

U.S. Fellows 2019

Postdoctoral Fellows



Hillary Craddock

University of Maryland >> Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Hillary Craddock was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, titled “Assessing antibiotic resistance in Israeli Bedouin communities at the nexus of wastewater management, livestock health, and agricultural products” at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. During this project, she will investigate antibiotic resistant bacteria in wastewater produced by Bedouin communities in the Negev, as well as the transmission of antibiotic-resistant bacteria to livestock and agricultural products. Her PhD research was performed in Professor Amy Sapkota’s lab as part of the CONSERVE Center of Excellence at the Nexus of Sustainable Water Reuse, Food, and Health, and her research focused on off-grid wastewater treatment for agricultural reuse, antibiotic and herbicide residues in greywater, antibiotic resistant bacteria in greywater, and the consumer acceptance of wastewater reuse. Upon completion of her PhD, Hillary accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in Professor Jacob Moran-Gilad’s laboratory.



Allyson Gonzalez

Yale University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Allyson Gonzalez was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, “Petitions of Love: Antisemitism and Modern Sephardi Citizenship,” at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This research examines the affective practices of modern Sephardi citizenship based on extensive archival research and periodicals from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Working under the supervision of David Bunis, and in dialogue with other local scholars, Gonzalez will study the connections between antisemitism, the rise of modern philo-Sephardism, and modern Sephardi emigration and naturalization. From 2017 to 2019, Gonzalez was the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Fellow for Modern Jewish Studies at Yale University.



Leilah Krounbi

Cornell University >> Weizmann Institute of Science

Leilah Krounbi was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “Patterned nucleation and crystal growth mediated by organic macromolecules: searching for nature’s instruction manual” at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. In elucidating the function of polysaccharides during nucleation and growth of calcite in cellular vesicles of marine phytoplankton, we hope to identify general mechanisms for biochemical templating of unique crystal structures.

Her PhD research was conducted at Cornell University in the lab of Johannes Lehmann, together with stakeholders of the Gates’ Foundation ‘Reinvent the Toilet Project’. Working in informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya, she created a novel fertilizer by pyrolyzing the solid fraction of human waste into which nitrogen salts were precipitated from ammonia volatilizing from urine, and carbon dioxide emitted from the pyrolysis reactor. Through her postdoctoral research with Dr. Assaf Gal at the Weizmann Institute, she hopes to broaden her knowledge and practice of analytical tools toward the development of biological crystal membranes for water treatment.

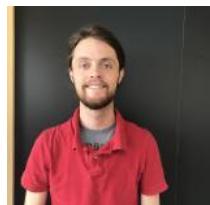


Vivian A. Laughlin

Andrews University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Vivian A. Laughlin was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project, titled “Serapis and Isis in Ancient Judea and Palestine” under Professor Orit Peleg- Barkat at Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. This research will continue her dissertation’s evidence of Roman emperors using religious and imperial influence through the appropriation of various deities, specifically Serapis and Isis. However, this post-doctoral project investigates two particular aspects of the cults of Serapis and Isis: first, the diasporic evidence of the Hellenistic-Egyptian cults of Serapis and Isis as they moved from Hellenistic-Egypt to Judea and Palestine; and second, indications of the cults of Serapis and Isis within a Romanized ancient Judean and Palestinian society.

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Carl Merrigan

Brandeis University >> Tel Aviv University

Carl Merrigan was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project titled “The Role of Particle Shape and Crowding for Dynamics of Dense Active Materials” at Tel Aviv University, where he will join the research group of Professor Yair Shokef. This research will seek to elucidate the effects of active self-propulsion forces on the dynamics of dense liquids near to glass transitions by using efficient Monte Carlo simulations. His PhD research was conducted at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, in which he studied assemblies of self-propelled cross-shaped particles to investigate the nonequilibrium dynamical arrest created when particles do not rotate, or when neighboring particles block each other from rotating. This research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Bulbul Chakraborty.



Rivkah Rogawski

Columbia University >> Weizmann Institute of Science

Rivkah Rogawski was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “The Link Between Metabolism and Protein Degradation via the 20S Proteasome” at the Weizmann Institute of Science. This research will investigate the role of the free 20S proteasome in the cellular response to metabolic stress. Her Ph.D. research was conducted in the lab of Ann McDermott at Columbia University and focused on applications of dynamic nuclear polarization solid state NMR. Upon completion of her Ph.D., Rivkah accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in Professor Michal Sharon’s laboratory.



