

Postdoctoral Fellows



Aviya Fraenkel

Bar-Ilan University >> Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Aviya Fraenkel was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue her research project titled "The Literary Palaces of Ancient Sumerian Rulers – Unity of Idea and Form". Her project will explore the structural and poetic characteristics of the royal praise hymns of the kings of the Sumerian dynasty, and the political ideology they serve, focusing on Kings Shulgi and Ur-Namma, the founders of the Third Dynasty of Ur (Ur III).

Aviya received a BA in biblical studies and archaeology, an MA in biblical studies and Semitic languages and a PhD in biblical studies and Assyriology from Bar-Ilan University. Her PhD was devoted to editing the Sumerian composition 'Šulgi C', a self-laudatory royal hymn from the 21st century BCE, which she is preparing for publication.



Dor Shilton

Tel Aviv University >> Princeton University

Dr. Dor Shilton was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his project titled "Towards an Integrative Theory of Music and Religious Rituals". The project will entail the integration of concepts and evidence from two interdisciplinary fields, music science and the cognitive science of religion, to formulate and preliminarily test an overarching theory of music and religious rituals. It will include an analysis of an ethnographic dataset documenting 651 religious rituals in a representative global sample of cultures.

Dor completed his PhD at the School of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Science Studies at Tel Aviv University. His doctoral research critically assessed prevalent theories of human self-domestication and adaptationist theories of the evolution of music, and presented an alternative account of human evolution, with a specific focus on the role of music as a unique interactive technology. He is a postdoctoral fellow at the Edelstein Center at the Hebrew University and at the Cohn Institute at Tel Aviv University and is a research affiliate of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at Oxford University.



Einat Elizarov-Israel

University of Haifa >> University of Maryland

Einat was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "Early Bias in Inter-Wealth Peer Context: A Pioneering Inquiry into Young Children's Attribution of Intentions." This project will be carried out in the Social and Moral Development Laboratory, led by Professor Melanie Killen.

Einat graduated with honors, receiving her BA and MA degrees in the Department of Counseling and Human Development at the University of Haifa. Einat's doctoral research, supervised by Professor Yair Ziv and Professor Maya Benish-Weisman, focuses on the role of personal values in early childhood and its implications for the social and academic adjustment of kindergarten children. Throughout her studies, Einat earned numerous distinctions and scholarships, notably including the Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellowship Award (2020-2024), the Levtzion Scholarship Award (2019-2022), and the President Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Students (2017-2022).



Eli Itkin

Tel Aviv University >> University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Eli Itkin was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research titled "War and Its Effects on Local Populations in the Iron Age Southern Levant." The research aims to examine the impact of war on local communities in the southern Levant during the Iron Age, focusing on how conflict shaped settlement patterns, social structures, and regional dynamics.

Eli's doctoral research, supervised by Professor Alexander Fantalkin and Professor Eliezer D. Oren, explores the complex interplay between imperial control and local resilience in southern Philistia during the 8th to 6th centuries BCE. Focusing on the southern Coastal Plain and western Negev, Eli's work examines this region as a strategic frontier situated between the Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian empires and Egypt. His research highlights how local communities responded to shifting imperial powers and navigated changing geopolitical conditions.



Inbar Fischer

Tel Aviv University >> Stanford University

Dr. Inbar Fischer was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue her research project titled "Bioengineered System for Disease Mechanisms and Personalized Medicine". In her research, Inbar will develop a microfluidic organ-on-a-chip platform that integrates healthy and diseased human 3D organ models within a single interconnected system. This platform will enable the identification of the tissue of origin and underlying mechanisms of complex diseases by modeling early disease progression and cross-tissue interactions. As a proof of concept, she will focus on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), aiming to pinpoint the disease's origin and identify effective therapeutic strategies.

During her PhD at Tel Aviv University, under the supervision of Professor Boaz Barak, Inbar investigated the biological mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental disorders, combining molecular neuroscience with bioengineering approaches. Her work bridges basic research and translational applications, with a focus on developing innovative tools for studying and treating brain disorders.



