Azrieli Fellows

2024–2025

קרן עזריאלי
Azrieli Foundation
תוכנית עמיתי עזריאלי
Azrieli Fellows Program

Azrieli Fellows Program

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About the Azrieli Foundation

Driven by a strong belief in philanthropy's powerful role and responsibility, the Azrieli Foundation empowers people by supporting a broad range of organizations, facilitating innovative outcomes, and increasing knowledge and understanding in the search for practical and novel solutions.

With a firm conviction that everyone has potential, we work to open doors, break ground, and nurture networks, empowering the most vulnerable to the most exceptional to achieve their best and contribute to society.

In addition to strategic philanthropic investments, the Azrieli Foundation operates several initiatives including the Azrieli Fellows Program, the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence, the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, the Azrieli Music, Arts, and Culture Centre, and the Azrieli Architecture Center.

About the Azrieli Fellows Program

The Azrieli Fellows Program was established in 2007 to create a network of leading academics and professionals committed to raising Israel's profile while maintaining strong academic links between Israel and the rest of the world.

The program supports and nurtures the formative stages of an academic career through its three fellowship tracks: Graduate Studies, International Postdoctoral, and Early Career Faculty. True to its core values, the program fosters interdisciplinary and cross-cultural dialogue, leadership development, community involvement, professional mentorship, and an expanding network of alumni.

Azrieli Fellows are celebrated for their exceptional ability to conduct innovative research and their eagerness for intellectual exploration that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. By enabling multidisciplinary research and the cross-pollination of ideas, the Azrieli Fellows Program breaks down silos, encourages creative thinking, and drives out-of-the-box solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues.

Photography: Yuri Dojc

Naomi Azrieli, OC, D.Phil

Chair and CEO
The Azrieli Foundation

Dear Azrieli Fellows,

I am delighted to welcome all of you to the 2024–2025 academic year. This year's cohort totals nearly 150 active Fellows, of which 52 are new to the program. A very warm welcome to our newcomers, including 19 new International Postdoctoral Fellows arriving from countries such as Germany, Romania, the United Kingdom, China, and India. We are so pleased to have you here in Israel.

To all of our new Fellows, you join a distinguished community of scholars who will undoubtedly influence your academic path. Israel is known for its bold approach to innovative ideas and technologies. Your scientific and scholarly research is well-positioned to thrive among supportive collaborators. We hope that you will take advantage of everything the program has to offer including the many opportunities to socialize and network with your peers.

All of you are members of an esteemed community, and one that is growing by the year. We began the Azrieli Fellows Program in 2007 with 11 Fellows and have just surpassed a major milestone of 500 active Fellows and alumni.

This year, our program has entered its 18th year, which is a significant number in Jewish tradition, for the number 18 represents "life." Research is the acquisition of knowledge that fuels and sustains life. Through knowledge creation and dissemination, you are helping to improve lives and find solutions to some of our world's greatest challenges.

In Hebrew we say, L'chaim or "to life" as a bestowal of blessings upon our friends. To our current cohort of Fellows, I say, L'chaim, may this year be one of unprecedented personal and academic growth, exploration, and peace.

My warmest wishes.

Prof. Hermona Soreq

Senior Academic Advisor
Azrieli Fellows Program

To the new cohort of Azrieli Fellows,

As we welcome the start of the new academic year in Israel, it is with great anticipation that we look forward to your journey as Azrieli Fellows. This marks the beginning of a unique period of growth and discovery for each of you. The saying, "Let the passing year take its toll and the new one bring its blessings," is particularly meaningful now, as we collectively navigate the challenges of our times. Yet, it is in such moments that innovation and resilience flourish, and we take pride in knowing our Azrieli Fellows continue to thrive.

The Azrieli Foundation places the highest value on academic excellence, and Fellows represent the pinnacle of scholarship and intellectual curiosity. You will embrace creative thinking and pursue bold ideas that push the frontiers of knowledge. Our team is dedicated to supporting you on this journey, ensuring that you have the resources and guidance needed to excel in your diverse research directions. More than just excelling in your respective fields, we encourage you to engage with the wider community, ensuring that your time as an Azrieli Fellow has a lasting and meaningful impact.

The hardships faced by the current generation of Israeli and international researchers—from a global pandemic to regional conflicts—have shaped a unique resilience. The international interest in our program remains strong, a testament to Israel's thriving academic and research landscape. We are honoured to have selected the most promising scholars from around the world and within Israel to join this distinguished community.

With this, I extend to each of you my best wishes for a *shana tova*, a year filled with peace, inspiration, and meaningful contributions.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellows

2024–2025

Academic Selection Committees

2024–2025

SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR
Professor Hermona Soreq, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

	EXACT SCIENCES COMMITTEE
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	Prof. Avner Holtzman, Tel Aviv University
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	Prof. Sara Offenberg, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
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	Prof. Jonathan Huppert, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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	Prof. Boris Koichu, Weizmann Institute of Science
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	Prof. Michael Benedikt, University of Texas at Austin
	Dr. Gabriel Schwake, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY CONSULTANT
Dr. Varda Silberberg, Ziv Institute

Lee-or Alon

Lee-or Alon is a PhD candidate in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), focusing on using AI planning tools to revolutionize personalized medical treatment. Her research seeks to determine the optimal drug types, dosages, and timing based on a patient's medical history and specific needs. The goal is to achieve the desired medical outcome without compromising the patient's health constraints.

Lee-or's research aims to bring a new level of precision to medicine, ensuring the desired medical outcome without compromising a patient's health constraints.

Lee-or earned her BSc in computer science from Bar-Ilan University and her MSc in computer science from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Born and raised in Israel, she volunteers with children and youth to expose them to science and technology. She is also the head and founder of the Doctoral Student Forum at Bar-Ilan University. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, gardening, and making jewellery.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Department of Computer Science, Bar-Ilan University
Supervised by Prof. Gal Kaminka and Dr. Hana Weitman (Department of Physics)

Ofer Asaf

Ofer Asaf is a PhD candidate in the field of digital architecture, focusing on methods for landscape restoration. His research draws on ancient architectural and environmental strategies for cultivating vegetation in drylands, which are areas with water scarcity that provide vital ecosystem services to local communities. He uses computational design and fabrication methods to create architectural structures that support tree seedling growth across large areas, aiming for the sustainable development of shared landscapes.

Ofer creates architectural structures that support tree seedling growth across large areas, supporting the sustainable restoration of degraded landscapes.

Ofer earned his BSc in polymer engineering and an MDes in multidisciplinary design from Shenkar College of Engineering, Design, and Art. Originally from Kibbutz Afek, Ofer now lives in Tel Aviv. He volunteers as a tutor at the Wanger Family Fab-Lab at MadaTech. In his free time, Ofer enjoys hiking, visiting art exhibitions, reading, and tending to his plants.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Supervised by Prof. Aaron Sprecher, Prof. Arnon Bentur (Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering), and Dr. Tamir Klein (Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Weizmann Institute of Science)

Dana Azani Sadka

Dana Azani Sadka is a PhD candidate in the field of psychology whose research examines whether social groups can enhance the sense of attachment security, which is the confidence in having supportive others available when needed. Dana's work explores the idea that groups can help individuals with an insecure attachment style. For group members with an anxious attachment style, the group can make them feel accepted, capable, and less worried. For members with an avoidant attachment style, groups can respect their independence while reassuring them that interdependence can be a positive experience. Her research aims to develop effective group-level interventions to foster security, well-being, and functioning.

Dana's research aims to develop effective group-level interventions to foster security, well-being, and functioning.

Dana received a BA in psychology and an MA in clinical psychology from Reichman University. She is from Rosh HaAyin and currently resides in Herzliya. Dana is a clinical psychology intern at Geha Mental Health Center. She was an instructor at the Tavor Pre-Military Academy, participated in the Rabin Leadership Program, and volunteered at Heroes for Life in India.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Baruch Ivcher School of Psychology, Reichman University
Supervised by Prof. Mario Mikulincer

Shai Ben Ami

Shai Ben Ami is a PhD candidate in the field of nonlinear optics. Shai's research focuses on how light and sound waves interact within silicon microchips, which are essential components in the integrated photonics industry. For these waves to interact, they must overlap as they travel through the chip. However, standard silicon chips typically prevent this from happening. While others have explored non-standard materials or exotic designs to address this challenge, Shai uses surface acoustic waves—vibrations that travel along the chip's surface—to overcome this limitation, enabling light and sound to work together in standard chips and unlocking new possibilities in photonics technology.

Shai seeks to unlock new possibilities in photonics technology by enabling light and sound to work together in standard silicon chips.

Shai completed his BSc in electrical engineering and physics and an MSc in physics at Bar-Ilan University. He lives in Givatayim with his wife, their daughter, and their dog. He served in a tank crew in the IDF and spent six months on reserve duty during the Iron Swords War. In his free time, Shai enjoys playing basketball, travelling with his family, and listening to lectures about advanced topics in physics.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Alexander Kofkin Faculty of Engineering, Bar-Ilan University
Supervised by Prof. Avi Zadok

Asaf Ben-Haim

Asaf Ben-Haim is an archaeologist and PhD candidate, studying urbanization in Jerusalem during the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods. He is working on a geographical database of archaeological excavations in the Upper City, the aristocratic residential neighbourhood. His research tracks the neighbourhood's development from the Hasmonean era—c. 140 BCE to 37 BCE—to its destruction by the Romans in 70 CE, aiming to reveal how the spread of Hellenistic and Roman cultures affected Jewish society as portrayed in the city's architecture and layout.

Asaf aims to reveal how the spread of Hellenistic and Roman cultures affected Jewish society, shown by Jerusalem's architecture and layout.

Asaf earned his BSc in biology and archaeology and his MA in archaeology from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He grew up in Ra'anana and now lives in Tal Shahar with his partner, David, and their dog, Augustus, and cat, Matthias. Asaf has volunteered with Hoshen, an LGBTQI awareness NGO, and enjoys hiking, long walks around Israel, and singing Israeli folk songs.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Dr. Orit Peleg-Barkat

Iddo Better Pocker

Iddo Better Pocker is a PhD candidate in Israeli history, studying the audiovisual history of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. His research focuses on propaganda films produced or subsidized by Israeli authorities and Palestinian organizations from 1967 to 1987 to advance national agendas. By blending historical inquiry with visual analysis, Iddo's work explores how films shaped the conflict's dynamics, not just depicting but actively influencing its course. His research aims to uncover the historical role of audiovisual media in determining the conflict's trajectory and its impact on national perception.

