceptions toward COVID-19 vaccination, including levels of uncertainty and how people think about their risk. She intends to apply this information to inform vaccination interventions and media campaigns. Nicolle received her Bachelor’s degree in Psychological Sciences from John Carroll University and her PhD in Psychological Sciences with specializations in Social and Health Psychology from Kent State University under the mentorship of Dr. Jennifer M. Taber.

## Senior Scholars Fellows

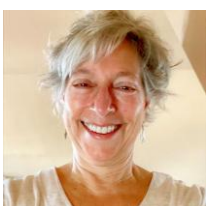


**Yevgeniya Baras**

Rhode Island School of Design >> Bezalel Academy of Art and Design

Yevgeniya was awarded the Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to pursue her research project “Israel, a Place of Migration and of Personal and Communal Passage as Expressed in Visual Art”. She will be developing a series of paintings addressing hybrid identity, cultural translation, ideas of home, exile and belonging and teaching in the MFA program at Bezalel Academy of Art and Design. Yevgeniya holds a BA in Fine Arts, MS in Education from the University of Pennsylvania and an MFA in Painting and Drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Currently she is a Critic at Rhode Island School of Design.

Yevgeniya has exhibited her work in several New York City galleries and internationally. She was a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in 2021, Guggenheim Fellowship in 2019, the Pollock-Krasner grant and the Chinati Foundation Residency in 2018, and the Yaddo Residency in 2017. She received the Artadia Prize and was selected for the Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program and the MacDowell Colony residency in 2015. In 2014 she was named the recipient of the Rema Hort Mann Foundation’s Emerging Artist Prize. Her work has been reviewed in the New York Times, LA Times, ArtForum, and Art in America.



**Andrea M. Berlin**

Boston University >> Tel Aviv University

Andrea M. Berlin is the James R. Wiseman Chair in Classical Archaeology in the Program in Archaeology and the Department of Religion at Boston University. She received her BA in Classical and Near Eastern Studies with honors from the University of Michigan, her MA in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology from the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute, and her Ph.D. in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on daily life in the Graeco-Roman East, where she has been excavating and leading field projects for over 40 years. Professor Berlin has published eight books and many dozens of articles and chapters. She was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship for her project “Beyond the Temple: Jewish Material Life from the Maccabees to the Revolt.” She uses archaeological remains to show how Palestinian Jews of all classes crafted a materialized religious identity in the first centuries BCE-CE, one that infused their homes with a newly sacralized sensibility, but also led to a heightened sense of nationalism, which fed the catastrophic decision to revolt against Rome.



**John Fogle**

Quinnipiac University >> Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

John Fogle was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to teach medical students at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. In addition to his primary activity teaching a course, entitled “Wilderness, Disasters, and Global Health”, he will be teaching residents at Rambam Hospital.

Dr. Fogle is an emergency physician and educator with over 32 years of clinical experience, most recently for Brown Emergency Medicine, where he is an adjunct associate professor, and at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. He has provided medical care to an estimated 75,000 patients in his career. He currently teaches at Brown and at the Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. His expertise is in medical simulation, wilderness medicine, disaster preparedness, trauma management, and international emergency medicine development. He worked as a consultant for the World Health Organization in Fiji and Tonga at the start of the COVID-19, pandemic and has led simulated disaster management exercises in numerous places around the globe.



**Rachel S. Harris**

University of Illinois >> Tel Aviv University

Rachel S. Harris is Associate Professor of Israeli Literature and Culture at the University of Illinois where she teaches in the Programs in Comparative and World Literature, and Jewish Culture & Society. Her current research explores the founding of Israeli cinema, the explosion in talent that took place in the first two decades, and the radical taboos that many of the early films depicted. Her project “With a Wider Lens: Rediscovering Lost Israeli Cinema 1948-1964” examines many newly available films thanks to recent restoration projects, and archival materials on their production, funding, censorship and reception.