Jhonatan Tavori

Tel Aviv University >> Columbia University

Dr. Jhonatan Tavori was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research on edge-cloud management under worst-case attack scenarios. Jhonatan pursued his PhD, titled "Network Operation Under Malicious Behavior", under the supervision of Professor Hanoch Levy at Tel Aviv University (TAU). Jhonatan explored various problems, including characterizing worst-case attacks on cloud networks, optimizing the control of viral spreading, investigating financial vulnerabilities in microservices architectures, and designing edge computing that processes real-time traffic and data. For his PhD studies, Jhonatan was awarded The Blavatnik Prize for Outstanding Israeli Doctoral Graduates in Computer Science.

Jhonatan holds a B.Sc. in computer science (Summa Cum Laude) from the Open University of Israel, and an M.Sc. in computer science (Magna Cum Laude) from TAU. He was selected as the valedictorian in both his bachelor's and master's degrees. During his graduate studies, Jhonatan was awarded several distinctions, including the EU NGI Enrichers fellowship, TAU '100 list' for teaching, an innovation scholarship for smart transportation research, the Deutsch Prize for PhD students, excellence academic achievements prize and stipend, and the school's Outstanding Teaching Assistant award.



Muna Abd El-Raziq

Bar-Ilan University >> NYU-New York University

Dr. Muna Abd El-Raziq was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue her research at the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at New York University under Professor Sudha Arunachalam. Her project, titled "Lexical Abilities in Monolingual and Bilingual Arabic-Speaking Children with and without Autism," examines how bilingualism and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) influence lexical development. Using eye-tracking and parents' reports, she will compare Arabic- and English-speaking monolinguals and Arabic-English bilinguals with and without ASD, investigating the impact of Arabic diglossia and complex morphology on lexical comprehension. This study addresses a significant gap by focusing on Arabic-speaking children, underrepresented in autism research.

Muna earned her BA and MA in communication disorders from Tel Aviv University and completed her PhD in linguistics (in clinical research) at Bar-Ilan University, under Professors Natalia Meir and Elinor Saiegh-Haddad. Her doctoral research examined language profiles of Palestinian-Arabic speaking children with and without ASD across phonology, morphosyntax, and lexicon in diglossic context, linking these domains with theory of mind and cognitive skills, with theoretical and practical implications for individualized profiling. She has received awards including the BSF Professor Rahamimoff Travel Grant, Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, the President's Prize for Published Research, and Bar-Ilan University's Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Ofir Yesharim

Tel Aviv University >> Caltech - California Institute of Technology

Dr. Ofir Yesharim earned his B.Sc. from the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, followed by M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering at Tel Aviv University under the supervision of Professor Ady Arie. His research has explored how structuring light via nonlinear processes enables new capabilities in quantum state generation, control, and measurement, with applications in quantum sensing and communications. He demonstrated the first realization of a quantum hologram, enabling versatile quantum state generation for secure communication. In addition, he explored how analogies between condensed matter physics and nonlinear optics enable new tools for light manipulation consisting of many colors, along with other experimental demonstrations for manipulating spatial and spectral degrees of freedom of light.

Ofir has received several awards for his research, including the Rothschild Award for Excellent Ph.Ds and a quantum science and technology fellowship for Ph.D. students from the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education. As a Fulbright postdoctoral fellow, his work will continue to build on his expertise in quantum information science, with an emphasis on integrated photonic platforms.



Omer Hacker

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Columbia University

Dr. Omer Hacker was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Incorporating the Spirit: Tech Companies Sovereignty and the Inclusion of Religion.” In the high-tech industry, where work is expected to be a realm for self-realization and employees are encouraged to “bring their whole self” to the workplace, the research asks - what is the place of religion in the new relationship? Which religious activities are legitimized or even supported by the workplace? Which activities are pushed out and why? The research will be based on fieldwork in the New York City tech industry.