Brian Ross

Johns Hopkins University >> Weizmann Institute of Science

Brian Ross was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue his research project entitled “Directed co-evolution of protein kinases and their substrates” at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel in the laboratory of Professor Dan Tawfik. In the course of the project, he will study how new signaling pathways evolve through changes of specificity of enzymes to their substrates. Specifically, he will be studying a family of enzymes called eukaryotic protein kinases, which form signaling cascades that are responsible for allowing a cell to process information from its environment and respond. By mimicking natural evolution of enzymes in the lab using directed evolution techniques, he aims to uncover the fundamental principles behind emergence of new protein kinase cascades in the evolutionary process. He received his PhD from Johns Hopkins University (which included research at University of California, San Diego, as well) in the laboratory of Professor Jin Zhang, where he developed fluorescent protein-based genetically encodable tools for monitoring cell signaling activities, such as protein kinase activity, in real time in live cells.



Abby Wells

Alvernia University >> University of Haifa

Abby Wells was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue her research project titled “What should we think about making aliyah? Racial minoritization and Ethiopian absorption since the modern period” under Professor Uri Ben-Eliezer at the University of Haifa. This project investigates how immigration to Israel functions differently for black and brown Jewish people, taking as its foundation a critical engagement with late nineteenth to twenty-first century sources of Ethiopian Jewish history, identity, and absorption. Her PhD research was conducted under the direction of Professor Tim H. Blessing at Alvernia University and focused on narrative discourse raised by critical historical perspectives on black Jewish life in the Americas. A leadership scholar and ethnohistorian, Abby seeks to bring new attention to the development of a subfield of black Jewish history within Jewish studies.

U.S. Fellows 2019

Senior Scholars Fellows



Ron Avi Astor

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ron Avi Astor is the Marjorie Crump Professor at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs of Social Welfare. He holds a joint appointment in the School of Education. He was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar fellowship for his project "Addressing School Safety at the National Scale, for Each School, and Sustained Over Time: A Two-Decade Historical and Empirical Case Study on the Israeli System of School Safety". He will explore how Israel has successfully addressed issues of school safety in a systemic way. These policies and practices have reduced victimization levels and become an example for many other countries and states. Astor's research examines the role of the physical, social-organizational and cultural contexts in schools related to different kinds of bullying and school violence.



Menachem Elimelech

Yale University >> Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Menachem Elimelech is the Roberto Goizueta Professor at the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering at Yale University. His research focuses on membrane-based technologies at the water-energy nexus, materials for next-generation desalination and water purification membranes, and environmental applications of nanomaterials. Professor Elimelech was the recipient of numerous awards in recognition of his research contributions. Notable among these awards are the 2005 Clarke Prize for excellence in water research; election to the US National Academy of Engineering in 2006; Eni Prize for 'Protection of the Environment' in 2015; and election to the Chinese Academy of Engineering in 2017. Professor Elimelech has advised 39 PhD students and 32 postdoctoral researchers, many of whom hold leading positions in academia and industry. In recognition of his excellence in teaching and mentoring, he received the Yale University Graduate Mentoring Award in 2004 and the Yale University Postdoctoral Mentoring Prize in 2012.



Joseph Galron-Goldschläger

The Ohio State University >> Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Joseph Galron-Goldschläger is an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University Libraries and is the Hebraica and Jewish Studies Librarian as well the German Language and Literature Librarian. He was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholarship Fellowship to pursue his project "Modern Hebrew Literature – a Bio-Bibliographic Lexicon" an online resource at: <http://go.osu.edu/hebrewlit>. While in Israel he will explore deeply the Kressel biographical archive at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem that includes ca. 10,000 letters and documents to and from Hebrew writers of the 1960s collected by G. Kressel for his Lexicon but not included in the printed edition. Newly discovered materials will be added to the online database and update entries as needed. He also would like to use the archives of the Gnazim Institute in Tel Aviv that is housing hundreds of personal archives of Hebrew authors from the nineteenth century to the present, and the Heksherim Institute in Beer Sheva that is the home of several archives of contemporary Hebrew authors (as Amos Oz, Nissim Aloni, David Schütz, and others) Joseph's recent publications include: Personal bibliographies of Hebrew scholars as Professor Dan Miron (2007), Professor Nurit Govrin (2005), Professor Nathan Rotenstreich (2010), Professor Moshe Pelli (2017), Professor Dov Sadan (1986), Poet and playwright Nathan Alterman (1988-), and more.



Philip Hopper

University of Northern Iowa >> Beit Berl College

Philip Hopper is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Northern Iowa. He was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship to pursue his interest in vernacular archives with the Time Tunnel project at Beit Berl College. Related projects include Fortepan Hungary and Fortepan Iowa, which are designed to give artists and researchers a way to explore the commonalities of everyday life in a historical context. Other scholarly projects include Images of Conflict in the Public Sphere, which is a cross-cultural study of public image making related to conflict. He has published in journal articles, book chapters and gallery presentations. His teaching includes courses in digital media production, media criticism and a core writing class.

