

Gal Bitton Alayof

 github.com/galbitton5 •  galbitton.github.io •  twitter.com/GalBitton2 • 
galbitton@fas.harvard.edu

Last Updated: October 8, 2025

Appointment

Harvard University <i>Postdoctoral Fellow, Weatherhead Scholars Program</i>	<i>2025-2026</i>
Tel Aviv University <i>Non-resident Postdoctoral Fellow, POLPOP III</i>	<i>2025-2026</i>

Education

Tel-Aviv University <i>Ph.D. Candidate (fast-track), Political Science</i> Dissertation: “From Barriers to Bridges: The Cultural Roots of International Financial Engagement”	<i>2025</i>
Tel-Aviv University <i>M.A., Magna cum Laude, Political Science</i>	<i>2021</i>
Tel-Aviv University <i>B.A., Political Science</i>	<i>2018</i>

Fellowships

The Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS), Harvard University <i>Scholar Fellow</i>	<i>2025-2026</i>
Center for American Political Studies (CAPS), Harvard University <i>Scholar Fellow</i>	<i>2025-2026</i>
The Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellowship <i>Pre-doctoral Fellow</i>	<i>2022-2026</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only about 1.6% of social sciences PhD students are selected each year	
The Center for the Study of the United States (CSUS), Tel-Aviv University <i>Pre-doctoral Fellow - Partnership with the Fulbright Program</i>	<i>2022-2023</i>
The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Tel-Aviv University <i>Pre-doctoral Fellow</i>	<i>2021-2022</i>
Tel-Aviv University <i>Doctoral Fellow</i>	<i>2019-2025</i>

Research Interests

International political economy; Currency internationalization; Foreign policy; Behavioral economics; Political attitudes & behavior; Survey design and experimental methods.

Projects

Publications

- “Rally Around the Winner – A Two-Wave Panel Survey on the Impact of the U.S. Elections on Foreign Policy Stances.” **International Journal of Public Opinion Research** (2025) (with Eyal Robinson).

Under Review

Solo-Authored Papers

- “The Premium of Familiarity: Experimental Evidence on Financial Interactions Between Foreigners.” (*American Political Science Review*).
[Pre-registration](#)
- “How Does Cultural Identity Shape Global Financial Engagements?” (*World Politics*).
- “Shifting Sands? The Impact of Conflict Displacement on Voting Patterns.” (*Political Studies*).
[Pre-registration](#)

Co-Authored Papers

- “Are findings of research on International Organizations generalizable?” (with Tal Sadeh and Bernhard Reinsberg) (*American Political Science Review*).
- “The Welfare Consequences of Political Rivalry in a Polarized Era.” (with Claretta Treger) (*Political Behavior*).
[Pre-registration](#)
[Pre-print](#)

Working Papers

- “Bank-Supervision in the EU and Blame Attribution in Germany.” (with Tal Sadeh, Yuval Hirshorn, and Benjamin Daßler).
[Pre-registration](#)
- “Do and When Adverse Banking Conditions Affect Public Support for the Government?” (with Tal Sadeh, and Yuval Hirshorn).
- “Do Voters Reward Eurosceptic Governments” (with Tal Sadeh)
[Pre-registration](#)
- “Assessing Politicians’ Online Communication Across Five Democracies: Projecting Competence and Warmth.” (with Tobias Heide-Jørgensen, Gregory Eady, Eran Amsalem, Anne Rasmussen, Peter Loewen, Lior Sheffer, Pirmin Bundi, Lee Slinger, Marc van de Wardt, Steven Eichenberger, and Frédéric Varone).
- “Unraveling Trust in Times of Crisis: The Impact of Threat Perceptions on Political Trust.” (with Keren LG Snider and Benjamin Amram).

