

Postdoctoral Fellows



Alon Saguy

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> Columbia University

Alon Saguy was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Spike sorting of Neuropixel probe signals via contrastive learning”. In his research, Alon will examine electrical signals recorded in the brains of mammals and humans using Neuropixel probes. Alon will develop novel signal processing methods to track the neural activity across multiple brain regions in single neuron resolution and decode brain function.

During his PhD, under the supervision of Professor Yoav Shechtman, Alon focused on the challenge of tracking the dynamics of sub-cellular structures in super-resolution. Recently, he developed a groundbreaking method to visualize live-cell dynamics with several orders of magnitude better spatial and temporal resolution than the standard imaging methods.



Barak Sabbagh

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> University of California San Diego

Barak was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Wearable Medical Systems as a Source of Personalized Closed-Loop Therapies for Chronic Diseases”. The research aims to explore selective conversions of chemical and biological recognition events into useful electrical signals, with the objective of developing flexible and stretchable bioelectronic devices for non-invasive on-body sensing and drug delivery. This research direction holds tremendous promise for revolutionizing healthcare in the future, offering personalized disease management and enhanced preventive care.

Barak completed his Ph.D. in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Under the supervision of Professor Gilad Yossifon. His Ph.D. research focused on studying micro/nano-fluidics and involved both fundamental investigations of electrokinetic transport processes within the nano and micro scales, as well as application-oriented studies aimed at developing novel tools and devices. Barak was awarded several scholarships during his studies, including the Gutwirth and the Russel Berrie Nanotechnology Institute Scholarships, in addition to awards for his research contributions.



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).



Hananel Shapira

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Hananel was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Ritual, Royalty, and Imperial Reality: Priestly Political Thought and Identity Formation”.

Hananel received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in bible and archaeology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, both summa cum laude. He then pursued his Ph.D. in the Department of Bible at the Hebrew University and received the university's President's Stipend and the Nathan Rotenstreich Scholarship from the Israeli Council for Higher Education, as well as the Joseph C. Shenker Endowed Scholarship Fund from the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies. Hananel's dissertation, titled "Rituals Conducted Outside the Tabernacle in the Priestly Literature in the Pentateuch" (advisor: Dr. Naphtali Meshel; completed in 2023), was awarded the Mandel Institute for Jewish Studies Grant supporting its current preparation for academic publication as a monograph.

Currently, Hananel is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Zurich, where he is beginning to pursue his research on royal patronage over ritual procedures in the ancient Near East in general and in biblical priestly literature in particular, focusing on the political and theological implications of this notion.



Israel Gabay

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> Cornell University

Israel Gabay was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research entitled "Theoretical and experimental investigation of the coupling of hydromechanical and electrophysiological processes in mediating long-distance signals in crops." In his research, Israel aims to enhance our understanding of the inner communication system in plants and to leverage this understanding to guide crop improvement and plant bioengineering.

Israel completed his bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) in mechanical engineering at the Technion and pursued a Ph.D. in the same faculty under the supervision of Professor Moran Bercovici and Professor Amir Gat. During his graduate studies, Israel studied the dynamics of liquid films. His findings include fundamental and technological implications, ranging from the creation of smooth microstructures to the development of giant space telescopes made of liquid. Israel has received several awards for his research and teaching activities and is an alumnus of two prestigious Ph.D. fellowships, ISEF and Azrieli.



Maayan Shemer

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev >> Yale University

Maayan was awarded the Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "Cultural Variability and Cultural Dynamics in the Upper Paleolithic Period of the Near East (~40 30 ky BP): Synchronic and Diachronic Insights Based on the Comparative Study of Flint Technologies from the Zagros and the Southern Levant". This project tests social interactions between prehistoric hunter-gatherer groups from different regions of the Near East, reconstructing the evolutionary and dispersal patterns of ancient societies.

Maayan received her BA in archaeology from Ben-Gurion University in the Negev (BGU) and her MA with a specialization in the study of ancient lithic industries from the University of Haifa. Her PhD research, conducted at BGU, focused on the study and cultural characterization of hunter-gatherer groups that inhabited the Levant ca. 40–30 kya based on case studies from Israel and the comparative study of archaeological collections from key sites in the region and in west Europe.