Iddo aims to uncover the historical role of audiovisual media in determining the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's trajectory and its impact on national perception.

Born and raised in Tel Aviv, Iddo holds a BA in Jewish history and film studies from Tel Aviv University. He served in the IDF's intelligence unit 8200 and has been serving as a consultant for Israel's Ministry of Defense. Iddo is also a student editor for the *Journal of Israeli History*. He enjoys reading, watching movies, and filming documentaries in his free time.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology, Tel Aviv University
Supervised by Prof. Orit Rozin

Tomer Cohen

Tomer Cohen is a computational biologist and PhD candidate. His research aims to improve our understanding of how antibodies, which are proteins used by the immune system to neutralize pathogens, interact with their targets. To achieve this, he uses tools like deep neural networks, a type of machine learning, to develop accurate computational models. Tomer aims to enhance the accuracy of predicting antibody interactions, which is crucial for designing new and effective therapeutics.

Tomer aims to enhance the accuracy of predicting antibody interactions, which is crucial for designing new and effective therapeutics.

Tomer earned his BSc and MSc in computer science and computational biology from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Originally from the small moshav of Alon HaGalil, he now lives in Tel Aviv. Tomer served as a combat soldier and commander in the Meitar unit of the IDF. He enjoys hiking, especially multi-day treks abroad, and has explored Nepal, New Zealand, and Kyrgyzstan, among other places. In his free time, Tomer also likes running and cooking for family and friends.

Elad Dvir

Elad Dvir is a PhD candidate in the field of genomics, the study of genes and their functions. He studies changes in nervous system development in the context of disorders, including autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and Huntington's disease. Studying ASD-associated genes, he uses advanced methods to investigate how genetic mutations affect the development of pluripotent cells (embryonic cells that generate all types of cells in our body) toward the nervous system. He aims to identify different types of ASD mutations that may respond to different therapeutic approaches.

Elad aims to identify different types of ASD mutations that may respond to different therapeutic approaches.

Elad earned his BSc in psychobiology and the Amirim-Natural Sciences Honors Program, as well as his MSc in genetics with bioinformatics specialization from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was born and currently resides in Jerusalem with his wife. Before his military service, he participated in the Meitzar pre-military program and volunteered at the Ramat Tveria Medical Centre for adults with neurodevelopmental disorders. In his free time, he enjoys music, chess, and spending time with family and friends.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Rachel and Selim Benin School of Computer Science and Engineering, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Dina Schneidman

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Sagiv Shifman and Prof. Eran Meshorer

Aviva Eliyahu

Aviva Eliyahu is a pediatric medical geneticist, developmental biologist, and PhD candidate researching the genetics of sex determination in mammals. This process, in which an embryo develops as either male or female, is controlled by many genes. When these genes do not function correctly, it can cause a condition known as differences of sexual development (DSD). Aviva is studying how these genes are regulated and influence one another to identify the genetic causes of DSD in patients.

Aviva is studying how genes are regulated and influence one another in order to identify the causes of DSD in patients.

Aviva received her BSc in medical sciences and her MD from Tel Aviv University. Originally from Baltimore, she moved to Israel at the age of four and now resides in Rinatya with her husband and three children. She has been involved in volunteering with Holocaust survivors. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, engaging in sports, and writing.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar-Ilan University
Supervised by Dr. Nitzan Gonen

Sarit Feldman

Sarit Feldman is a computational biologist and PhD candidate, exploring the mechanisms of healthy aging and longevity. Drawing on evolutionary biology, particularly the development of long-living animals, her research aims to understand the differences in protein modifications between short- and long-living mammals. Sarit employs tools from data science, statistics, AI, and molecular biology to identify longevity-associated protein modifications and find new targets for interventions to enhance the quality of life for the elderly.

Sarit identifies longevity-associated protein modifications and finds new targets for interventions to enhance the quality of life for the elderly.

Sarit earned her BSc in computer science and neuroscience and an MSc in bioinformatics from Bar-Ilan University. Born in 1998 as a first-generation Israeli, she lives with her partner in Givatayim. Passionate about STEM education and empowering women in science, Sarit leads Nucleate Israel, a student-led global nonprofit organization aiming to empower the next generation of biotech leaders. In her free time, she enjoys playing tennis, reading fiction, and travelling.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar-Ilan University
Supervised by Prof. Haim Cohen

Michal Hanouka

Michal Hanouka is a PhD candidate in education, examining factors that improve resilience in adolescents in out-of-home care. Michal's work focuses especially on the potential within the school framework to strengthen personal and educational resilience among these youth. Her research aims to expand theoretical knowledge and help develop educational intervention programs.

Michal's research aims to expand theoretical knowledge and help develop educational intervention programs.

Michal is from Yavne and received a BA in behavioural sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and an MA in educational counselling at Tel Aviv University. She has been working in training educational teams who teach and care for youths in out-of-home facilities. She is also involved in educational programs among southern Israeli communities, dealing with ongoing trauma following the events of October 7, 2023. In her free time, Michal enjoys reading, creative writing, and spending quality time with her family.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Jaime and Joan Constantiner School of Education, Tel Aviv University
Supervised by Prof. Michal Al-Yagon

Yifat Hillel

Yifat Hillel is a PhD candidate in the field of education, focusing on the political imagination in Jewish–Arab relationships, particularly within the Hagar Association's initiatives. This association promotes shared life between Jews and Arabs in Beersheba through bilingual education and community life. Her research uses member experiences and educational materials of these collectives to understand their perceived political reality. The study explores the possibilities, limitations, and potential futures in their political imagination and implications for Israeli democracy.

Yifat explores the possibilities, limitations, and potential futures in Jewish-Arab relationships and the implications for Israeli democracy.

Yifat holds a BA in behavioural sciences and an MA in sociology from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. She was born and raised in Beersheba and now resides in Omer. She has been actively involved in social and educational activism over the past quarter century and continues to be engaged in these efforts. Her well-being is supported by her three children, her partner, yoga, and hope for a better future.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
School of Education, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Supervised by Dr. Assaf Meshulam and Prof. Henriette Dahan Kalev (Gender Studies Program)

Mayada Karjawally

Mayada Karjawally is a pharmacist and a PhD candidate who studies perceptions of child medical neglect, which refers to the inadequate fulfillment of basic healthcare needs that can lead to potential or actual harm. Mayada's research prioritizes youth voices, seeking to understand their healthcare needs through their lived experiences. She aims to develop a child-centred framework to address medical neglect and to identify gaps among healthcare professionals that can be addressed.

Mayada aims to develop a child-centred framework to address medical neglect and to identify gaps among healthcare professionals that can be addressed.

Mayada holds a BSc in pharmacy from Petra University in Jordan and an MPH from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She was born in East Jerusalem and continues to live there. She has volunteered with Cross-Cultural Solutions in the Ritsona refugee camp in Greece, and participated in various programs to promote cardiovascular health for Arab and Jewish women in Jerusalem. In her free time, Mayada values family time and enjoys working out, reading novels, and exploring nature.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Asher Ben-Arieh

Majed Khalaf

Majed Khalaf is a theoretical physicist and PhD candidate, researching the modelling of body motion around black holes, and the nature of dark matter, which is matter that does not interact with light. He is unravelling a fundamental connection between quantum and classical observables, which he uses to describe motion around black holes more precisely, overcoming the limitations of current simulations. Majed also explores dark matter models to illuminate its mysterious nature.

Majed is exploring dark matter models to illuminate its mysterious nature while also improving simulations of black hole inward-spirals.

Majed earned his BSc in electrical engineering and physics and his MSc in electrical engineering from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. Born and raised in Jatt, a small town in the Triangle area in Israel, Majed now lives in Jerusalem. His volunteer work includes giving free lessons to high school and undergraduate students. In his leisure time, Majed enjoys working out in the gym, listening to podcasts or videos, and occasionally watching intriguing movies.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Racah Institute of Physics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Eric Kuflik and Dr. Ofri Telem

Sewar Khatib

Sewar Khatib is a PhD candidate in the field of occupational therapy. Her research investigates the role of executive functions, which are high cognitive skills like planning and problem-solving, in managing disease burdens, coping, and daily life for women with endometriosis. By merging occupational therapy with gynecology, her work seeks to develop personalized interventions that boost the quality of daily life and improve psychological well-being. This research is vital for crafting effective, multidisciplinary treatments for endometriosis, substantially impacting global women's health.

Sewar's research is vital for crafting effective, multidisciplinary treatments for endometriosis, substantially impacting global women's health.

Sewar lives in a Druze village in the Upper Galilee. She earned a BOT from the University of Haifa and the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, and an MHA from the University of Haifa. She received the Dean's Prize and the Faculty Honour Award in welfare and health sciences. Sewar volunteers in various programs that support community and health initiatives. In her leisure time, she enjoys reading, surfing, and travelling, which enriches her appreciation for diverse cultures.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Haifa
Supervised by Prof. Batya Engel-Yeger

Yael Lebel

Yael Lebel is a physicist and PhD candidate who uses mathematics to understand the complexities of the immune system. Her research focuses on understanding immune responses to pathogens, autoimmune diseases, and cancer by modelling immune system interactions. Yael developed a mathematical model to gain insights into the unpredictable flare-ups of multiple sclerosis and now focuses on understanding how the immune system responds to pathogens while minimizing harm to the individual. She aims to merge physics and biology to better understand the immune system's behaviour and identify potential therapeutic strategies.

Yael aims to merge physics and biology to better understand the immune system's behaviour and identify potential therapeutic strategies.

