



# Azrieli Fellows

2025–2026







# Azrieli Fellows Program

JANUARY 2026





Managing Editor

Ceighley Cribb

Copy Editor

Eva van Emden

Design

Mario Scaffardi

Azrieli Team Contributors

Rochelle Avitan, Yael Bar David,  
Julie Mattos-Hall, Tal Mordoch,  
Dafna Sofrin-Frumer, Aviad Stollman

Photography

Shauli Lendner

Table of Contents

About the Azrieli Foundation	1
About the Azrieli Fellows Program	1
Foreword	2
Naomi Azrieli, O.C., DPhil	
Chair and CEO, The Azrieli Foundation	
Greetings	3
Prof. Hermona Soreq	
Senior Academic Advisor, Azrieli Fellows Program	
Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellows	6
Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellows	42
Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellows	44
Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellows	64
The Azrieli Fellows Program Team	68



## About the Azrieli Foundation

The Azrieli Foundation supports a wide range of programs and initiatives in the fields of education; scientific and medical research; architecture and design; Jewish community; Holocaust education and commemoration; and arts, music, and culture across Canada and Israel.

Through innovative and impactful giving, our Foundation strives to empower people of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds, helping them reach their full potential and give back to their communities. Inspired by Jewish values, we undertake this work with the hope and objective of creating a more compassionate, generative, and generous world for all.

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 fellowship tracks: Graduate Studies, International Visiting PhD, 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 alumni network.

Azrieli Fellows are celebrated for their exceptional ability to conduct innovative research and an 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, O.C., DPhil

Chair and CEO  
The Azrieli Foundation

Dear Azrieli Fellows,

Science and research remain among the most powerful tools for progress in a world facing increasingly complex challenges.

That is why I am incredibly proud that for nearly 20 years, the Azrieli Fellows Program has enabled almost 600 Fellows from around the world to freely pursue bold ideas to advance knowledge and benefit society.

We recognize that transformative breakthroughs often arise at the intersection of disciplines, which is why we have always placed a strong emphasis on cross-field collaboration—bridging biology with humanities, data science with environmental studies, and beyond. We know that good science starts with investing in the people and ideas behind the work.

We also know that academics need environments that nurture curiosity, resilience, and creativity. Our program aims to empower early career researchers by giving them the tools, the support, and the inspiration they need to thrive in Israel—a world leader in scientific and technological progress.

Alumni tell us this experience is like no other—the wealth of experience gained, the collaborations forged, and the memories and relationships cemented for life. This holistic approach—supporting the whole person, not just the academic—is one of the many innovative and unique aspects of the Azrieli Fellows Program.

This year, we are pleased to announce a new track for candidates—the International Visiting PhD track—welcoming exceptional PhD students from all over the world to undertake a semester of short-term research in Israel. Visiting PhD Fellows will enjoy the many benefits of the program, including collaboration with leading researchers, enhancing their professional growth, and expanding their scientific and scholarly network.

Now more than ever, the role of science and research in shaping a just, sustainable, and informed future is crucial. As a Foundation, we are proudly committed to supporting those who pursue truth through evidence, who ask tough questions, and who work tirelessly to solve the world’s most urgent problems for the benefit of all humanity.

With gratitude and appreciation.



## Prof. Hermona Soreq

Senior Academic Advisor  
Azrieli Fellows Program

To the new cohort of Azrieli Fellows,

Once a year, the Jewish tradition calls us to reflect on the year that has passed—its challenges as well as its blessings—and to welcome the new year with hope for renewal and growth. To truly embrace this spirit, we must begin by counting the many blessings of the year behind us, even those that have tested us in profound ways.

The Azrieli Fellows Program celebrates not only your personal successes and resilience, but also your contributions to society—an effort that is never simple, yet remains deeply meaningful. You have risen to the task with dedication and excellence. I believe that, thanks to the many social activities supported by the Azrieli network, along with our meetings and training programs, you have been able to support one another, gain new skills, and find inspiration in our shared work.

These achievements shine all the brighter when seen against the backdrop of a challenging world. Looking ahead, there is every reason to expect that the coming year will bring new opportunities and unexpected, greater accomplishments. With your talent and commitment, I am confident that you will continue to reach new milestones, advancing not only your research and scholarship but also your impact on society. There is much to be grateful for: our Fellows excel in their fields and contribute to shaping a stronger and more vibrant future.

Our program also continues to draw great interest. Hundreds of outstanding international applicants seek to join the Azrieli Fellows community each year, aspiring to spend two to three years in Israel for postdoctoral training. Just as you were carefully chosen for your excellence, dedication, and vision, so too will future Fellows carry forward this tradition of achievement and impact. Beyond the research and the training, this program also fosters friendships and lifelong connections—something that many of our alumni recall as one of the most enduring gifts of their experience.

Israel is not always a simple or easy place in which to live and work. Recent experiences sharpen the realization that what we do in our lives is important, both for us and for many others. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference and reach new heights in the year ahead.

Here’s to the new academic year, dear Fellows. Let this year bring peace and fulfill your wishes.







Azrieli  
Graduate  
Studies  
Fellows

2025-2026





# Academic Selection Committees

2025-2026

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

**EXACT SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Uzi Vishne**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Guy Cohen**, Tel Aviv University  
**Prof. Leeor Kronik**, Weizmann Institute of Science  
**Prof. Eran Treister**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
**Prof. Miriam Zacksenhouse**, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

**LIFE SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Eli Pikarsky**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Prof. Sarel Fleishman**, Weizmann Institute of Science  
**Prof. Irit Gat-Viks**, Tel Aviv University  
**Prof. Yossi Mandel**, Bar-Ilan University

**HUMANITIES COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Iris Shagrir**, The Open University of Israel

**Prof. Nathan Cohen**, Bar-Ilan University  
**Prof. Avner Holtzman**, Tel Aviv University  
**Prof. Nimrod Marom**, University of Haifa  
**Prof. Sara Offenberg**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
**Prof. Benjamin Pollock**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**SOCIAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Mimi Ajzenstadt**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Prof. Jonathan Huppert**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
**Prof. Alexandra Kalev**, Tel Aviv University  
**Prof. Michal Lavidor**, Bar-Ilan University  
**Prof. Miki Malul**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
**Prof. Sagit Mor**, University of Haifa  
**Prof. Aviad Rubin**, University of Haifa

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Lily Orland-Barak**, University of Haifa

**Prof. Alona Forkosh-Baruch**, The Academic College Levinsky-Wingate  
**Prof. Boris Koichu**, Weizmann Institute of Science  
**Dr. Arik Segev**, Kaye College/Sapir College

**ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Edna Langenthal**, Ariel University

**Prof. Michael Benedikt**, University of Texas at Austin  
**Dr. Gabriel Schwake**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

**LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY CONSULTANT**  
**Dr. Varda Silberberg**, Ziv Institute



# Yael Amitay

**Yael Amitay is a computational biologist and PhD candidate**, studying how the immune system responds to cancer. Her research focuses on spatial proteomics, cutting-edge technology that maps the location of dozens of proteins in tissue at high resolution. She combines computer vision and data science to analyze this complex data, aiming to predict melanoma recurrence and identify patients who may benefit from preventive treatment. Through her work, she hopes to deepen our understanding of both cancer and the immune system.

Yael hopes to deepen our understanding of cancer and the immune system.

Yael earned her BSc in software engineering from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and completed her MSc at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Originally from Ashdod, she now lives in Rehovot with her partner. She currently volunteers by tutoring students displaced during the Iron Swords War. To relax, she enjoys drawing, reading, and travelling.



