**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND ACADEMIC INTERESTS**

* I have extensive experience in the study of contested spaces, cultural heritage and ethnonational majority-minority relationships within deeply divided cities.
* Within these research fields, I have a particular interest in land allocation planning, housing rights, the management of cultural heritage and cultural tourism development within UNESCO world heritage cites.
* I aim to advance my understanding of these research areas through doctoral study with an expert at a world-leading institute.

**EDUCATION**

**2012-2018 MA, The School of Political Science, University of Haifa, Israel**

**Class grade 95%, Thesis grade grade 97%**

Thesis: *'Privatisation of Space, the Production of Cultural Heritage in Acre Old City and The Influence on Political Alienation among Arab-Palestinians*.'

My MA thesis investigated the privatisation of state assets, including public housing, and the production of cultural heritage and cultural tourism in the context of ethnonational contestation over urban space and cultural heritage. I examined how these policies impacted political alienation among ethnonational minority groups. As a case study, I analysed the old city of Acre in northern Israel, which is recognised as a world heritage site by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. Research skills included: conducting semi-constructed in-depth interviews with 25 different interviewees, and qualitative content analyses of planning, legal and policy documents.

The thesis was judged very favourably by the external reviewer, Prof. Yousef Jabareen, of the Urban and Regional Planning Department in the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology). Prof. Jabareen indicated that the study is worthy of publication in a respected international academic journal such as ‘Space and Polity’ and recommended that the thesis be broadened into a doctorate.

Relevant modules:

* The Israeli political system (grade 100%).
* Israeli regime in democratic theory' (grade 99%).
* State majority and minority in Israel (grade 94%).

Modules that demonstrate diverse research interests:

* State, majority, and minority in Israel (grade 94%): Researched and wrote a long-form term paper, *'The struggle for political hegemony between the religious-communal approach and the civil-political approach in civil society organisations of Arab women: An equation between two women's organisations*.'
* Research workshop (grade 96%): Researched and wrote a research proposal, *'The role of workers' organisations in the transition to democracy in authoritarian regimes: a comparison between the labour movements in Tunisia and Egypt*.'
* Israeli regime in democratic theory (grade 99%): Researched and gave an extended class presentation (*referat*), '*Capitalism and democracy between the realisation of the right to private property and political equality—the struggle over the natural gas market in Israel*.'

**2006-2008 Master of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Haifa, Israel**

**Class grade 86%**

Relevant modules:

* Law, geography and ethnic conflict (grade 95%).
* Local government law: principles and forms (grade 88%).
* Law and society (grade 84%).

Modules that demonstrate diverse research interests:

* The concept of dangerousness in law (grade 93%**)**: Researched and wrote a long-form term paper: *'The nationality and entry law (temporary order 2003): between dangerousness and demographic considerations.'*
* Colloquium on law and the territories (grade 85%): Researched and gave an extended class presentation (*referat*): *'The siege on Gaza from an international law perspective.'*
* Multiculturalism and equality (grade 82%): Wrote a long-form term paper, *'The Israeli Law of Return - a philosophical and political discourse.'*

1998-2001 **Bachelor of Law**, **Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

**Class grade 74.45%**

Modules that demonstrate diverse research interests:

* Legal and social norms (grade 90%): Researched and wrote a long-form term paper, ADD TITLE
* Democracy and neutrality (grade 89%): Researched and wrote a long-form term paper, 'The legal status of homosexuals in Israeli law.'

**RESEARCH SKILLS**

* **In-depth interviewing:** I have experience in conducting lengthy, in-depth open interviews, as well as in-depth semi-structured interviews.
* **Qualitative content analyses:** Identifying themes and separating texts into major and minor categories, content analysis of planning, legal and policy documents.
* **Presenting/lecturing:** I have presented research to various audiences, including delivering lectures to political science students at Haifa University and to activist groups.
* **Academic discussions:** I have participated in academic reading groups including the "Gray Spaces" group at Ben Gurion University, and in the 'Ofek Hadash' shared leadership academic program.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**2011-present Heritage preservation project management experience**

I work as a private lawyer and co-manager at a heritage preservation project in the Byzantine old village of Mi'ilya ("The King`s Castle"), which has a team of 10-15 staff. My role focuses on legal administrative matters, advertising, and marketing. I also work with the architect on design issues.

