

Postdoctoral Fellowships



José Villegas

University of Pennsylvania >> Weizmann Institute of Science

José Villegas was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “Elucidating Structure-Function Relationships at Protein-Protein Interfaces” at the Weizmann Institute of Science. His research will investigate the minimal structural requirements for priming new interactions in non-interacting proteins through a combination of computational modeling and in vivo experiments. His PhD research was performed in Professor Jeffery Savens’s group and focused on the computational design of protein-ligand and protein-protein interactions. José has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in Professor Emmanuel Levy’s laboratory.



Liat Gafni Lachter

Boston University >> University of Haifa

Liat Gafni Lachter was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Promoting Family-Centered Care: Measuring the Effect of an Interdisciplinary Intervention” at the University of Haifa, Israel. During the study, she will implement a training program for interdisciplinary healthcare providers while measuring change in participants’ clinical skills and expertise in provision of family-centered care. Liat’s doctoral studies took place at Boston University and focused on promoting quality healthcare by means of interdisciplinary education and mentoring. These studies were conducted under the supervision of Prof. Ellen Cohn and Prof. Karen Jacobs. Liat is an occupational therapist and aspires to see the findings of this study be integrated into everyday clinical practice with children and their families.



Maayan Stavans

University of Illinois >> Bar-Ilan University

Maayan Stavans was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, titled “Young children’s conceptualization of leadership”, at Bar-Ilan University. This research will investigate young children’s concepts of and attitudes towards leadership in social groups. Her PhD research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Renée Baillargeon at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and focused on two lines of research. In one, she explored early reasoning about leadership, investigating whether infants possess different expectations about the behaviors of leaders and subordinates towards others. In the other, she explored early physical reasoning, investigating how infants represent what objects are where in a scene and how objects generally interact.



Michael Wine

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology >> Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



Rachel Friedman

Harvard University >> Tel Aviv University

Rachel Friedman received her B.A. in Social Studies, her J.D., and her Ph.D. in Government, all from Harvard University. Her dissertation, written under Professors Harvey Mansfield, Michael Sandel, and Richard Tuck, explored the origins and evolution of the idea of social insurance, specifically as it emerged from mathematical probability theory. Her Fulbright project, entitled “The Israeli Welfare State in Historical and Philosophical Context: Risk, Distributive Justice, and the Challenges of Universal Social Insurance,” will test some of the theoretical insights of her doctoral work through a study of Israel’s social insurance system. She will pursue her research at the Safra Center for Ethics at Tel Aviv University, under the supervision of Professor Hanoch Dagan and as part of a cohort of researchers examining the ethical and legal aspects of markets.



Sarah Kostinski

Harvard University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Sarah Kostinski was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project entitled “Controlled wave propagation in a complex medium” at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During this project she will investigate the mechanisms by which transmission of visible light through disordered media is enhanced. Her PhD research on soft matter and optical systems was conducted under the supervision of Professor Michael P. Brenner at Harvard University. Sarah will continue studies on optics in Professor Yaron Bromberg’s laboratory at the Hebrew University’s Racah Institute of Physics as a postdoctoral researcher.



Zackary Wainer

Brown University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Senior Scholars



Alex Kovner

University of Connecticut >> Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Alex Kovner is a Professor of Physics at the University of Connecticut. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue his project “Quasi Collectivity in proton-proton collisions at high energy” at the Ben Gurion University. His research aims to understand specific properties of strong interactions in high energy collisions. In particular he is interested in the question whether strong correlations between produced particles observed at Large Hadron Collider can be understood in terms of properties of the wave function of the colliding protons. This would indicate an interesting quasi collective structure of a proton wave function when probed at high energies. He will be working in collaboration with the BGU researchers to answer this question.



Amy Elman

Kalamazoo College >> The University of Haifa

R. Amy Elman is Professor of Political Science at Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo MI. She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for her project “Contemporary Antisemitism, Anti-Zionism and the Politics of Pinkwashing” at Haifa University. This project follows the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement’s efforts to discredit Israel’s adoption of progressive policies pertaining to lesbian and gay rights – efforts BDS insists serve as a smokescreen to conceal the human rights of Palestinians. This perception has gained traction in the United States since 2010, when the concept of “pinkwashing” was first introduced by academics there. What impact, if any, has BDS had within Israel on those committed to the adoption, maintenance and expansion of those rights?



Anya Jones

University of Maryland >> Technion – Technical Institute of Technology

Anya Jones is an Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Maryland. She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue her project “Flow Physics and Control of Dynamic Stall in an Unsteady Freestream” at the Technion. The long-term goal of her research program is to enhance aircraft safety and broaden the operational envelope of wings and other lifting surfaces by better understanding the fundamental physics of force production in unsteady and separated flows. She applies experimental, analytical, and theoretical methods to canonical problems relevant to a variety of applications including fixed and rotary wing aircraft, bio-inspired fliers and swimmers, and wind and tidal turbines. At the Technion, she will be applying tools from fundamental aerodynamics to develop new physics-based low order models of unsteady aerodynamic forcing during dynamic stall and in gusty winds. She will then use these models to inform new flow control algorithms that can be used to regularize unsteady airloads.