# Matan Aviel

**Matan Aviel is a PhD candidate in art history** researching funerary monuments in southern Italy between the late Middle Ages and the early Renaissance. He focuses on unique or unusual monuments, such as tombs that demand visitors walk under or around them or tombs that invite visitors to sit on them. The project aims to reconsider special tomb monuments and understand their significance and what they can reveal about the experiences they enveloped their beholders in.

Matan aims to understand the significance of special tomb monuments and what they can reveal about the experiences in which they enveloped their beholders.

Matan earned a joint BSc in mathematics and art history and an MA in art history from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He grew up in Sunnyvale, California, and Tel Mond, and now lives in Jerusalem with his partner. He volunteered with the Jewish Agency for Israel as a young emissary in greater New Haven, Connecticut, and as an educational guide in Gondar, Ethiopia. Outside academia, Matan enjoys pottery making and dancing.





# Eduardo Balbo

**Eduardo Balbo is a PhD candidate in Arabic dialectology and sociolinguistics.** His research examines the endangered Arabic dialects spoken by Tunisian Jews—known as Tunisian Judeo-Arabic dialects—with a focus on those once spoken near the island of Djerba. Eduardo also focuses on the contact of Tunisian and Libyan Judeo-Arabic dialects with Modern Hebrew in immigrant communities in Israel. By analyzing the unique linguistic features of these dialects, he aims to provide new data on early linguistic Arabization in North Africa—the gradual shift of communities to speaking Arabic under historical Islamic rule—while helping preserve a disappearing linguistic and cultural heritage.

Eduardo aims to provide new data on early linguistic Arabization in North Africa while helping preserve a disappearing linguistic and cultural heritage.

Eduardo holds a BA in English and Arabic from the University of Palermo and an MA in Arabic and Modern Hebrew from the University of Naples “L’Orientale.” Originally from a small village in Sicily, Italy, he has volunteered with refugee minors in Italy and Palestinian high school students in East Jerusalem. In his off-hours, he enjoys baking, singing, and playing guitar and ukulele.



# Yuval Barzilay

**Yuval Barzilay is a PhD candidate in the field of molecular biology,** exploring how animals use organic crystalline materials to produce colours essential for camouflage, communication, vision, and more. He combines advanced techniques from materials science—such as electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction, and spectroscopy—alongside cellular biology tools to achieve a comprehensive understanding of biological crystallization. Gaining insights into organic crystal formation may unlock new bio-inspired materials and potentially lead to novel therapeutics for human diseases such as gout and kidney stones.

Yuval’s research may unlock new bio-inspired materials and potentially lead to novel therapeutics for human diseases.

Yuval was born in Israel and grew up in Modi’in-Maccabim-Re’ut, and currently lives in Rehovot with his wife. He completed his BSc in life sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and earned his MSc at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Outside the lab, Yuval volunteers with the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, and enjoys outdoor activities like scuba diving, hiking, basketball, and photography.





# Amichai Berman

**Amichai Berman is a PhD candidate in plant biology.** His research focuses on developing CRISPR-based gene-editing tools to better understand how plants sense and respond to water availability. He aims to uncover genes that play key roles in water-sensing mechanisms. This work could help address agricultural challenges related to drought and water use by revealing how plants sense and adapt to changing environments.

**Amichai is helping to address agricultural challenges related to drought and water use by revealing how plants sense and adapt to changing environments.**

Amichai earned his BSc from the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and completed his MSc in the same lab where he is now pursuing his PhD. Originally from the Jerusalem area, he lives in Ra'anana with his wife and son. During his military service, he served as an officer, training combat medics, and later volunteered in a student village in Lod, focusing on community engagement. He enjoys hiking, astronomy, woodworking, and family time.



# Nitzan Caspi Shiloni

**Nitzan Caspi Shiloni is a PhD researcher in Jewish law and gender studies.** Her research focuses on the perspectives of rabbinical court judges in Israel toward women who are unable to obtain a religious divorce due to their husbands' refusal—commonly referred to as the *agunah* problem. Taking a narrative rather than a legal-outcome approach, her interdisciplinary work offers a new lens through which to understand rabbinical rulings. The research also holds potential to inform feminist legal activism in Israel.

**Nitzan's research offers a new lens through which to understand rabbinical rulings, and also holds potential to inform feminist legal activism in Israel.**

Nitzan holds an LLB from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an LLM from Bar-Ilan University. She also completed a thesis in gender studies at Bar-Ilan University. Before starting her PhD program, she worked as a lawyer and legal manager for an organization promoting women's rights and continues to provide legal counsel to human rights organizations. She lives in Modi'in with her partner and their four children.





# Levana Chajes

**Levana Chajes is a PhD candidate in the field of Jewish thought.** Her research explores the material and intellectual transmission of *Ma'arekhet ha-Elohut*, an essential work of medieval Jewish mysticism. Through analyzing its commentaries and translations as well as its controversial journey into print, she reveals how this text became a crucial nexus for the transformation of kabbalistic thought in Early Modern Europe. Her work provides new insights into how ideas traverse cultures and how texts shape intellectual traditions across cultural boundaries.

**Levana provides new insights into how ideas traverse cultures and how texts shape intellectual traditions across cultural boundaries.**

Levana received a BA from Tel Aviv University and an MA from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she was a Mandel Fellow. She grew up in Zikhron Ya'akov and now lives in the Galilee region with her husband and children. She has volunteered with Holocaust survivors, playing violin in old age homes, and facilitated women's empowerment workshops in remote Nepali villages. Levana also enjoys hiking in the mountains and baking.



# Dana Dahan Lahav

**Dana Dahan Lahav is a PhD candidate in psychology** whose research explores the biological foundations of post-traumatic symptoms. Her work focuses on both genetic factors—the inherited variations in DNA that may predispose individuals to stress responses—and epigenetic factors—chemical changes that regulate how genes are switched on or off in response to life experiences. Together, these factors help identify which biological systems are involved in the development of post-traumatic stress. Dana's goal is to build a coherent biological narrative for trauma and recovery and to examine how genetic vulnerability and biological changes over time relate to the presence or absence of symptoms.

**Dana's goal is to build a coherent biological narrative for trauma and recovery and to examine how genetic vulnerability and biological changes over time relate to the presence or absence of symptoms.**

Dana received her BA and MA in clinical psychology from Reichman University. She is from Tel Aviv and currently resides there with her husband. She volunteered at the Heroes for Life organization as a coordinator of volunteering expeditions to Guatemala every year, alongside establishing a pre-military preparatory school for lone soldiers who are without immediate family support in Israel. To relax, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, travelling, surfing, and running.





# Tehila Dahan

**Tehila Dahan is a PhD candidate in machine learning and optimization**, developing algorithms that enhance the reliability and efficiency of artificial intelligence (AI) applications. Her research is inspired by stochastic optimization theory—the study of how to make the best decisions when dealing with randomness or uncertainty in data and processes. She applies these ideas to AI, working to ensure that systems perform well even when data is corrupted or parts of the system fail, an issue that is especially important in large-scale systems spread out over many computers. Her work aims to safeguard AI technologies from potential threats and support their deployment in real-world, high-stakes scenarios.

**Tehila aims to safeguard AI technologies from potential threats and support their deployment in real-world, high-stakes scenarios.**

Tehila earned her BSc and MSc in data science from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. She mentors undergraduate students, helping them navigate their academic pursuits. She was born in Yokneam Illit, where she currently lives with her husband.



# Alexandra Danzig

**Alexandra Danzig is a PhD candidate in the field of communication and journalism**, where she specializes in visual culture, media theory, and the evolving intersections of photography and technology. With an interdisciplinary foundation that spans media studies, visual communication, and the photographic medium (material technologies and social-aesthetic conventions that produce, circulate, and make light-recorded images), Alexandra's research critically examines the theoretical, cultural, and social implications of AI-generated photorealistic imagery in contemporary visual environments. Her research aims to define what an AI-generated “photograph” is and to explore the implications in journalism and photography education.