Natalia Kononov

Tel Aviv University >> University of Pennsylvania

Natalia was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "The Role of Clean Beauty Products in Shaping Personal and Social Perception." Her project will explore ethical consumerism in the beauty market, specifically focusing on the psychological impacts of green products on self and social perception. Incorporating experimental and marketing analysis techniques, the study aims to enhance the competitive market position of these products.

Natalia received a BA in psychology from Reichman University, an MA in social psychology, an MA in gender studies, and a PhD in marketing (consumer behavior) from Tel Aviv University. Her PhD research explores the underlying psychological mechanisms that explain the association between morality and beauty from a consumer perspective.



Nermin Toukhy

Bar-Ilan University >> University of Pittsburgh

Nermin's project is titled " Preventing Suicide through Smartphone Applications - Examining the Effectiveness of the Integrated Care to Help At-Risk Teens (iCHART) through Mobile Sensing Indicators". He will examine the utilization of Digital Health interventions in preventing suicide thoughts and behaviors among adolescents at a high risk for suicide.

Nermin completed his PhD in the Department of Psychology at Bar-Ilan University and received the Presidential Scholarship. His PhD research focused on examining the predictive utility of the Death/Suicide- Implicit Association Test on short-term suicide risk among adolescents.

He was recently awarded the Institutional Scholarship for his post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Community Mental Health at the University of Haifa, leading innovative research aimed at enhancing imminent suicide risk identification during clinical assessment through the use of machine learning techniques and computerized screening tools.



Noa Zilberman Rilov

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> Princeton University

Noa received a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct research in gravitational physics.

Noa graduated cum laude with a BSc in physics-mathematics from the Technion- Israel Institute of Technology, where she then pursued her PhD, titled "Semiclassical effects in black hole interiors", under Professor Amos Ori. Her research focused on the interior of a black hole, which is the region concealed beyond the event horizon – the famous “point of no return” defining a black hole. Classical general relativity predicts that rotating black holes contain a traversable passage through an inner horizon, potentially leading to another external universe. But does this prediction still hold when considering the quantum nature of matter, or even of the vacuum? Motivated by this long-standing question, Noa performed pioneering computations that demonstrate, firmer than ever, that vacuum quantum effects induce a curvature singularity at the inner horizon. Her findings set the stage for further investigation during her fellowship.

Alongside her research, Noa is dedicated to science communication, engaging in outreach activities for various audiences.



Omer Maliniak

Bar-Ilan University >> Harvard University

Omer Maliniak was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research on the changing musical syntax and form in eighteenth-century music, from the Baroque stylistic period to the Classical one.

Omer earned his Ph.D. in musicology at Bar-Ilan University under the supervision of Professor Yoel Greenberg, researching the formal evolution of concerto first movements in the eighteenth century from a diachronic perspective and using qualitative measures, unlike the traditional synchronic and qualitative approaches in the field of musical research. The article that stemmed from this research, Maliniak, Omer, and Yoel Greenberg, "Follow the Solo: The Formal Evolution of the Concerto in the Eighteenth-Century," Music Theory Spectrum 44/2 (2022): 231-259 was selected by the Society of Music Theory for the Outstanding Publication Award.



Orr Avni

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> Brown University

Orr was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue a research project, titled: “Hydrodynamic instabilities in aerial firefighting” at Brown University. The project goal is to study the fluid mechanics principles governing the complex dynamics of fire-retarding liquids after their release from aircraft, seeking to improve the efficiency of aerial firefighting techniques.

Under the joint supervision of Dr. Yuval Dagan and Professor Eran Sher, Orr pursued his PhD in the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Orr’s research focused on modeling the dynamics of liquid-vapor phase change under extreme thermodynamic conditions, e.g., absolute negative pressures and near-critical temperatures. Alongside his Ph.D. research, Orr explored the nonlinear behavior of phase-changing droplets within vortical flows, which may serve as a simplified model for complex turbulent droplet-laden flows.



Osher Azulay

Tel Aviv University >> University of California

Osher was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "The Future of Robotics: Learning Multimodal Policies for Human-Level Dexterity". In the proposed project, Osher seeks to develop a learning framework that enables robots to perform complex manipulation tasks with a level of dexterity and adaptability comparable to human capabilities.