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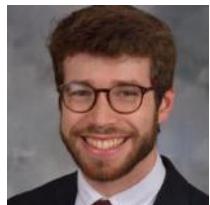


David Rumschitzki

The City College of New York >> Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

David Rumschitzki is Professor of Chemical Engineering at the City College of New York, a member of the PhD programs in Chemistry and Biology at the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York and an Adjunct Research Scientist at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. He was a warded a Fulbright Senior Scholar for a project entitled, "Theory & experiment for breast cancer dormancy & recurrence" at the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in collaboration with Professor Yuval Shaked. David holds a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in the College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering Department. He has worked on reaction kinetics and used asymptotic analysis on interfacial stability problems. Recently he has turned his interests to problems in biology – theory and experiment, including early events in atherogenesis and more recently to a theory for how populations of tumors change in time and how tumors may reappear after long periods of apparent dormancy, with experiments on zebra-fish melanoma. This project will test this theory on a well-known mouse breast cancer model.

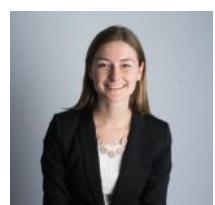
Master's Degree Fellows



Joe Blumberg

Yale University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Joe Blumberg received his B.A. in History from Yale University in May 2019. He focused primarily on the development of religious identities in the United States, and he wrote his senior thesis on Jewish American public oratory in the 18th century. He was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to pursue a Master's of Arts in Jewish Studies at the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University. In addition to completing the coursework for the degree, Joe will conduct an independent research project that explores the history of American Jews in Jerusalem. After completing his Fulbright fellowship, he will pursue rabbinical ordination and a PhD in History.



Rosalie Daniels

Georgetown University >> Tel Aviv University

Rosalie Daniels is a graduate of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where she majored in International Politics with a concentration in Foreign Policy and Policy Processes. She also received a certificate in Justice and Peace Studies and minored in French, spending a semester in France studying at L'Institut D'Études Politiques de Lyon. While a student at Georgetown, Rosalie completed internships with the U.S. State Department's Office of Religion and Global Affairs, the Embassy of France in the United States, U.S. Senator Bob Casey Jr., and Pittsburgh City Council President Bruce Kraus. After graduating, Rosalie spent two years working with various U.S. government agencies as a federal consultant for IBM. This included work as a legislative affairs consultant for the Department of Defense and work on a pilot program testing Blockchain applications for improved pharmaceutical traceability in Sub-Saharan Africa. Rosalie has been awarded a Fulbright grant to pursue a Master's of Arts in Security and Diplomacy Studies at Tel Aviv University, where she hopes to research refugee policy and governance.



Anna Joyce

Loyola Marymount University >> Tel Aviv University

Anna Joyce received her B.A. in Psychology and Theology from Loyola Marymount University in 2017. Her research focused on religious studies, while her praxis consisted of engaging with marginalized communities. She held two internships with different federal law enforcement agencies (ICE and US Marshals Service) and examined the role of the federal government in peace and security. She has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master's of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediation (Public Policy) from Tel Aviv University. The Fulbright Fellowship will enable her to continue her research with respect to religion, government, and the marginalized in the international arena.

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Jovan Ruvalcaba

University of Arizona >> Tel Aviv University

Jovan Ruvalcaba received his bachelor's degree in Political Science and his Juris Doctor (in law) from the University of Arizona. Prior to becoming a licensed attorney, Jovan worked as a legislative intern in the United States Senate, taught English and American culture at the Federal University of Paraná in Brazil, and served as an AmeriCorps member in Tucson Arizona. The Fulbright Fellowship will allow Jovan to pursue a Master's in International law (LL.M) at Tel Aviv University. His research interests include International economic law, International humanitarian law, and disability rights. In his free time, Jovan hopes to learn more about Israel's national service regime and how it empowers members of the disability community to serve in it. After his Fulbright fellowship, Jovan wants to pursue a career in foreign affairs and diplomacy.