This project is a development of Omer’s doctoral research, which focused on the concept of time in the global high-tech industry, and in particular how changes in working hours affect the time systems of religious tech workers. The PhD research was based on ethnography in a global high-tech corporation, and interviews with observant Jewish and Muslim tech workers in Toronto and Tel Aviv.



Omri Cohen

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

Dr. Omri Cohen was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his project titled “Towards a Theory of Urban Populism”. Addressing two separate disciplines, populism and urban studies, this project will empirically explore urban populism on three levels: 1) populism of the city—how is a “local people” constructed and mobilized against “local elites”? 2) populism in the city—what role does the city play as a site of national populism? 3) populism and the city—how is the city influenced by and reacts to populism on the national level? Additionally, the project will involve conceptual development and normative analysis to complement the empirical findings.

Previously, Cohen completed a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in English literature from the Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, respectively. Before turning to political science, he published research on education and empathy in minority literature. Cohen completed his PhD under the supervision of Professor Dani Filc and Dr. Noam Tirosh. His work covers issues of populist theory, democratization, urban political theory, and digital political communication.



Ran Abuhasira

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev >> Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Ran Abuhasira was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to conduct research in the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology at Massachusetts General Hospital and in the Department of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. His research applies proteomics to identify protein signatures that reflect genetic, environmental, and metabolic pathways involved in the onset and progression of gout. By uncovering these markers, he aims to enhance risk prediction, improve disease prognosis, and advance personalized strategies for the prevention and management of gout and related metabolic-inflammatory conditions.

Ran is a senior physician in an internal medicine department and head of the Clinical Research Center at Soroka University Medical Center in Beer Sheva, Israel. He holds an MD/PhD from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, where he graduated summa cum laude. His PhD in epidemiology, supervised by Professor Victor Novack, focused on the safety and efficacy of medical cannabis in older adults. He completed his internship at Assuta Ashdod Hospital and his residency in internal medicine at Rabin Medical Center.



Shirly Orr

Tel Aviv University >> Yale University

Dr. Shirly Orr was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue her research project, “The effect of the (dis)trust mindset on the construction of meaning and attribution of truth”. In this project, Orr plans to empirically investigate the relationship between “truth” and “meaning”, focusing on how “trust” modulates that relationship. Her aim is to shed light on the dynamic process of constructing meaning under different goals and mindsets.

Orr earned her BA in Hebrew and Semitic languages from Bar-Ilan University and an MA in Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland. She completed both her MA thesis and PhD dissertation in linguistics at Tel Aviv University. Her doctoral dissertation, “Predicating Truth: An Empirical Investigation”, explored the concept of truth by studying its use in natural interaction (e.g., the use of “true” in discourse) and its connection to other concepts (e.g., the relationship between truth and agreement). Her work—then and now—seeks to offer a different perspective on truth, one grounded in empirical inquiry and shaped by an interactional usage-based approach.



Yotam Feldman

Tel Aviv University >> Princeton University

Dr. Yotam Feldman was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Taming Exponential Scaling in Computational Quantum Dynamics using SAT Solving and Model Checking.” The goal is to use new combinatorial optimization techniques to improve computational solutions to some of the most fundamental problems in quantum phenomena, with applications to electrochemistry and heterogenous catalysis.

Yotam did his PhD in computer science at Tel Aviv University, working with Professor Mooly Sagiv and Professor Sharon Shoham on program analysis and formal verification. His thesis (ETAPS Dissertation Award 2023) uncovered surprising theoretical connections between modern verification algorithms and machine learning theory. Yotam then switched to computational chemistry as a Schmidt Science Fellow (postdoctoral) working with Dr. Barak Hirshberg in the School of Chemistry at Tel Aviv University. There he worked primarily on algorithms for capturing quantum phenomena originating from bosonic exchange in path integral molecular dynamics simulations.

