MAAYAN HILEL (PhD)

Curriculum Vitae
The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies,
Northwestern University
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MAJOR PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

History of the Modern Middle East, Cultural and Social History of Mandate Palestine, Arab-Jewish Relations, Leisure Studies, History of Children and Childhood

EDUCATION

2019 PhD, The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

2012 M.A, *Summa Cum Laude*, Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

2009 B.A, Middle Eastern Studies, Gender Studies & Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

EMPLOYMENT

2026 Associate Professor of Instruction & Assistant Director, The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, MENA Affiliated Faculty, Northwestern University

2023 Assistant Professor of Instruction & Assistant Director, The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, MENA Affiliated Faculty, Northwestern University

2022-2023 Lecturer & Assistant Director, The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, Northwestern University.

2019-2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, Northwestern University.

2018-2019 Visiting Lecturer, the Department of History, University of Limerick, Ireland

POST-DOCTORAL RECOGNITIONS

2026 The Alumnae of Northwestern University Award

2026 Institute for Advanced Israel Studies Fellow, Brandeis University - “Situating Israel in the Middle East”

2025-2026 Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellow, Northwestern University

2024 Weinberg Course Enhancement Grant, Northwestern University

2023 Weinberg Course Enhancement Grant, Northwestern University

2019-2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, Northwestern University.

2020 The Association of Middle East Children's and Youth Studies (AMECYS), the AMECYS 2020 Early Career Article Award.

2019 The Middle East and Islamic Association of Israel (MEISAI) best Ph.D. Dissertation Award

RESEARCH SUPPORT

2025 Career Development and Writing Support Grant, the Office of the Provost, Northwestern University.

Monograph title: *The Politics of Pleasure: Leisure Culture and Everyday Life in Mandate Palestine*, $3500

PRE-DOCTORAL AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2017-2016 Thomas Arthur Arnold Scholarship for Excellence in History, Israel.

2015 The Annual Methodological Workshop for Excellent PhD Candidates, The Institute for Research on Eretz Israel, Yad Itzhak Ben-Zvi, Jerusalem

2015-2012 ISEF [Israel Scholarship Education Foundation] Grant for Excellent Doctoral Candidates

2014 The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies Scholarship, Tel Aviv University

2013 Provost Fellow Scholarship, Tel-Aviv University

2012 President Scholarship for Excellence, Tel-Aviv University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

'Screening Identity: Palestinian National Culture and Intercommunal Dynamics in Haifa's Cinematic Landscape,' *Palestine/Israel Review*, (2025) 2:1, 78–114. https://doi.org/10.5325/pir.2.1.0002

'Making Waves – Arabs and Jews on the Beaches of Mandate Haifa,' *Revue d'histoire culturelle (XVIIIe-XXIe siècles),* (2021) 2. https://doi.org/10.4000/rhc.957

'Changing Texture of Childhood: Palestinian Children as New Leisure Consumers in Mandatory Haifa,' *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies,* (2021) 48:4, 687-705. https://doi.org/10.1080/13530194.2019.1699776.

'Constructing Modern Identity - New Patterns of Leisure and Recreation in Mandatory Palestine,' *Contemporary Levant*, (2019) 4:1, 75-90. https://doi.org/10.1080/20581831.2019.1594612.

Chapter:

'Cultural Diplomacy in Mandatory Haifa: The Role of Christian Communities in the Cultural Transformation in the City,' in: Sanchez Karène and Zananiri, Sary (Eds.)*, European Cultural Diplomacy and Arab Christians, Between Connection and Contention, 1918-1948* (Leiden: Palgrave MacMillan, 2020), 127-150.

Book reviews:

Review of Dylan Baun, *Winning Lebanon: Youth Politics, Populism, and the Production of Sectarian Violence, 1920–1958***,** *Critical Inquiry*, (2023) 49: 4, 690-691.

Review of M.M. Silver, *Zionism, and the Melting Pot: Preachers, Pioneers, and Modern Jewish Politics, American Jewish History*, (2021) 105: 4, 585-587.

