It is my pleasure to submit my candidacy for a Postdoctoral Associate position under a Fox International Fellowship.

I had the honor of being a Fox Fellow in 2011–2012 and spending an additional year at Yale as a visiting assistant in research within the Sociology Department. From the personal standpoint, during that time I made lifelong friends and established a network of connections at Yale and elsewhere. I learned how to write an academic article thanks to courses that I took at the Writing Center and advice that I received from Professor Julia Adams, who then was the academic coordinator for the Fox Fellows. I learned how to prepare and give an academic presentation in English thanks to courses in English for foreign students and a weekly seminar for Fellows that was exceptionally empowering. There I also learned my research strengths and weaknesses and the corrections I had to make to improve my research. I had the honor of interviewing people whom I would not have been privileged to meet had I not been at Yale, including outside lecturers and professors such as Prof. Thomas Pogge and Prof. Shelly Kagen of the Department of Philosophy, Prof. Ann Hatwai and Prof. Michael Reisman of the Yale Law School; General (Ret.) Stanley McCrystal, a Senior Fellow at the Jackson Institute, and Prof. Scott Boorman of the Sociology Department, among others. I also held lengthy discussions with a young man from Afghanistan who had fought alongside United States and the Northern Alliance against that country’s Taliban regime; he had come to Yale on a Yale World Fellowship. The services of the university’s library were also of much help to me.

The second year of my stay at Yale as a Visiting Assistant in Research was also most beneficial. I continued working on my dissertation and received abundant good advice from Prof. Scott Boorman of the Sociology Department and from Prof. Adams.

My term at Yale definitely gave me the best academic toolkit that I could ask for.

My doctoral studies concerned democracies’ warfare against terror and guerrilla organizations. As part of my research, I developed a doctrine of universal ethics that will help all democracies to fight these kinds of organizations. For this, I received a prize for outstanding research work on terror. In its decision, the panel of judges wrote:

It is one of the most important topics that occupy countries throughout the Western world that are fighting terror—the lack of a doctrinal framework for the war on terror. Lurking in the background of these matters is the democracies’ unrelenting struggle to find the optimal balance between national security and upholding human rights as they fight terror and guerrilla activity. This professional, innovative work also includes important applied aspects that may definitely be helpful for decision-makers in Israel and the world over […].

Because I truly believe in combining theoretical and applied research, I chose, in the first stage of my career, to take up a research position at one of the research institutes of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Israel—the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), one of the world’s leading academic institutes for counter-terrorism. It is a joint forum where international policymakers and scholars can share information and expertise through research papers, situation reports, and academic publications for worldwide distribution that discuss global and regional issues of security and defense in order to better facilitate the exchange of perspectives, information, and proposals for policy action.

In my capacity at ICT, I write position papers, perform independent and team studies on diverse matters related to national security and war on terror, and take part in, and sometimes lead, projects for various entities such as government ministries, the Israel Prisons Service, CTED, and NATO, and so on. International students in advanced training take part in many of these projects; it is my duty to brief them and process the materials that they submit. I also perform initial filtering of articles that outside researchers and colleagues wish to publish on the ICT site. In addition, I assist and steward advance trainees in specific matters that relate to their research proposals and the theses that they have to present to their parent universities.

In addition to its permanent, researchers, ICT has over than 100 Fellows who retired from the military, the police, the government service, and so on, as well as Research Fellows. One of my tasks is to manage them. Within this framework, I help to organize conferences, lead round-table study groups, edit papers, and so on.

Concurrently, I advise students in writing seminar papers in security-related courses at the Open University of Israel. Students need to understand the essentials of writing a paper and of proper writing from the outset of their baccalaureate studies. This, I believe, is the key to success in academia and also, generally speaking, to satisfaction with the writing that they produce.

I also give lectures to various audiences and have occasionally been interviewed by the media on matters related to counter-terror and ethics.