Yael received her BSc in physics from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and her MSc in physics from the Weizmann Institute of Science. Originally from Kiryat Ono, Yael now lives in Rehovot with her husband and two children. In addition to her research, Yael leads the Women Students in Physics forum at her institute and enjoys learning new languages and engaging in sports.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Weizmann Institute of Science
Supervised by Prof. Uri Alon

Tali Lemcoff

Tali Lemcoff is a PhD candidate in the field of chemistry, investigating how animals use biologically formed organic crystalline materials to interact with light to enhance their vision and create coloration. She studies the materials chemistry and optics of unexplored optical systems in animals, using techniques like X-ray diffraction, electron microscopy, and mass spectroscopy. Her research aims to explore biological phenomena to inspire sustainable new optical materials.

Tali's research aims to explore biological phenomena to inspire sustainable new optical materials.

Tali grew up in Kibbutz Yakum and currently lives in Beersheba with her husband. She earned her BSc in chemistry with a minor in biology from the George Washington University in Washington, DC, where she was a student athlete on the swimming team. She completed an MSc in chemistry at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. As a swimmer, she achieved national titles, broke national records, and competed internationally. She currently volunteers at the Jusidman Centre for Science-Oriented Youth and enjoys handicrafts and yoga.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Department of Chemistry, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Supervised by Dr. Benjamin Palmer

Yael Leokumovich

Yael Leokumovich is an Assyriologist and PhD candidate specializing in cuneiform literature, one of the oldest forms of writing, from ancient Mesopotamia. Her research focuses on the Mesopotamian wetlands and their representation across various cuneiform genres, aiming to explore the Mesopotamian understanding of ecology and nature as well as how this culture represents landscapes in literature. By connecting these ancient perspectives to contemporary discussions of the Anthropocene epoch (the period in geological time when humans began to have a significant impact on the planet), she seeks to uncover how one of the earliest urban civilizations understood and interacted with its environment.

Yael seeks to uncover how one of the earliest urban civilizations understood and interacted with its environment.

Yael holds a BA in linguistics and an MA in Assyriology from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She currently resides in Jaffa. In addition to her academic pursuits, she studies languages and has been volunteering teaching Hebrew to Palestinian women in East Jerusalem. Yael is a writer and has published prose and essays. She enjoys reading and gardening in her free time.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Department of Archaeology and the Ancient Near East, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Uri Gabbay

Chen Mechel

Chen Mechel is a physicist and PhD candidate specializing in light–matter interaction at the quantum level. He explores how light and matter exchange information, aiming to enhance this interaction to improve measurement devices such as quantum microscopes. Chen's goal is to advance quantum technologies and uncover new insights into electron–photon quantum phenomena in complex chemical and biological systems, particularly photosynthesis.

Chen's goal is to advance quantum technologies and uncover new insights into electron–photon quantum phenomena in complex chemical and biological systems, particularly photosynthesis.

Chen earned his BSc in physics and computer science and MSc in physics from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and has lived in Haifa since birth. Chen served as an officer in the intelligence corps of the IDF and volunteers at the Israeli Physics Olympiad for high school students. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, playing the piano, hiking, and reading.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Supervised by Prof. Ido Kaminer

Ophir Netzer

Ophir Netzer is a PhD candidate in the field of psychology, researching the psychological, physiological, and neural mechanisms of trauma experienced while under psychedelics, substances that can alter conscious states through changes to perception, mood, and various cognitive functions. Her work focuses on the impact of psychedelics on trauma processing, particularly in the context of the Nova festival attack in Israel on October 7, 2023, where many attendees faced severe, life-threatening trauma under psychedelics. This interdisciplinary research aims to enhance early detection of trauma-related psychopathologies and provide evidence-based therapy.

Ophir's research aims to enhance early detection of trauma-related psychopathologies and provide evidence-based therapy.

Ophir received her BA in cognitive science and economics and her MA in cognitive sciences from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Born in Netanya, she now lives in Tel Aviv. She has volunteered at an orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal, and organized fundraising events. In her free time, she enjoys reading science fiction, travelling, attending live music concerts, and sharing these experiences with friends and family.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
School of Psychological Sciences, University of Haifa
Supervised by Prof. Roy Salomon

Moriah Omer-Attali

Moriah Omer-Attali is a PhD candidate in the field of education. She is interested in students' rights and how students can design their educational experiences. Her research explores students' participation in decision-making processes as part of a formative evaluation initiative in which educational processes are designed and developed based on digital-led school assessment. This research aims to help develop more inclusive and democratic schools that value the voices and agency of all students.

Moriah's research aims to help develop more inclusive and democratic schools that value the voices and agency of all students.

Moriah completed her joint law and MBA honours program at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She later earned an MA in education policy at Tel Aviv University and completed her MA thesis at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Moriah lives in Ness Ziona with her husband and three children. Her professional background spans various fields, including commercial litigation, economic development, and journalism. Moriah has tutored at-risk youth, mentored high school students, and led social justice workshops. In her free time, she enjoys catchball, hiking, and the arts.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Seymour Fox School of Education, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Adam Lefstein and Prof. Tali Gal (Faculty of Law)

Tom Parnass

Tom Parnass is a PhD candidate specializing in Jewish thought, focusing on early modern Jewish intellectual history, particularly Kabbalah, the Jewish esoteric literature. He studies the development of Lurianic Kabbalah, a central form of modern Jewish mysticism that originated with Rabbi Isaac Luria. Tom explores how Luria's teachings, developed in the sixteenth-century town of Safed, were reshaped by his students in Damascus and Jerusalem. Originally centred on the master's insights into his disciples' souls, these teachings were transformed into a spiritual ethos that profoundly impacted contemporary Jewish culture. Tom's work emphasizes the adaptation of religious-esoteric knowledge to meet the varying needs of specific groups and contexts.

Tom's work emphasizes the adaptation of religious-esoteric knowledge to meet the varying needs of specific groups and contexts.

Tom holds a BA and MA in history from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He lives in Tekoah with his wife. Tom has done volunteer work in shelters for children who have suffered abuse. In his free time, he enjoys playing traditional Turkish music on his saz and spending time with family and friends.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Jonathan Garb

Asaf Petruschka

Asaf Petruschka is a PhD candidate in the field of theoretical computer science, researching efficient network algorithms and structures—especially those that cope with failure events in a network. Failures commonly occur in many vast networks that prevail in modern technology, such as communication systems, energy grids, road networks in navigation apps, or social media platforms. Asaf's work uses mathematical tools to effectively model and cope with such phenomena.

Asaf's work uses mathematical tools to effectively model and cope with failure events in a network.

Asaf received a BSc in computer science and mathematics from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and an MSc in computer science and applied mathematics from the Weizmann Institute of Science. He grew up in Haifa and now lives in Tel Aviv with his partner, Yarden. Asaf served as an officer in the Intelligence Corps of the IDF.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Weizmann Institute of Science
Supervised by Prof. Merav Parter

Nevo Spiegel

Nevo Spiegel is a PhD candidate in the philosophy of language, working on methods for improving concepts by changing their meaning. This is a novel field known as "conceptual engineering," which uses insights and tools from various areas in philosophy to assess and improve essentially contested concepts, which are concepts with no consensus on their proper use or meaning. He aims to develop a theory for refining these concepts in public discourse by treating them as collections of shared social practices and improving them through a process of careful analysis and reinterpretation.

Nevo aims to develop a theory for refining essentially contested concepts in public discourse.

Nevo holds an LLB in law and a BA in philosophy from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as well as an MA in philosophy of science from Tel Aviv University. He currently resides in his native city, Haifa. With experience teaching law at various high schools, Nevo is committed to making quality education available for all.

Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow
Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv University
Supervised by Prof. Menachem Fisch

Azrieli Graduate Studies Current Fellows

2023–2024

YAEL ALUSH
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Physics

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Weizmann Institute of Science
Chemistry

AMI ASYAG
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
History

ORIT CHOROWICZ BAR-AM
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Anthropology

EZRA BEN ABU
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Mechanical Engineering

ODEYA ESHEL
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Comparative Religion

BOAZ GARFINKEL
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
History

AVI GLUCK
Weizmann Institute of Science
Microbiology

YOAV GOLDSTEIN
Tel Aviv University
Economics

ALON INBAR
Weizmann Institute of Science
Physics

NATANEL JARACH
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Chemistry

SHADA KASHKOUSH
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Education

ORI KINBERG
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Literature

GUY KORNOWSKI
Weizmann Institute of Science
Computer Science

TAMAR LUSTER
Tel Aviv University
Law

ANAT OVADIA-ROSNER
Tel Aviv University
Law

ANNA PSHENICHNY-MAMO
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Science Education

ORLY SHAPIRA
Tel Aviv University
Education

SAPIR WEITZ SOBELMAN
Bar-Ilan University
Physics

YOTAM STRIFLER
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Psychology

ARIEL TENNENHOUSE
Weizmann Institute of Science
Biochemistry

OFIR YAISH
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Computer Science

TAL YEHEZKELY
Tel Aviv University
Comparative Literature

2022–2023

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Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
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Tel Aviv University
Political Science

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Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Environmental Development

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Middle Eastern History

SHAHAR DUBINER
Tel Aviv University
Zoology

SERAFIMA (SIMA) DUBNOV
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Molecular Neuroscience

SHACHAR FRAENKEL
Tel Aviv University
Physics

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Neuropsychology

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University of Haifa
Neuropsychology

OR HADAS
Weizmann Institute of Science
Earth Sciences

ELAD HORN
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Architecture

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Tel Aviv University
Jewish History

ROEE LEDER
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Mathematics

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Education

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Education

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Weizmann Institute of Science
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Jewish Thought

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Weizmann Institute of Science
Systems Biology

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Philosophy

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Comparative Religion

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Architecture

INBAL TAMIR
Tel Aviv University
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2021–2022

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Weizmann Institute of Science
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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
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Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
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Tel Aviv University
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University of Haifa
Jewish History

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Weizmann Institute of Science
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Tel Aviv University
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Tel Aviv University
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Tel Aviv University
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Tel Aviv University
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University of Haifa
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JASMIN WENNERSBUSCH
Tel Aviv University
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2020–2021

DORON ATIAS
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Social Psychology

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Weizmann Institute of Science
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Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Dialogic Learning

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Weizmann Institute of Science
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Jewish Thought

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Comparative Religion

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Biological Chemistry

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Bar-Ilan University
Archaeology

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Tel Aviv University
Education Technology

