For the Israel Institute

Over the course of the fellowship I intend to work on preparing a few articles in

English which be based on my Phd dissertation. I will write the first one on the adaptation and conversion of the American organizational model of the synagogue-center to the needs of the secular Jewish population in Tel Aviv. The subject of the second one will be the translation and reconstitution of the American liberal male and female rabbinic model and the American Rabbi as CEO model to the local Tel Aviv context. In the third one I will focus on the adaptation of American Reform rituals and practices to the needs of secular Israelis in Tel Aviv. Throughout the articles, I will describe how the borrowing of patterns, ideas and practices of Israeli Orthodoxy and adapting them to Beit Daniel's needs helped its absorption and development in the Tel Avivian context.

I plan to work on turning my Phd dissertation into an academic book in English in order to fulfil the lacuna in research on liberal (Reform and Conservative) Jewish congregations world-wide. For example in Israel there are only a few researches that had analyzed the development of the Reform and Conservative Jewish denominations on the macro level, but there are hardly researches on the actual activities of liberal congregations. In addition, the turning of the dissertation into a book has another importance, since a lot can be learned from it about institutional aspects, like organizational developments, activity patterns, leadership styles, and also about symbolic aspects of identities and rituals.

I hope that the department I will be active at during the fellowship period will be an enriching intellectual environment for me. I hope that the physical distance from Israel and the research congregations; the opinions of colleagues, and the exposure to Jewish life at the US, will enable me to look in fresh, new and objective eyes on my research. I hope that in the post-doc period, by teaching and giving public lectures, I will be contribute to the exposure of the unknown aspects of Israeli Judaism, i.e. its Reform and Conservative version. My ultimate career goals are becoming an established researcher of the sociology of Reform and Conservative Jewish congregation in Israel and abroad.