**Outline of time frame, budget, and methodological notes**

During the **International Ephraim E. Urbach Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2020–2021** grant period, I plan to build upon the pioneering research that I began to establish in my MA and PhD studies, for which I received the generous support of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. My PhD dissertation, “Manuals for Judges in *Geonica*: a Study of *Genizah* Fragments of a Judaeo-Arabic Monographic Genre,” is the basis of my first independent monograph in this field, which will be published soon. It will be designed as a research publication that will not only repeat the results of the PhD dissertation but also make an innovative contribution of its own to my research field. I chose to pursue post-doctoral research that will delve more deeply into the context of the topic and apply interdisciplinary methodologies that are being pursued at the faculties of Islamic Studies and Law.

During my PhD studies and my first short post-doctoral fellowship (ZJS, Berlin, 2019), I established adequate collaboration with distinguished partners in Israel, Western Europe, and North America. These scientific collaborations guarantee sufficient guidance in the fields of Islamic and comparative law and full access to all research materials—primary sources (*Adab al-Qāḍī, Uṣūl al-fiqh, Ḥadith,* etc.) as well as secondary literature—that I will need for the purposes of my research.

At the current stage, I remain unable to afford the costs of publishing the book and pursuing the additional post-doctoral studies that are necessary to carry the research to its highest level. This is my main reason for applying for your post-doctoral fellowship.

**Timetable**

**Pre-scholarship period: January 15–July 1, 2020**

I intend to begin the term of the scholarship in July 2020, as soon as possible after MFJC approval is received. I will spend the time until then completing an article for the *Jewish Quarterly Review* that summarizes the main research results already achieved, exposing the English-speaking public to my previous discoveries and elaborating several representative examples, such as the ideal characteristics attributed to judges in both Islamic and Jewish traditions. The article will focus mainly on the identification methodology of my discovery of Rav Hai Gaon’s *Kitāb adab al-Qāḍā*. Some preliminary remarks to this comprehensive article appear in my forthcoming publication “*Adab al-Qāḍī* –A Jurisprudential Genre – Beginnings of a Comparative Case Study,” *Festschrift for the Centenary of Prof. Joshua Blau’s Birth—Proceedings of the 19th SJAS conference,* July 1–4, Antwerp 2019 (Brill, 2020).

To make the best use of the Urbach post-doctoral scholarship year, I plan to divide it into quarters, as follows:

**Scholarship period**

1. July 2020–September 30, 2020

My dissertation comprises three chapters. Chapter 3 has already been accepted for publication (*Sefunot Journal*/Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi) and is currently undergoing editing and final proofreading. This chapter will be published within the first quarter of the scholarship period.

As for the other chapters (1+2): Although the first two chapters of the dissertation are together the core of my forthcoming book, they are of different lengths. (For details, see the abstract of my dissertation.) Chapter 1, which considers Rav Samuel b. Ḥofni’s *Kitāb lawāzim al-ḥukkām*, is basically an independent unit. It was recently accepted for publication by *Frankfurter Judaistische Beiträge* (Frankfurt, 2020). The text itself, however, will be included in the body of my published book together with its main core, Rav Hai Gaon’s *Kitāb adab al-Qāḍā*. I will spend this time readying Samuel b. Ḥofni’s *Kitāb lawāzim al-ḥukkām* for publication after it is reviewed by professional theologians and specialists in the field of Geonica.

1. October 1, 2020–December 31, 2020

This period will be devoted to the intensive preparation and adaptation of Chapter 2 (Rav Hai Gaon’s *Kitāb adab al-Qāḍā*) for publication. The contents of this chapter are highly dense and will require a special effort to make them more accessible to readers who are not familiar with the matter. For this purpose, some of its contents will be abridged / elaborated and partially rephrased.

1. January 1, 2021–March31, 2021

I will invest this period in intensive and critical reading of Muslim works (for further information, see post-doc proposal), focusing mainly on Jewish–Muslim comparative aspects. This post-doc will serve as the very beginning of a long-term research undertaking and is being planned as my second book in the future (*habilitationsadäquate Leistung*). Some initial but substantial insights, however, will already be included in the book to be published with the support for which I am submitting this application—contextualizing its general Judaeo-Islamic intellectual environment.

1. April 1, 2021–June/July 2021

At the end of this research period, I expect to submit the book and have the previously mentioned four articles published, after taking into consideration the comments of the dissertation committee, the evaluators’ advice, and further valuable professional suggestions from the peer reviewers.

With gratitude in advance,

Dr. Neri Y. Ariel January 5, 2020