TIRZA WILLNER
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Education

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Tel Aviv University
Literature

2018–2019

ESSAM ASSALI
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Biochemistry & Physiology

YINON BAR-ON
Weizmann Institute of Science
Biochemistry

HADDAR BEISER
Tel Aviv University
Musicology

YOAV CHARPAK-AMIKAM
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Biology

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Chemistry

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Electrical Engineering

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Tel Aviv University
Indian Studies

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Computer Science

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Tel Aviv University
Neurophysiology

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Jewish Thought

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Management

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Talmud

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Bar-Ilan University
Archaeology

AYELET ZALIC
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Condensed Matter Physics

2017–2018

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Materials Science

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Synthetic Biology

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Quantum Chemistry

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Weizmann Institute of Science
Systems Biology

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Tel Aviv University
Comparative Literature

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Comparative Literature

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Sociology

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Mathematics

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Tel Aviv University
Physics

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Education

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Chemical Physics

HARAN SENED
Bar-Ilan University
Psychology

OHAD SOREK
Tel Aviv University
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TOM ZAHAVY
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Machine Learning

2016–2017

AVISHAI ABBO
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Geology

SAAR ALON-BARKAT
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Political Science

ALON APPLEBOIM
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Computational Biology

RONA AVIRAM
Weizmann Institute of Science
Cell Biology

MIRIAM BABICHENKO
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Education

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Architecture

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Architecture

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Tel Aviv University
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Weizmann Institute of Science
Physics

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Art History

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Education

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Bar-Ilan University
Linguistics

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Tel Aviv University
Neuroscience

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Public Policy & Government

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Tel Aviv University
Archaeology

MARK SHUSTERMAN
Tel Aviv University
Mathematics

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Tel Aviv University
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RAN WEKSLER
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Economics

2015–2016

DAVID ADRAEE
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Architecture

LENA ARBOV ATUAR
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Architecture

HALELY BALABAN
Tel Aviv University
Neuroscience

TALLY ROSENFELD BRODER
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Microfluidics

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Tel Aviv University
Biomedical Engineering

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Tel Aviv University
Physics

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Bar-Ilan University
Physics

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Psychology

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Biochemistry

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Psychology

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Tel Aviv University
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Education

MATAN SOREK
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Neuroscience

ALEXANDER SPIEGELMAN
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Electrical Engineering

YONAT RUM ZEMET
Tel Aviv University
Education

2014–2015

DANA SURY BAROT
University of Haifa
Education

LIRAN BEN-MOSHE
University of Haifa
Marine Geosciences

DEBORAH COHEN
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Electrical Engineering

IDAN FRUMKIN
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Genetics

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Architecture

ZIV LEIBU
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

JONATHAN LETZTER
Tel Aviv University
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Computer Science

HAGIT SABATO
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Educational Psychology

SHIRA SAGIE
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Biology

SOLI VERED
Tel Aviv University
Education

2013–2014

DAVID AMAR
Tel Aviv University
Computational Biology

ITZHAK BERKOVICH
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Education

MIRI DANAN-GOTTHOLD
Bar-Ilan University
Computational Biology

DROR DOTAN
Tel Aviv University
Education

YOEL GROMAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Mathematics

HILA HARRIS MILLER
Weizmann Institute of Science
Neurobiology

ITAY REMER
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Biomedical Engineering

NANCY SANDOLUVICI-KATZ
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

ALEX TOLMACHEV
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Electrical Engineering

2012–2013

GIORA ALEXANDRON
Weizmann Institute of Science
Science Education

ITAMAR GURMAN
Weizmann Institute of Science
Condensed Matter Physics

TAL J. LEVY
Tel Aviv University
Molecular Electronics

EYTAN MANN
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

MEYTAL HORKIN NASIE
Tel Aviv University
Education

MOR NITZAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Physics & Bioinformatics

TOMER PELEG
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Electrical Engineering

TOM SHAKED
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

ALON SZCZUPAK
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Biotechnology

KEREN YIZHAK
Tel Aviv University
Bioinformatics

2011–2012

MERAV BATTAT
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

EYAL KARZBRUN
Weizmann Institute of Science
Synthetic Biology

MICHAL LEVO
Weizmann Institute of Science
Bioinformatics

ASAF LEVY
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Genetics

MICHAL NISSIM-BERENSTEIN
Bar-Ilan University
Education

YULIA SAPIR-LEKHOVITSER
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Biotechnology Engineering

ERAN TREISTER
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Computer Science

EFRAT VERTES
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

MATI ZAKAI-MASHIACH
Tel Aviv University
Education

2010–2011

LILACH ASHOULIN
University of Haifa
Education

ARIEL J. BEN-SASSON
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Nanotechnology

MICHAL BRAIER
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

IFTACH DOLEV
Tel Aviv University
Neurobiology

NIR ERDINEST
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Neurobiology

RAJA GIRYES
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Computer Science

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TALYA GOREN
University of Haifa
Education

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Tel Aviv University
Architecture

ELAD NOOR
Weizmann Institute of Science
Biochemistry

GILI SHAPIRA
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

HILA ZAROSIM
Bar-Ilan University
Computer Science - Cryptography

2009–2010

OMRI ABEND
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Computer Science & Linguistics

BNAYA (BEN) BAUER
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Bio-Architecture

SIVAN BERCOVICI
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Bioinformatics

MICHAL BLEICHER-KUGLER
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

GUY COHEN
Tel Aviv University
Chemical Physics

NOY LAZAROVICH
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Architecture

OHAD MANOR
Weizmann Institute of Science
Computational Biology

HEDVA MEIRI
University of Haifa
Education

OREN SHOVAL
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Cell Biology

LIOR SOMECH
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Educational Psychology

OMRI WURTZEL
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Genetics

OMER YAFFE
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Electronics

2008–2009

NETTA ABUGOV
Tel Aviv University
Education

BARAK ALFASSI
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Physics

OMER BARAD
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Genetics

YEHUDA BRODY
Bar-Ilan University
Biotechnology

NATANEL ELFASSY
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

ODED HAAS
Tel Aviv University
Architecture

ARIE SHAUS
Tel Aviv University
Computational Mathematics & Archaeology

LIAT SAVIN-BEN SHOSHAN
Bar-Ilan University
Architecture

SHIRA SOFFER-VITAL
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Education

TALI TAVOR RE'EM
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Biotechnology Engineering

2007–2008

FATINA ABREEK-ZUBIEDAT
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Architecture

OMRI BARAK
Weizmann Institute of Science
Neurobiology

JONATHAN BERANT
Tel Aviv University
Computer Science & Linguistics

SHLOMIT DAVIDOVITCH
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Educational Psychology

NAAMA ELEFANT-BERNSTEIN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Molecular Genetics

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Tel Aviv University
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Computational Biology

ARYEH (ARIK) SEGEV
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Education

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Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Architecture

HAIM SUCHOWSKI
Weizmann Institute of Science
Physics

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellows

2024-2025

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2024–2025

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	Prof. Daniel Statman, University of Haifa
	Prof. Paola Tartakoff, Rutgers University
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	Prof. Eva Gilboa-Schechtman, Bar-Ilan University
	Prof. Yehonatan Givati, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
	Prof. Morton Weinfeld, McGill University
	Prof. Lea Wittenberg, University of Haifa

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY CONSULTANT
Dr. Orit Reiter, Industrial-Organizational Psychologist

Raluca Balan

Dr. Raluca Balan is a postdoctoral researcher in psychology, focused on evaluating whether a psychological intervention targeting moral disengagement is more effective than promoting empathy in reducing bullying among adolescents. Her research also employs innovative digital tools, such as chatbots, to deliver these interventions. Her work aims to develop a novel approach to addressing bullying and to identify the most effective elements of anti-bullying interventions.

Raluca's work aims to develop a novel approach to addressing bullying and to identify the most effective elements of anti-bullying interventions.

Raluca received a BA in psychology, an MD in clinical psychology, and a PhD in psychology, all from Babeş-Bolyai University. She is from Suceava, Romania, and she currently resides in Jerusalem. Raluca has been involved with volunteering at the Romania Magic Association, providing support for chronically ill children. In her free time, she enjoys travelling and reading books about philosophy, politics, and counterterrorism.

Photography: Aqusonic Shop

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Seymour Fox School of Education, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Thomas P. Gumpel

Kay Malte Bischof

Dr. Kay Malte Bischof is a postdoctoral researcher in the field of philosophy. His research concerns our idea of God and addresses the question: Should I be a Spinozist or a theist? Whereas Spinozists claim that God and the world are one, theists claim that God and the world are distinct. Our answer determines whether we see ourselves vanishing into the eternal substance (Spinozism) or asserting our independent existence as mortal beings (theism).

Kay asks us to reflect on whether we align more with Spinozism—seeing ourselves as part of an eternal, unified substance—or theism, where we assert our individuality within a world distinct from God.

Kay Malte earned his PhD in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame. Prior to Notre Dame, he earned an MSt in theology from the University of Oxford and an MLitt in philosophy from the University of St Andrews. Before that, he studied English literature, rhetoric, and Protestant theology at King's College London, Yale University, and the University of Tübingen. Originally from Cologne, Germany, Kay Malte now lives in Jerusalem. He's a passionate teacher and volunteers in prisons for both kids and adults.

Photography: Peter Ringenberg

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Philosophy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Aaron Segal

Justine Boutry

Dr. Justine Boutry is an evolutionary ecologist and postdoctoral researcher studying how climate change influences parasite–host dynamics. She focuses on the effects of heat waves on a bacterial parasite's ability to cause damage to its host, the freshwater crustacean *Daphnia*, as well as the subsequent impacts on freshwater ecosystems. By understanding these relationships, she aims to predict how climate change will reshape epidemics and ecosystems.

Justine aims to predict how climate change will reshape epidemics and ecosystems.