Jamie Kneitel

California State University >> University of Haifa

Jamie Kneitel is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at California State University, Sacramento. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue the project “A Synthesis of Seasonal Wetland Ecology in Mediterranean Climate Regions” and taught the course “Community Metrics” at the University of Haifa. His research program focuses on understanding spatial and temporal patterns of biodiversity and ecosystem function in seasonal wetlands.



Jay P. Singh

University of Pennsylvania >> University of Haifa

Jay P. Singh, PhD, PhD is a Clinical Associate at the University of Pennsylvania. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue his project “Exploring Forensic Risk Assessment Practices in Israel” at the University of Haifa. His research aims to survey the use and perceived utility of forensic risk assessment tools among psychologists, clinical criminologists, and social workers in the country. After serving as Senior Clinical Researcher in Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology for the Swiss Department of Justice (Zurich Canton), he founded the Global Institute of Forensic Research.



Jonathan Gribetz

Princeton University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Maria Adelaida Restrepo

Arizona State University >> Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv

Dr. Maria Adelaida Restrepo is a Professor of Speech and Hearing Science at Arizona State University. She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue the project “The Effects of Response to Intervention in Language Minority Children in Israel”. Her research aims to understand how language minority children can benefit from a rich narrative language intervention and whether learning skills while receiving the language stimulation can help us differentiate children with significant learning disabilities from those with language differences. If so these programs can be implemented in preschools to help build language, at the same time they help us to better understand the learning capacity and needs of these children. Restrepo will be working at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv to adapt and implement this program in conjunction with Dr. Sharon Armon-Lotem.



Yasmine L. Kalkstein

Mount Saint Mary College >> Ono Academic College

Yasmine L. Kalkstein is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY. She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue her project “Who Owns Birth? The Role of Birth Plans in the Birth Experience”. Her work explores the intersection of psychology, medicine, and mass communication. Pregnancy and the birth experience is replete with medical decisions to be made; many women and their partners create birth plans to communicate their preferred decisions. This is an implementation of the strong shared-decision-making movement in the medical world, where patients increasingly determine or participate in determining their own medical care. Birth, however, offers a considerable amount of uncertainty, which means that the birth may not go according to the plan. In her research, Yasmine and her Israeli collaborators at Ono Academic College will examine women’s experiences to relate birth plans to satisfaction with the medical system, perception of ownership over their own birth, and confidence and self-efficacy going into their second birth.

Open Study/Research



Hannah Belitz

Harvard University >> The Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya

Hannah Belitz received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2017 and her B.A. in History with a minor in Modern Languages from Stanford University in 2013. Hannah was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue her research, “Broad Standing Law and Its Impact on Individual Rights Before the Israeli High Court,” at IDC Herzliya.



Samuel Falkson

Brown University >> Weizmann Institute of Science

Samuel Falkson received his BA in Business, Entrepreneurship, and Organizations from Brown University in 2016. Sam has a particular interest in entrepreneurship within the medical and biotechnology fields, and he fostered this passion by participating in biomedical research related to neurodegenerative diseases in the Marshall Lab at Brown University. Since graduating, Sam has been working in the LaVoie Lab of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School where he is helping to characterize the biochemical effects of a Parkinson's Disease genetic mutation. Sam is excited to continue his research efforts through his Fulbright Project in Israel, "Evaluating New Molecules for their Potential as Cancer Therapeutics," in Dr. Rony Seger's lab at the Weizmann Institute of Science. During his project, Sam will work towards discovering molecules that could someday help treat cancer patients.



Rebekah Haigh

Emory University >> Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Rebekah Haigh received her B.S in Biblical Studies and Biblical Languages at Rochester College before pursuing both a M.T.S in Theology and T.h.M in Theological Studies at Emory University. Her research at Emory centered around the Second Temple period and the construction of religious identity under Greco-Roman political dominance. Rebekah will continue this broad focus during her Fulbright research on the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her project, entitled "Desert Dramas: A Performative Approach to the War Scroll," will explore how central Qumran texts like the War Scroll might have had an oral, performative life and been an essential means of creating social memory and identity in Second Temple Jewish life.



