

Postdoctoral Fellowships



Safa Aburabia

Ben Gurion University of the Negev >> Harvard University

Safa Aburabia was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, titled: "Between Israeli institutions and Bedouin tribalism: the struggle for land in the Negev among the third-generation to the Nakbah". The research analyzes recent social and conceptual changes in Bedouin Palestinian society through the prism of the struggle over land led by the Bedouin youth movement, Al-Hirak al-Shababi. Their struggle aims for both internal and external change in perceptions of the Bedouin and the social and cultural developments among the Bedouin society in the Negev. Safa received her PhD in Middle East studies from Ben Gurion University in Israel. Her PhD Dissertation focused on: "The Gendered Historical Discourse on the Nakba: the Perspective of Bedouin Arab Women in the Negev". This examines gender resistance spaces among Negev Bedouin Arab women. The thesis is based on ethnographic documentation of the memories of the Nakba generation and their daughters, derived from their life stories ranging from the past (before 1948) to the present. Safa is the Director of the Leadership in the Arab and Bedouin Societies Program in the Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev, and lecturer at Ben Gurion University and Sapir College.



Nana Ariel

Tel Aviv University >> Harvard University

Nana was awarded the Fulbright and Israel Institute Post-doctoral Fellowships to pursue her research project: "Belated Avant-garde: Toward a Genealogy of the Avant-garde in Hebrew Literature", in the Department of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. She focuses on attempts of cultural innovators to ignite change in the public sphere through aesthetic and rhetorical devices. Her project continues and extends her dissertation which explores the manifesto genre, specifically a corpus of Hebrew manifestos in the fields of art and literature and the diverse rhetorical mechanisms activated by their issuers. Nana served as a lecturer in the Department of Literature and in the Honors Program in the Humanities and Arts in Tel Aviv University. She specializes in literature and rhetoric in a broad cultural context and also teaches applied rhetoric (public speaking) in academic as well as non-academic frameworks.



Karma Ben Johanan

Tel Aviv University >> University of California, Berkeley

Karma Ben Johanan was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, titled "Religious Mission in the Multicultural West: Jewish and Christian Perspectives," at the Department of History, U.C. Berkeley. She conducted her doctoral studies at the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University, under the supervision of Prof. Aviad Kleinberg (Tel Aviv University), and Prof. Marc Shapiro (University of Scranton, Pennsylvania). Her dissertation, titled "Contemporary Conceptions of Judaism and Christianity in Catholic and Jewish Orthodox Theologies", focuses on Jewish-Christian relations as they were re-crystallized over the last decades in Europe, Israel and North America. She graduated from the Adi Lautman Program for Outstanding Students with an M.A degree summa cum laude in Comparative Religion, from the School of Philosophy, Tel Aviv University.



Assaf Ben-Moshe

Tel Aviv University >> University of California, Berkeley

Assaf Ben-Moshe was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research, under the supervision of Prof. Paul Alivisatos at UC Berkeley. His project is titled: "Following unique formation and transformation pathways of inorganic nanocrystals". In this project, several approaches will be used to observe dynamical processes in the growth and transformation of inorganic nanocrystals. In some cases, this will be followed by characterization of unique magnetic and optoelectronic properties that emerge from special crystalline structures, material compositions and shapes of these nanocrystals. In his PhD research in the group of Prof. Gil Markovich in Tel-Aviv University, he focused on natural and induced chirality in inorganic nanocrystals, and the associated physical and chemical properties.



Avishai Benyamini

Weizmann Institute of Science >> Columbia University

Avishai Benyamini's post-doctoral research project is titled "realizing superfluidity in 1D and 2D systems" in Columbia University. The recent advances in growth and exfoliation of 2D materials led to the ability to construct new materials at will and by design. In these new materials it is now possible to realize known and even new physical phenomena. Creating superfluidity in a designed material will be a major breakthrough of broad impact. Avishai received his MSc and PhD in Physics from the Weizmann Institute of Science. His PhD was done in the lab of Prof. Shahal Ilani where he developed a new technique for creating tunable interacting physical systems, based on carbon nanotubes, and realized in them physical phenomena as a tunable electron-phonon coupling and attraction between electrons.



