Jacob S. Abolafia

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**Academic Appointments**

2020-2024 **Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem**

Polonsky Post-doctoral Fellow

2020-2021 **Stanford Civics Initiative, Stanford University (Deferred)**

Post-doctoral Fellow

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

Harvard-Tel Aviv Post-doctoral Fellow

**Education**

2013-2019 **Harvard University**

Ph.D, Political Science, May 2019

Department of Government

Dissertation: “Penal Modernism Before Modernity: Correction and Confinement in the History of Political Thought”, Department nominee for best political theory diss., APSA

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 and Working Papers**

*Reform, Incarceration, and Democracy in the History of Political Thought* (Book manuscript in progress)

“The Profit Motive and Incarceration: From Bentham to the For-Profit Prison” (Working paper with Rebecca Goldstein)

“Incarceration and Democracy: The Case of Ancient Athens” (Under review)

"The Emergence of a Non-political Republicanism in the Young Marx, 1837-1844" (Under review)

“Plato and the Ancient Theory of Incarceration” *Ramus* (Special issue on Classics and Political Theory), Expected Fall 2020.

"Josephus in Jewish Political Thought from Menasseh and Spinoza to Moses Mendelssohn" in *Josephus in Modern Jewish Thought*,ed. Andrea Schatz (Leiden, Brill: 2019), pp. 17-41.

“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.

**Selected Journalism and Reviews**

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

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

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

**Recent Presentations and Lectures**

"A Conceptual Analysis of *Mamlachtiyut*" Israeli Political Theory Workshop, October 2021 (in Hebrew)

"Penal Incarceration in More's *Utopia*" APSA Annual Meeting, September 2021

Comments on Jonny Thakkar's 'Plato as Critical Theorist" APSA Annual Meeting, September 2021

“Arendt's Benjamin”, Political Philosophy of Hannah Arendt, Leiden University, February 2020.

“The Fragility of Shame: Plato, Williams, and Euripides on the Social Conditions for Punishment” APSA Annual Meeting, Washington DC, September 2019. Also presented as “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, September 2017.

**Selected Awards and Fellowships (postgraduate)**

* Harvard-Tel Aviv Exchange Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Tel Aviv University (2019-20)
* Westergard Award for Graduate Research at Harvard (2018)
* Graduate Fellowship, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University (2017-18)
* Center for Jewish Studies Research Fellowship (2014, 2015, 2016, 2018)
* Harold Laski Fellow in the Government Department, Harvard University (2013)
* Paul Mellon Fellowship for Graduate Study (2010-13)
* Clarendon Scholarship for Oxford (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, International Journal of the Classical Tradition*.

Organizer: Panel on political emotions, APSA Annual Meeting (2019); European Philosophy Workshop, Harvard University (2014-2017)

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

Chair/Respondent: Panel on Jewish Political Thought, APSA Annual Meeting (2019)

**Teaching Experience:**

**Harvard University**

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

Teaching Fellow: GOV 10: Introduction to Political Theory, GOV 1060: Ancient Political Philosophy from Plato to Aquinas; GOV 1061: Modern Political Philosophy from Machiavelli to Weber;

**University of Cambridge**

Supervision of undergraduates in the Classics and Philosophy faculties for topics in Ancient Philosophy including tripos part II papers X3 (“Idols”) and B3 (“God/Anti-god”); supervisor for Clare College in Classics and Philosophy for tripos parts 1A and 1B.

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

Intermediate Arabic (MSA and Palestinian/Levantine); Reading: Spanish, Italian.

**References:**

Prof. Danielle Allen

James Bryant Conant University Professor

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Frank G. Thomson Professor of Government

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Prof. Hanoch Dagan

Stewart and Judy Colton Professor of Legal Theory and Innovation

Director, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics

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