Osher received his B.Sc. (cum laude) and M.Sc. degrees in mechanical engineering from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in 2019 and 2020, respectively. He earned his Ph.D. from the School of Mechanical Engineering at Tel Aviv University, focusing on learning manipulation skills with adaptive robotic hands. Throughout his studies, Osher was recognized with several awards, including the Nehemia Levtzion Scholarship, the KLA scholarship, and the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Research Award.



Sapir Bitton

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology >> MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Sapir was awarded a Fulbright-ISEF Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled "Electrochemical RAM for analog in-memory neural network accelerators".

She completed her B.Sc. in electrical engineering from the Technion Israel Institute of Technology and continued in the joint M.Sc. and Ph.D. track under the supervision of Professor Nir Tessler. Sapir's research focused on organic electronic devices based on electronic-ionic conduction. During her studies, Sapir and her supervisor presented, for the first time, the effect of ionic reactions on the performance and stability of perovskite solar cells, as well as the role of counterions in organic electrochemical transistors.

She received several awards, including the Ariane de Rothschild Women's Doctoral Scholarship for outstanding female Ph.D. students, and the Yablonovitch Research Award for excellence in micro/nanoelectronics, photonics, and electromagnetism.



Tomer Babu

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> The University of Texas at Austin

Tomer was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Tri & Bi Metallic Anticancer Prodrugs that Combine Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy". He received his B.Sc. in Pharmacy and M.Sc. in Medicinal Chemistry from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem under the IDR excellence program[ES1] and is the recipient of several awards including Clore Foundation Scholarship for outstanding PhD student, Aharon and Ephraim Katzir Grant from the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Kaye Innovation Award.

Tomer's PhD research, under the supervision of Professor Dan Gibson, focused on bio-inorganic chemistry aiming to develop novel oral platinum-based metal complexes for cancer treatment with improved anticancer efficacy and minimal side effects.

In his postdoctoral studies, he aims to further develop the field of metals in medicine by combining several metal complexes to a single prodrug that have the ability of shrinking primary tumors as well as induction of the adaptive immune system that can drastically suppress metastatic neoplasm to allow the long-sought goal of creating a cancer vaccine.



Tzvi Luboshitz

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Stanford University

Tzvi was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled "Mysticism, Psychology, and Science: Early Modern Kabbalah and the Proto-Scientific Discourse on Psychology during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries".

Tzvi completed a BA in education at Herzog College and a MA in the Department of Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University, both summa cum laude. He pursued his PhD dissertation in the Department of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem under the supervision of Professor Jonathan Garb. As a doctoral student he received an award from the Hebrew University, Mandel School Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Students. During this time, he was awarded the Jewish Memorial Foundation Doctoral Grant and The Sir Sigmund and Lady Hazel Sternberg Prizes for Interfaith Understanding. Tzvi also organized and directed a Ph.D. student's deliberation group and taught a BA course in the Department of Jewish Thought.

Master's Fellows



Deborah Fischer

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

Deborah Fischer's interdisciplinary art practice integrates research-based installations within marginalized communities and periphery sites. She holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design where she graduated Cum laude. Via her work with communities and sites, she aims to serve as a medium for their local, intertwined narratives while reflecting her own understanding of it. During her MFA at RISD, she aspires to continue developing an art form dependent on place, giving voice to marginalized communities and generating a skewed version of reality based on the local perspective. She hopes to be part of a proactive force that fosters this art form, where the blend between the political and the fantastical is captured in a new provisional space.



Gabriel Ben-Haim

The Open University of Israel >> Harvard University

Gabriel Ben-Haim graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Open University with a BA in psychology and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Cambridge with distinction. During his studies, Gabriel served as chairperson and executive director of the Israeli Model UN Association, president of the Open University's Student Union, and as a member of the Open University's Learning Analytics Steering Committee.

Prior to Fulbright, Gabriel worked as an advisor to the director general of the Education Ministry. He oversaw the implementation of the DG's policies and orchestrated strategic innovation efforts, including the ministry's initial AI strategy, policies, and regulatory framework, the 'higher education in school' initiative, and the 'digital learning' programs.

Gabriel was awarded the Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a master's in education policy at Harvard. He aims to explore innovative and inclusive pathways to adapt systems for the evolving social, professional, and personal challenges of the 21st century.