Master’s Fellows



Avia Liberman

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Yale University

Avia Liberman is an economist committed to advancing peacebuilding and economic development through evidence-based policymaking. He graduated with distinction from the Hebrew University’s PPE Honors Program and received multiple academic awards. As a student, Avia founded Itutim, Israel’s first academic journal dedicated to philosophy, politics, and economics, and served as a team leader in the “Social Economists” Fellowship. Avia was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue a master’s in public policy at Yale University’s Jackson School.

Prior to receiving the fellowship, Avia worked as a researcher at the Tachlith Institute, where he identified market failures and structural imbalances in the state budget and developed policy reforms in collaboration with senior decision-makers. At the Israeli Ministry of Finance, he served in the chief economist’s division on the economics and national security team. He also interned with the OECD’s economics department, contributing to the 2025 economic survey of Israel, and held roles as both a teaching and research assistant in the Hebrew University’s economics department. His academic research has focused on nationalism and post-conflict development.



Ben Molina

Shenkar - Engineering. Design. Art >> School of Visual Arts

Ben Molina is an Israeli animator, curator, and cultural organizer. He holds a Bachelor of Design in visual communication from Shenkar College of Engineering, Design and Art, graduating Cum Laude. Before receiving the Fulbright award, Ben served as director of the Animation Guild Israel. He currently serves as artistic director of the ANIMIX Festival, Israel’s leading animation and comics festival. He teaches animation at Shenkar College and Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts and has served as a film evaluator for the Geshet, Makor, and Rabinovich Film Funds.

Ben’s work focuses on connecting artistic expression with community building and cultural exchange. His upcoming Master of Fine Arts (MFA) studies in computer arts at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York will focus on strengthening the global presence of Israeli animation and exploring new visual storytelling forms. He has curated international screenings, produced animated shorts, and initiated collaborations between Israeli and international creators – including the first animation event in Rahat, aimed at bridging cultural divides through art. His film Half a Saba was screened at numerous festivals and received several awards worldwide. His work has been exhibited at the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, the Edmond de Rothschild Center, and venues across Israel.



Fadi Maklada

University of Haifa >> University of California, Los Angeles

Fadi Maklada will pursue an LL.M. at UCLA School of Law as a Fulbright fellow. He earned his LL.B. (summa cum laude) and LL.M. from the University of Haifa. During his studies, he served as a teaching and research assistant in various fields and was deputy editor of the Mishpat U-Mimshal law journal.

Before entering the legal profession, Fadi served as a cyber officer in the technological 8200 unit, of the Israeli Intelligence Corps. He later worked as a litigation attorney at Arnon, Tadmor-Levy, where he handled commercial, administrative, and regulatory cases.

Fadi has a strong academic and professional interest in the intersection of law and technology, particularly in the regulation of artificial intelligence and algorithmic decision-making. He has also been involved in numerous public interest projects promoting minority rights in Israel through legal and policy initiatives. His article on administrative release, co-authored with Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal, was cited by the Israeli Supreme Court.



Kohava Gegnow

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> Georgia Institute of Technology

Kohava holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biotechnology and food engineering from the Technion - Institute of Technology in Haifa.

She has pursued her interest in biotechnology by working for General Electric HealthCare company in the regulation of molecular imaging products for the past two years, where she gained hands-on experience with regulatory submissions and cross-functional collaboration. She hopes to continue developing patient-centered medical devices that enhance well-being and transform lives after the completion of her master's in biomedical innovation and development at Georgia Tech.



Nadav Yochman

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Cornell University

Nadav Yochman holds a dual Bachelor of Science in statistics and data science and in the interdisciplinary MATAR honors program from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

As a Fulbright fellow, Nadav will pursue the Jacobs Technion-Cornell dual Master of Science degrees in information systems, specializing in connective media. His academic and professional interests lie at the intersection of technology and society, with a particular focus on leveraging AI to advance social progress and drive meaningful change. He is passionate about using data-driven approaches to build tools that foster trust, promote equity, and help shape a more inclusive and responsible technological future.

