

Postdoctoral Fellows



Ayala S. Allon

Tel-Aviv University >> The Ohio State University

Ayala S. Allon was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Compensation Mechanisms for Filtering Irrelevant Information” at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. This research will investigate filtering mechanisms that can improve individuals’ ability to filter out and ignore irrelevant information in the visual environment. Her PhD research was conducted at The School of Psychological Sciences, Tel-Aviv University, and focused on compensation mechanisms for improving filtering of distractors from entering visual working memory, their neural correlates and interactions of filtering mechanisms with perceptual grouping mechanisms. This research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Roy Luria. Ayala aims her research to serve as a basis for developing ways that improve filtering processes among clinical populations and for developing practical tools to improve performance in everyday life activities that require filtering of irrelevant information.



Nir Barak

Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Columbia University

Nir Barak was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “City-zenship: Democracy, Urban Autonomy and National Citizenship” at Columbia University. This research will analyze the relationship between the rising power of cities in global politics, growing autonomy of cities vis-à-vis the state and democratic norms and practices in cities.

His PhD research focused on environmental political theory in cities and analyzed philosophical, political, social and policy related aspects of transitioning cities to sustainable patterns. This research was conducted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem under the supervision of Prof. Avner de Shalit. During this period Nir was a fellow in the “Human Rights-Under Pressure” joint interdisciplinary program of the Hebrew University and the Freie Universität Berlin and worked with Prof. Martina Löw as co-supervisor.



Moshe Shay Ben-Haim

Tel Aviv University >> Yale University

Moshe Shay Ben-Haim was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Animal Consciousness and Non-Conscious Processing: A Direct Dissociation Study in Domestic Dogs (*Canis familiaris*)” at Yale University (in collaboration with the Hebrew University). This research will investigate the possibility of conscious and non-conscious processing in intelligent animals. He completed a PhD in Behavioral Cognitive Neuroscience at Tel Aviv University under the supervision of Prof. Daniel Algom in 2014. Upon completion of his PhD, Moshe continued to study for a second PhD in Molecular Genetics under the supervision of Prof. Gideon Rechavi from Sheba Medical Center and Prof. Haim Cohen from Bar-Ilan University. Moshe is also a recipient of the Rothschild Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Tamar Ben-Shaan

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> Harvard University

Tamar Ben-Shaan was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Molecular and functional characterization of the anterior cingulate cortex neurons regulating physical and emotional pain” at the Harvard Medical School in Boston. This research will apply new technologies to characterize the neuronal sub-populations in the anterior cingulate cortex underlying emotional and physical pain. Her PhD research was conducted at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, and revealed a connection between the brain’s reward circuitry, which is mostly associated with positive emotions and expectation, and immunity. This research was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Asya Rolls. Tamar aims to further investigate how mood-regulating neuronal circuits can affect immunity and physiology.



Eran Cohen Barak

Technion - Israel Institution of Technology >> Northwestern University

Eran Cohen Barak was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research titled “Understanding the cellular signaling impacted by genetic mutation in SHOC2 leading to heart defects, skin dysfunction and cancer” at Northwestern University, Chicago. The aim of this research is to discover pivotal processes in skin, heart and oncologic diseases through investigation of a rare genetic disease, as a model. Eran is a senior physician in the Dermatology department of “Emek” Medical Center, affiliated to the Technion- Israel Institution of Technology, where he received his MD. He is responsible for the hospitalization unit and the pediatric dermatology clinic and as part of his clinical activities, he treats patients with genetic diseases, which are prevalent in the "Emek" catchment area. Eran's vision is to establish an independent research program in "Emek", thus melting advanced clinical and research facilities.



Ilan Cohen

Tel Aviv University >> Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh

Ilan Cohen was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Large-Scale Resource Allocation Optimization” at the Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. This research will investigate how to significantly decrease the energy waste and monetary cost of large data centers. His Ph.D. research was conducted at the Tel Aviv University and focused on various aspects of online packing and covering problems. This research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Yossi Azar.



Ohad Green

Bar-Ilan University >> University of South Florida

Ohad Green was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research titled “Developing and implementing an online intervention to improve the quality of life of migrant home care workers and the older adults under their care” at the University of South Florida. In his PhD research, which was carried out under the supervision of Prof. Liat Ayalon, at Bar-Ilan University, he investigated the exposure of migrant home care workers to abuse and exploitation and their willingness to report victimization. For his dissertation, he won the Israeli Industrial Relation Research Association (IIRRA) award for scientific work. Ohad is also a social worker, and it is his ambition to combine research with clinical practice to benefit families of migrant workers and refugees.



Yonatan Israel

Weizmann Institute of Science >> Stanford University

Yonatan Israel was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research titled: “Quantum microscopy”. The project will investigate the basic interaction of quantum states with biological systems and explore methods to improve our ability to observe these systems using microscopes. His PhD research was conducted at the Weizmann Institute of Science and focused on enhancing the sensitivity and resolution of optical microscopy using quantum optical principles. This research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Yaron Silberberg.



Yael Lahav

[Tel-Aviv University >> Stanford University](#)

Dr. Yael Lahav was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project entitled “The Implications of Secondary Traumatization on Perceived Health and Leukocyte Telomere Length among Combatants' Wives – Could there be somatic contagion?” at Stanford University. This research will investigate the implications of secondary traumatization on perceived health and telomere shortening, and the role of fusion-in-relationship, among combatants' spouses. Dr. Lahav's PhD research was conducted at Tel-Aviv University under the supervision of Prof. Zahava Solomon and focused on the long-lasting implications of war captivity regarding the physical and interpersonal realms. Upon completion of her PhD, Dr. Lahav continued as a postdoctoral fellow in the Psychology Department at the University of Southern Denmark, hosted by Prof. Elklit. She is also a clinical psychologist and aspires to continue to combine research with clinical practice.