**Alexandra aims to define what an AI-generated “photograph” is and to explore the implications in journalism and photography education.**

Alexandra received a BFA in photography from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design and an MA in communication and journalism from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is from Jerusalem and currently resides in Ramat Gan. Alongside her research, she enjoys creating photographic art, reading poetry, and travelling.





# Michal Hod

**Michal Hod is an attorney and a PhD candidate.** Her research focuses on the structure of financial regulation in Israel and other countries, particularly in the context of cryptocurrency (crypto). "Crypto" is a broad term that refers to digital assets such as Bitcoin and Ethereum, along with the technologies that support them, which challenge traditional financial sectors and regulators worldwide. As a global phenomenon, crypto offers a unique opportunity to examine regulatory structures, their adaptability to innovation, and their overall effectiveness.

Michal's research on crypto offers a unique opportunity to examine regulatory structures, their adaptability to innovation, and their overall effectiveness.

Michal holds an LLB in law and political science from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an LLM from the University of Pennsylvania. Originally from Rishon LeZion, she now lives in Kibbutz Gesher with her husband and three children. She served as an infantry training officer in the IDF and currently chairs the executive board of her kibbutz. Michal enjoys reading, bicycling, and spending time with her family.



# Shiyu Hong

**Shiyu Hong is a PhD candidate in the field of Hebrew language and linguistics.** Her research examines how people made requests in Hebrew during the early British Mandate Period in the 1920s through the 1930s. By analyzing an extensive collection of formal and informal letters, she explores the linguistic strategies employed to seek assistance while maintaining harmonious relationships. By investigating how writers from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds adapted these strategies across different social circumstances, she aims to reveal the communication styles and cultural norms of this transformative period in Modern Hebrew's development.

Shiyu aims to reveal the communication styles and cultural norms of the early British Mandate Period in the development of Modern Hebrew.

Shiyu earned her BA in Hebrew language and Jewish culture from Peking University, and her MA in Hebrew language from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Originally from China, Shiyu has been living in Jerusalem since 2019. She volunteers to teach basic Hebrew to foreign construction workers in Israel. In her free time, Shiyu enjoys playing tennis, listening to true crime podcasts, and travelling.





# Amit Kam

**Amit Kam is a physicist and PhD candidate,** working at the intersection of nanophotonics and quantum optics, the field that studies how light interacts with matter at the level of individual photons. He investigates how photons—the fundamental particles of light—behave when confined in nanostructures far smaller than their wavelength. In such tiny spaces, different properties of light that normally act independently—such as its polarization and its wave-like shape—can start to influence each other. Amit's work investigates how controlling this effect could open new possibilities for encoding and processing information on ultra-compact quantum photonic chips, enabling advances in secure communication, quantum computing, and precision sensing.

**Amit's work could open new possibilities for encoding and processing information on ultra-compact quantum photonic chips.**

Amit grew up in Kfar Bialik, where he still resides today. He holds a BSc in physics from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. During his military service, he served as both a soldier and a technical officer in the fields of radio frequency and electronic warfare, a role in which he continued to serve in the reserves. Amit enjoys spending time with friends and family, watching movies, hiking, and listening to music.



# Rami Khoury

**Rami Khoury is an MD/PhD candidate studying cancer biology and nanomedicine.** His research bridges fundamental biology and therapeutic innovation by exploring how BRCA1-mutated breast cancer metastasizes to the brain. He investigates how tumour cells hijack and reprogram brain-resident cells to create a supportive environment for metastasis. To counter this, Rami is developing precisely engineered, nano-scale drug carriers designed to enhance drug delivery, enabling therapies to cross the blood–brain barrier and selectively treat brain tumours. By integrating biological insights with advanced drug delivery systems, he aims to uncover disease mechanisms and translate them into novel treatments for patients.

**Rami aims to uncover disease mechanisms and translate them into novel treatments for patients.**

Rami earned his BSc in medical sciences from the Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. He was born and raised in Shefa-Amr and currently lives in Tel Aviv. Rami has volunteered with children in Tanzania and in his hometown. Alongside his research, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, listening to podcasts, and travelling.





# Rotem Levy Heiman

**Rotem Levy Heiman is a speech-language pathologist and PhD candidate in education.** Her research focuses on how healthcare and education professionals make diagnostic decisions for young children with neurodevelopmental disabilities, such as autism and ADHD. Grounded in extensive clinical experience, her research explores how social, cultural, and institutional factors shape these processes. By examining how experts manage diagnostic uncertainty and navigate societal expectations, her work seeks to improve support for children and families and inform clinical, policy, and theoretical approaches.

**Rotem seeks to improve support for children and families and inform clinical, policy, and theoretical approaches toward neurodevelopmental disabilities.**

Rotem holds a BA in communication disorders from Hadassah Academic College and an MA in gender studies from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Originally from Be'er Sheva, she lives with her family in Moshav Faran in Israel's Arava desert. Over the years, Rotem has volunteered with marginalized communities, focusing on child development and children with disabilities. She enjoys hiking, travelling, and spending time with her three children.



# Yahel Nudler

**Yahel Nudler is a PhD candidate in the field of psychology,** exploring people's self-knowledge of the factors that shape their attitudes and judgment, and the mechanisms underlying the formation of such knowledge. His work examines the introspective processes involved in self-knowledge formation: what happens when someone looks inside to understand why they like someone or something. His research aims to uncover how people come to know themselves, and how they can improve this important skill, ultimately enhancing our understanding of self-knowledge formation and of ourselves.

**Yahel's research aims to uncover how people come to know themselves, enhancing our understanding of self-knowledge formation.**

Yahel received his BA in psychology from Reichman University and his MA in social psychology from Tel Aviv University. Originally from Ness Ziona, he now lives in Tel Aviv. He served in the IDF's intelligence unit 8200 and volunteered with at-risk youth, including a pre-military year in Safed, and at ERAN's emotional first-aid services. He is currently consulting for organizations in the mental health field.





# Rotem Ovadia

**Rotem Ovadia is a theoretical particle physicist and PhD candidate**, specializing in dark matter detection. Dark matter refers to particles that scarcely interact with light or ordinary matter. Dark matter's gravitational effects, observed almost everywhere we point our telescopes, reveal a total mass about five times that of visible matter—yet its microscopic nature has evaded discovery for over half a century. Rotem is spearheading an interdisciplinary effort to incorporate mature quantum sensing technologies—devices that can detect faint signals—and insights from materials science into the fabrication of the next-generation dark matter detectors, vastly improving the prospects for a first detection.

Rotem is spearheading an interdisciplinary effort to incorporate mature quantum sensing technologies and insights from materials science into the fabrication of the next-generation dark matter detectors.

Rotem received his BSc and MSc in physics from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has taught gifted children physics and mathematics at Merhavim school. Rotem also enjoys weightlifting, cooking, and going on long walks with his dog, Mel.



# Noa Palmon

**Noa Palmon is a PhD student in behavioural economics**, the field that studies how people make decisions in everyday life. Her work examines how human learning and decision-making patterns can lead to overestimating the value of punishment, generating support for populist policies. Using decision-making experiments and computational modelling, Noa studies how the informational features of environments—the way information is presented, structured, or made available—can distort perceptions of punishment and give rise to populist preferences. Her work aims to contribute to both decision-making theory and evidence-based policy design.

Noa aims to contribute to both decision-making theory and evidence-based policy design.