Justine holds an MSc in eco-evolution and genomics from Claude Bernard University Lyon 1 and a PhD in evolutionary parasitology from the University of Montpellier. Originally from a country town in the Bresse region of France, she now lives in Ramat Gan with her ferret. She is passionate about scientific communication, sharing her research in breweries, on the radio, and in performances as a queer drag artist. She enjoys cooking, hiking, paragliding, and, most of all, spending time with loved ones.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
School of Zoology, Tel Aviv University
Supervised by Prof. Frida Ben-Ami

Katja Irob

Dr. Katja Irob is a computational biologist and dryland ecologist researching how climate change alters the composition and functioning of Mediterranean woodlands and how it affects the benefits that this ecosystem provides. Combining modelling and fieldwork, she studies the resilience of Mediterranean woodlands under climate extremes, focusing on how to manage these systems to enhance their ability to withstand future climatic challenges sustainably.

Katja studies the resilience of Mediterranean woodlands under climate extremes, focusing on how to enhance their ability to withstand future climatic challenges sustainably.

Katja earned her BSc, MSc, and PhD at the Freie Universität Berlin, including research stays in La Réunion and Australia. Her PhD research, conducted in Namibia, investigated how the diversity of wild herbivores and plant functional types can strengthen savannah resilience against climate shifts and uncertainties. Raised in Berlin, Germany, she now resides in Tel Aviv, where she volunteers at an animal shelter and enjoys running, reading, ceramics, and marine sports.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Robert H. Smith Institute of Plant Sciences and Genetics in Agriculture, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Efrat Sheffer and Prof. José Grünzweig

Kalyan Jyoti Kalita

Dr. Kalyan Jyoti Kalita is a physical organic chemist and postdoctoral researcher specializing in organic optoelectronics and crystal engineering. Optoelectronics is the science of photonic devices—devices that use or produce light, such as solar panels, LEDs, organic field-effect transistors, and sensors. His work focuses on designing and synthesizing innovative materials for these devices that are flexible or adaptable to stress without breaking. By exploring and leveraging the unique properties of these materials, his work aims to improve the efficiency and performance of electronic and photonic devices.

Kalyan aims to improve the efficiency and performance of electronic and photonic devices.

Kalyan earned his MS and PhD in chemical sciences from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata. Originally from Assam, India, Kalyan is passionate about using his research to solve real-world challenges in sustainable materials and green chemistry. In his spare time, he enjoys playing chess, table tennis, lawn tennis, and exploring new technologies.

Photography: Archana Digital Studio

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Institute of Chemistry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Ori Gidron

Marina Khachaturyan

Dr. Marina Khachaturyan is an evolutionary biologist and a postdoctoral researcher exploring the reversible yet accumulating resistance of cancer cells to anticancer therapies, with a focus on the role of mitochondria—organelles with their own genetic material that act as the powerhouses of cells—in this phenomenon. She employs advanced bioinformatics techniques to analyze sequencing data and model evolutionary processes. By deciphering the mechanisms behind reversible drug resistance, her work aims to improve predictions of patient responses to therapy and contribute to the development of more effective cancer treatment protocols.

Marina aims to improve predictions of patient responses to anticancer therapy and contribute to the development of more effective cancer treatment protocols.

Marina earned her BSc and MSc in bioengineering and bioinformatics from Lomonosov Moscow State University and a PhD in biology from the Christian Albrecht University of Kiel. Originally from Moscow, Russia, Marina currently resides in Tel Aviv. She has previously volunteered to help Ukrainian refugees make it safely into Europe with Rubikus.helpUA. After moving to Israel, she discovered surfing and now spends most of her free time in the sea.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry, Tel Aviv University
Supervised by Dr. Yaara Oren

Maximilian E. Kirschhock

Dr. Maximilian Kirschhock is a postdoctoral researcher in the field of neuroscience, researching the brain mechanisms that allow different animals to behave intelligently. He focuses on Egyptian fruit bats that navigate a large, complex flight maze and the underlying brain processes for their expert navigation. By comparing the neuronal basis for cognitive behaviour across species, he aims to elucidate the foundations of intelligence of both animals and humans.

Maximilian aims to elucidate the foundations of intelligence of both animals and humans.

Maximilian earned his BSc in biology from the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg and his PhD in neuroscience from the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. Growing up close to Rosenheim in Germany, Maximilian and his wife now reside in Rehovot. Maximilian is passionate about communicating his research and training future generations of scientists. In his spare time, Maximilian enjoys exploring nature while hiking and birdwatching.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Brain Sciences, Weizmann Institute of Science
Supervised by Dr. Nachum Ulanovsky

Rebekka Lambrecht

Dr. Rebekka Lambrecht is a molecular biologist and postdoctoral researcher. Her research investigates how gut bacteria affect portal hypertension—a serious condition characterized by high blood pressure in the veins between the intestine and the liver. This condition often arises from chronic liver diseases, such as those linked to unhealthy diets. Rebekka discovered that mice without gut bacteria do not develop portal hypertension, and she is currently working to identify the specific bacteria, cell types, metabolites, and processes involved. Her goal is to find new bacteria-based therapies for this life-threatening condition.

Rebekka's goal is to find new bacteria-based therapies for portal hypertension.

Rebekka earned her BSc, MSc, and PhD in biological sciences from the University of Konstanz. While there, she volunteered as PhD student representative and initiated the tradition of an annual poster session. Originally from Freiburg, Germany, she now lives in Rehovot. In her free time, she enjoys cooking with friends, hiking, going to the gym, and Pilates.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Systems Immunology, Weizmann Institute of Science
Supervised by Prof. Eran Elinav

Alessandro Lenoci

Dr. Alessandro Lenoci is a theoretical physicist and postdoctoral researcher focused on unravelling the mysteries of dark matter, a crucial but unknown component of the universe that shapes galaxy formation through its gravitational influence. Using astrophysical and cosmological observations, he works to define dark matter's properties and to craft strategies for its detection, driven by a mission to deepen our understanding of the cosmos.

Alessandro works to define dark matter's properties and to craft strategies for its detection, driven by a mission to deepen our understanding of the cosmos.

Alessandro earned both his BSc and MSc in physics from the University of Padua, and completed his PhD at DESY and the University of Hamburg. Originally from a small town in Lombardy, Italy, Alessandro now resides in Jerusalem. He has mentored high school and university students and in his free time enjoys learning languages, playing guitar, and connecting with friends.

Photography: Sarah Blodgett

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Racah Institute of Physics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Yonit Hochberg and Prof. Eric Kuflik

Lukas Liehr

Dr. Lukas Liehr is a postdoctoral researcher in mathematics, studying fundamental mathematical problems in materials sciences and quantum mechanics. He applies advanced mathematical techniques to rigorously explain various observed phenomena, such as how the arrangement of atoms in a material can be determined by analyzing the way light scatters off it. His research builds a robust theoretical framework for key scientific and engineering problems, paving the way for algorithmic solutions while optimizing computing time.

Lukas's research builds a robust theoretical framework for key scientific and engineering problems, paving the way for algorithmic solutions while optimizing computing time.

Lukas received his PhD in mathematics from the University of Vienna. He studied at the Technical University of Munich and Seoul National University, receiving an MSc in pure mathematics. Originally from Germany, Lukas now resides in Giv'at Shmuel. He has volunteered in several language exchange programs, teaching both German and Korean. In his free time, Lukas practises mixed martial arts and enjoys cooking.

Photography: Juana Páez Britos Núñez

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Mathematics, Bar-Ilan University
Supervised by Prof. Nir Lev

Eva Francesca Martellotta

Dr. Eva F. Martellotta is an archaeologist and postdoctoral researcher, exploring the butchery practices of early human groups in the southern Caucasus. Her work seeks to combine the study of animal remains and stone artifacts to better understand how these groups obtained food and made tools. She aims to shed light on a very important period in human evolution, the moment when *Homo sapiens* arrived in southwest Europe, by looking at marks left on bones and what they reveal about human interactions with the environment.

Eva aims to shed light on a very important period in human evolution by looking at marks left on bones and what they reveal about human interactions with the environment.

Eva received a BA in archaeological sciences from Sapienza University of Rome, followed by an MA in quaternary, prehistory, and archaeology from the University of Ferrara. She earned her PhD from Griffith University in Australia. She is from Puglia, Italy, and resides in Jerusalem. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, snorkelling, and watching sci-fi movies.

Photography: Jaya Mcintyre

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Dr. Ariel Malinsky-Buller

Yu-Feng Meng

Dr. Yu-Feng Meng is a chemist and postdoctoral researcher studying biological minerals made by living organisms to support life. His research ranges from investigating rat teeth, which are made of a mineral called hydroxyapatite, to studying tiny marine algal shells made of calcite, another type of mineral. Yu-Feng is leading major breakthroughs in understanding how these biological minerals grow and how their structure relates to their function. These findings have paved the way for the fabrication of new materials applicable in various fields, including bone regeneration and aerospace engineering.

Yu-Feng's findings are paving the way for the fabrication of new materials applicable in various fields, including bone regeneration and aerospace engineering.

Yu-Feng earned his BE in polymer science from Beijing University of Chemical Technology and his PhD from the University of Science and Technology of China. He is from Hefei, China, and currently resides in Rehovot. During his undergraduate studies, he volunteered to promote science education in primary schools. He enjoys playing badminton and swimming to stay active.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Plant and Environmental Science, Weizmann Institute of Science
Supervised by Dr. Assaf Gal

Maximilian de Molière

Dr. Maximilian de Molière is a historian and postdoctoral researcher specializing in the intellectual and cultural history of early modern libraries, with a focus on Lurianic Ilanot—intricate diagrams depicting the divine realm in Jewish mysticism. He employs advanced digital humanities tools to trace the movement of these artifacts through time, across libraries, and among communities. Maximilian is developing interactive resources that reveal the key figures responsible for preserving these Lurianic Ilanot into our time, shedding new light on their influence on both Jewish and Christian thought.

Maximilian is developing interactive resources that reveal the key figures responsible for preserving Lurianic Ilanot into our time, shedding new light on their influence on both Jewish and Christian thought.

Maximilian earned his MA in Norse studies and his PhD in Jewish history from the University of Munich (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität). Originally from Munich, Germany, he now resides in Jerusalem. In addition to his academic pursuits, he volunteers in local politics and enjoys kayaking, bouldering, reading fiction, and spending time with friends and family.