Shai Maayani

[Technion-Israel Institute of Technology >> Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#)

Shai Maayani was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Electrically-pumped gas-fiber lasers “ at the University of MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts. This research will investigate the laser effect of internally-pump hollow fibers. His PhD research was conducted at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and focused on optically interrogation and control of capillary waves in a hybrid opto-capillary cavities. This research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Tal Carmon. Shai was employed in a detector company as an electro optics engineer prior to his PhD.



Sivan Pearl Mizrahi

[Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)

Sivan Pearl Mizrahi was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her tentative research titled “Exploring the role of sRNAs in phenotypic variability”. This project's purpose is to quantify the dynamical properties of sRNAs regulating networks. In her PhD research, carried out under the supervision of Prof. Nathalie Balaban and Prof. Itamar Simon, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, she investigated cell-cycle variability and its relation to the response to anti-cancer drugs, at the single cell level. Sivan continued as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Microbiology at the Hebrew University, hosted by Prof. Hanah Margalit.



Roy Porat

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

Roy Porat was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Reinterpreting Early Chinese Thought by Incorporating Sinological and Psycholinguistic Methods” at Harvard University. This project will investigate the role of language in the theory and praxis of early Chinese thought. He pursued two PhD researches, in Chinese Philosophy and Psycholinguistics, both at Tel Aviv University. The first, under the supervision of Prof. Galia Patt-Shamir, focused on the philosophy of the ancient Daoist thinker Zhuangzi, and the second, under the supervision of Prof. Yeshayahu Shen and Dr. David Gil, focused on the impact of language on metaphorical processing. Roy is also a recipient of the Rothschild Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Omri Ram

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev >> Johns Hopkins University

Omri Ram was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research titled “The transient flow field that develops and compliant boundary response following cavitation bubbles collapse” at Johns Hopkins University. This project will explore the formation of cavitation bubbles near surfaces, the forces that asserted during their collapse and the coupled fluid structure interaction that follows. In his PhD research, which was carried out under the supervision of Prof. Oren Sadot, at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, he investigated the interaction of shock waves with porous medium. In his PhD he developed new methodologies to predict the applicability of porous barriers as passive protection means.



Daniel Sharon

Bar-Ilan University >> Chicago University

Daniel Sharon was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research titled “Quantitative structure-function relationships in block copolymer electrolyte films” at the Institute of Molecular Engineering at Chicago University. This project will examine the relationships between the polymer electrolyte materials structure and its transport properties.

In his PhD research, which was carried out under the supervision of Prof. Doron Aurbach at Bar-Ilan University, he investigated non-aqueous electrolyte solutions for lithium-oxygen batteries. His diagnostic work might help to optimize the electrolyte solutions selection process for future advance rechargeable batteries.



Noam Solomon

Tel-Aviv University & Ben-Gurion University of the Negev >> Harvard University

Noam Solomon was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Algebraic methods in Combinatorial Geometry” at the Center of Mathematical Sciences and Applications at Harvard University. In his PhD research, which was carried out under the supervision of Professor Micha Sharir, in the Blavatnik school of Computer Science at Tel-Aviv University, he developed and applied tools from Algebra and Algebraic Geometry in the field of Incidence Geometry. An underlying theme in his research is the study of extremal patterns that simple varieties in Euclidean spaces (e.g., lines in three, four and higher dimensions) have between themselves. Already in the case of lines, this problem has numerous applications in combinatorics, motion planning, robotics, range searching and algebraic complexity. Noam also holds a PhD in Mathematics from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and a three-year post-doctoral fellowships at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Weizmann Institute of Science and Technology.



Dana Sury

Dana Sury was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Gestures as a window onto mathematical abilities at different stages of development” at the University of Chicago, Illinois. This research will investigate the relationship between gestures and mathematical abilities in different stages of development as an optional tool for predicting the developmental of mathematical skills. Her PhD research was conducted at the University of Haifa and focused on the neurocognitive mechanisms that stand in the heart of mathematical ability. Specifically, implicit ordinal processing. This research was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Orly Rubinstev. Dana is also a clinician specialized in diagnosis and therapy for children and adults who struggle with learning disabilities and, her ambition is to combine research with clinical practice.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows



Chen Shmilo

Tel Aviv University >> Virginia Commonwealth University

Chen Shmilo was awarded a Fulbright Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship in Public Health Policy and Management at Virginia Commonwealth University.



Ziyad Abou Habla

Tel Aviv University >> Boston University

Ziyad Abou Habla was awarded a Fulbright Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship in Economic Development at Boston University.



Yaara Shehori

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> University of Iowa

Yaara Shehori was awarded a Fulbright International Writing Program fellowship at the University of Iowa. Yaara (fiction writer, poet, editor; Israel) is a literary editor at Keter Publishing House with a PhD in Hebrew literature. She has published many works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, including the novel [Aquarium] (2016). In 2015, she received both the Levi Eshkol Prime Minister's Prize and the Minister of Culture Award for Hebrew Literature in the 'young authors' category. In 2017 [Aquarium] was awarded the Bernstein Prize as best novel in Hebrew.

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