Review of Yaron Ran, *The Arabist: Eliyahu Sasson and the Zionist Struggle Against the Arab Revolt*. *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review*, (2020) 11: 1, 82-88.

Review of Kamal Moed, *A Human Being, God Willing. Khalil al-Sakakini – An Educational Biography, 1878-1953*, *The New East*, (2019), 58, 166-168. (Hebrew)

Media:

'The Nakba: Six Basic and Proven Facts that We All Need to Know,' *Haaretz*, 15 May 2023 (with Dotan Halevi)

'Shared Escapism - Jews and Arabs in the Cinema Palaces of the Mandate Era,' *Haaretz*, 23 December 2019. (Hebrew)

'The Children of Back Then: Disney, Playgrounds and the Future of the Nation,' *Haaretz*, 12 April 2021. (Hebrew)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book:

The Politics of Pleasure: Leisure Culture and Everyday Life in Mandate Palestine (in preparation for Stanford University Press)

Article:

'Women entrepreneurs in the entertainment industry of Mandatory Palestine.' Article under preparation for the *Cultural and Social History Journal*

PROFESSIONAL TALKS

Invited talks

Jul. 2025 'Cultural Contact Zones and Borderlands in Mandatory Palestine,' Summer Institute for Israel Studies, The Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, Boston, US

Oct. 2024 'Cultural Entwinement and Transformation,' Chicago Humanities Festival

Mar. 2023 'Children and Childhood in British Mandate Palestine,' Annual Seminar, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Studies, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

Apr. 2022 'Shifting Histories of Childhood in the Middle East,' Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Oct. 2021 'Breaking barriers: Intercultural Encounters in British Mandate Palestine,' The Greater Washington Jewish History Seminar, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, US

Jan. 2021 'Politicization of Leisure and Mass Media in the Modern Middle East,' Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Haifa, Israel, via Zoom

May 2018 'The Reception of the Holocaust in Palestinian Culture and Society,' Near & Middle Eastern Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

Nov. 2018 'From Women to Gender History in the Middle East,' Graduate program, The Department of History, University of Limerick, Ireland

Oct. 2018 'Oral History in the Study of Palestinian Society: Methods and Practices,' an Oral history workshop, The Department of History, University of Limerick, Ireland

Oct. 2017 'Representation of the Holocaust in Israeli Popular Culture,' Department of History, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

Workshops and Colloquia

Jun. 2022 'Palestinian youth in the political Sphere of Mandate Palestine,' Imperial Youths in the 19th and 20th Centuries Workshop, University of Konstanz, Germany

May 2021 'Mixed Cities in Israel: Bridges and Walls,' The Gabriel Bar Forum, The Middle East and Islamic Association of Israel, Tel Aviv University

May 2021 'Friends, Neighbors, Foes: A Cultural History of Jewish-Arab Relations in Palestine/Israel, 19th-21st centuries, *Revue d'histoire Culturelle* special volume launch, via Zoom

Mar. 2019 'Cultural Diplomacy in Mandatory Haifa: The Role of Christian Communities in the Cultural Transformation in the City.' *'Crossroads. European cultural diplomacy and Arab Christians in Palestine*. Leiden, Netherlands

Nov. 2014 'The Arabic and Hebrew Press as Mirroring Inter-Communal Interactions and Frictions during the Mandate Period,' Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Dec. 2013 'Women's Role in Political Life in Late Ottoman and Mandate Palestine,' *The Palestinians - History, Society, Culture Conference*, The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Conference and Panel Talks

June 2026 'Historiography as Resistance: Art and the Politics of Culture in Mandate Palestine,' Paper has been accepted for the International Society for Theoretical Psychology 2026 conference: "Theorizing in Dark Times – Art, Narrative, Politics," Pratt Institute, NY, US.

Jun. 2023 'Finding Children and Childhood in Non-Textual Sources,' the 2023 SHCY [Society for the History of Children and Youth] conference, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Oct. 2021 'The Role of Cinema in the Construction of Palestinian National *Cultural Capital*,' the 53rd Biennial Convention of German Historians, via Zoom.

