Jacob Samuel Abolafia

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2019-2020 **Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University**

Harvard-Tel Aviv Exchange Post-doctoral Fellow

**Education**

2013-Present **Harvard University**

Ph.D Candidate, Political Theory (Expected graduation: May 2019)

Dissertation: “Penal Modernism before Modernity: Correction and Confinement in the History of Political Thought”

 Committee: Danielle Allen (Chair), Richard Tuck, Bernard Harcourt (Columbia)

2010-2013 **Clare College, University of Cambridge**

 Paul Mellon Fellowship

2012-2013Doctoral work in ancient philosophy supervised by David Sedley

2011-2012 M. Phil., Ancient Philosophy

 Faculty of Classics

2010-2011M. Phil. (Cantab.), Political Thought and Intellectual History

 Faculty of History

2006-2010 **Yale University**

B.A., Philosophy (Honors), May 2010

 *Magna Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa (Early Election),

**Publications**

"Josephus in Jewish Political Thought from Menasseh and Spinoza to Moses Mendelssohn" Ch. 1 in *The Jewish Reception of Josephus*,eds. Martin Goodman, Tessa Rajak, and Andrea Schatz (Leiden, Brill: Forthcoming).

“Essentialism and Pluralism in Aristotle’s ‘Function Argument’ (NE 1.7)”, *Epoche: A journal of the history of philosophy*, Volume 21, Issue 2, Spring 2017, pp. 391-400.

“Solar Theology and Civil Religion in Plato’s *Laws*”, *POLIS: The Journal of Ancient Greek Political Thought*, Volume 32 (2015), pp. 369-392.

 “Spinoza, Josephus, and the Critique of the Hebrew Republic” *History of Political Thought*, Volume 35, Number 2, 2014, pp. 295-316.

“A Reappraisal of *Contra Apionem* 2.145 as an Original Contribution to Political Thought.” *Scripta Classica Israelica*, Volume 32, June 2013, pp. 153-73.

**Journalism and Reviews**

“Rehabilitative Faith” in *The Point*, Vol. 17, Fall 2018.

“City on a Hilltop: American Jews and the Israeli Settler Movement.” in *Marginalia* at the *LA Review of Books*, November 2017.

"Habermas and Religion" in *Political Studies Review* Vol. 13, Iss. 2, pp. 241-242, May 2015.

**“**Civil Religion: A dialogue in the history of political philosophy” in *Political Studies Review* Vol. 10 Iss. 3 (September 2012).

**Presentations and Lectures**

“The Fragility of Shame: Plato, Williams, and Euripides on the Social Conditions for Political Emotions” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, September 2019.

“Shame Without Necessity: Plato and Bernard Williams on Social Punishment” Descartes Lectures Workshop, Tilberg University, December 2018.

“Penal Incarceration in Democratic Athens”, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, September 2018.

“Marx’s Aristotelianism Revisited”, Karl Marx 1818-2018, Lyon, France, September 2017.

“Essentialism and Pluralism in Aristotle’s ‘Function Argument’ (NE 1.7)”, Ancient Philosophy Society, Portland, April 2016.

"The Birth of the Prison in Plato's *Laws*", West Coast Plato Workshop, University of Arizona, Tucson, May 2015.

“Josephus, Josephism, and Spinoza’s Critique of the Hebrew Republic”, Oxford Institute for Jewish Studies, Yarnton Manor, Oxford, June 2013; Yitzchak Rabin Memorial Conference in Political Science, Hebrew University, December 2016.

“Plato's Solar Theology: Civil Religion in the *Laws*.” Institut für Klassische Archäologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, December 2011; Graduate Interdisciplinary Seminar, Cambridge University, January 2012; École Normale Supérieure Paris, May 2012.

“Apologetics and Political Thought, or Flavius Josephus as Innovator.” Delivered at the Oxbridge Critical Exchange Conference, Department of Politics, Oxford University, May 2011.

**Awards and Fellowships (postgraduate)**

* Graduate Fellowship, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University (2017-18)
* Jens Aubrey Westengard Summer Research and Travel Grant (2018)
* Affiliate, Harvard Center for European Studies (2016-Present)
* Center for Jewish Studies Research Fellowship (2014, 2015, 2016, 2018)
* Harold Laski Fellow in the Government Department, Harvard University (2013)
* Corbett Grant for Summer Travel (2012)
* Paul Mellon Fellowship for Graduate Study (2010-13)
* Clarendon Scholarship for Oxford (declined) (2010)
* Lord Weidenfeld Scholarships and Leadership Programme, Oxford (finalist interview declined) (2010)

**Professional Service**

Reviewer for: Cambridge University Press (Philosophy), *History of Philosophy Quarterly*; *European Journal of the History of Economic Thought*; *Journal of Levantine Studies.*

Membership: American Political Science Association, Ancient Philosophy Society

Organizer: European Philosophy Workshop, Harvard University (2014-2017)

Co-convener: Political Theory Colloquium, Harvard University (2015-2018); Graduate Political Theory Conference, Harvard University (2015)

**Teaching Experience:**

Course Instructor: Jewish and Islamic Political Thought in the 19th and 20th Centuries (REL 98r).

TF for GOV 1060: Ancient Political Thought and GOV 1061: Modern Political Philosophy, supervised by Richard Tuck (Harvard University), and Danielle Allen (Harvard University).

TF for Introduction to Political Theory (GOV 10), supervised by Eric Beerbohm (Harvard University)

Supervision of undergraduates in the Classics and Philosophy faculties at Cambridge University for topics in Ancient Philosophy including tripos part II papers X3 (“Idols”) and B3 (“God/Anti-god”) as well as supervisor for classics and philosophy topics for tripos parts 1A and 1B.

**Languages:** Ancient Greek (reading); German (reading and spoken); Latin (reading); Fluent Hebrew;

Intermediate Arabic (MSA and Palestinian/Levantine); Proficient Spanish and beginning Italian.