Liron Cohen

Tel Aviv University >> Cornell University

Liron Cohen was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her project titled "Constructive Ancestral Logic and its Applications" at Cornell University. The main goal of her research is to develop a unified framework for formalizing important set theories of different strength and to use this framework for formalizing mathematics in a way that reflects real mathematical practice. She also investigates computational aspects and applications of this framework, as well as its potential for mathematical knowledge management (MKM).



Avner Ecker

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Princeton University

Avner Ecker received a Fulbright Post-Doctoral Fellowship to pursue the project "Greek Culture in Judea: the Transition from Ptolemaic to Seleucid Rule" at Princeton University. The project aims to elucidate the administrative, linguistic and subsequent cultural shift in Judea under Hellenistic kings (ca. 200 BC) based on ostraca discovered in controlled excavations. By studying the Hellenistic period Avner is in fact extending back in time his PhD dissertation which dealt with the urbanization process of Roman Judea, where he traced the development of the polis in the region between the 1st century BCE and the 4th century.



Yoel Guzansky

University of Haifa >> Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv University

Yoel Guzansky is currently a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv University. Before joining INSS, he was director for strategic affairs at Israel's National Security Council in the Prime Minister's Office. He was responsible for preparing assessments and making policy recommendations for decision makers on the Iranian nuclear challenge. Over the years he has participated in training courses provided by the US Department of State, US Department of Energy, Israel Foreign Ministry and Israel Atomic Energy Commission. His present research focuses on Gulf security and Middle East strategic issues. He has published in academic and policy-oriented venues such as Foreign Affairs, National Interest, Washington Quarterly, Survival, Middle East Journal, Middle Eastern Studies, Orbis, Middle East Policy, RUSI, Comparative Strategy, Mediterranean Politics, the Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs and Harvard Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy.

The proposed project aims at providing an informed analysis on the question of civilian nuclear programs in the Middle East, by looking at the following themes: a) Proliferation drivers/barriers which lead countries in the region to develop, or conversely to renounce civilian nuclear programs. b) The motivations of Middle Eastern countries to develop functional nuclear programs and the role of U.S. non-proliferation policy – especially the effects of the Iran deal on nuclear decision making in the region. It will focus on the potential spread of nuclear power plants and related facilities to states that are new entrants to the "nuclear energy club": UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. It will also seek to identify trends which affect issues of latent proliferation, and which make "breakout" towards a nuclear weapons capability likely in certain states.



Yogev Kivity

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Pennsylvania State University

Yogev Kivity was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research titled "Mechanisms of Change in Transference Focused Psychotherapy for Borderline Personality Disorder: Therapist Interventions, Reflective Function and Self-Regulation" at Pennsylvania State University. His doctoral research was conducted in Prof. Jonathan D. Huppert's Laboratory for the Study and Treatment of Anxiety and focused on the role of emotion regulation in social anxiety disorder and in cognitive-behavioral therapy using behavioral, electrocortical and self-report measures.



Shlomo Mehari

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology >> Cornell University

Shlomo Mehari was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct a research, titled "Gallium Nitride based Transistors for High Efficiency Power Electronics," at Cornell University. Within this project, novel semiconductor devices for high voltage high current applications will be studied. Gallium nitride is poised to become the next semiconductor for power electronics, enabling much higher efficiency than silicon. The ultimate goal is saving of up to 10% electrical energy worldwide. Shlomo received the BSc (2009) in Material Science and Engineering, the BSc (2009) in Physics, and the MSc (2012) in Electrical Engineering at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD in Electrical Engineering at the Technion. During his PhD, Shlomo invented a new method to probe a very important physical property of the interface between the semiconductor and an insulating layer, which plays a crucial role in device performance, called the electron density of states.