As someone who appreciates the importance of “active citizenship,” I engage in volunteering and am involved in the activities of various entities, some at the municipal level, that are intended to enhance residents’ lives. For example, I am a member of the education committee in the town where I live, which engages in matters of local-level education policy and the nexus of education and community. I also lecture on a volunteer basis at a junior-high school on topics related to ethics and coping with terror. I am a member of a municipal council of women that strives to place on the public agenda various issues and initiatives related to the range of women residents’ needs, some at international and international levels. I volunteer for an association called “Larger than Life,” which helps children with cancer, by organizing donation days, an annual gala evening event, and so on. I belong to entities that contribute to productive dialogue on complex challenges such as integrating women into the field of security, one that is essentially considered masculine. One such entity is the Devora Forum, which promotes women’s integration into the field of security and foreign policy in Israel by establishing a network of women experts in this domain, in the spirit of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. I also represent Israel vis-à-vis the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) Task Force, Woman Peace and Security. The task force is dedicated to empowering women and supporting balanced gender inclusiveness the field of security and defense. Its aim is to preparing background materials and analyses on the issue and providing ATA, NATO and governments with recommendations on this subject.

During my term as a Fox Fellow, my family (husband and twin children who were three and a half years old when I reached Yale) stayed with me. Thus I also had the opportunity of getting to know daily life in New Haven and immersing myself and being active in the community, e.g., by joining the parents’ committee of my children’s preschool and by giving lectures at the Jewish community center.

This time, too, I intend to come with my husband and my four children (the twelve-year-old twins, a six-year-old son, and a three-year-old daughter). It would be a delightful thing to return to the place that gave me such pleasant memories. I intend to enroll my children in preschools and junior-high and to enlist my older children in sports groups—one plays in a soccer league and the other enjoys competitive tennis—and to be involved in community activity again. My husband is an accountant and an attorney. As in our previous day in New Haven, when he worked as an accountant, he now has the option of working while being the mostly at-home spouse, giving me the time to do what my post-doc position will require of me.

In the course of my future year at Yale, I wish to research and publish one article and, if success and time permit, to write another article on the basis of my dissertation. Both articles concern ethics and security. The main article will discuss the impact of the future military use of automatic robots in counter-terror on battlefield ethics. Within this broad topic, I will ask whether it is possible to produce a universal code of ethics for the robot on the battlefield and, insofar as the answer is yes, what the principles of such a code would be. The combination of AI and ethics, I believe, is immensely important today as armies make use of semi-automatic robots, and will be all the more important when they begin to use fully automatic robots—which, once their mission is defined and they are sent into action, cannot be stopped.

As the year progresses, I intend to apply for membership in the Technology and Ethics study group at the Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics. I signed up for the Center’s circulation list more than a year ago and I found its works immensely useful. The group’s area of concern is direly needed and may contribute much to my studies.

The second article that I will write on the basis of my dissertation, time permitting, will compare two case studies in which states with different democratic profiles fought terror and guerrilla organizations—Israel against Hamas in Operation Cast Lead (2009) and Sri Lanka against the Tamil Tigers in the fourth Tamil-Eelam War (2009). Each case study will examine the roots of the conflict in question and the major military steps taken in its course. In addition, each case study will review the major steps taken during the conflict and will ask, on the basis of the parameters of Just War theory and international law, whether each of the states can maintain its military effectiveness while upholding the legitimacy of its actions in the eyes of the international community.

In sum, I believe that this year will be of much utility for me and am confident of my ability to discharge, in the best possible way, the range of duties that the post entails—advising students, giving a seminar, and helping the academic director of the program as required.

I would be most grateful for the privilege of visiting you once again, this time as a post-doc, and of re-encountering the people at the Fox Fellowship who made my stay at Yale so amazing, particularly Julia Muravnik.

I would be pleased to give back to Fox Fellows what I have received from you, since I truly consider this fellowship a unique instrument that helps to make young people into leaders.