She gained her doctorate from the University of Oxford (2009) and holds masters’ degrees from The School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London (2001) and The University of Edinburgh (2000).



**Melissa K. Santala**

Oregon State University >> Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

Melissa Santala is an associate professor in the Materials Science program at Oregon State University. She received her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. At Oregon State University, she leads a research group that uses transmission electron microscopy and complementary characterization techniques to study the atomic level-structure of oxide-metal interfaces, the thermodynamics and kinetics of crystallization of chalcogenide-based phase change materials used for memory devices, and the structure of advanced metal alloys. Her Fulbright grant will support collaborative studies with researchers at the Technion to better understand fundamental physical processes that affect the efficiency and environmental impact of important heterogeneous catalysts.



**Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin**

University of Michigan >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin received a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem for 2022-2023 to conduct research on “Multi-level approaches to reducing Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Hesitancy in Israel.” Vaccine hesitancy is “the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines.” A professor of family medicine with a joint appointment in public health at the University of Michigan, a member of the Rogel Cancer Center, the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, and the Center for Global Health Equity, Dr. Sheinfeld Gorin has held positions of leadership in cancer prevention and control with an emphasis on health inequities over the past 25 years. She has published or presented over 250 scientific papers and three books and has been on the faculty of the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, and Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, a member of their cancer centers, as well as a senior advisor to the National Cancer Institute. She is an invited member of multiple NIH study sections, and scientific advisory boards, and is a recipient of numerous other honors and awards.

### Master's Degree Fellows



**Michael Amrami**

Macaulay Honors College at CUNY Queens College >> University of Haifa

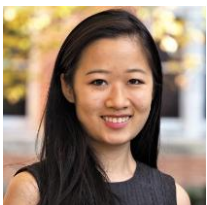
Michael Amrami graduated summa cum laude from Macaulay Honors College at Queens College with a BA in Neuroscience and Psychology. As an undergraduate, Michael was an NIH MARC U-STAR biomedical research fellow in Dr. Maral Tajerian's neurobiology laboratory, serving as the surgical technician and investigating neurophysiological changes in chronic pain conditions. Inspired by his multicultural community service experiences at home and research in neurobiology that has established the strong link between pain conditions and comorbid mental illness, his vision is to address comorbid mental health as a tremendous public health concern. Michael has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master's in Public Health (MPH) at the University of Haifa. His project, titled "Addressing Mental Comorbidities of Illness with an MPH Degree from the University of Haifa," will utilize evidence-based knowledge endorsed by the MPH program and his prospective interactions with Israeli communities suffering tragedy to develop practical methods of treating mental disorders in underprivileged communities. He plans to build a mental health platform that focuses on serving Jewish-Israeli towns surrounding Gaza, an area suffering from a severe combat atmosphere. By investigating the outcome of his interventions, Michael hopes to expand the platform to those suffering tragedy at large.



**Natalie Bauman**

The Catholic University of America >> University of Haifa

Natalie attended the National Catholic School of Social Service at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where she recently graduated with her Bachelors of Social Work Degree. During her studies, Natalie focused her research on the health disparities that result from unmitigated language barriers in healthcare for both immigrant populations and the deaf population. Natalie has been awarded a Fulbright Master's Degree Fellowship to study for her Masters of Public Health (MPH) at the University of Haifa. While at the university, she will continue in her studies and research of how health disparities are mitigated at the intersection of public health and social work.



**Becky Choi**

Georgetown University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Becky Choi graduated magna cum laude, from Georgetown University with a BS (with honors) in International Politics from the School of Foreign Service, in May 2022. During her studies, she interned with various nonprofits, such as San Francisco's Coalition on Homelessness, and local policymakers within the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, California State Assembly, and the California State Treasurer. During her internship with the Coalition, she drafted a report criticizing the shortfalls in how the City measures its success in combating homelessness. These experiences inspired her senior thesis, where she explored whether policing or service-based approaches are more effective in addressing homelessness. Becky was awarded a Fulbright Master's Degree Fellowship to pursue a Master of Arts in Smart Cities and Urban Informatics at the Hebrew University. She will be examining how smart city technologies can address issues such as homelessness.