Before receiving the Fulbright fellowship, he worked at Intel as an AI product analyst.



Nadia Abu Ata

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Washington University in St. Louis

Nadia Abu Ata is a licensed clinical dietitian and certified laboratory technician issued by the Israeli Ministry of Health. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture B. in nutrition science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is also a certified personal fitness trainer from the Wingate Institute. Nadia currently works as a medical lab technician at Maccabi Healthcare Services's central laboratories in Rehovot, where she contributes to diagnostic accuracy through sample analysis and equipment troubleshooting in hematology.

Her multidisciplinary background includes work as a research assistant at the Weizmann Institute of Science and as an educator and translator at the Clore Science Museum, part of the Davidson Institute. Passionate about community-building, Nadia volunteers as a project manager with the Harmony Community, where she leads professional and social initiatives.

Nadia will pursue a Master of Public Health with an emphasis on epidemiology at Washington University in St. Louis, aiming to deepen her impact on population health.



Rana Badarni

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Washington University in St. Louis

Rana Badarni was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to pursue a Master of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, where she aims to specialize in forensic social work, trauma, and family welfare.

Rana is a social worker with a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During her studies, she received the Rothschild Ambassadors' scholarship for academic excellence and social leadership.

Following her degree, she served, through the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, as a juvenile probation officer in East Jerusalem and, for the past decade, as a senior probation officer in the Adult Probation Service in Tel Aviv. In recognition of her dedication and contributions, she was honored as the Distinguished Probation Officer for the Tel Aviv District in 2019. Rana's professional work and academic aspirations are reducing risk to individuals and society through the rehabilitation and reintegration of perpetrators into the community.



Yael Dekel-Shafir

Tel Aviv University >> Harvard University

Yael Dekel-Shafir is the head of the Special Affairs Unit at the Attorney General's Office in Israel and an incoming student in the mid-career Master of Public Administration Program at the Harvard Kennedy School. Based in Israel, Yael has dedicated her career to advancing democratic values and the rule of law. As a legal professional, Yael addresses critical constitutional challenges, safeguarding democratic institutions within complex societal and political changes.

As a Fulbright fellow Yael will pursue a master's degree in public administration at Harvard University. Previously she served as director of the Department of Economic Law, leading significant governmental legislation and policy initiatives, and as a member of the Administrative Enforcement Committee of the Israel Securities Authority. Her exceptional contributions, including her leadership in shaping the Arrangements Law, earned her the Ministry of Justice Excellence Award in 2022. Earlier in her career, Yael prosecuted economic crimes at the State Attorney's Office. She holds an LLM (magna cum laude) from Bar-Ilan University and an LLB from Tel Aviv University.



Zohar Baranovitch

Bezalel Academy of Art and Design Jerusalem >> The New School

Zohar Baranovitch graduated with honors from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in screen-based arts with a focus on documentary video and new media. Her works have been presented both nationally and internationally. She also served as assistant director to Oscar-nominated filmmaker Uri Barbash on a feature-length documentary.

As a Fulbright Fellow, Zohar will pursue a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in design and technology at Parsons School of Design in New York, where she will explore creative technologies as both material and medium for new modes of expression. She aims to create works that transcend traditional boundaries of production and exhibition, expanding possibilities for making and engaging with work by, about, and alongside individuals from diverse backgrounds and communities. Alongside her artistic practice, Zohar is deeply engaged in community organizing. Since 2020, she has been volunteering as a project manager with the Culture of Solidarity initiative in Tel Aviv, supporting marginalized communities across the region. During the ongoing war, she coordinated the Jewish-Arab Emergency Relief Center in the Bedouin city of Rahat and in unrecognized villages in the Negev.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow



Giselle Hazzan

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> Cornell University

Giselle is a senior executive at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, where she has held various leadership roles in the fields of conservation, environmental education, and public engagement. Over the course of her career, she has made significant contributions to nature conservation in Israel, including wetland habitat restoration, the development of nature reserves, and the protection of biodiversity and open landscapes. In recognition of her achievements, she received a prestigious international award from the Ramsar Convention for her leadership in integrating practical fieldwork with scientific and educational approaches to wetland management.

