



The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

PRESS RELEASE

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AICE ANNOUNCES 2009 SCHUSTERMAN ISRAEL SCHOLAR AWARD WINNERS *Training the Next Generation of Israel Studies Scholars*

CHEVY CHASE, MD – The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) recently announced its 2009 Schusterman Israel Scholar Awards, providing students pursuing graduate studies related to Israel with a \$15,000 stipend. The winners are Yoav Duman, Nava Dushi, Donna Herzog, Sarah Anne Minkin and Shay Rabineau.

Yoav Duman is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington. He completed a B.A. in Politics & Government and Philosophy at Ben Gurion University in 2002, and received an M.A. in Political Science from Tel Aviv University in 2007. During his M.A. studies Yoav co-founded and edited the Hebrew language political science journal *The Public Sphere*. Yoav's research primarily focuses on the dynamics of labor migration and the granting of amnesty to undocumented migrants in Israel, Spain, and Italy. He is currently working on a project to reassess the Israeli ideological spectrum by challenging the conventional left-right distinctions as a means for explaining recent shifts in voter behavior and mobilization, coalition making, and political party agendas.

Nava Dushi is a Ph.D. candidate at Tel Aviv University's Faculty of the Arts Film and Television Department. Her dissertation entitled "Texts in transition: Israeli Cinema in a Global Context" examines the rise of contemporary Israeli cinema in a global context. Her research focuses on the place of Israeli film in the intensifying process of globalization and in relations to international cinematic trends. Dushi's work probes the politics of contemporary Israeli cinema beyond national borders.

Donna Herzog is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. She graduated from Brooklyn College in 2007 with a B.A. in Judaic Studies. Donna's research interests include examining the relationship between ideology and policymaking in Israel and socioeconomic issues. She is interested in how tensions between Labor Party ideology and other policymaking considerations were resolved during the first two decades of statehood, how this evolved during the late 1960s through the 1980s, and what implications this change has on the way policy is formed and implemented in a post-Labor era in Israeli society.

Sarah Anne Minkin is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at University of California, Berkeley. She holds a B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies from Yale University and an M.A. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. Sarah Anne's research

investigates the current significance of Israel to American Jews, focusing in particular on the relationship between collective memory and connections to the modern state of Israel. Using ethnographic and other sociological research methods, Sarah Anne studies the ways in which family histories and collective narratives are shared between generations and how different generations relate to Israel. Her work draws from the study of nationalism, commemoration, Diaspora studies, and the sociology of emotions.

Shay Rabineau is entering his second year as a graduate fellow at the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies and as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He received his B.A. in English Writing from the University of Oklahoma, where he studied Modern Standard Arabic and Modern Hebrew before traveling extensively on foot through Israel. Shay plans on studying the development of Israel's system of hiking and backpacking trails from their roots in European Zionist youth movements to their current functions in support of various ideologies and historical narratives.

In addition to these new awards, AICE renewed the awards of Rachel Berry, Eric Fleisch, Rachel Fish, Randy Geller, Jonathan Gribetz, Hillel Gruenberg, Liora Halperin, Sara Hirschhorn, and Joseph Ringel.

“The best way to teach about the diversity of Israeli culture and history is to train scholars in Israeli studies,” said AICE President Howard Rosenbloom. “Universities across the country need to teach about the full gamut of Israel, creating opportunities for young scholars to teach and thus encouraging the academic study of the subject. Each of these students has great potential for making important contributions to Israeli studies, and we're grateful to the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation for helping us create a cadre of future scholars.”

“We are proud to support this important initiative to train a new generation of scholars who will write, research and teach about Israel,” said Lynn Schusterman, Chair of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. The Foundation has been at the forefront of efforts to foster understanding and support for Israel on college campuses.

AICE Executive Director Dr. Mitchell Bard added, “Most courses about Israel focus on the conflict with the Arabs, but a full understanding of Israel requires discussion about the many other facets of Israeli society, culture and politics. By supporting aspiring scholars from a range of disciplines and perspectives, we hope to encourage a new generation of educators who can expose students to all aspects of Israel.”

The Schusterman Israel Scholar Awards are a project of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization created in 1993.

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