**2012- 2013 Legal research experience**

I worked as a legal researcher at the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in Nazareth, Israel. Within this framework, I authored a detailed report examining cultural heritage conservation, cultural heritage tourism development and social neglect, which involved interviewing activists and analysing development planning and housing policy documentation

**2007-2010 Advocacy and coordination experience**

I worked as a lawyer and coordinator at the Jaffa Popular Committee for Land Allocation and Housing Rights in Jaffa, Israel.

In this capacity, I offered legal services to local residents who were experiencing housing problems, usually demolition or evacuation orders. As a coordinator, I successfully organised the collective work of around 25 committee members, arranged weekly meetings, conferences and public protest activities, and represented the committee before local and national authorities, including the Israel Land Authority and the Urban Planning Public Participation Committee. I also collaborated with other human rights NGOs working on the same issues, including Bimkom and Shatil.

I developed and utilised skills in managing activists, advocating before local and national authorities, representing people before legal authorities, arranging meetings and conferences, and representing the organisation in a variety of media outlets, including magazines (print and online), radio and television. The impact of my contribution to the committee was to provide it with legal services and a dedicated coordinator for the first time. I also managed the creation of a non-profit company to present the interests of the committee.

**2006-2007 Legal Researcher, Adalah (The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights), Shefa 'Amr, Israel**

I reorganised and refined legal material published on Adalah's website.

**2001-2005 Pre-internship, Internship & Senior Lawyer, Saleem Wakeem & Co Nahariya, Israel**

I specialised in civil, land and property law at this private law office.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Non-peer reviewed / non-refereed publications**

Assaf, R. 2014 'Acre a City of Development and Neglect.' *The Arab Association for Human Rights*, Nazareth, Israel.

**Works in progress**

An article on the cultural heritage production with Dr. Ramez Eid (anthropologist).

**Other**

Contributed to the report, *'Dwelling Crisis among the Palestinian Community in Jaffa. The End of Protected Housing in the Development Authority Properties*.' 2009. Bimkom: Planners for Planning Rights and the Planning with Community Laboratory at the Technion.

**PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

2019-present: Israel Political Science Association ISPSA

2010: Israeli Chess Federation

2002-present: Israeli Bar (license no. 34037)

**LANGUAGES**

Native Arabic, fluent Hebrew and English (spoken and written)

**TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Highly proficient in a range of office software for PC and Mac, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Familiar with SPSS statistics software, Atlas qualitative data analysis & research software, Refworks and Endnote reference management softwares.

**OTHER INTERESTS AND SKILL**S

* Member of the al-Bassa committee (al-Bassa is an uprooted Palestinian village in the north of Israel). Activities included organising and developing a photo gallery for the 2015 *Sons of al-Bassa* conference in Israel.
* Volunteered with a 2018 archaeological delegation from the University of Haifa at excavations that uncovered a Byzantine winery near the King`s castle in Mi'ilya.
* Member of the Mi'ilya chess club and a chess teacher.
* member of the following reading groups: `coffee talk`, `Haifa book surfing,` and `the one-state solution.`
* Hobbies include swing dance, basketball, chi kung, drawing, painting, sewing and pottery. I am an "access bars" facilitator and practice transcendental meditation on a regular basis.

**ACADEMIC REFEREES**

* Prof. Asad Ghanem, School of Political Science, University of Haifa, Israel ([ghanemasad@poli.haifa.ac.il](mailto:ghanemasad@poli.haifa.ac.il)). Thesis supervisor.
* Prof. Daphna Canetti, Head of School of Political Science, University of Haifa, Israel (dcanetti@poli.haifa.ac.il).
* Dr. Doron Navot, School of Political Science, University of Haifa, Israel (dnavot@poli.haifa.ac.il).
* Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor School of Political Science, University of Haifa, Israel ([bendor@poli.haifa.ac.il](mailto:bendor@poli.haifa.ac.il)).
* Dr. Yousef Jabareen, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, The Technion--Israel Institute of Technology ([jabareen@technion.ac.il](mailto:jabareen@technion.ac.il)). External thesis reviewer.