Yitzhak Reizel

Weizmann Institute of Science >> University of Pennsylvania

Yitzhak Reizel was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research titled "Hepatocyte-specific postnatal DNA demethylation: mechanism and liver regeneration" with Professor Klaus Kaestner at the University of Pennsylvania. Reizel's dissertation at the Weizmann Institute of Science focused on stem cell dynamics using novel tool which reconstruct cell lineage trees from somatic mutations in microsatellite. This project was in collaboration with Professor Ehud Shapiro. After receiving his PhD, he moved to Prof. Howard Cedar's laboratory at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for his first post-doctoral study, which focused on post-natal changes in DNA methylation.



Dorit Segal Kukulansky

Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> University of California & San-Diego University State

Dorit Segal was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, titled "The effect of Bilingualism on language, attention and thought," at the University of California, San- Diego and at San-Diego University State. This research will investigate the effect of bilingualism on attention functions and linguistic control mechanisms. Her PhD research was conducted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and focused on linguistic, cognitive and behavioral aspects of ADHD. This research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Lilach Shalev- Mevorach and Prof. Nira Mashal. Dorit is also a speech therapist, and her ambition is to combine research with clinical practice.



Oren Shlomo

Ben Gurion University of the Negev >> Harvard University

Oren Shlomo was awarded a Fulbright postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project, titled "Analysis of a New Spatial Regime in post-Oslo East Jerusalem" at the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. This project is situated within the study of contested cities, and its objective is to investigate new forms of spatial strategies and planning policies in post-Oslo East Jerusalem and their relation to the shifting of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from peace negotiations to conflict management. Oren conducted his PhD studies at the Department of Politics and Government at Ben Gurion University. His PhD research, supervised by Prof. Haim Yacobi and recently awarded best dissertation for the year 2015 by the Israeli Political Science Association, focused on processes of governmentalization and adaptation in post-Oslo East Jerusalem and their manifestation in new forms of governance and administration of Palestinian urban services and infrastructures.



Shay Solomon

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev >> Stanford University

Shay Solomon was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project, titled "Real-Life Networks: Sparse, Fault-Tolerant, and Dynamic", at Stanford University. This project will explore algorithms for various network problems, including dynamic matchings and topics related to graph compression.

Shay received his PhD in Computer Science from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. His PhD research, which was carried out under the advice of Prof. Michael Elkin, investigated sparse representations for metric spaces. These representations should achieve multiple contradictory properties, such as degree, weight and diameter, simultaneously. Upon completion of his PhD, Shay continued as a postdoc fellow in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science at the Weizmann Institute of Science, hosted by Prof. David Peleg, and later as a postdoc fellow in the Computer Science Department at Tel Aviv University, hosted by Prof. Haim Kaplan and Prof. Micha Sharir. Shay is also a recipient of the Rothschild Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Ilya Soloveychik

Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Ilya Soloveychik was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research at Harvard University. His recent awards include the Feder Family Prize for outstanding research work in the field of Communications Technology in 2015 and the Thalheimer Scholarship from Wolf Foundation in 2016. Ilya's research mainly focuses on the development of novel statistical tools for high-dimensional and robust data processing, and in particular on efficient robust covariance estimation techniques which are ubiquitous in almost all modern Big Data applications. Ilya is going to join the Signal Processing research group of Prof. Vahid Tarokh at Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences targeting challenging problems in Random Matrix Theory and related areas. He completed his Ph.D. dissertation in Electrical Engineering at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



Leeat Yankielowicz-Keren

Weizmann Institute of Science >> Stanford University

Leeat Yankielowicz-Keren was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to study the tumor-immune microenvironment in breast cancer using a multiplexed imaging platform at Stanford University. This project aims to advance the understanding of early-stages breast cancer by simultaneous imaging of dozens of proteins at sub-cellular resolution within a tissue section and to discover features that predict progression to invasive disease. Leeat received her BSc in Life Sciences in the 'Honorary research track for excellent students' at Tel-Aviv University. She continued to an MSc and PhD in Life Sciences at the Weizmann Institute of Science under the supervision of Prof. Eran Segal and Prof. Ron Milo and studied the effects of gene expression levels on cellular fitness. She is also the recipient of the Rothschild Postdoctoral Fellowship.