Work in Progress

- “How do Elites View Public Opinion on International Aid?” (with Lior Sheffer and Eran Amsalem)
[Pre-registration](#)

Research Experience

The Institute for Liberty & Responsibility at Reichman University
Research Assistant

2022-2025

Head: Dr. Amnon Cavari

“How Politicians Evaluate Public Opinion” (POLPOP II)

2022-2023

Research Assistant

ERC-funded research team; PIs: Lior Sheffer (TAU) and Eran Amsalem (HUJI)

Grants

The Tel Aviv University Presidential Scholarship for Post Doctoral Studies for Women 2024-2026

(\$50,000)

Research grant from the Institute for Freedom and Responsibility at Reichman University 2024

(NIS 8,000)

The Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellowship 2022-2026

(NIS 366,000)

- Only about 1.6% of social sciences PhD students are selected each year

The Center for the Study of the United States (CSUS) in Partnership with the Fulbright Program 2022-2023

(NIS 3,000)

Research grant from the Institute for Freedom and Responsibility at Reichman University 2022

(NIS 10,000) - Collaborated with Clareta Treger

Research Grant for outstanding graduate students, Faculty of Social Sciences, Tel-Aviv University 2022

(NIS 10,000)

Doctoral Fellowship Program at The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Tel Aviv University 2021-2022

(\$20,500)

The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fellowship Fund Scholarship for the Enhancement of the Quality of Governance, Tel Aviv University 2021

(\$5,000)

Awards & Honorable Mentions

Harrell Rodgers Travel Scholarship, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) 2025

(\$500)

- Awarded to only 4% of applicants

Travel Grant, The Society for Political Methodology 2024

(\$1,000)

Best Presentation Award, The 4th Haifa International Social Sciences Workshop for Graduate Students 2022

(\$700)

Best Submission from Pre-tenure Scholars by the Joint IPE Conference of the DVPW, ÖGPW and SVPW 2022

Tel Aviv University Graduate Students Excellence Award & Scholarship 2022
(NIS 7,000)

Reichman University Teaching Assistant Excellence Award & Scholarship 2021
(NIS 2,000)

Dean's Honor List, B.A. 2017-2018
(NIS 2,000)

Conference Talks

2025

- The 17th Conference on the Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO)
- The 2024 Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science
- Western Political Science Association (WPSA) Annual Meeting (Accepted; cancelled participation)
- The 82nd Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference
- The Virtual International Political Economy Society (VIPES)
- The 19th European Union Studies Association (EUSA)
- The 1st Conference on the Political Economy of Aid and International Organization (PEAIO)
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition.
- International Political Economy Society (IPES) (October)

2024

- The 2024 Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science
- (De)polarisation in values, attitudes and beliefs: comparative perspectives, The Policy Institute at King's College London
- The IASEI-NYU Workshop
- The 81st Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA)
- International Studies Association (ISA)
- The 2024 Virtual ESPAnet workshop
- The 16th Conference on the Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO)
- The 2024 Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Annual Conference (Accepted; cancelled participation)
- Political Studies Association (PSA) Early Career Network 2024 online conference 'Politics Today'
- 41st Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth)
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition (Accepted; cancelled participation)
- The 2024 Virtual ISPP Academy (Accepted; cancelled participation)

2023

- Annual Meeting of the Israeli Association for International Studies (IAIS)
- International Studies Association (ISA)
- The 80th Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA)
- The European Union Studies Association (EUSA) (Accepted; cancelled participation)
- The 15th Conference on the Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO)
- The 29th International Conference of Europeanists (Accepted; cancelled participation)
- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) (Accepted; cancelled participation)
- Foreign Aid and Political Gains Workshop at Haifa University
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition

2022

- Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Forum for Empirical Studies in Politics
- The 79th Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA)
- Israeli Association for International Studies (IAIS)'s First Research Colloquium for Ph.D. Students in International Studies
- Annual Meeting of the Israeli Association for International Studies (IAIS)
- Annual conference of the Israel Political Science Association (ISPSA)
- The 4th Haifa International Social Sciences Workshop for Graduate Students (HSSC)
- PolMeth Europe
- DVPW-ÖGPW-SVPW Joint International Political Economy Conference
- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE)
- The 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth)
- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)

2021

- International Political Economy Society (IPES)
- The Graduate Student International Political Economy (GSIPE) Workshop
- GSIPE Mini-Conference: Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research in IPE

Invited Talks

The Policy, Elections, and Representation Lab (PEARL) Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto *March 13, 2023*
“How Does Cultural Identity Shape Financial Policies?”