Noa graduated from the Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students at Tel Aviv University and earned her MSc in computational neuroscience at Tel Aviv University. She grew up in Moshav Beit Nekofa and currently lives in Haifa with her husband. Noa is a teaching assistant at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, interned with the Promising Economists for Israel's Public Sector program, and volunteered as a programming instructor at QueenB, promoting female representation in technology. Away from her desk, she enjoys playing the violin and exploring wildlife, nature, and different cultures while travelling.





# Guy Pelc

## **Guy Pelc is a physicist and PhD candidate**

exploring structure formation dynamics in multicellular biological systems using computational approaches. His current research focuses on modelling tumour growth dynamics based on novel spatial gene-expression data—measurements that reveal which genes are active at each location within the tissue—with the goal of paving the way for targeted drug treatments.

## **Guy's goal is to pave the way for targeted drug treatments.**

Guy earned his BSc in physics and computer science and MSc in physics from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He also studied classical voice training and conducting at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Originally from Even Yehuda, he now resides in Jerusalem with his wife and newborn daughter. He served in the IDF as an outstanding musician and has volunteered teaching math, physics, and computer science at the Hillel, Beliba Homa, and Magshimim programs. Guy enjoys hiking, practising yoga and meditation, and serving as the musical director of the award-winning Cecilia Ensemble, a professional vocal octet.



# Noam Pinsk

## **Noam Pinsk is a PhD candidate specializing in**

**materials science.** She uses laser-based experiments to study materials' dynamics at the atomic and molecular levels. Specifically, Noam is investigating the process of thermal relaxation—the way materials return to their stable state after exposure to sudden and strong bursts of heat. By examining thermal relaxation processes microscopically, she aims to uncover fundamental mechanisms that could enable innovative approaches to designing materials with tailored functional properties.

## **Noam aims to uncover fundamental mechanisms that could enable innovative approaches to designing materials with tailored functional properties.**

Noam earned her dual BSc degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and her MSc from the Weizmann Institute of Science. Originally from Lehavim, in the south of Israel, Noam currently lives in Rehovot. After finishing her army service, she hiked the Israel National Trail in memory of a dear friend, fundraising to build a viewpoint in his memory. She also enjoys playing the saxophone and spending time with family and friends.





# Ekaterina Prozorova

**Ekaterina Prozorova is a PhD candidate in architectural history and theory.** Her research investigates Alexander Klein's concept of organic planning—a method for organizing architectural space and urban form—across three political contexts: the Russian Empire, Weimar Germany, and Mandatory Palestine. By exploring how Klein merged architectural precedent, quantifiable data, and lived experience, her work traces the intellectual prehistory of architectural computation. It shows how Klein's diagrammatic methods and rule-based, stepwise design anticipated algorithmic programming and parametric logics. This research highlights the reciprocal relationship between architectural form and political modernist agendas. By critically reframing urban histories, the study uncovers the enduring relevance of modernist design strategies within the architecture of the digital age.

**Ekaterina uncovers the enduring relevance of modernist design strategies within the architecture of the digital age.**

Ekaterina holds previous degrees in fine art and cultural studies from Herzen University. She was born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) and currently lives in Acre. She volunteered with a coastal resilience initiative focused on cleaning and public education. Outside of academia, she enjoys biking, sketching, and travelling with her family.



# Itay Shalom

**Itay Shalom is a neuroscientist and PhD candidate** studying the behavioural and neuronal effects of recreational drugs. His research focuses on how cocaine alters interactions between neuronal populations—groups of neurons that researchers treat as a functional unit—in the striatum—a brain region sensitive to cocaine—and how these changes influence moment-to-moment behavioural choices. To analyze behaviour, Itay is developing advanced AI-based tools for automated, unbiased assessment. By linking neural activity with behaviour, his work aims to uncover how drugs like cocaine disrupt striatal function, and to support new therapeutic strategies.

**Itay aims to uncover how recreational drugs disrupt striatal function by linking neural activity with behaviour.**

Itay holds a BSc in computer science and cognitive sciences and an MSc from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife and son. For the past decade, he has coached youth basketball, combining his passion for sports with informal education. He enjoys hiking with his family, especially in the Judean Desert after seasonal floods.





# Michael Toker

**Michael Toker is a computer scientist and PhD candidate**, focusing on analyzing the internal computations of large multi-modal AI models—systems that can process and combine information from more than one type of input. His research aims to understand how information flows within these complex neural networks, how it is stored, and how outputs are generated, such as in text-to-image models, which generate images from written descriptions. By understanding the roles of different components within the model, Michael seeks to enhance model capabilities and mitigate unsafe behaviours in its outputs, such as biased, misleading, or harmful responses.

Michael seeks to enhance multi-modal AI model capabilities and mitigate unsafe behaviours in its outputs, such as biased, misleading, or harmful responses.

Michael holds BSc and MSc degrees from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and recently interned in Nvidia’s AI research team. He founded the Google Developer Student Club at the Technion and was part of the organization team of the “Doing Good” CS Hackathon for three years. Michael lives in Ramat Gan with his fiancée and their cat. He enjoys running, biking, playing chess, and listening to podcasts and audiobooks in his leisure time.



# Yonatan Vexler

**Yonatan Vexler is an educator and PhD candidate** whose research examines how social relations and learning environments shape teachers’ and learners’ motivations and outcomes. His work focuses on communications that either satisfy or frustrate people’s psychological needs to feel autonomous, competent, and socially connected. His research aims to develop practical recommendations for policies and pedagogies, as well as create tools that improve the lives of young people and their educators.

Yonatan aims to develop practical recommendations for policies and pedagogies, as well as create tools that improve the lives of young people and their educators.

Yonatan earned two degrees from universities in China and an MA in education from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Originally from California, Yonatan has been living in Israel since 2004, with periods abroad for study and research. He now lives in Jerusalem with his wife. A former IDF lone soldier, one who is without immediate family support in Israel, he has since volunteered in many community-building projects aimed at unifying polarized and marginalized Jerusalemites. Yonatan enjoys dance, sports, music, and art.





# Ohad Yaacov Meyuhas

**Ohad Yaacov Meyuhas is a PhD candidate in architecture**, focusing on advanced additive manufacturing (commonly known as 3D printing) for buildings. His research develops novel methods to manufacture single building components that perform multiple functions at once, replacing traditional multi-layered construction. This approach aims to reduce waste, make construction processes more efficient, and allow the use of local materials.

**Ohad's approach aims to reduce waste, make construction processes more efficient, and allow the use of local materials.**

Before his PhD, Ohad held leading positions at Stratasys, a global 3D printing company, where he served as director of sustainability innovation. He has taught architecture, product design, and digital fabrication at leading universities in Israel and globally. Additionally, he co-founded the Israeli FabLab network to enhance digital fabrication education. Ohad holds an MSc in advanced architecture from the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia, and a BSc from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. He actively volunteers in community fabrication projects to explore how new technologies can generate positive social impact and shape our daily lives by orchestrating technology, craft, and human creativity into a holistic "symphony" of innovation and community.





Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellows

2024-2025

- LEE-OR ALON**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Artificial Intelligence
- OFER ASAF**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architectural Computing and Digital Media
- DANA AZANI SADKA**  
Reichman University  
Clinical Psychology
- SHAI BEN AMI**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Electro-Optical Engineering
- ASAF BEN-HAIM**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Classical Archaeology
- IDDO BETTER POCKER**  
Tel Aviv University  
Israeli History
- TOMER COHEN**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Computational Biology
- ELAD DVIR**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Genomics
- AVIVA ELIYAHU**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Molecular Genetics
- SARIT FELDMAN GESLER**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Computational Biology
- MICHAL HANOUKA**  
Tel Aviv University  
School Counselling
- YIFAT HILLEL**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Social Aspects of Education
- MAYADA KARJAWALLY**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Social Work in Health Care
- MAJED KHALAF**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Particle Physics
- SEWAR KHATIB**  
University of Haifa  
Occupational Therapy
- YAEL LEBEL**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Systems Biology
- TALI LEMCOFF**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Biological Crystallization & Biophotonics
- YAEL LEOKUMOVICH**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Ancient History

- CHEN MECHEL**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Electro-Optical Engineering
- OPHIR NETZER**  
University of Haifa  
Cognitive Psychology
- MORIAH OMER-ATTALI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Learning and Instruction
- TOM PARNASS**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jewish Mysticism
- ASAF PETRUSCHKA**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Theory of Algorithms
- NEVO SPIEGEL**  
Tel Aviv University  
Philosophy of Language

2023-2024

- YAEL ALUSH**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Physics
- TOMER AMIT**  
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

- LIAT ARIEL**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Education
- AMIT MANOR ARMON**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Chemistry
- GAL BITTON**  
Tel Aviv University  
Political Science
- OMRI CARMON**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Environmental Development
- RONNIE AGASSI COHEN**  
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
- SHIR GENZER**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Neuropsychology
- EINAV GOZANSKY**  
University of Haifa  
Neuropsychology
- OR HADAS**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Earth Sciences
- ELAD HORN**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture
- ANAT HOROWITZ HAREL**  
University of Haifa  
Architecture
- REFAEL KROIZER**  
Tel Aviv University  
Jewish History
- CHEYN LAMBERT**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture
- ROEE LEDER**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Mathematics
- AVIV ORNER**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Education
- MEITAL PASCAL**  
Tel Aviv University  
Education
- SHIRI RON**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Computer Science
- DANA RUBINSTEIN**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jewish Thought
- INBAL TAMIR**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture
- IRENE UNTERMAN**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Computational Biology
- ANNA UZONYI**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Systems Biology
- AVITAL WAGNER**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Chemistry
- ORYAN ZACKS**  
Tel Aviv University  
Philosophy
- SARAH YONA ZWEIG**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Comparative Religion

2021-2022

- TAMAR AMISHAV**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Educational Psychology
- MICHAL ANDELMAN-GUR**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Neuroscience
- AMBREEN BEN-SHMUEL**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Sociology
- RASHA BOWIRRAT**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture
- EMIL BRONSTEIN**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Mechanical Engineering
- HAGIT GABBAY**  
Tel Aviv University  
Educational Technology
- MERAV HAYAK**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Educational Technology
- ALIAKSEI (ALEXEY) HORLACH**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Theoretical Physics
- ALON JASPER**  
Tel Aviv University  
Law
- RUTHIE KAPLAN**  
University of Haifa  
Jewish History
- TAE LIN KARIDI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Computer Science
- YONATAN KATZENELBOGEN**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Genomics
- RON KLEINER**  
Tel Aviv University  
Nanotechnology
- DANIELLE CHEN KLEINMAN**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Asian Studies
- MAI LAZARUS**  
Tel Aviv University  
Ecology
- MORDECHAI (MOTTI) LEVY**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Middle Eastern Studies
- RACHELI LEVY**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Food Engineering
- EYTAN MANN**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

- ODED NAOR**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Computer Science
- MOR ROZNER**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Astrophysics
- LIHI SARFATY**  
University of Haifa  
Educational Psychology
- ORPHÉE SENOUF-PILPOUL**  
Tel Aviv University  
Cultural Studies
- OHAD SOREK**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture
- YONI STERN**  
University of Haifa  
Neuropsychology
- JASMIN WENNERSBUSCH**  
Tel Aviv University  
Law

2020-2021

- DORON ATIAS**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Social Psychology
- ABHISHEK BANERJEE**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Physics
- NAAMA BEN-DOR**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Dialogic Learning
- MOSHE DOVID CHECHIK**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Talmud & Halakha
- ALON DAVID-SADEH**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Regional Planning
- AVIYA DORON**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Medieval Jewish History
- SHVAT EILAT**  
Tel Aviv University  
Social Anthropology
- OREN ELДАР**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture
- EINAT ELIZAROV**  
University of Haifa  
Developmental Psychology
- HAGGAI EYAL**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Earth Sciences



**ISRAEL GABAY**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Mechanical Engineering

**OMER HACKER**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Anthropology

**DAPHNE INBAR**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
International Relations

**MAYA INBAR**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Linguistics & Cognitive Neuroscience

**ZOHAR KLEIN**  
University of Haifa  
Clinical Neuropsychology

**ZIV LEIBU**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**HAGIT LESHEM**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture

**DAPHNA LEVINE**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**YONI LIVNEH**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Hebrew Literature

**TAMER MOUR**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Computer Science

**TANYA NAZARETSKY**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Science Education

**RYAN POURATI**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**ROTEM ROZENBLAT**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Molecular Neurobiology

**SHAY SADOVSKY**  
Tel Aviv University  
Mathematics

**DANIELLE MILLER SAYAG**  
Tel Aviv University  
Bioinformatics

**OFER PRINZ SETTER**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Biotechnology

**GAL VISHNE**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Neuroscience

2019–2020

**AVIAD ABERDAM**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Electrical Engineering

**SHIREL BAKBANI ELKAYAM**  
University of Haifa  
Psychology

**KAREN LEE BAR-SINAI**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**SHRAGA BICK**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Comparative Religion

**ITAY BLOCH**  
Tel Aviv University  
Physics

**RÉMI DANIEL**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
International Relations

**SHIR FILO**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Neuroimaging

**OMER HAGGAG**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Chemistry

**OMER KNELLER**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Physics

**PETER LANCHIDI**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Jewish Thought

**JONATHAN LETZTER**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture

**NOAM MAEIR**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Comparative Religion

**TAL NAHARI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Cognitive Science

**PERLE NICOLLE-HASID**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Sociology & Anthropology

**SHILO OHAYON**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Biomedical Engineering

**MEYTAL RADZINSKI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Biological Chemistry

**SIGAL-HAVA ROTEM**  
University of Haifa  
Mathematics Education

**NOY SHEMESH**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Archaeology

**SHANI EVENSTEIN SIGALOV**  
Tel Aviv University  
Education Technology

**TIRZA WILLNER**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Education

**HADAS ZAHAVI**  
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

**SHAHAR DERY**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Chemistry

**HAGAI HILLEL DIAMANDI**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Electrical Engineering

**MICHAL DVIR**  
University of Haifa  
Education

**LOTEM ELBER-DOROZKO**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Computational Neuroscience

**MICHAL ERLICH**  
Tel Aviv University  
Indian Studies

**MICHAL FRIEDMAN**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Computer Science

**SHILAT HAIM-NACHUM**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Education

**LEORE HEIM**  
Tel Aviv University  
Neurophysiology

**ALON ISRAELI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Genetics

**JONATHAN JEFFET**  
Tel Aviv University  
Biophysics

**MERRYAN KRUPNIK MAJEROWITZ**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**ROY MAROM**  
University of Haifa  
Israel Studies

**ORIT NAFCHA**  
University of Haifa  
Psychology

**TOM SHAKED**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**KEREN SHOHAM**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**GAL SOFER**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Jewish Thought

**AVIV STEREN**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Management

**MIRJAM STRENG**  
Tel Aviv University  
Law

**ELLA TOVIA**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Talmud

**VANESSA WORKMAN**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Archaeology

**AYELET ZALIC**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Condensed Matter Physics

2017–2018

**RAN EITAN ABUTBUL**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Materials Science

**ELIRAN ARAZI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Social Anthropology

**GUY AUSTERN**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**IDIT BEN OR**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
History