**Cassandra Cordie**

Barnard College >> Tel Aviv University

Cassandra Cordie received a BA in Anthropology and Human Rights from Barnard College, Columbia University in 2022. Her undergraduate thesis examined U.S. counterinsurgency strategy, tactical imaging technology, and the moral positionality of combatants. While at Barnard, Cassandra was an editor for the Columbia Undergraduate Law Review and interned for the political science and economics divisions at Columbia University Press. She also worked in the non-profit and public sectors, as a policy intern for the Governor of Delaware and with an international organization for gender equality in education. Cassandra has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue an MA in Security and Diplomacy at Tel Aviv University. At TAU, she will complete a project titled, "Israeli Counterterrorism and Military Ethics in the International Landscape."





### Zachary Sneed

Michigan State University >> Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Zachary Sneed graduated from Michigan State University with a BA in Linguistics, minoring in Arabic and Economics. His thesis, titled "Investigating Learnability in Semantic Universals Through Artificial Means", utilized neural networks to examine the cognitive purpose of linguistic universals. Zachary has been involved with local housing cooperatives, serving on the board of directors for one organization while also working as an independent contractor to connect low-income communities to affordable housing resources. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master's in Business Administration at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Through this degree, Zack will continue his work with affordable housing while also gaining firsthand experience with local kibbutzim.

## PhD Research Fellows



### Obadia Baker

Drexel University >>The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Obadiah Baker is a native of Cleveland's Hough community. In 2021, Obadiah produced and composed a film score for a documentary film called "The Shadow Between Us" with The Silhouettes, from America's Got Talent, about systemic racism and healing the divide through shadow dance. This film won "Official Selection" in the 2022 Toronto Black Film Festival.

Obadiah is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, New England Conservatory of Music, and the University of Arkansas Grantham, a military intelligence and civil affairs army officer, Afghanistan War Veteran, aerospace and defense quality manager, award-winning independent film producer, and now a Fulbright scholar. He founded Tender Heart Crusades in 2009, a nonprofit organization that directs its attention toward community involvement. His Fulbright research will study the cross-cultural replication and power of shadow dance as a conflict resolution and global peace intervention technique, with a focus on the interplay of Israeli Gaga and American shadow dance on Israeli Jewish students' awareness of race and identity.



### Nolan Lebovitz

Claremont Graduate University >> Bar-Ilan University

Nolan Lebovitz was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue his research project "The Book of Esther and the Maccabees" at Bar-Ilan University under Dr. Shawn Zelig Aster. He will examine the Book of Esther's connection with the Hasmonean Period (3rd Century BCE - 1st Century CE) by studying other texts from this period that are not included in the biblical canon, to determine linguistic trends and thematic connections with Esther. By analyzing the relationship and the legacy between Esther and the Maccabees, he will be able to portray this significant Hasmonean Period as a microcosm of complex agendas and texts from which we may all continue to learn. Lebovitz is pursuing his PhD at Claremont Graduate University. Before then, he received his Masters and Rabbinic Ordination from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University, and his BA from University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts.



### Faigy Mandelbaum

Hofstra University >> Bar-Ilan University

Faigy Mandelbaum was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue her research project titled, "The impact of childhood trauma on C-PTSD symptomology in active-duty lone soldiers" in the lab of Dr. Rachel Dekel at Bar-Ilan University. Faigy has a B.S. in Behavioral Science and Human Services from Bellevue University, a Post-Bac from Brooklyn College, an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Hofstra University, and is a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. student at Hofstra University. Faigy is the first person to study mental health struggles in Lone Soldiers. Lone Soldiers are defined as soldiers who serve in the army without family support. The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) is the only army in the world to recognize the construct of the lone soldier. Faigy's research showed that Lone Soldiers endorse more childhood trauma, emotion regulation difficulties, and interpersonal difficulties when compared to non-lone Soldiers. Faigy's research also found that Lone Soldiers are more likely to screen positive for PTSD than non-lone Soldiers. Faigy will be expanding this research during her Fulbright Fellowship. She will also assess the efficacy of current Lone Soldier support networks.