Panelist; “Europe: a crisis in light of energy”, Model UN, TAU *January 9, 2023*

Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz *October 28, 2022*
Lecture: “The Premium of Familiarity”

Research Stays & Visits

Visiting doctoral student at the University of Konstanz
One month (October)

2022
Host: Prof. Gerald Schneider

Teaching

Teaching assistant, Advanced Research Methods
Lauder School of Government, Reichman University

2020-2024
For graduate students

Grading assistant, Europe in a crisis
School of Political Science, Tel-Aviv University

2019-2024
For graduate students

Teaching assistant, Intermediate Research Methods
Lauder School of Government, Reichman University

2020-2023
For graduate students

Teaching assistant, Empirical Research
Lauder School of Government, Reichman University

2020-2023
For undergraduate students

Grading assistant, Political Economy in the Global Age
Security and Diplomacy, Tel-Aviv University

2019-2022
For graduate students

Grading assistant, International Political Economy
School of Political Science, Tel-Aviv University

2019-2022
For graduate students

Teaching assistant, Introduction to Writing and Research in Political Science
School of Political Science, Tel-Aviv University

2019-2021
For undergraduate students

Teaching assistant, Introduction to International Relations and Strategy
School of Political Science, Tel-Aviv University

2019-2021
For undergraduate students

Service and Other Academic Activities

- **Reviewer:** Comparative Political Studies; European Journal of International Relations; International Studies Quarterly; Journal of Regulation & Governance.
- **Chair & Discussant:** GSIPE Mini-Conference; Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO); The IASEI-NYU Workshop; The 19th European Union Studies Association (EUSA).
- **Statistical Consultant:** Provides statistical and analytical assistance for students.
- **Workshops:** Programming and data analysis workshop using STATA: Beginner to Advanced.
- **Mentor:** Project mentor of “Why do I need democracy now?”, for undergraduate students. The Unit for Social Involvement at Tel Aviv University (2023-2024).

Technical Reports

- Bitton, G. “A Reflection of Society: Israeli Public Attitudes Toward Political Violence” The Institute for Liberty & Responsibility at Reichman, 2024. Available [online](#).
- Bitton, G. “Does the Israeli Public Want an Anti-Democratic Leader?” The Institute for Liberty & Responsibility at Reichman, 2023. Available [online](#).
- Bitton, G. “Does the Israeli Public Support the Override Clause?” The Institute for Liberty & Responsibility at Reichman, 2023. Available [online](#).

- Bitton, G. “Jewish Identity or Democratic Values - What Do Israelis Prefer?” The Institute for Liberty & Responsibility at Reichman, 2023. Available [online](#).
- Bitton, G. “Trust Crisis in the Israeli Public?” The Institute for Liberty & Responsibility at Reichman, 2022. Available [online](#).

Interviews & Publications in Popular Media

- DemocratTV: “Do Israelis Prefer Less Democratic Leadership Since October 7?” Host journalist: Attila Shumpelvi. Interview available [Online](#).
- Bitton, G. “Believe in Choice - What do Israelis think about abortion?” The Liberal, 22.9.2022. Available [online](#).

Additional Academic Training

- The Third IO Editorial Café workshop during the 2023 annual meeting of the International Studies Association in Montreal.
- Online oTree course at the Nuffield Centre for Experimental Social Sciences, at the University of Oxford (Instructor: Tommaso Batistoni).
- Data Science Bootcamp: a computational tools and programming for text analysis workshop, at Tel Aviv University (Instructor: Koby Mike).

Research Skills

- **Languages:** R, Python, STATA, L^AT_EX, Markdown.
- **Software:** RStudio, oTree, Git/GitHub, STATA, JMP, SPSS, and Qualtrics.

Languages

- Hebrew (native), English (fluent), Spanish (basic).

Community Engagement

Mentor in the “Sawa” program at Tel Aviv University	<i>2021-2024</i>
<i>Providing academic, personal, and emotional assistance to Israeli-Arab students</i>	
Research assistant in The Social Guard	<i>2017-2019</i>
<i>A non-governmental organization monitoring Knesset activities to promote social justice and increase civic engagement</i>	

Non-Academic Certificates

- First Aid, 28-hour training (Awarded by Malar, Israel)
- 200-hour training for yoga teachers (registered with the Yoga Alliance)