Photography: Ildiko Stercken

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Jewish History, University of Haifa
Supervised by Prof. J. H. Chajes

Radu Mustață

Dr. Radu Mustață is a historian and postdoctoral researcher, exploring the religious and intellectual history of the Malabar Christians from South India. His research reconstructs how ritual manuscripts from early modern Malabar written in Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic, document the transfer of knowledge from Europe and the Middle East to South India. He aims to discover more information about the human agents involved in the translation of ritual texts from Latin into Syriac by emphasizing the collaboration between European missionaries and their Indian disciples in this enterprise.

Radu aims to discover more information about the human agents involved in the translation of ritual texts from Latin into Syriac.

Radu earned his BA in classics from the University of Bucharest, and his MA and PhD in medieval studies from the Central European University. He is from Brașov, Romania, and currently resides in Jerusalem. Raised in a traditional Christian neighbourhood, he was closely engaged with his community. In his free time, he enjoys reading, hiking, and exploring archaeological sites.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Comparative Religion, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Dr. Yonatan Moss

Mingzi Niu

Dr. Mingzi Niu is a postdoctoral researcher specializing in microeconomic theory, with a focus on the decision-making frictions that lead to inefficient choices. Mingzi's work encompasses two major sources of these frictions: cognitive biases that distort the decision-making processes, and economic environment, such as information asymmetry or other people's strategic moves. Her research aims to provide a unified framework to understand individual or collective choices and explore solutions to mitigate these frictions.

Mingzi's research aims to provide a unified framework to understand individual or collective choices and explore solutions to mitigate these frictions.

Mingzi has a PhD in economics from Rice University, an MA in economics from Duke University, and dual BAs in economics and mathematics from Peking University. Originally from China, she now resides in Jerusalem. Mingzi has volunteered at elementary schools in rural areas around Beijing, teaching English, and she has tutored athletes in microeconomics at Duke University. In her free time, she enjoys camping, cooking, gardening, travelling, and spending time with family and friends.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Federmann Center for the Study of Rationality, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Ella Segev (Department of Operations Research)

Zuzana Osifová

Dr. Zuzana Osifová is a postdoctoral researcher who aims to uncover the undescribed behaviour of proteins at physiological concentrations—in other words, how proteins fold and interact within the human body. She employs the strong magnetic field of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, a non-destructive analytical method that enables us to study chemical structures, including large proteins. Understanding proteins' structure and folding can help design and target new drugs against diseases related to misfolded proteins, such as Parkinson's disease.

Zuzana's research can help design and target new drugs against diseases related to misfolded proteins, such as Parkinson's disease.

Zuzana completed her MSc and PhD in organic chemistry at Charles University. Originally from Prague, Czechia, she currently resides in Rehovot. She co-authors the educational NMR-Challenge.com project, which educates newcomers in magnetic resonance. Her article on anorexia nervosa won the Science Communication Prize of the Biochemical Society, and she dedicated half of the cash prize to a charity that helps people with eating disorders. Zuzana loves science communication, reading, and writing.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Chemical and Biological Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science
Supervised by Prof. Lucio Frydman

Eugenia Pyurbeeva

Dr. Eugenia Pyurbeeva is a theoretical physicist and postdoctoral researcher working at the intersection of quantum mechanics, thermodynamics, and electronics. Her research focuses on harnessing quantum effects for future everyday technology and exploring how cutting-edge electronic technologies can help answer fundamental questions about how our daily experiences arise from the laws of quantum mechanics.

Eugenia's research focuses on harnessing quantum effects for future everyday technology and exploring how cutting-edge electronic technologies can help answer fundamental questions about how our daily experiences arise from the laws of quantum mechanics.

Eugenia completed her undergraduate studies at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and received her PhD from the Queen Mary University of London. Born in Moscow, Russia, she spent many years living in London before relocating to Jerusalem for her current position. She is passionate about extracurricular education in physics and has volunteered in after-school clubs and authored multiple problems for math Olympiads. In her free time, she enjoys solving puzzles of all sorts, hiking, writing fiction, listening to classical music, and playing the violin.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Fritz Haber Centre for Molecular Dynamics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supervised by Prof. Ronnie Kosloff

Anja Reusch

Dr. Anja Reusch is a postdoctoral researcher in the field of information retrieval (IR), the science behind search technology. Her work aims to improve a neural network–based approach to search known as generative IR. She focuses on developing interpretability methods—techniques that model the decision-making process of neural networks to understand how these systems work internally and what they learn during training. The goal of her research is to make search systems faster and more efficient.

Anja investigates the inner workings of a neural network-based approach to search, making search systems faster and more efficient.

Anja earned her combined BSc and MSc and her PhD in computer science from the Technical University of Dresden. She is originally from a small town between Berlin and Leipzig, Germany, and lives now in Haifa with her partner. She served on the executive board as the treasurer of a local student association at TU Dresden and organized several events for computer science students. Having spent a semester each in Japan, China, Singapore, and Israel, Anja enjoys exploring different cultures and learning new languages.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Taub Faculty of Computer Science, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Supervised by Prof. Yonatan Belinkov

Alessandra Sivo

Dr. Alessandra Sivo is an organic chemist and postdoctoral researcher in the field of sustainable organic synthesis. Her research focuses on a class of versatile catalysts—substances that enable a chemical reaction—known as polyoxometalates. These are activated by electricity, rather than relying on oxidizing or reducing chemicals to supply electrons, enabling cleaner and more efficient chemical synthesis. Alessandra is spearheading progress in organic electrocatalysis, designing polyoxometalate catalysts that pave the way for innovative unconventional synthetic methods and more sustainable industrial processes.

Alessandra is spearheading progress in organic electrocatalysis, designing polyoxometalate catalysts that pave the way for innovative unconventional synthetic methods and more sustainable industrial processes.

Alessandra received her MSc in medicinal chemistry from the University of Bari Aldo Moro and her PhD from the Politecnico di Milano. Originally from Southern Italy, she recently moved to Rehovot. She is a member of the Student Council at the Weizmann Institute of Science, actively contributing to the academic community. In her free time, Alessandra enjoys travelling, reading, and engaging in sports.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Molecular Chemistry and Materials Science, Weizmann Institute of Science
Supervised by Prof. Ronny Neumann

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Current Fellows

2023–2024

ADAM BRINER
Weizmann Institute of Science
Neuroscience

ANAND CHOPRA
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Molecular Biology & Genetics

SASKIA DEMULDER
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Physics

PABLO HERRERO GÓMEZ
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Physics

DANFEI HU
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Psychology

ARTI JOSHI
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Chemistry

GIACOMO LOI
University of Haifa
Literature

NICCOLÒ NEGRO
Tel Aviv University
Philosophy

BOGLÁRKA NYÚL
Tel Aviv University
Psychology

CHRISTINA RIEMENSCHNEIDER
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Biology

ZACHARY SERCEL
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Chemistry

PENGFEI WANG
Tel Aviv University
Physics

PASCALE ZWICKY
Weizmann Institute of Science
Immunology

2022–2023

EDUARDO ARLÉ
Tel Aviv University
Marine Biology

ROLANDO CARBONARI
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Geology

MAAYAN COHEN
Tel Aviv University
Anthropology

MILICA DENIĆ
Tel Aviv University
Linguistics

MAXIMILIAN KNOTT
Tel Aviv University
Genomics

SARAH LIBANORE
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Theoretical Physics

ALLA MARCHENKO
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Anthropology

KATARZYNA (KASIA) MŁODZIKOWSKA-PIEŃKO
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Chemistry

TRUONG SAN PHAN
Weizmann Institute of Science
Immunobiology

HERMANN PRODJINOTO
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Plant Systems Biology

ALEXIOS STAMATIADIS-BRÉHIER
Tel Aviv University
Philosophy

MONIKA WITZENBERGER
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Biology

2021–2022

DANIEL KIRSCHENBAUM
Weizmann Institute of Science
Immunology

THIERRY SLOT
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Chemistry

2020–2021

YAEL MACHTINGER
Bar-Ilan University
Law

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Alumni

2023–2024

MARIA MARTIGNONI
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Ecology & Evolutionary Behavior

VLADIMIR OLIVERO
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jewish Studies

CHIARA TRAMONTANO
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Biotechnology

2022–2023

STEFANO BAIGUERA
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Theoretical Physics

CARLOS BRAVO-LAGUNA
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Public Policy

REMI CASIER
Weizmann Institute of Science
Chemistry

ALEXANDER DUTHIE
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Physics

GWENAËL FERRANDO
Tel Aviv University
Theoretical Physics

EUGENIO GAROSI
University of Haifa
Islamic Studies

EVGENIA MITSOU
Weizmann Institute of Science
Materials Science

MARÍA DEL CARMEN MARÍN PÉREZ
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Marine Biology

PATRICIA (PATI) MORA-RAIMUNDO
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Biomedical Engineering

2021–2022

RAPHAËL AGUILLON
Bar-Ilan University
Neuroscience

REUVEN BALKIN
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Theoretical Physics

NATHALIE BÉCHON
Weizmann Institute of Science
Microbiology

FLAVIO A. GEISSHUESLER
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Comparative Religion

MARÍA CAMARASA GÓMEZ
Weizmann Institute of Science
Materials Science

YANN GOUTTENOIRE
Tel Aviv University
Theoretical Physics

BALTHASAR GRABMAYR
University of Haifa
Philosophy

EMMANUEL GUILLERM
University of Haifa
Earth Sciences

CHETHAN KAMATH
Tel Aviv University
Cryptography

KEREN KLASS
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Genomics

NADINE KNAB
Tel Aviv University
Psychology

ILAN MANOR
Tel Aviv University
Communications

RAJARSHI MONDAL
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Chemistry

KIRTI SANKHALA
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Chemical Engineering

VJACHESLAV (SLAVA) TRETYACHENKO
Weizmann Institute of Science
Evolution

JUAN PABLO UNFRIED
Weizmann Institute of Science
Molecular Biology

ANDREI USHKOV
Tel Aviv University
Nanotechnology

2020–2021

RAPHAEL BENLEVI
University of Haifa
International Relations

NOGA KEIDAR
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Sociology

HAGIT SINAI-GLAZER
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Social Work

2019–2020

DAN DEUTSCH
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Musicology

MICHAEL FREEDMAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Political Science