Lev Brodinsky

Kibbutzim College of Education >> NYU-New York University

Lev is a graduate of the three-year program at the Nissan Nativ Acting Studio, Tel Aviv, a B.Ed. in theater directing and teaching from the Kibbutzim College, and an MFA graduate from Tel Aviv University. He is a graduate of the Mandel Foundation Regional Leadership Program.

Lev focuses on creating works dealing with geographic and social periphery with the aspiration for accurate representation. His work focuses on underrepresented communities, narratives and characters. He aims to strengthen the periphery as a base for diverse and local creative work. His films have been screened and awarded at festivals worldwide.

Lev was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue his MFA degree with a focus on dramatic writing for the stage and screen at NYU.



May Jbali

Tel Aviv University >> Harvard University

May Jbali received her LL.B. from Tel Aviv University. During her studies, she served as an editorial board member of the Tel Aviv University Law Review ("Iyunei Mishpat).

Upon graduation, May clerked in the High Court of Justice Department at the State Attorney's Office. There, she assisted in representing State authorities in proceedings filed in the Supreme Court in the fields of administrative and constitutional law.

For the past two years, May has worked as an advisor to the Director of Courts. In this capacity, she provides consultation for formulating policies governing the administrative functioning of the Israeli judicial system.

May was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue her LL.M. degree at Harvard University.



Natan Tayachew

University of Haifa >> Brandeis University

Natan Tayachew graduated from the University of Haifa with an LL.B. During his studies, Natan took part in the university debate team, while also serving as spokesperson for the headquarters of The Struggle to Promote the Aliyah of Ethiopian Jews.

Natan served as a senior advisor to the former Israeli Minister of Immigration and Absorption, Pnina Tamano-Shata, Israel's first black minister. His role entailed framing and promoting policies on behalf of the minister, including managing the agenda of the Ministerial Committee for the Advancement of Ethiopian Jews in Israel.

As a Fulbright Master's fellow, Natan will pursue his master's degree in public policy at Brandeis University.



Nofar Shemla Kadosh

Tel Aviv University >> NYU-New York University

Nofar received her LL.B. magna cum laude, from Tel Aviv University. During her studies, she served as an editor of the Journal of Law & Social Change, worked as a research assistant in the law faculty and at the Israel Internet Association, and volunteered at the National Council for the Child's Child Victim Assistance Center.

Nofar completed her legal internship at the High Court of Justice Department, in the State Attorney's Office, where she assisted in crafting the State's response to legal petitions concerning governmental acts and regulations. She recently joined the Haruv Institute, where she researches the offense of child psychological abuse, and concurrently takes part in the Dinah Project, a civil initiative focusing on investigating sexual crimes committed on October 7.

Nofar was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue her LL.M. in NYU's Legal Theory program, where she plans to continue her previous research in modeling 'consent' for various digital regulation implications. She aspires to create a sexually safer virtual world by shaping the Israeli digital sexual crimes regulation.



Oren Cohen

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Carnegie Mellon University

Oren graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and theater studies with a specialization in the management of cultural institutions. He has worked as a director of institutions and projects in the fields of art and culture, actor, musician, choreographer, and owner of a digital startup for managing processes in manufacturing companies.

Oren was awarded the Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a master's in arts management at Carnegie Mellon University. Oren believes that professional and ground-breaking management of cultural institutions allows different voices in society to be heard and the different arts to become relevant. Studying in the USA will allow him to acquire new management methods that encourage inclusion and connection between the center and the periphery.

When he returns Oren hopes to allow creators from all spectrums to find a home in cultural institutions, express their unique voice, while connecting to their ancient heritage, toward progress and peace.



Safa Naamneh

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Fordham University

Safa Naamneh is an attorney specializing in criminal law and advocating for the rights of marginalized communities within the criminal justice system. Safa holds an LL.B from the University of Haifa, and an LL.M. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem focusing on constitutional and international law. During her studies, Safa served as an editorial board member at the "Mishpat U'Mimshal" law review, and as a research assistant of a study on women's rights in Sharia Law throughout the Middle East. Additionally, Safa provided tutoring sessions for Arab students during their first year of law school, as part of "Career Project" which aims at promoting equality in higher academic education.