Dec. 2021 'Local Archives and the Craft of Memory,' The University of Chicago and the University of Illinois, via Zoom.

Oct. 2020 'Childhood, Leisure and Intergenerational Tensions in British Mandate Palestine' *MESA* [Middle East Studies Association] *Annual Meeting*, via Zoom

July 2018 'Cultural Imitation, Rejection and Competition between Arabs and Jews in Palestine before 1948, '*WOCMES* [World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies], Seville, Spain

Nov. 2017 'We also Lived a Little: Everyday Pleasures of Ordinary Palestinians, 1920-1948', *MESA* [Middle East Studies Association] *Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, US

May 2015 'Cultural Networks in the Middle East: Haifa, Jaffa, Beirut, Cairo and Alexandria during the First Half of the 20th Century,' *Haifa in Hebrew, Haifa in Arabic Conference*, Van Leer Institute & Haifa University, Israel

June 2014 'Cultural Analysis of Center-Periphery Relations in the Middle East,' *BRISMES* [British Society for Middle Eastern Studies], *The Middle East in Global Perspective*, Brighton, UK

Nov. 2014 'Disrupting the Social Order: Palestinian Women in Urban Domains during the Mandate Period,' *MESA* [Middle East Studies Association] *Annual Meeting*, Washington DC, US

Oct. 2013 'Under the Radar: Arab and Jews Crossing Social Boundaries in Mandatory Palestine,' *MESA* [Middle East Studies Association] *Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, US

Campus Talks

Feb. 2026 Book in progress talk, Kaplan Conversation

Aug. 2024 IDEA Leaders Lunch and Learn Panel, Office of Community Enrichment

May 2024 'Arab-Jews Before & After Israeli Statehood,' The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, MENA Studies Program, and the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs

Oct. 2023 'Teach-In: Israel-Hamas War,' Jewish Studies

Feb. 2023 'Childhood in Transformation: Children, Consumption, and Nationalism in Mandate Palestine,' MENA Monday Colloquium

Apr. 2021 'Breaching the National Boundaries: Jews and Arabs in Mandate Palestine Leisure Scene,' Jewish Studies Graduate Cluster

PANEL CHAIR AND DISCUSSANT

Jun. 2026 'Art, Resistance, and Futurity,' The International Society for Theoretical Psychology 2026 conference: "Theorizing in Dark Times – Art, Narrative, Politics," Pratt Institute, NY, US.

Jun. 2021 'Transformation of the Child Raising Practices in the First Half of the 20th Century,' SHCY [Society for the History of Children and Youth] Conference, Galway, Ireland.

Nov. 2019 'Zionist Settlers and the Palestine/Israel Conflict,' *MESA* [Middle East Studies Association] *Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, US.

Nov. 2019 'Medicine on the Move: Medical Agents Crossing Borders,' *MESA* [Middle East Studies Association] *Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, US.

PEER-REVIEW AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

2024 - present Editorial Board Member, Peer-Reviewed Journal 'Israel'

2019-2025 Article reviewer for: Critical Inquiry, Palestine/Israel Review, Jerusalem Quarterly, Zmanim: A Historical Quarterly, Hamizrah Hahadash (The New East, Hebrew), Journal of Israeli History: Politics, Society, Culture

2024 PhD Referee: Yamit Shimon, *Spaces of Hope, Reimagining Haifa Al-Jadida*, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel

2024 Book Manuscript Referee for Anthem Press

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

2022-present Member of the International Research Group, 'Cosmopolitan Haifa – Past and Present'

2012-present Member of the Inter-University Research Forum of the British Mandate Period in Palestine/LI, Israel.