**YONATAN CHEMLA**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Synthetic Biology

**ADI DORON**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Neuroscience

**KAREN YIRMIYA FELDSTEIN**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Psychology

**IFAT GAVISH**  
University of Haifa  
Education

**YUVAL GIVON**  
Tel Aviv University  
History

**IDAN HARITAN**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Quantum Chemistry

**OMER KARIN**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Systems Biology

**OHAD KOHN**  
Tel Aviv University  
Comparative Literature

**SHACHAR LIVNE**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Comparative Literature

**TOWIBAH MAJDOOB**  
Tel Aviv University  
Sociology

**LIHI MATZA**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**DAN MIKULINCER**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Mathematics

**NADAV OUTMEZGUINE**  
Tel Aviv University  
Physics

**NOA ROM**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Education

**YAIR SEGEV**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Chemical Physics

**HARAN SENED**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Psychology

**OHAD SOREK**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture

**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

**ARIELLE BLONDER**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**YUVAL RUBINSTEIN CHER**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**TALYA EDEN**  
Tel Aviv University  
Electrical Engineering

**MICHAL EISENBERG-BORD**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Molecular Genetics

**RACHEL GREGOR**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Chemistry

**ITAY GRINIASTY**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Physics

**ORI KATZ**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Sociology & Anthropology

**SHMUEL KATZ**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Mechanical Engineering

**GAL LAZARUS**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Psychology

**IDO LEVIN**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Physics

**MAAYAN NIDBACH**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Asian Studies

**NIRIT PILOSOFF**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**LOTEM PINCHOVER**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Art History

**SHARON SADAN-LEVY**  
University of Haifa  
Education

**BRIGITTA R. SCHVARCZ**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Linguistics

**YANIV SELA**  
Tel Aviv University  
Neuroscience

**IDO SIVAN SEVILLA**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Public Policy & Government

**ELLA ASSAF SHPAYER**  
Tel Aviv University  
Archaeology

**MARK SHUSTERMAN**  
Tel Aviv University  
Mathematics

**GAL DAR WASEL**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture



**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

**ALON DIAMENT CARMEL**  
Tel Aviv University  
Biomedical Engineering

**EREZ O. COHEN**  
Tel Aviv University  
Physics

**MICHAEL M. DANZIGER**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Physics

**VERONICA DUDAREV**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Psychology

**TOM DVIR**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Physics

**NATHAN GOLDSTEIN**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Economics

**BOAZ HAMEIRI**  
Tel Aviv University  
Psychology

**RUTHIE KAPLAN**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**SHIFRA LANSKY**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Biochemistry

**DEBORAH MARCIANO**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Psychology

**GABRIEL SCHWAKE**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture

**WISAM SEDAWI**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
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

**YAMIT LAZIMI**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**ZIV LEIBU**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture

**JONATHAN LETZTER**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture

**YUVAL PELED**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
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**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
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**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Architecture

**IFTACH DOLEV**  
Tel Aviv University  
Neurobiology

**NIR ERDINEST**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Neurobiology

**RAJA GIRYES**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Computer Science

**TALYA GOREN**  
University of Haifa  
Education

**EREZ KLAPPER**  
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

**EDNA LANGENTHAL**  
Tel Aviv University  
Architecture

**TAL MODAI-SNIR**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**TALI RAVEH-SADKA**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Computational Biology

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

**SHIRA SPRECHER-SEGALOVITZ**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Architecture

**HAIM SUCHOWSKI**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Physics



# Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellows

2025-2026

## Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellows

The 2025–2026 academic year marks the launch of the Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellowship. With this inaugural cohort, divided between the fall and spring semesters, the program brings outstanding doctoral students from around the world to Israel for a semester of research.

Selected through a highly competitive process, these exceptional scholars and scientists work alongside leading Israeli researchers, fostering international collaboration and strengthening academic ties. As members of the Azrieli Fellows community, they broaden their professional horizons, deepen their expertise, and build lasting connections across disciplines and borders.

### Fall Semester 2025

**Florian Höhe**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem | Low-temperature Physics  
**Agnes Maria Mani**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | Materials Science  
**Amelie Rossmaler**, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology | Social Psychology

### Spring Semester 2026

To be announced winter 2026

### ACADEMIC SELECTION COMMITTEE 2025–2026

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

<b>CHAIR:</b>	<b>Prof. Ariel Chipman</b> , The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
	<b>Dr. Saar Alon-Barkat</b> , University of Haifa
	<b>Prof. Omri Barak</b> , Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
	<b>Prof. Yonit Hochberg</b> , The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
	<b>Dr. Leeat Keren</b> , Weizmann Institute of Science
	<b>Prof. Ely Kovetz</b> , Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
	<b>Dr. Reut Naim</b> , Tel Aviv University
	<b>Prof. Shlomi Reuveni</b> , Tel Aviv University
	<b>Prof. Giddon Ticotsky</b> , The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY CONSULTANT**  
**Jenia Kelner**, MSW, Well Being Officer, Azrieli Fellows Program



**Azrieli  
International  
Postdoctoral  
Fellows**

2025-2026





# Academic Selection Committees

2025-2026

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

**EXACT SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Uri Banin**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Prof. Noa Agmon**, Bar-Ilan University  
**Prof. David Blanc**, University of Haifa  
**Prof. Anatoly Frenkel**, SUNY Stony Brook University  
**Prof. Ehud Nakar**, Tel Aviv University  
**Prof. Yinon Rudich**, Weizmann Institute of Science  
**Prof. Nir Tessler**, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

**LIFE SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Shulamit Michaeli**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Jonathan Belmaker**, Tel Aviv University  
**Prof. Sigal Ben-Yehuda**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
**Prof. Andreas Keller**, Saarland University  
**Prof. Kobi Rosenblum**, University of Haifa  
**Prof. Avi Schroeder**, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
**Prof. Schraga Schwartz**, Weizmann Institute of Science

**HUMANITIES COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Jonathan Ben-Dov**, Tel Aviv University

**Prof. Zvi Ben-Dor Benite**, New York University  
**Prof. Eitan Grossman**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
**Prof. Susan Lanser**, Brandeis University  
**Prof. Daniel Statman**, University of Haifa  
**Prof. Paola Tartakoff**, Rutgers University

**SOCIAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR:** **Prof. Eva Gilboa-Schechtman**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Nir Avieli**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
**Prof. David Dillenberger**, University of Pennsylvania  
**Prof. Ehud Sommer**, Tel Aviv University  
**Prof. Lea Wittenberg**, University of Haifa

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



# Francesco Gandellini

**Dr. Francesco Gandellini is a postdoctoral researcher in philosophy** whose work bridges historical insights with current debates. Francesco's research investigates the conditions under which philosophical discourse can be meaningful and what they imply for metaphysics, the inquiry into reality's most fundamental structure. By examining the views of Spinoza and those who follow in his tradition, he argues that metaphysicians' explanatory projects lack clear content and sheds light on what it means to "explain" in philosophy.

Francesco sheds light on what it means to "explain" in philosophy.

Francesco earned his PhD from the University of Southampton and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University. Originally from Mantova, Italy, he also works as a part-time journalist and has volunteered in film clubs and cultural events for non-specialist audiences. He enjoys long-distance cycling, devouring postmodern novels, and spending time with his two loves: Sara and Lea (the dog).