In her current role as head of community relations, she has led the development of a strategic model for engaging communities in environmental planning, development, and conservation efforts. Her work focuses on fostering constructive dialogue between public authorities and local stakeholders, aiming to build trust, enhance cooperation, and integrate community perspectives into conservation strategies. As a Fulbright Humphrey fellow, Giselle seeks to explore international models of participatory environmental governance and community-based conservation. Her goal is to refine and expand the organizational framework she developed, strengthen professional knowledge exchange, and promote long-term institutional change that positions communities as active partners in the enduring conservation of nature, landscapes, and heritage.

Scholar-in-Residence



Hilly Moodrick-Even Khen

Ariel University >> Liberty University

Dr. Hilly Moodrick-Even Khen is a senior lecturer of public international law at Ariel University, and chair and founder of Ariel University Center for the Research and Study of Genocide (AUCRSG). Recently, she was nominated as the academic advisor on genocide, crimes against humanity and the Holocaust for the Israeli delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Hilly specializes in various fields of international law, including international criminal law, genocide and law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law. She also researches the integration of legal and social aspects of genocide, addressing contemporary cases of genocide.

At Liberty University, Hilly will be teaching two courses in her areas of expertise and develop her current research on the integration of peace education and peacebuilding within the atrocity prevention agenda in the UN. Hilly lectures on her scholarly work at academic conferences and for practitioners. She authored numerous articles and published several books covering a wide range of topics in international humanitarian law and in genocide studies.

International Writing Program



Keren Margalit

Jerusalem Sam Spiegel Film School >> University of Iowa

Keren is a prominent Israeli screenwriter, director, and showrunner, born in Jerusalem in 1971. She is the creator of the award-winning drama *Yellow Peppers*, which was adapted by the BBC as *The A Word* and subsequently remade in multiple countries. Margalit holds a BA in humanities with a focus on literature from the Open University of Israel and is also a graduate of the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School in Jerusalem. She is known for her sensitive, character-driven storytelling that often explores emotional and social complexities. Her additional credits include *Sleeping Bears*, *The Deer* (a historical drama centered on Eliezer Ben-Yehuda), and she was part of the original writing team of the acclaimed series *In Treatment* (BeTipul). Her works have been featured in international festivals and academic programs around the world.

Keren was awarded the International Writing Program fellowship at Iowa University to take part in the writing residency program.



Roy Horovitz

Bar-Ilan University >> University of Iowa

Professor Roy Horovitz is an acclaimed Israeli actor, director, translator, dramaturge and scholar. He is the chair of the drama and theatre program at Bar-Ilan University, and a senior lecturer at the David Yellin Academic College, Jerusalem.

Roy was awarded the International Writing Program fellowship at Iowa University to take part in the writing residency program.

Horovitz has performed many roles for various theatres and represented Israel in many prestigious festivals around the world. He has been awarded "Best Actor" at the International Haifa Festival, 1997, and the "Best Director Award" for directing "Pollard's Trial" at the Cameri Theatre in Tel-Aviv. His films includes "The Body" with Antonio Banderas. Horovitz also directed a succession of critically acclaimed productions at Habima (Israel's national theatre), was the artistic director of the municipal theatre in Kiryat Shmona, the dramaturge of Beer-Sheba Theatre and a visiting professor at the American University in Washington DC and the University of Texas in Austin. His Book, "A World of Innocents - The Dramatic Afterlife of the Bible in Yaakov Shabtai's Plays" which was published in 2021, gained rave reviews and won the prestigious "Scientific Excellence Award" in Israel.