Andrew Sobelsohn

Columbia University >> Tel Aviv University

Andrew Sobelsohn is a senior at Columbia University in the City of New York. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master's of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University. He is a double major in History and English at Columbia University, specializing in the history of the modern Middle East. His senior thesis explores the reestablishment of the judicial system in Palestine under the British military and civil administrations. The summer before his senior year, Andrew received several grants to conduct archival research in England and he interned at the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York. His research interests include the origins of the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, and the intersection of law and identity in the British Mandate for Palestine. Outside of his studies, Andrew is the president of Columbia University Film Productions, a member of Aryeh: Columbia Students Association for Israel, and lead guitarist and vocalist for Patches, a student-led folk-rock band. Andrew looks forward to forging strong academic and social connections with the Israeli people to enhance mutual understanding between the U.S. and Israel.



Matthew Wheeler

University of Maryland, College Park >> Tel Aviv University

Matthew Wheeler received a B.A. in Arabic Studies with a minor in French from the University of Maryland. He has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master's of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University. Matthew spent a year in Meknes, Morocco studying Arabic with the Language Flagship as a recipient of a Boren Scholarship. In addition to academics, he interned at the US Department of State and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. As an Army ROTC cadet at Maryland, he participated in an exchange at Morocco's Royal Military Academy through the ROTC Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program and served as cadet commander of Maryland Army ROTC during his senior year. Matthew will commission as a Military Intelligence officer in May of 2019. He looks forward to immersing himself in Israeli culture and deepening his knowledge of the Middle East in order to better serve the United States in the future.

PhD Research Fellows



Edith Chen

Princeton University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Edith Chen received her BA from Duke University in Public Policy and Islamic Studies, MA from Harvard University in Middle East Studies, and is now a PhD candidate at Princeton University's Near Eastern Studies department. Her research is focused on the history of the Mongol Empire and its relationship with vassal states. Her dissertation, "Southern Iran Under Mongol Rule (1220 - 1350)" looks at the Mongols in Iran during the Ilkhanate period and the social ties between the imperial center and polities on the peripheries, and the impacts of geography, climate, and political cultures during this period. She will be continuing her research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she will be working with Professor Michal Biran on the "Mobility, Empire and Cross-Cultural Contacts in Mongol Eurasia" project to maintain and update a database of translated primary sources on individuals active during this period. In addition to incorporating digital humanities tools into her research, she will also be working with faculties in the departments of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Asian Studies, and those specializing in climate history.

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Jon Paul Heyne

Catholic University of America >> The Open University

Jon Paul Heyne received his B.A. at the University of Dallas and M.A. at The Catholic University of America, where he is currently completing his Ph.D. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue research under Professor Iris Shagrir at the Open University of Israel for his doctoral dissertation, "The Franciscans of the Holy Land: Religion and Politics of the Mediterranean in the Age of Queen Sancia." His project exams the fourteenth-century reestablishment of the Franciscan friars in Jerusalem within the context of wider political and religious phenomena of the late medieval Mediterranean.



Jill Jashowitz

New York University >> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Jill Jashowitz is a PhD candidate in the department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University, where she is writing her dissertation on the representation of biblical figures in late antique synagogue art. Jill's dissertation investigates the role that biblical imagery played in shaping and reinforcing late antique notions of exemplary behavior throughout the Eastern Mediterranean. Jill was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue research under Dr. Uzi Leibner at the Institute of Archaeology at Hebrew University, where she will examine the biblical iconography that has survived in mosaic pavements from synagogues excavated in northern Israel.

English Teaching Assistant Fellows



Jonathan Alegria

Fordham University >> Oranim Academic College of Education

Jonathan Alegria received his BA in International Studies with a concentration in the Middle East and North Africa, and a minor in Jewish Studies from Fordham University. At Fordham, he worked as an undergraduate researcher with the Center on National Security, analyzing U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and the synergy between enhancing national security and upholding civil rights within the United States. He also designed and taught an English class during a summer internship with Yefet 83 for the Arab-Israeli community at the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality. He currently works for Englewood Health as a Patient Access Representative assisting patients in navigating the healthcare system through the COVID-19 pandemic. He was awarded the Fulbright ETA grant at Oranim Academic College in Kiryat Tivon, where he hopes to build confidence in English learners to use the English language in their personal and professional lives.



Jamie Benedetto

University of California, Santa Barbara >> The Academic College at Wingate

Jamie Benedetto earned a BA in Human Development and a minor in Education from the University of California, San Diego, where she also competed as a collegiate soccer player. She then earned a Master's Degree in Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is an experienced classroom teacher, as well as a girls' soccer coach. During her Fulbright Fellowship, she will draw on this experience while teaching English at The Academic College at Wingate. Combining her passion for education and sport, Jamie's goal is to motivate the community to take part in cross-cultural interactions while continuing to reform her own teaching identity. She also hopes to engage in the sporting community and work toward creating more opportunities for girls and women in sport. She is very excited to learn more about Israel's diverse culture and complex combination of ancient and modern history.