Photography: Raffaele Trivini

# Haftu Gebrekiros Alemayehu

**Dr. Haftu Gebrekiros Alemayehu is a physical chemist and postdoctoral researcher** specializing in the development of membrane materials for energy-efficient water purification. Haftu designs advanced filtering materials called metal-organic frameworks (MOFs), which are composed of tiny clusters of metals connected by organic molecules. These materials contain a network of microscopic pores that are capable of removing salts and contaminants from water. His research aims to create mechanically strong and water-stable MOF-based membranes that can clean water more effectively than current polymeric membranes, which are plastic-based filters that dominate modern desalination and purification processes.

Haftu aims to create mechanically strong and water-stable MOF-based membranes that can clean water more effectively than current polymeric membranes.

Haftu earned his MSc in physical chemistry from Arba Minch University and his PhD from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS). Originally from Tigray, Ethiopia, he served as an assistant professor at Arba Minch University, where he taught, mentored students, and led outreach initiatives. He has also volunteered as an international student representative at UCAS. When not working, Haftu enjoys playing badminton and football, as well as reading.





# Farah Hasan

**Dr. Farah Hasan is a sociologist and postdoctoral researcher** who studies contemporary Islam, especially in online discussions and Western countries. Her research looks at how Muslims think about dating and intimacy. She uses qualitative sociological and ethnographic methods to explore how Muslims apply Islamic ideas in their daily lives and how these religious traditions change over time.

**Farah's research explores how Muslims apply Islamic ideas in their daily lives and how these religious traditions change over time.**

Farah earned her BA in history from SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) University of London and her MA in global studies and PhD in philosophy from Humboldt University of Berlin. Originally from London, she has studied and worked in Germany, Japan, South Africa, India, and the Philippines. She has volunteered at various Christian and Muslim organizations in Munich and Berlin. Farah enjoys visiting museums, exhibitions, and cultural events. She also loves exploring nature through bicycling and hiking.



# Paweł Matus

**Dr. Paweł Matus is a postdoctoral researcher specializing in condensed matter physics.** He develops theoretical models to explore unconventional ways electric currents flow in quantum materials—solids whose behaviour is governed by quantum mechanics in striking and unusual ways. For instance, in some newly engineered materials, electrons move hydrodynamically—like water or honey—while in others, the current scales with higher powers of voltage (such as its square or cube) rather than being directly proportional to it, violating Ohm's law. By uncovering the mechanisms behind these behaviours, his work supports the design of materials that could enable more energy-efficient solar cells and high-frequency electronic devices.

**Paweł's work supports the design of materials that could enable more energy-efficient solar cells and high-frequency electronic devices.**

Paweł earned his BSc and MSc from Jagiellonian University and completed his PhD at the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems. Originally from Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Poland, he now lives in Tel Aviv. Outside of work, he likes swimming, hiking, reading, and studying the history of different cultures and ideas.





# Hannah Mayne

**Dr. Hannah Mayne is a socio-cultural anthropologist and postdoctoral researcher** working on the political dimensions of contemporary Jewish life. She is undertaking a new project on Jewish emergency medical volunteers in Montreal, Canada, and Jerusalem. The study will investigate biomedical treatment as a form of pious practice and compare how religious first responders negotiate the provision of intimate care across gender, cultural, and political differences. This research will offer a comparative window onto diaspora and Israeli Orthodox civil societies.

**Hannah's research will offer a comparative window into Jewish Orthodox civil societies in the diaspora and in Israel.**

Hannah completed an IBA (International BA) in anthropology and dance from York University, an MA in anthropology from the University of Florida, and her PhD at the University of Toronto. She is originally from Ottawa, Canada. Prior to her academic studies, Hannah travelled in Asia and Oceania and volunteered on projects supporting women's health. She likes to adventure outdoors with her partner and two children.



Photography: Kathryn Maxwell

# Nicolas Perez

**Dr. Nicolas Perez is a physicist and postdoctoral researcher** whose work focuses on the dynamics of *Rhopilema nomadica* jellyfish—or nomadic jellyfish—swarms in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. These swarms occur regularly, yet the interplay between marine currents and the swimming behaviour that drives their complex collective motion remains poorly understood. By combining physics, numerical simulations, and direct observations of how jellyfish respond to their environment, Nicolas aims to develop models to uncover the mechanisms behind swarming phenomena and better understand their formation and evolution.

**Nicolas aims to better understand the formation and evolution of the swarming dynamics of nomadic jellyfish.**

Originally from a village in eastern France, Nicolas earned an MSc in physics from the École Normale Supérieure d'Ulm and a PhD from the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon. He currently lives in Tel Aviv with his wife and their dog. Outside the lab, he is a language enthusiast and enjoys cinema, cooking (and eating afterwards), swimming, and spending time with his family and friends.





# Alma Carolina Sanchez Rocha

**Dr. Alma Carolina Sanchez Rocha is a biologist and postdoctoral researcher** studying how genes are regulated. Her research focuses on transcription factors—proteins that help turn genes on or off—and specifically explores how certain flexible protein regions, known as intrinsically disordered regions, quickly and accurately find their specific DNA targets in the genome. Current scientific models have not fully explained this process, so she is developing new methods to visualize and understand the structures involved.

Alma is developing new methods to visualize and understand the structures involved in how intrinsically disordered regions quickly and accurately find their specific DNA targets in the genome.

Carolina earned her BSc in biology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and her PhD from Charles University. Originally from Mexico City, she currently lives in Rehovot. Carolina is passionate about science communication and actively organizes international meetings on proteins and their structures and functions. She also enjoys spending time with her family, visiting art museums worldwide, and learning about art history.



# Lucian Scharenberg

**Dr. Lucian Scharenberg is a postdoctoral researcher in the field of particle physics and particle detection.** He explores the processes within particle detectors, as well as how the interactions of fundamental particles can be observed with these detectors. To do this, he developed new detector technologies, worked on novel readout electronics and data acquisition systems, and characterized the performance of particle detection systems. While the main use of Lucian's developments is fundamental research, technology transfer enabled their application in materials science and medical applications.

Lucian explores the processes within particle detectors and how the interactions of fundamental particles can be observed with these detectors.

Lucian received a BSc, MSc, and PhD in physics from the University of Bonn, with his PhD work being performed at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). He is from Siegburg, Germany, and now resides in Rehovot. Away from his desk, he enjoys cooking, playing the piano, and spending time with his family.





# Eleonora Vanzan

**Dr. Eleonora Vanzan is a postdoctoral researcher in cosmology.** She studies the clustering pattern of galaxies on very large scales—so large that galaxies appear as dots. Galaxy clustering offers critical insights into fundamental physics questions, such as the presence of new particles, what the early universe looked like, and what the universe is made of. Her current focus is on the nature of dark matter, which makes up roughly 85 per cent of the total matter in the universe. Dark matter plays a key role in the universe's evolution and the formation of structures within it, yet the identity of dark matter remains one of nature's greatest mysteries. Eleonora's research aims to recognize the properties of different dark matter candidates on cosmological scales.

**Eleonora's research aims to recognize the properties of different dark matter candidates on cosmological scales.**

Originally from Italy, Eleonora received a PhD in physics from the University of Padova. Currently, she lives in Tel Aviv. When not doing calculations, she loves travelling with her camera, playing the piano, and climbing.



# Laurie Venters

**Dr. Laurie Venters is a postdoctoral researcher in ancient history** with a strong focus on the lived experiences of enslaved people in the early Roman Empire. His current work explores how the expansion of long-distance human trafficking—from around 100 BCE to 100 CE—shaped Roman ideas about racial difference. Specifically, he investigates how physical features such as skin colour, hair texture, facial structure, and height were used to construct a sense of Otherness around enslaved individuals brought to Italy during this period.