For the past eight years, Safa has worked as an attorney at the Public Defender's Office, where she specializes in defending the rights of individuals facing criminal charges and representing defendants in community courts. Safa's role extends beyond legal representation; She has been an advocate for alternative solutions, particularly for defendants from vulnerable communities. Her work focuses on promoting the legal rights of the Arab community, advocating for rehabilitative and holistic approaches of justice. Safa was awarded the Fulbright Fellowship to pursue an LL.M at Fordham University.



Shlomo Gedamo

Bar-Ilan University >> University of California

Shlomo Gedamo, studied for a LL.B at Bar-Ilan University, graduating in 2022. As part of his studies in the Faculty of Law, Shlomo was active in several social and academic settings, including the Legal Clinic for the Promotion of Equality, which provides legal assistance in matters of violation of equality, discrimination, exclusion, and racism, as well as the student committee at Bar-Ilan University to raise awareness of diversity on campus.

Before receiving the Fulbright scholarship, Shlomo completed his legal internship in the legal department of the Patent Authority of the Israeli Ministry of Justice. Shlomo aspires to continue to engage in issues related to law, society, and technology.

Shlomo received a Fulbright award to study in the LL.M program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



Tamer Masudin

Reichman University >> Brandeis University

Tamer received his B.A in government, diplomacy and strategy from Reichman University.

After graduating from his BA program, he started working as a content analyst at Cyberwell, which is the world’s first live database of online antisemitism.

Tamer was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue an MBA program at Brandeis University.



Tzur Goldin

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Harvard University

Tzur received his LL.B concentrating in business and B.A in history concentrating in global post world wars trends.

In 2015, Tzur established the organization representing the families of Israel’s hostages in Gaza and leading the public campaign for Israel’s hostages return home. In 2016, Tzur established the Bystander Israel, an NGO focusing on bystander impact in the context of public sexual harassment.

Tzur is currently an associate at Herzog Fox & Neeman specializing in corporate and commercial transactions. He was awarded the Fulbright fellowship to pursue his MPP at the Kennedy School at Harvard University.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows



Nurit Canetti

Tel Aviv University >> Arizona State University

Nurit Canetti produces and hosts news and current-affairs programs and documentaries for the public radio of Galei-Zahal. She is a senior journalist, who has worked in several news desks as a news reporter and editor. She writes articles and opinion columns for various newspapers and magazines in Israel.

Nurit is the chairperson and one of the founders of the Israeli Journalists Union, an organization that brings together about 3,000 journalists and advocates for their rights, promoting freedom of press.

Distinguished Awards in Teaching Fellow



Itay Bahar

The Open University of Israel >> Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Itay received a BA in chemistry from the Open University and started working as a science teacher in schools in Jerusalem. Later, Itay completed his master’s degree in technology systems in education and received a teacher’s certificate from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Itay has been working at the Hand in Hand bilingual high school for Arabs and Jews for the last 14 years, teaching both chemistry and physics and preparing students for their final state exams.

Foreign Language Teaching Assistants



Ahmad Asaly

Tel Aviv University >> University of New Hampshire

Ahmad Asaly is a dedicated educator and advocate for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. With a B.A. in political science and media from Tel Aviv University and a teaching certificate in citizenship, he pursued a master's in management of educational systems at Ono Academic College.

Ahmad has been working as a high school teacher for media, politics, and Arabic at YOUNITED International School in Givat Haviva for the past four years. Ahmad's commitment extends beyond the classroom; as a volunteer with the Seeds of Partnership organization, he promotes Arab-Jewish collaboration through podcasts and lectures for youth, fostering understanding and unity.

Additionally, Ahmad works as a simultaneous translator in Arabic and Hebrew, bridging linguistic gaps and facilitating communication between communities.

Ahmad's diverse skill set and unwavering dedication to education and peacebuilding have earned him recognition, including a Fulbright FLTA fellowship, highlighting his potential to effect positive change globally.



Margaret Oganezov

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem >> Northwestern University

Margaret Oganezov graduated from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem with an LL.B. and an MBA in business administration in strategy and entrepreneurship. She has practiced commercial and corporate law in the private sector and took part in an exchange program at the Center for Transnational Legal Studies, which provided the opportunity to engage with and experience different cultures. Margaret believes that languages are windows to new worlds and ways of thought.

In 2024, Margaret will be teaching Hebrew at Northwestern University, aiming to instill a deeper understanding and appreciation for the language among her students.