2025 Planning and convening a two-day conference, 'New Trends in the Cultural History of the Middle East – In Honor of Professor Ami Ayalon,' Tel Aviv University, Israel

2025 Planning and moderating a colloquium, 'New Horizons in Jerusalem Studies,' with Dr. Noah Hysler Rubin, Northwestern University

2025 Planning and moderating a Colloquium, 'Ottoman Jewry: Leadership, Charity & Literacy,' with Prof. Yaron Ayalon and Prof. Orit Baskin, Northwestern University

2024 Planning and moderating a panel event, 'Oct. 7 One Year Later: Currents in Israeli Society,' Northwestern University

2024 Co-Planning and co-organizing a scholarly series of seven events, 'Israel & Palestine Joint Speaker Series: Exploring Fundamental History,' The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, MENA Studies Program, and the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University

2024 Planning and moderating a colloquium, 'Israel's Black Panthers,' Northwestern University

2022 Planning and organizing a scholarly series of four events, 'New Books in Israel/Palestine Studies,' Northwestern University

2021 Planning and organizing a series of five events, 'Arab-Jewish Culture, Identity, and Language - Past and Present,' Northwestern University.

2018-2020 Member of the interdisciplinary research group, 'Crossroads - European Cultural Diplomacy and Arab Christians in Palestine, A Connected History during the Formative Years of the Middle East (1918-1948),' Leiden University, Netherlands

2020 Organizing a panel, 'Reframing Childhood in the Modern Middle East,' *MESA* [Middle East Studies Association] *Annual Meeting*, via Zoom

2018 Organizing a panel, 'Interactions and Reciprocal Relations between Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine,' *WOCMES* [World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies], Seville, Spain

2015-2016 Co-Coordinator of Rubin-Forum, The Scholarly Forum of the School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

2014 Organizing a panel, 'Unpacking the Mandate: The Global Interactions of Mandatory Palestine, '*BRISMES* [British Society for Middle Eastern Studies], *The Middle East in Global Perspective*, Brighton, UK.

2013 Founder and Coordinator of a Graduate Students Workshop – 'New Studies in the Social and Cultural History of the Middle East, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2022-Present Assistant Director, The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies

2022-present Director of Undergraduate Studies, Jewish Studies, Northwestern University

2025 -2026 Committee Chair of the Jill Stacey Harris Prize in Jewish Studies, Northwestern University.

2024-6 HEFNU [Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University] Advisory Board Member, Northwestern University.

2024-5 Chair of the Jewish Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Northwestern University.

2024-5 Member of a Search Committee for a Post-doc in Israel Studies at the Crown Family Center

2023 Honor Thesis Referee - Tomer Cherki: "Avimelech Goes Up by a Whirlwind to the Heavens."

2022-4 First Year Advisor, Weinberg College, Northwestern University

COMMUNITY WORK AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Nov. 2025 'Israeli Society -from the Oslo Accords to Present Day,' Beth Emet, Evanston, IL

Apr. 2025 'Understanding Zionism(s)', Adult Education Program, Beth Emet, Evanston, IL

Mar. 2025 'Navigating Identities: Arab-Jews and Zionism Before and After 1948,' KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation, Chicago, IL

Jun. 2022 'Intercultural Encounters between Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine,' NU Hillel Faculty Luncheon

Oct. 2021 Intercommunal relations in pre-1948 Israel, Series of Lectures at the Adult Education Program, Beth Emet, Evanston, IL

Oct. 2020 Arab-Jews: History and Culture, Series of Lectures at the Adult Education Program, Beth Emet, Evanston, IL

Feb. 2020 Open Workshop at Hillel NU Society: Jewish Identity and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

2018 Planning and organizing an annual collaboration between the Department of History at the University of Limerick and Yad Vashem's International School of Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025 Generative AI 101, Teaching and Learning Technologies, Northwestern University

2022 Practicum in Foundations of Teaching, Northwestern University.

2021 Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment, a series of workshops, the Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University.

2020 Active Learning and Teaching, series of workshops, the Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University.

2018 Active Learning - Strategies and Tools, annual training, The Center for Transformative Learning, University of Limerick.

LANGUAGES

Hebrew: Native

English: Fluent

Arabic: Reading - Fluent

Italian: Intermediate proficiency

Spanish: Basic proficiency