**Laurie investigates how physical features were used to construct a sense of Otherness around enslaved individuals brought to Italy from around 100 BCE to 100 CE.**

Laurie completed a BA in history at Royal Holloway, University of London, followed by an MA in ancient history at Leiden University and a PhD in ancient history at the University of Bonn. He previously held a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Fondazione 1563 per l'Arte e la Cultura. Before beginning his academic career, Laurie worked as an English teacher in Beijing, China.





# Tingchang Yin

**Dr. Tingchang Yin is a hydrogeologist and postdoctoral researcher** studying how pollutants move underground, especially in complex environments where they travel through tiny voids in rocks and soil. Using advanced computer simulations and creative scientific methods, he aims to better understand how underground structures affect pollution spread and to support more effective environmental solutions.

**Tingchang aims to support more effective environmental solutions by better understanding how underground structures affect pollution spread.**

Tingchang earned his BSc and MSc from Guangxi University and a PhD in environmental science and engineering from Zhejiang University. He was born and still lives in Guilin, China, known for its stunning landscapes. Tingchang has volunteered to design campus maps for new students. He enjoys playing basketball, making friends, exploring new experiences, and embracing fresh ideas.



# Kang-Kang Zhang

**Dr. Kang-Kang Zhang is a postdoctoral researcher in electrical engineering.** His primary research interests include control problems of time-delay systems and nonholonomic mechanical systems—systems whose motion is restricted by velocity constraints, such as rolling wheels or robotic vehicles. Kang-Kang is working on using time delays to address control problems in nonholonomic mechanical systems, aiming to achieve outcomes that are difficult or even impossible to realize with traditional delay-free feedback (such as high-precision control).

**Kang-Kang addresses control problems in nonholonomic mechanical systems, aiming to achieve outcomes that are difficult or even impossible to realize with traditional delay-free feedback.**

Kang-Kang grew up in Anhui, China. He received his BSc from Anhui University of Science and Technology, and his MSc and PhD from Harbin Institute of Technology. After obtaining his PhD, he worked as a research assistant at the University of Hong Kong, and later as a postdoctoral researcher at KU Leuven. In his spare time, he enjoys running and playing badminton.





Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellows

2024-2025

**RALUCA BALAN**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Educational Psychology

**KAY MALTE BISCHOF**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
History of Philosophy

**JUSTINE BOUTRY**  
Tel Aviv University  
Evolution

**MAXIMILIAN DE MOLIÈRE**  
University of Haifa  
History of Religion

**KATJA IROB**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Ecology

**MARINA KHACHATURYAN**  
Tel Aviv University  
Cancer

**MAXIMILIAN KIRSCHHOCK**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Neurobiology

**REBEKKA LAMBRECHT**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Immunology

**ALESSANDRO LENOCI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Astroparticle Physics

**LUKAS LIEHR**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Functional Analysis

**EVA FRANCESCA MARTELOTTA**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Archaeozoology

**YUFENG MENG**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Materials Science

**RADU MUSTATA**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Christianity

**MINGZI NIU**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Operations Research

**ZUZANA OSIFOVÁ**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Biophysics

**EUGENIA PYURBEEVA**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Quantum Electronics

**ANJA REUSCH**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Natural Language Processing

**ALESSANDRA SIVO**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Catalysis

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

**MARIA MARTIGNONI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Ecology & Evolutionary Behaviour

**NICCOLÒ NEGRO**  
Tel Aviv University  
Philosophy

**BOGLÁRKA NYÚL**  
Tel Aviv University  
Psychology

**VLADIMIR OLIVERO**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jewish Studies

**CHRISTINA RIEMENSCHNEIDER**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Molecular Biology

**ZACHARY SERCEL**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Chemistry

**CHIARA TRAMONTANO**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Biotechnology

**PENGFEI WANG**  
Tel Aviv University  
Physics

**PASCALE ZWICKY**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Immunology

2022-2023

**EDUARDO ARLÉ**  
Tel Aviv University  
Marine Biology

**STEFANO BAIGUERA**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Theoretical Physics

**CARLOS BRAVO-LAGUNA**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Public Policy

**ROLANDO CARBONARI**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Geology

**REMI CASIER**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Chemistry

**MAAYAN COHEN**  
Tel Aviv University  
Anthropology

**MILICA DENIĆ**  
Tel Aviv University  
Linguistics

**ALEXANDER DUTHIE**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Physics

**GWENAËL FERRANDO**  
Tel Aviv University  
Theoretical Physics

**EUGENIO GAROSI**  
University of Haifa  
Islamic Studies

**MAXIMILIAN KNOTT**  
Tel Aviv University  
Genomics

**SARAH LIBANORE**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Theoretical Physics

**ALLA MARCHENKO**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Anthropology

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

**EVGENIA MITSOU**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Materials Science

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

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

**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

**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

**CETHAN KAMATH**  
Tel Aviv University  
Cryptography

**DANIEL KIRSCHENBAUM**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Immunology

**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

**THIERRY SLOT**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Chemistry

**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

**Yael MACHTINGER**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Law

**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

**JERRY ALFRED FERREIRO**  
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

**DESIREE TILLO**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Genomics

**ANAT ZAIDMAN-ZAIT**  
Tel Aviv University  
Education

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







# Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellows

## Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellows

Launched in 2015, the Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellowship was designed to meet a critical need in Israeli academia—supporting outstanding new faculty members mostly returning from postdoctoral research overseas, at the very start of their tenure-track careers. Recruitment and selection took place before Fellows assumed their positions, ensuring they could begin with resources in hand from day one. This timing gave the fellowship a powerful, career-shaping impact, enabling Fellows to establish their research groups, launch ambitious projects, and gain early momentum.

Across ten years and ten cohorts, the fellowship supported 77 exceptional scholars and scientists, with an estimated direct contribution of over 100 million Israeli shekels. More than a grant, it fostered academic excellence, groundbreaking research, and the development of Israel’s next generation of leading scholars. It promoted interdisciplinary collaboration, leadership, and community engagement, establishing itself as a recognized and prestigious part of Israel’s academic landscape.

Following the introduction of the Israel Science Foundation’s Beresheet Program—a national initiative designed to attract leading researchers from abroad—the Azrieli Fellows Program will phase out this track, having achieved its intended goals. We continue to support our current Fellows and alumni, maintaining our commitment to those in the program.



Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellows

2024-2025

**GILAD BARSHAD**  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology  
Genomics

**ROTEM BOTVINIK NEZER**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Cognitive Psychology and Brain Science

**SHACHAR CARMELI**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Geometry and Topology

**SHANY DANIELI**  
Tel Aviv University  
Astrophysics and Cosmology

**IDAN FRUMKIN**  
Tel Aviv University  
Molecular Evolution

**DANIEL FUKS**  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Archaeobotany and Ancient Environments

**SHILAT HAIM-NACHUM**  
Tel Aviv University  
Trauma & Violence

**ODED PADON**  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
Programming Languages

**PAUL SHARP**  
Bar-Ilan University  
Cognitive Psychology and Brain Science

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

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



# The Azrieli Fellows Program Team

---



**Aviad Stollman**  
Global Director  
aviad@azrieli.org



**Rochelle Avitan**  
Program Director  
rochelle@azrieli.org



**Ceighley Cribb**  
Campaign Manager  
ceighley@azrieli.org



**Julie Mattos-Hall**  
Fellowship Manager  
julie@azrieli.org



**Tal Mordoch**  
Admissions Manager  
tal.m@azrieli.org



**Yael Bar David**  
Events and Administrative  
Coordinator  
yael@azrieli.org



**Jenia Kelner**  
Well Being Officer  
jenia@azrieli.org



**Assaf Levinton Jeshurun**  
Programming Coordinator  
assaf@azrieli.org



**Dafna Sofrin-Frumer**  
Analyst and Project Manager  
dafna.frumer@azrieli.org



