Feb, 2020

To: Search Committee for Lecturer in Science & Technology Studies

Graduate Program in Science, Technology & Society

Bar Ilan University

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for a position of Lecturer in Science & Technology Studies. I received my PhD in February 2020 from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Currently I am a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cohn Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas. As a historian of sciences with a significant scientific education (MSc in Biology) my research focuses on social, political and cultural contexts of 20th century neurosciences and psychology and contributes to ongoing debates on the place and role of scientific knowledge and practices in modern society.

I specialize in the history of neurosciences and psychology, especially in the Soviet social, political, and cultural context. My dissertation focused on the early intellectual biography of Alexander Luria and his role in the development of the Vygotsky-Luria circle, also known as the “cultural-historical school” of psychology, and Luria's contribution to the formation of neuropsychology as a field in the Soviet Union. My new project focuses on the transnational history of Soviet (neuro)psychology, and its dissemination during the Cold War era, mainly in the UK and North America. See the attached statement of research interests for details.

I am highly motivated and believe I can contribute significantly to the STS program at Bar-Ilan University. Fundamental questions about human nature, brain and mind relations, and heredity versus environment in developmental processes are crucial not only for themselves but also for our understanding of medicine and education. The Soviet sociopolitical setting offers a complex yet understudied comparison to the Western liberal context, thus providing a fascinating perspective for understanding science, medicine and education in modern societies. Hopefully, these and other issues related to Soviet science will contribute to discussions among faculty members and students, in seminars and undergraduate courses, and will enrich our understanding of the transnational processes of creating scientific and practical knowledge.

Thank you for considering my application.

Best regards,

Eli Lamdan, PhD