### English Teaching Assistant Fellows



**Kayla Cohen**

University of California, Berkeley >> Hadassah Academic College

Kayla Cohen graduated from University of California (UC) Berkeley in 2022 with a BA in History and a BA in Comparative Literature (English, Hebrew and Arabic). At Berkeley, Kayla conducted research for the Magnes Museum's "Open in Plain Sight" exhibit featuring unmapped Jewish material cultural objects across the Islamic world. She also conducted research for Berkeley Law's Human Rights Center, wrote for The Forward as a digital reporting intern, and assistant-taught at various Sunday school programs in the Bay Area. Before starting at Berkeley, Kayla participated in KIVUNIM, a Jerusalem-based traveling gap year program, which primed her interest in comparative Middle Eastern studies and great love for language. Her book, which she published in 2021, details her year of living in Jerusalem and traveling with KIVUNIM to Jewish and non-Jewish communities in India, North Africa, the Balkans, and Central Europe.

Drawing from her combined three years of teaching and English tutoring experience, Kayla is looking forward to sharing her passions for English and language-learning with the students at Hadassah College.



**Max Freeman**

Bowdoin College >> Tel-Hai College

Max Freeman received his BA in English from Bowdoin College. During his time as an undergraduate, Max was Master of Sessions of the Peucinian Society, Co-President of Bowdoin Hillel, a Trip Leader at the Bowdoin Outing Club, and a Proctor on Bowdoin Residential Life Staff. Following several years of teaching Hebrew at his synagogue, Max continued teaching through College Guild, acting as a remote educator for incarcerated Americans. Max has a deep love of American literature. He has conducted research on the use of irony in Ralph Ellison's essays and novel Invisible Man. He hopes to share his love for American literature while teaching English at Tel-Hai College in Israel. Max will also be learning Hebrew in Israel and delving into the Israeli literary landscape.



**Willow Green**

Kenyon College >> Talpiot Academic College

Willow Green is an interdisciplinary performance artist, writer, curator, and educator. They graduated from Kenyon College in 2021 with a BA in Dance and English, with a concentration in Creative Writing. During their time at Kenyon, they taught as a teaching assistant for the Arabic program and the Kenyon Educational Enrichment Program, and they worked as a curatorial associate at the Gund Gallery. They understand their work in the arts and in the classroom as inherently intertwined.

Willow has worked for Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Whitney Museum for American Art, and Movement Research. Their current research includes Maggie Patton: A Rigorously Personal Legacy, a biography exploring the life and legacy of the founder of Kenyon College's dance program. They have also had the honor of performing in works by Chaesong Kim, Isa Mojares, James Graham, Julianna Massa, Nikki Assanti, and Okwui Okpokwasili.

During their Fulbright fellowship, Willow will join Talpiot Academic College of Education in Holon, Israel as an English teaching assistant.



**Roderick Selman**

University of North Georgia >> Kaye Academic College

In May 2021, Rod Selman received his Bachelor's Degree in Arabic from the University of North Georgia (one of the six senior military colleges in the U.S.) with a minor in Military Leadership and commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer into the Georgia Army National Guard. Selman studied abroad in Oman, Jordan, and Morocco from May 2018 to August 2019 for a total of 14 months while pursuing his undergraduate degree.

Rod is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in Christian Scripture at Heritage Christian University (Florence, AL) and works in promotions with a Christian non-profit called House to House Heart to Heart which is an international magazine focused on evangelism that mails to 112 countries. He serves and teaches at a local Church of Christ weekly, where he helped start a College and Young Adults group after graduating from UNG.