MICHAEL JOHNSON
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Literature & Religion

NOA REICH
University of Haifa
English Literature

JOSHUA RICOUVIER
Weizmann Institute of Science
Biophysics

2018–2019

TAMIR ARVIV
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Architecture

HUGUES BEAUCHESNE
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Physics

ADINA HOULDIN-SADE
University of Haifa
Occupational Therapy

JOHN (J.C.) SAUNDERS
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Mathematics

NOAH STEMEROFF
Tel Aviv University
History & Philosophy of Science

2017–2018

GENEVIEVE ALLAIRE-DUQUETTE
Tel Aviv University
Education & Neuroscience

ADAM DOR-ON
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Mathematics

TREVOR JANES
Weizmann Institute of Science
Inorganic Chemistry

DENI KASA
Tel Aviv University
English Literature

DEVIN TRUDEAU
Weizmann Institute of Science
Bioengineering

YISKA LOEWENBERG WEISBAND
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Epidemiology

2016–2017

ANDREA CASSATELLA
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Political Science

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Alumni

JERRY ALFRED FEREIRO
Weizmann Institute of Science
Bio-Electronics

ADARA GOLDBERG
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Holocaust History

NOA GRASS
Tel Aviv University
Chinese History

VLADIMIR REINHARZ
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Computational Biology

LEIA SALTZMAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Social Work

2015–2016

DON BUTLER
University of Haifa
Micro-Archaeology

PAUL GREENHAM
Tel Aviv University
History of Science

JAMIE LEVIN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Political Science

TSIPORA MANKOVSKY-ARNOLD
University of Haifa
Psychology

LITAL SEVER
Weizmann Institute of Science
Biology

VIJAYAN SUNDARARAJ
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Biology

2014–2015

TIFFANY ABITBOL
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Materials Chemistry

MERLIN DAVIES
Tel Aviv University
Experimental Particle Physics

ALISON GAINSBURY
Tel Aviv University
Integrative & Evolutionary Biology

ANDREA GONDOS
Tel Aviv University
Jewish Studies

DANA MARGALITH
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Architecture

DEBORAH WINTER
Weizmann Institute of Science
Computational Biology

2013–2014

DELPHINE LUMBROSO BONNIE
University of Haifa
Biology

ZHIHUA CHANG
Bar-Ilan University
Mathematics

ALEX DAUTH
Weizmann Institute of Science
Chemistry

ALEX GOLDBERG
Weizmann Institute of Science
Chemistry

SCOTT HANSEN
Weizmann Institute of Science
Environmental Science

OLIVER VAN KAICK
Tel Aviv University
Computer Science

2012–2013

ALEEZA GERSTEIN
Tel Aviv University
Molecular Biology

ALEXANDRE MIKHAILINE
Weizmann Institute of Science
Chemistry

PINAKI MONDAL
Weizmann Institute of Science
Mathematics

MEERA NAIR
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Communications

MARLIN PENNER
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Chemistry

ZACHARY TAYLOR
Tel Aviv University
Civil & Environmental Engineering

2011–2012

GAD ABIKHZER
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Medicine

YONATHAN ANAHORY
Weizmann Institute of Science
Condensed Matter Physics

SHOHAM BEN-DAVID
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Computer Science

BENOIT PALMIERI
Weizmann Institute of Science
Biophysics

2010–2011

DANIEL-ROBERT CHEBAT
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Neurobiology

BOAZ MILLER
University of Haifa
Philosophy

MIKAEL RECHTSMAN
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Physics

AVIAD RUBIN
Tel Aviv University
Political Science

DESIREE TILLO
Weizmann Institute of Science
Genomics

ANAT ZAIDMAN-ZAIT
Tel Aviv University
Education

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellows

2024–2025

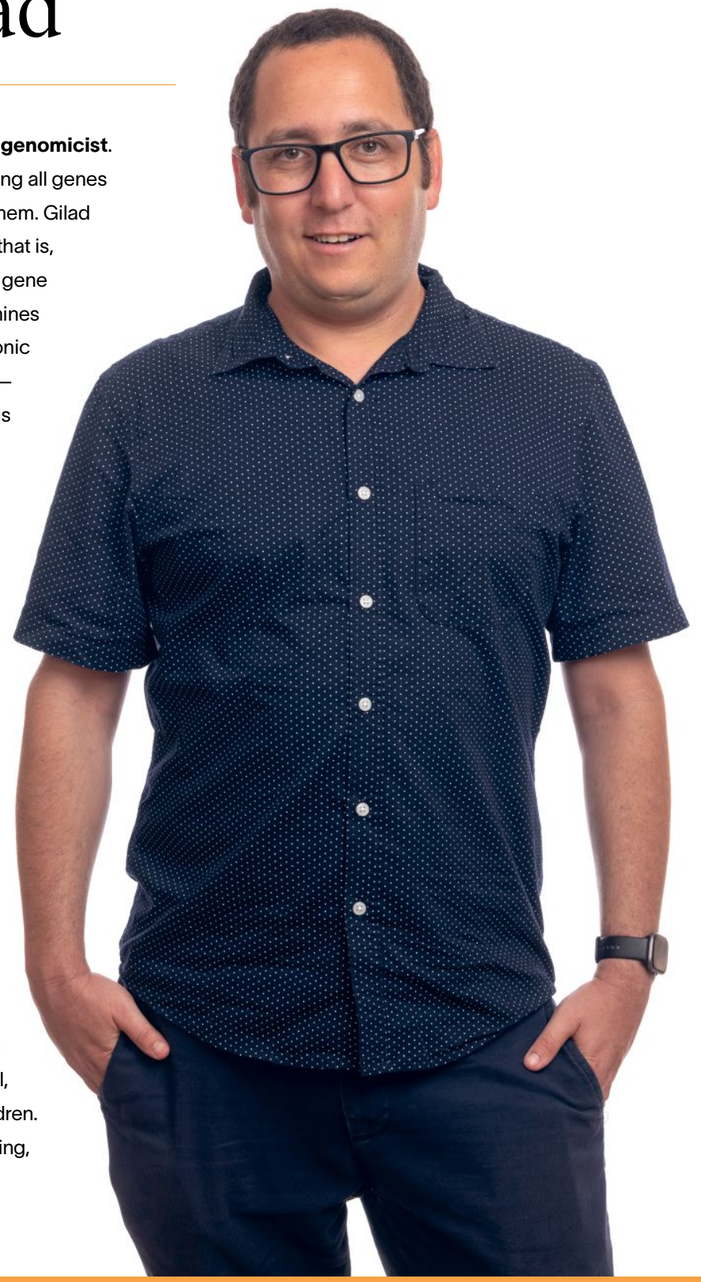
Academic Selection Committees

2024-2025

SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR
Professor Hermona Soreq, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

	EXACT SCIENCES COMMITTEE
CHAIR:	**Prof. Hagit Attiya**, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
	Prof. Shiri Artstein, Tel Aviv University
	Prof. Ashraf Brik, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
	Prof. Yonit Hochberg, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
	Prof. Noam Nisan, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
	Prof. Avi Zadok, Bar-Ilan University
	LIFE SCIENCES COMMITTEE
CHAIR:	**Prof. Gil Ast**, Tel Aviv University
	Prof. Lital Alfonta, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
	Prof. Ido Amit, Weizmann Institute of Science
	Prof. Haim Cohen, Bar-Ilan University
	Prof. Andreas Keller, Saarland University
	Prof. Gal Richter-Levin, University of Haifa
	HUMANITIES COMMITTEE
CHAIR:	**Prof. Hanna Yablonka**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
	Prof. Nitza Ben-Dov, University of Haifa
	Prof. Pini Ifergan, Bar-Ilan University
	Prof. Guy Stroumsa, University of Oxford & The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
	Prof. Oren Tal, Tel Aviv University
	SOCIAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE
CHAIR:	**Prof. Avishai Henik**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
	Prof. Neil Gandal, Tel Aviv University
	Prof. Tamar Hermann, The Open University of Israel
	Prof. Michael Karayanni, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
	Prof. Orna Sasson-Levy, Bar-Ilan University

Gilad Barshad



Dr. Gilad Barshad is a molecular biologist and genomicist. The genome is the complete set of DNA, containing all genes and instructions for when and where to express them. Gilad studies how non-coding regions of the genome, that is, the DNA that is not contained in genes, influence gene expression, or how genes are turned on. He examines changes across species and during early embryonic development—the initial phases after fertilization—using advanced genomic and computational tools to identify factors that affect gene expression. His research contributes to our understanding of "what makes us," with implications for disease diagnostics and human health.

Gilad's research contributes to our understanding of "what makes us," with implications for disease diagnostics and human health.

After serving as a senior sergeant in the IDF's Paratroopers Brigade, Gilad earned his BSc and PhD in life sciences from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He completed his postdoctoral training at Cornell University. Originally from northern Israel, Gilad now lives in Nofit with his wife and three children. In his free time, he enjoys reading, swimming, running, and spending time with his family.

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

Rotem Botvinik-Nezer

Dr. Rotem Botvinik-Nezer is a cognitive neuroscientist, studying how beliefs and expectations are formed and changed, and how they impact our minds and bodies. Her research mainly focuses on the placebo effect—how even inactive treatments can influence health. She studies how and when the placebo effect works for different people, aiming to integrate these findings into clinical practice to enhance the effectiveness of active treatments.

Rotem studies how and when the placebo effect works for different people, aiming to integrate these findings into clinical practice to enhance the effectiveness of active treatments.

Rotem holds a BSc in biology and psychology, with a focus on neuroscience, and a PhD in neuroscience from Tel Aviv University. She completed her postdoctoral research at Dartmouth College. Rotem currently resides in Sho'eva, a moshav west of Jerusalem. Rotem has volunteered in various roles, including working with disabled children, mentoring students, assisting Holocaust survivors, and co-leading a group of Israeli neuroscientists and psychologists abroad. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, playing basketball, scuba diving, and making and eating ice cream.