Chelsea Haines

The City University of New York >> Bezalel – Academy of Fine Arts and Design

Chelsea Haines received her BA in Art History and Literature from Duquesne University's Honors College and MA in Visual Culture Theory from New York University. She is a PhD Candidate in the Art History department at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. During the course of her Fulbright award at the Bezalel Academy of Fine Arts in Jerusalem, Chelsea will be completing research for her dissertation. Titled "Staging the Modern, Building the Nation: Israeli Art Exhibitions, 1948–1965," her research project explores the intersecting relationship between art and nation-building during the first two decades of the state's history in order to trace how the image of Israel as a modern, progressive and cosmopolitan nation with ancient cultural roots developed, in part, through the national and international circulation of Israeli art and the production of modernist exhibition design and architecture.



Amanda Jowell

Harvard University >> University of Haifa

Amanda Jowell received her A.B. in Molecular and Cellular Biology with a minor in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University in May 2017. She has conducted research in both neurobiology and global health laboratories and is now shifting her focus to public health work. Her interest lies in eating disorders, and she dedicated much time throughout college helping those with eating concerns and participating in eating disorder destigmatization/awareness work. Amanda was awarded the Fulbright Fellowship to research disordered eating pathology in religious communities at the University of Haifa with Professor Yael Latzer. Amanda's project is titled "Disordered Eating Pathology in Ultra-Orthodox Women."



Arielle Korman

Davidson College >> The University of Haifa

Arielle received her BA in Languages and Cultures of the Middle East at Davidson College in North Carolina, in 2017. For her thesis she translated selected stories by the twentieth-century Iraqi-Jewish writer, Yaakov Lev, from Arabic to English. Arielle will be continuing her work with Iraqi-Jewish literature while at the University of Haifa, focusing on stories written in Iraq before the migration of Jews to Israel. She plans to collect and translate literature written in Arabic by Iraqi Jews for her project titled "Selections from the Last Decades of Arabic Iraqi-Jewish Literature."



Joseph Riordan, SJ

University of Notre Dame >> Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Joseph Riordan, SJ received his BA in English and Spanish literature from Rutgers College. He earned an MA in philosophy from Fordham University and an MDiv from the Graduate Theological Union, as well as a licentiate from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. He is currently a PhD candidate in biblical studies at the University of Notre Dame. During the course of his Fulbright year, Joseph will be affiliated with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and continue his research into the reception of prophetic texts in the literature of Second Temple Judaism. His project is titled: "Blessed are the Eyes that See: The Restoration of Zion in Deutero-Isaiah and Tobit 13."



Ryan Walsh

Brown University >> Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ryan Walsh is currently a fourth-year undergraduate at Brown University who will graduate in May 2017 with a double concentration in Biology and French & Francophone Studies. His studies in Biology focus on vertebrate development and reproduction, and his studies in French focus on literature of the 20th century. In the past, he worked at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute looking at stem cell therapy for type 1 diabetes as well as at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute looking at the effects of PCBs on Atlantic killifish. Ryan was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center, where he will pursue his project titled "Systems Physiology of Obesity and Diabetes."

English Teaching Assistant Fellows



Alfredo Torres

Alfredo Torres received his BA in Linguistics and International Studies with an unofficial minor in Hebrew at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. He has worked as an ESL tutor for international students at Emory University, as a Teacher's Assistant in Spanish at a local high school, and as a Communications intern at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alfredo was awarded with a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Israel. Throughout the course of this fellowship, he will provide support for the English language studies of students at Oranim Academic College in Kiryat Tivon.



Candace Square

Candace Square received her B.S. in Health and Exercise Sciences with a minor in Psychology at the University of Oklahoma. She is currently completing a M.S. degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Oklahoma State University. She will graduate in May of 2017. Candace will be working as an English Teaching Assistant at Kibbutzim College in Tel Aviv. She will facilitate and help improve students' English proficiency through oral and written language skills. She believes that teaching English in Israel will help build closer relationships, and a depth of understanding between American and Israeli cultures.



Charles Coleman

Charles Coleman received his BA in International Studies with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies at The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Before departing for his Fulbright grant year, Charles is continuing his research of "Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect" under Professor Renato Corbetta of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Department of Government. Charles was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award to The College of Sakhrin. His purpose in teaching is to help others with their learning experience by creating fun and intuitive videos about situations people encounter daily. Charles will be working with the chair of the English Department, Mr. Jamal Assadi, and will pursue his project "screen-writing: Bridging the gap between American and Israeli Culture." Students will write short scripts in English, learn about acting, video editing and post their final group projects Online, which will produce a powerful expression of the Fulbright assignment.



Joshua Warzecha

Josh Warzecha received his BA from Dartmouth College, where he double majored in Arabic Language & Literature and Linguistics with a concentration in Hebrew. Josh was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Fellowship to teach English at Tel Hai College and hopes to use this opportunity to build linguistic and cultural bridges between Israel and the United States. When he is not teaching, Josh hopes to spend time furthering his own knowledge of Hebrew and Arabic and possibly carrying out preliminary sociolinguistic fieldwork.