

Biographies

Prof. Karin Amit

Prof. Karin Amit is Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Ruppin Academic Center. She is the head of the Migration and Demography Section of the Israeli Sociological Association, and serves as a member of the Metropolis International Steering Committee.

Her research interests are the economic and social integration of immigrants, immigrants' identity and sense of belonging, immigrants' subjective well-being, and the involvement of social networks and leadership in immigration decision making. Her recent studies focus on highly skilled migrants in Israel. Prof. Amit has published many articles in international journals as well as professional and applied studies and reports.

Dr. Deby Babis

Dr. Deby Babis is a sociologist and anthropologist specializing in migration, ethnic communities and voluntary organizations. In recent years, she has been primarily studying the Filipino migrant worker community in Israel, exploring subjects such as their philanthropic practices, their beauty pageants and the emergence of mixed families. Dr. Babis is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Ariel University.

Dr. Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin

Dr. Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin is a senior researcher at the Institute for Immigration and Social Integration and a senior lecturer at the Ruppin Academic Center in Israel. In early 2011, she founded the Research Department in the Education Division, and served as its head from 2011 to 2015. She has been a member of the professional committee of Israel's Ministry of Education since 2015. Since 2021 she has been an Associate Editor of the journal *Hagira* ("Migration" in Hebrew). Her main areas of research include inequality in education, migration and education, and the economic and social integration of immigrants. Dr. Chachashvili-Bolotin has published more than 30 articles in international journals as well as professional and applied studies and reports. Her long-term goal is to strengthen the connections between academia and practice. She considers herself an applied sociology researcher-practitioner whose research is affected by practice and whose practice is informed by research.

Naama Hecht- M.A.

Naama Hecht heads the Call Center for Foreign Workers at the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI). She holds an M.A. in International Development Studies (Glocal Program) and a B.A. in International Relations and Asian Studies, both from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and has a background in the protection and promotion of the labor rights of vulnerable populations. She helped distribute financial assistance to asylum seekers

in Israel following the onset of the COVID-19 crisis as part of the aid project initiated by JDC Israel.

Dr. Nelly Kfir

Dr. Nelly Kfir heads the Research, Evaluation and Development section at the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI). As part of her work, she is in charge of creating a strong knowledge base about migration and migration policy, sharing the growing body of that knowledge to promote CIMI's causes, and supporting and developing its various programs and activities. Dr. Kfir has a background in the study of migrants' rights and civil society initiatives, with experience based on combining research and practice. She has a Ph.D. from Tel Aviv University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Her dissertation compared labor migration in Israel and Singapore. Dr. Kfir's M.Sc. in Sociology is from the University of Amsterdam's Migration Studies program. Her thesis was on children of migrant workers in Israel. She is also a certified graduate in Monitoring and Evaluation from the UN's International Labour Organization.

Dr. Yahel Kurlander

Dr. Yahel Kurlander is a sociologist of labor markets who specializes in migration, particularly in the field of agriculture, and gender. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Sociology at the University of Haifa. Her doctoral dissertation analyzed agricultural labor migration from Thailand to Israel, with a particular focus on patterns of the recruitment industry in light of a bilateral agreement between Israel and Thailand (1983-2013). In the course of her Ph.D. work, she was a visiting scholar (2013-2015) in the Geography Department of the Economic Geography Unit of the University of Zurich. Since 2018, Dr. Kurlander has been a post-doctoral fellow (2019-2021) and a research fellow at TraffLab, which provides a labor perspective on human trafficking, an ERC project led by Prof. Hila Shamir, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University. She is a lecturer in sociology in the Department of Multi-Disciplinary Studies and Human Services (B.A.), and in organizational behavior (M.A.) at Tel-Hai Academic College. Dr. Kurlander is a passionate activist and participates in groups fighting for gender and migration issues.

Dr. Maayan Ravid

Dr. Ravid is currently conducting postdoctoral research in the Department of Geography and Environment at Bar Ilan University on the urban response to African asylum seekers in Tel Aviv during the COVID-19 pandemic. The research is part of an international comparative project on migrant communities and urban citizenship during the pandemic. Dr. Ravid completed her Ph.D. in criminology at the University of Oxford, England, where she studied the detention of African asylum seekers in the Holot facility between 2013 and 2018 and its wide-ranging effects on detained asylum seekers and Israeli residents in South Tel Aviv. She obtained her B.A. in political science and the histories of Africa from Tel Aviv University, and a

masters in socio-legal research from Oxford's Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. Dr. Ravid's academic studies correspond with her long-term activism alongside asylum-seeking communities from Sudan and Eritrea in Israel.

Prof. Galia Sabar

Prof. Galia Sabar's research during the past 25 years has focused on three main themes: Ethiopian Jews (in Ethiopia and Israel), world migrations with a special emphasis on African labor migrants and refugees, and African Christians and the relationship between religion and politics in Africa. Her publications include five books, three edited volumes, and over 60 articles in academic journals.

Between 1999 and 2014 Prof. Sabar was the Chair of African Studies at Tel Aviv University, Head of the Forum for Gender Studies and Head of the African Desk at the Daniel Abraham Center at Tel Aviv University. Between 2015 and 2021 she was the President of Ruppin Academic College, one of the best public colleges in Israel.

Beyond her scientific work, Prof. Sabar is an activist in several Israeli and international NGOs. Over the years she has conducted several hands-on professional training programs and workshops related to her fields of research geared to professionals and decision makers in Israel and other countries. All these activities are part of her effort to translate academic knowledge into social activism and bring about real change in the social and political realms.

Over the years, Prof. Sabar has been granted several local and international awards. Above all, for her work that combines academic excellence and social action she received the *Unsung Heroes Award*, granted by the Dalai Lama in 2009. Together with Ofer she is raising their five children and two granddaughters.

Dana Yofe

Dana Yofe holds a B.A. in sociology from Tel Aviv University and has started her master's degree in the same department. In addition, she works at the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) on several research projects.

Idit Zimmerman

Idit Zimmerman has been an instructor in Tel Aviv University's Law Faculty Workers' Rights Clinic since October 2011. She holds an LL. B. (Cum Laude, 2006) from Tel Aviv University and an LL.M. Program in Public and International Law (Northwestern Program) (Cum Laude, 2012). Between 2006 and 2007, Zimmerman clerked for the Solicitor General in the Tel Aviv District Civil Department. Between 2007 and 2011, she worked as Deputy to the Solicitor General in the Tel Aviv District Civil Department, practicing labor and administrative law. As

part of the TraffLab project, Zimmerman works in the Workers' Rights Clinic on a number of cases related to the project's research. Thus far, work has begun on a hotline for employers of migrant care workers, and a large lawsuit has been filed on behalf of exploited migrant construction workers in Israel.