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
Department of Psychology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Shachar Carmeli

Dr. Shachar Carmeli is a mathematician specializing in homotopy theory, which examines the properties of shapes that remain unchanged under slight alterations. He studies commutative ring spectra, which extend the concept of algebraic rings—mathematical structures with specific addition and multiplication rules. He also works in chromatic homotopy theory, a field that addresses complex problems in homotopy theory by organizing them into different levels based on repeating patterns. His work has contributed to recent breakthroughs in several open problems in this field.

Shachar's research deepens our understanding of fundamental mathematical structures, contributing solutions to longstanding open problems in the field of homotopy theory.

Shachar earned a BSc in mathematics from Tel Aviv University, and an MSc and PhD in mathematics from the Weizmann Institute of Science. He worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Copenhagen. Originally from Abirim, Shachar now resides in Kibbutz Na'an. During his studies, he volunteered several times in a summer camp for adults with cerebral palsy, organized by the ILAN Association. In his free time, Shachar enjoys practising Thai boxing, hiking in nature, and spending quality time with his family.

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Weizmann Institute of Science

Shany Danieli

Dr. Shany Danieli is an astrophysicist, investigating galaxies to uncover the nature of dark matter—an enigmatic substance thought to comprise over 80 per cent of the universe's matter. She uses cutting-edge telescopes to study galaxies far fainter than the night sky. Though challenging to discover, these galaxies offer a nearly unobstructed view of their dark matter skeletons, revealing the interplay between dark and visible matter and providing insights into the universe's origins. Shany is spearheading next-generation searches using the most advanced astronomical surveys.

Shany is investigating galaxies to uncover the nature of dark matter and spearheading next-generation searches using advanced astronomical surveys.

Shany received her BSc in physics from Tel Aviv University and her PhD from Yale University. She was a NASA Hubble Fellow and a Carnegie-Princeton Fellow at Princeton University. Originally from Holon, she returned to Israel after 11 years in the United States and now lives in Tel Aviv with her husband and two children. Shany loves spending time with her family and friends, travelling, meeting new people, reading, sports, food, and fashion.

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University

Idan Frumkin

Dr. Idan Frumkin is a molecular biologist who studies how living things change over time. He explores how nature creates new cellular functions in bacteria and viruses by creating novel genes. Using both laboratory experiments and computer analysis, Idan investigates how these newly evolved genes help species adapt to different environments and challenges. This research can lead to improvements in drug development and help create better industrial processes using specially designed cells.

Idan's research can lead to improvements in drug development and help create better industrial processes using specially designed cells.

Idan earned his BSc in life and medical sciences from Tel Aviv University and his PhD from the Weizmann Institute of Science as an Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow. He completed his postdoctoral research at MIT. Idan currently lives in Tel Aviv with his spouse. He is dedicated to teaching and mentoring the next generation of scientists. In his free time, Idan enjoys reading science fiction and fantasy, listening to podcasts on Israeli and American politics, and spending time with his family.

Photography: Ryuji Suzuki

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research, Tel Aviv University

Daniel Fuks

Dr. Daniel Fuks is an archaeobotanist, studying plant remains retrieved from archaeological excavations to reconstruct ancient agriculture and landscapes. His current focus is on sites from the first millennium CE in southern Israel, to explore the significant agricultural changes and related social and economic developments of that era. Ultimately, this research contributes long-term perspectives on food security, biodiversity, climate change, and globalization.

Daniel's research contributes long-term perspectives on food security, biodiversity, climate change, and globalization.

Daniel completed a BA and BSc at the University of Pittsburgh, an MA and PhD at Bar-Ilan University, and a postdoc at the University of Cambridge. He is also the founder of the Crop History Consortium—a multi-disciplinary research group focused on geographic and evolutionary trajectories of crop plants across the Middle East and Mediterranean. Daniel lives with his wife and children on a moshav in the northwest Negev where he has volunteered to tutor youth at risk. He is passionate about sustainability, capoeira, and jazz.

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
Department of Archaeology, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Shilat Haim-Nachum

Dr. Shilat Haim-Nachum is a trauma researcher, investigating the role different mechanisms play in psychopathological development following childhood trauma. Shilat's work primarily examines negative self and public perceptions related to childhood traumatic experiences of abuse and neglect, such as shame, self-blame, and stigma. Her research aims to develop new cost-effective interventions to reduce trauma-related negative perceptions and increase openness to treatment among survivors of childhood trauma from diverse cultures.

Shilat's research aims to develop new cost-effective interventions to reduce trauma-related negative perceptions and increase openness to treatment among survivors of childhood trauma from diverse cultures.

Shilat received a BA in educational counselling and English literature and a PhD from Bar-Ilan University as an Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellow. She was a postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University's Department of Psychiatry. Shilat was born in Yavne and currently resides in Rehovot. She has been involved in volunteering with various trauma-exposed populations, including firefighters, veterans, and individuals with special needs. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and travelling.

Oded Padon

Dr. Oded Padon is a computer scientist specializing in programming languages and formal verification. His research develops new techniques that apply formal mathematical reasoning to verify that complex software systems are free of bugs and meet their correctness specifications. His work aims to enhance automation in software verification and to make it widely accessible. His research also applies programming languages' techniques to other domains such as quantum computing and machine learning.

Oded's work aims to enhance automation in software verification and to make it widely accessible.

Oded received a BSc in physics and mathematics from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, an MSc in environmental physics from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and a PhD in computer science from Tel Aviv University. He was a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford University and a senior researcher at VMware Research. Oded grew up in Ganei Tikva, and currently resides in Rehovot with his wife and two children. In his free time, he enjoys reading and spending time with his family.

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
Bob Shapell School of Social Work, Tel Aviv University

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
Department of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, Weizmann Institute of Science

Paul B. Sharp

Dr. Paul B. Sharp is a cognitive scientist whose research investigates how we plan and why we worry. To do so, he develops models of how people determine when and what to plan for, which allows him to test the specific ways chronic worriers over-plan for potential threats. Paul hopes this program of research will explain core mechanisms of human intelligence and the precise ways that planning gives rise to anxiety.

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Paul received a BA in psychology from Temple University's Honors Program and a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a postdoctoral researcher at University College London, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Yale University. Paul is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and currently resides in Ramat Gan. He has volunteered at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and as mentor for Científico Latino. Paul enjoys tennis, basketball, and searching for the best cortado at local coffee shops.

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellow
Department of Psychology, Bar-Ilan University

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Current Fellows

2023–2024

YAEL BITTERMAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Neuroscience

MAYA FENNIG
Tel Aviv University
Social Work

MAAYAN KESHEV
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Linguistics

ELLA KLIK
Bar-Ilan University
Communications

OR LITANY
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Computer Science

ELENA MEIRZADEH
Weizmann Institute of Science
Chemistry

REUT NAIM
Tel Aviv University
Psychology

2022–2023

ANAT ARZI
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Neuroscience

SHLOMIT BECHAR
University of Haifa
Archaeology

KARMA BEN-JOHANAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Comparative Religion

ERAN BLACHER
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Neuroscience

RONEN GOTTESMAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Materials Science

TOM HOPE
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Computer Science

YAARA OREN
Tel Aviv University
Systems Biology

RAY SCHRIRE
Tel Aviv University
History

NOAM SIEGELMAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Cognition

Azrieli Early Career Faculty Alumni

2021–2022

SHAI EVRA
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Mathematics

ARSENY FINKELSTEIN
Tel Aviv University
Neurobiology

MORAN FRENKEL-PINTER
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Chemistry

JONATHAN KADMON
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Neuroscience

ESHBAL RATZON
Tel Aviv University
Jewish Thought

ALDEMA SAS-CHEN
Tel Aviv University
Cancer Research

GIDDON TICOTSKY
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Hebrew Literature

2020–2021

DVIR ARAN
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Computational Biology

YONATAN BELINKOV
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Computational Linguistics

SAGI BEN-AMI
Weizmann Institute of Science
Particle Physics

LEEAT KEREN
Weizmann Institute of Science
Systems Biology

SHAY MORAN
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Machine Learning

MOR NITZAN
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Computational Biology

RONI PORAT
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Political Psychology

EZER RASIN
Tel Aviv University
Computational Linguistics

2019–2020

INBAL BEN-AMI BARTAL
Tel Aviv University
Psychobiology

URI BEN-DAVID
Tel Aviv University
Molecular Genetics

TAKASHI KAWASHIMA
Weizmann Institute of Science
Neuroscience

ELY KOVETZ
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Cosmology

BENJAMIN PALMER
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Biochemistry

OMER PANETH
Tel Aviv University
Computer Science

JENNIFER RESNIK
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Neuroscience

GIDEON SEGEV
Tel Aviv University
Electrical Engineering

YOTAM SOREQ
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Physics

2018–2019

AVRAHAM ASHKENAZI
Tel Aviv University
Biology

SHAI BEL
Bar-Ilan University
Biology

GIL COHEN
Tel Aviv University
Computer Science

BEN MAOZ
Tel Aviv University
Biomedical Engineering

YAKIR PAZ
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Talmud & Classical Studies

MICHAL RABANI
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Biology

JUDITH WEISS
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Jewish Thought

MORAN YASSOUR
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Microbiology

2017–2018

AMIR BASHAN
Bar-Ilan University
Biological Physics

GRAHAM DE RUITER
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Chemistry

YONIT HOCHBERG
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Theoretical Physics

IDO KAMINER
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Physics & Nanotechnology

YONATAN MOSS
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Comparative Religion

MEITAL OREN-SUISSA
Weizmann Institute of Science
Neurobiology

ANAT PERRY
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Cognitive Psychology

SHLOMI REUVENI
Tel Aviv University
Physical Chemistry

2016–2017

TSEVI BEATUS
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Bioengineering

NOAM KAPLAN
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Computational Biology

MICHAEL KHANEVSKY
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Mathematics

AHMAD MASARWA
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Chemistry

DAN ORBACH
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
History

TALYA SADEH
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Cognitive Neuroscience

TAMAR SEGAL-PERETZ
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Chemical Engineering

AMIT SITT
Tel Aviv University
Chemistry

2015–2016

ORI KATZ
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Applied Physics

OREN RAM
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Epigenomics

RINA ROSENZWEIG
Weizmann Institute of Science
Structural Biology

ZIV SHULMAN
Weizmann Institute of Science
Immunology

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