Foreign Language Teaching Assistants



Awad Al-Asam

The Achva Academic College >> University of Kansas

Awad graduated from Achva Academic College with a B.A. in multidisciplinary studies in the humanities and social sciences, along with a teaching certificate in English. He currently teaches 3rd and 4th grades at Abu Obeida Elementary School in Rahat. As a member of the Bedouin community in the Negev, Awad is committed to using his skills in education to empower and support his community. He finds deep meaning in helping students overcome language barriers and discover the joy of learning. Despite the challenges, he is constantly inspired by his students' growth and enthusiasm.

Beyond the classroom, Awad volunteers by leading spoken English sessions for young people seeking to improve their communication skills for work, travel, and personal growth. His dedication to education and community advancement has shaped his journey as both a teacher and a mentor. In 2025, Awad will serve as a Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant, where he looks forward to sharing the Arabic language and culture while promoting cross-cultural understanding.



Hind Zubeidat

The Arab Academic College for Education in Israel – Haifa >> Florida State University

Hind Zubeidat is a Bedouin educator with a B.Ed. degree and teaching certificate in English Language Teaching from the Academic Arab College for Education in Israel. She has four years' experience teaching English as a foreign language to students from elementary to high school levels in Israel. Hind currently works at a language institute in Bosmat Tivon, where she prepares students for the Bagrut exams. Alongside her teaching, she is conducting research on how integrating culture into the EFL classroom can impact students' engagement in speaking English.

In 2025, as part of the FLTA fellowship program, Hind will be traveling to the United States to teach Arabic. Believing in the power of language to connect people, Hind sees language learning to foster understanding and build bridges between cultures. She has participated in several international virtual exchange programs, including the Quadrilateral Teacher Training Telecollaboration Project, a collaborative initiative involving educators from Germany, Israel, Turkey, and Brazil in 2025, and the Game Changers in Education program in 2022-2023. These experiences helped her grow as a teacher and strengthened her belief in the power of intercultural learning.



Razan Medleg

Ruppin Academic Center >> Wesleyan University

Razan Medleg holds a bachelor's degree in social work (M.S.W) from Ruppin Academic Center. As a Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant, Razan aims to promote not only Arabic language proficiency but also meaningful cross-cultural connections that encourage respect, curiosity, and empathy.

Razan is a dedicated social worker with a strong commitment to community empowerment, inclusion, and intercultural dialogue. She has worked with individuals from a wide range of cultural and social backgrounds. Her experience includes supporting at-risk youth as both a mentor and educator, as well as working extensively with children on the autism spectrum. In her role, she not only provided individual support but also trained and guided professional teams to implement inclusive and effective approaches.

Currently, Razan serves as social worker in the Department of Social Services. In parallel, she works at an after-school center for children.



Sapir Snir

The Open University of Israel >> Colgate University

Sapir was awarded an FLTA Fulbright fellowship to serve as a Hebrew language assistant at Colgate University.

Sapir holds a bachelor's degree in political science and international relations from the Open University of Israel, where she cultivated a strong interest in political philosophy and conflict resolution.

Alongside her academic pursuits, she has built a career as a linguistic instructor, grounded in extensive training in Semitic languages – both Hebrew and Arabic, the latter of which she has used as a translator and researcher. Her admiration for language, as both a cultural and communicative bridge, guided her work teaching Hebrew to new immigrants in Jerusalem. For the past three years, she has worked as an English instructor, preparing university-bound students for academic English requirements. Currently, Sapir is expanding her expertise through advanced studies in anthropology, economics, and pedagogy, with a continued commitment to developing accessible, relevant English instruction for Israeli adult learners.



Yara Jaber

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> Carleton College

Yara Jaber is a recent graduate of biomedical engineering from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. In parallel to her scientific studies, she has maintained a strong interest in language, culture, and education. A native Arabic speaker, Yara is fluent in English and Hebrew and has experience exploring the intersections between language, identity, and expression.

She believes in the power of language to bridge cultural gaps and foster deeper human understanding, especially in conflict-affected regions. Through the Fulbright FLTA program, Yara is excited to share her language and culture, engage in cross-cultural dialogue, and gain insights into teaching and American academic life.