To whom it may concern,

I am writing to apply for the position of *Israel Studies Review* editor. I might flatter myself here, for which I apologize in advance, yet such is the nature of applying for a position. I will begin with my vision for the future of *Israel Studies Review.*

I am a devoted reader of the journal. In my experience as reader, writer and peer reviewer it maintains high academic standards and prestige among researchers.

If appointed to the position I will aspire to strengthen the journal so that it will be the place for the best research literature about Israel. In order to achieve this I will first of all strive to widen the circle of its writers and readers to include different disciplines, faculties and universities in Israel and around the world.

Israel is a focus of public and academic interests. Articles about Israel can be found in journals dealing with History, the Middle East, Sociology, Jewish Studies, Palestine Studies, Political Science and more. My primary goal is to encourage talented writers who are writing about Israel but have avoided publishing in a journal to want to first of all publish in *Israel Studies Review.*

My goal is to widen the variety of subjects and contributors. In order to open the journal up to good researchers and papers, I will use the range of academic connections that I have built in Israel and the world (as you can see from my resume I am a member of various forums and associations) in order to encourage writers to send *Israel Studies Review* their best work. In this context, I will open the journal to guest editors from different disciplines and universities in order to strengthen interest in our work. I think that the younger generation has an advantage in bringing new researchers into the journal’s orbit. One of the ways of doing this is by broadening the circle of peer reviewers.

In addition, I see the journal as a platform for both historical and contemporary discussions. Israel is a dynamic society undergoing a process of rapid change, and themed editions dealing with processes still not fully expressed in the research literature will contribute to the journal’s thriving. I am currently working on two articles about the Mizrachification of Israeli society and historical/sociological/cultural changes taking place in the Israeli right and the settlements. Both these topics could be themes for an edition of the journal.

I would aspire for the journal to combine articles built on empirical date with illuminating essays. The literature section could also be expanded to include movie reviews, television programs and even podcasts dealing with Israel. In this regard it is impossible to ignore the clear phenomenon over the last few years, namely the transition from the textual field to the documentary field in historical work; this can be explained by the reduction in reading patterns, alongside the preservation of interest in compelling historical and sociological literature.

Since I also occasionally write opinion articles for *Ha’aretz*, I can use my connections at the newspaper in order to publicize relevant studies there and in the wider media.

I will not expand on all my plans, and obviously ideas would develop after I begin the job, but at the heart of my vision is the goal of broadening the range of writers and increasing the range of perspectives and subjects while preserving academic excellence. In this regard, occasional collaboration with writers from different journals, for example journals dealing with Palestine Studies, and relevant internet platforms can be beneficial. I will also try to secure backing for *Israel Studies Review* from a respected university body, as is customary with other journals.

Regarding my suitability for the position, I have been part of the world of letters since I completed my army service. I started out as a journalist and then moved into academia. Since my doctorate was approved in 2014 I have published in Hebrew, English and Arabic in different platforms and on a variety of subjects, including right-wing Zionism, Ben-Gurion, the Canaanite movement, religion and spirituality, Israeli leadership and more. My research focus is right-wing Zionism, but I have also begun to deal with the Zionist (Ben-Gurion) and Progessive left (Beilin and Meretz). My three books are based on archival research, which I have enjoyed tremendously, but having completed my doctorate in the Faculty of Political Science, I have also dabbled in the social sciences.

I have already written three books covering the dominant streams in Zionism and Israeli politics. The first is a biography of Menachem Begin, which was published by Yale University Press. I wrote it before I had completed my doctorate, which dealt with the attitude of Revisionist leaders to Judaism, an issue of unparalleled relevance to Israeli politics and sociology. The Begin biography was a finalist for the Jewish Books Council award, and is now used as a textbook on the subject. I wrote *Ben-Gurion: His Later Years in the Political Wilderness* at the same time as my doctorate.

My new book, *The Decline of the Left Wing in Israel: Yossi Beilin and the Politics of the Peace Process,* came out a few months ago. I will not go into detail here about my published articles, which you can see in my resume, but I will note that the subjects I have chosen for my books are relevant to my abilities as an editor. When I decided to write about Menachem Begin, there was no fully researched biography, in English or in Hebrew, about one of the most important figures in right-wing circles and Zionist/Israeli history. In this regard, my biography played a pioneering role in inspiring research on the Israeli right, an extremely important development in light of what has been happening in Israel (and the world) over the last few decades.

When I began writing about the last years of Ben-Gurion’s life, the academic committee at the Am Oved publishing house wondered who would be interested in the topic, but the book also inspired new research into Israel’s founding father and has been followed by a number of good articles by other researchers over the last decade. A documentary film was made about the book and a number of quality biographies and monographs have been written about Ben-Gurion over the last few years. I am proud of the contribution I have made to this renewal of interest in Ben-Gurion. I think that the subjects of my books demonstrate an ability to identify and blaze new trails in the writing of Israeli history and that this is also an advantage as an editor.

As mentioned, my areas of research are varied. I have written extensively about relations between Mizrachim and Ashkenazim, both in academic and public forums. I have written about the post-1967 Canaanite movement; my first research article was about the first links between Ben-Gurion and Buddhism; and soon I will publish my article about Jabotinsky’s attitudes to religion in the prestigious journal “...” - this article will show that, contrary to traditional perceptions, he had a spiritual/religious position.

The versatility of my research sometimes makes it difficult for me personally, but it is an advantage as an editor. My familiarity with the different shades of ideological traditions in the Zionist movement and Israeli politics, and my proficiency in various fields, has led me to peer reviewer positions in various journals and platforms, and this would of course be beneficial as *Israel Studies Journal* editor.

While English is not my mother tongue, I write and speak it fluently, and it will of course improve. I am currently completing the first year of a three-year position as guest at New York Univeristy. Also relevant to my suitability for the position is my teaching ability and my ability to choose appropriate materials for a syllabus: the ratings for my teaching at NYU is extremely high. Although it is still the start of my career, I have already taught in China, New York, Ben-Gurion University, the Hebrew university, and before that in college. Last year I won an award for being one of the outstanding lecturers in the Hebrew University’s Faculty of Social Sciences. In addition, I lecture regularly on a variety of subjects at different academic and public venues. I raise this because it has also shown evidence of my editing ability and accessibility for readers.

I enjoy working with other colleagues and, as mentioned, I have done this in a variety of fora around the world. I would be happy to establish and lead a strong team to take the journal forward.

Finally, while I am reluctant to mention this as a reason to promote my candidacy, it is important to note that, at a time when diversity is so important, I think that the fact I am one of the first generation in the academy of people whose parents made aliyah from Iraq is an advantage. Despite the fact that having an academic appointment is one of the conditions for the position, and I am still working towards that, at a time when there are fewer jobs available there are advantages in having an editor who is less established and from a younger generation. In any case I would be happy to work alongside any editor you choose.

In summary, I think my qualifications and plans for the journal demonstrate that I am a strong candidate who would take the *Israel Studies Review* forward. I am committed to devoting my time to the journal for at least five years, and I am happy to take on the responsibilities that come with the role.