

The Weizmann Postdoc Abroad Conference



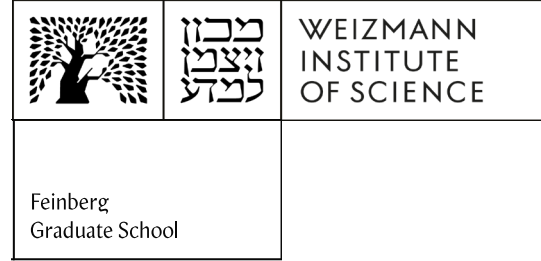
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ויצמן
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WEIZMANN
INSTITUTE
OF SCIENCE

Feinberg
Graduate School

8:30	 Gathering and light refreshments	12:45	Asher Touriel CPA (Israel) and EA (US) Tax and bureaucracy aspects for Postdocs and students in the USA *The representative will stay for an extra one hour for questions
9:00	Greetings Gilad Perez Dean, Feinberg Graduate School	13:00	 Lunch break
9:05	Yohai Kaspi Chair, Postdoctoral Training Program Overview of pursuing a Postdoc abroad and introduction of the panel members	14:00	Meytal Jona Head, Diversity and Inclusion Office Strategies for success in the physics field and overcoming unique challenges for women
9:20	Presentations by the panel members sharing their Postdoc experiences abroad, followed by Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maya Schuldiner Department of Molecular Genetics • Assaf Gal Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences • Shira Raveh-Rubin Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences • Mark Shusterman Department of Mathematics • Hillel Aharoni Department of Physics of Complex Systems 	14:30	Panel discussion with women scientists who completed their Postdocs abroad: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miri Adler The Hebrew University of Jerusalem • Raya Sorkin Tel Aviv University • Lidor Shaar Moshe University of Haifa • Efrat Shimron Technion • Rotem Dror University of Haifa
10:30	 Coffee break	15:00	Uri Alon Elevator pitch Self presentation in 90 seconds
11:00	Nadav Douani CEO ScienceAbroad The Home for Israeli Scientists Abroad	<div style="background-color: #1a2b4d; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>Host Yohai Kaspi Chair, Postdoctoral Training Program</p> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p>Registration https://shorturl.at/nrBCL</p> <p>Seats are limited, so please ensure you register promptly</p> </div> <hr/> <p>Conference Coordinator & Accessibility Issues inbal.azoulay@weizmann.ac.il</p> </div>	
11:45	Idit Shachar Head, Office for the Advancement of Women in Science and Gender Equality Women POWER (Portal Of Women Empowering Research)		
12:00	External fellowship opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniella Armoni - Fellowships, Prizes and Alumni Officer, Yad Hanadiv (the Rothschild Foundation) • Noa Turgeman Deputy Director, Fulbright Israel • Tamar Maagan-Efrati Director, Fellowships for Excellence • Daniel Milbauer Strategy Programme Director (Research Infrastructures and Science Foundations) Council for Higher Education, Israel 		

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Why do a postdoc?

What to consider when thinking about a postdoc?

- Topic of study
- Hosting lab
- Fellowship
- Family & Location

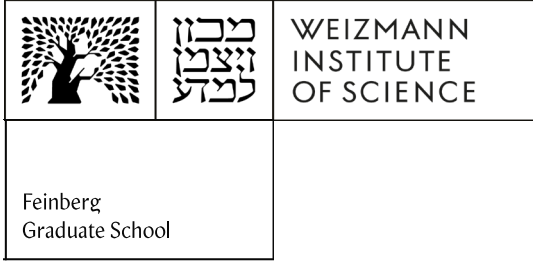
Topic of Study

You now finished your PhD and are now a world expert in your field!
How to proceed? Should I continue in the same field? If not, how far should I go?

Things to consider:

- How much will I be learning beyond my PhD topic? (am I teaching the lab or is the lab teaching me?)
- Will I be learning new methods?
- How long will I have? What is realistic in this time?
- How soon will I be publishing papers on the new topic?
- Is this a developing/new/upcoming field? Should I invest my future in it?
- What are the prospects of establishing my own lab in this field in the future?
- What am I aiming for beyond the postdoc? Does this project have a prospect towards that?

The Hosting Lab



Your postdoc advisor strongly influences your future career. It is important to choose correctly!
This is a critical choice and you should be wise about it.

Things to consider:

- How obliged will I be to a specific project?
- How big is the lab?
- How available is the PI?
- Am I likely to get along with the PI?
- What is the PI's track record in terms of developing their students/postdocs?
- What is the atmosphere in the lab? **(important to visit!)**
- How risky is the project?
- Will I have funds to go to conferences? to job talks?
- Will I be able to establish collaborations outside the lab?

Postdoctoral fellowships



Broadly speaking there are three types of fellowships

- **Personal fellowships:** excellence based and highly competitive prize fellowships. Awarded to the postdoc, and can be taken to any lab giving the postdoc the most independence and flexibility (e.g. Schmidt foundation grants, JSMF legacy grants).
 - **Institutional/Departmental fellowships:** Given by institutions or departments allowing the postdoc the freedom of not being tied to a specific project.
 - **Lab funds:** Awarded by individual PIs for specific projects. This brings the postdoc to a specific lab working off the funds of the PI. The majority of postdocs have these fellowships.
- * **Augmentation fellowships:** come in addition to the main fellowship. These are often targeted to a specific community (e.g., Rothchild, VATAT, WIS Women).

Prize fellowship applications are usually in the fall/winter. Important to plan in advance!

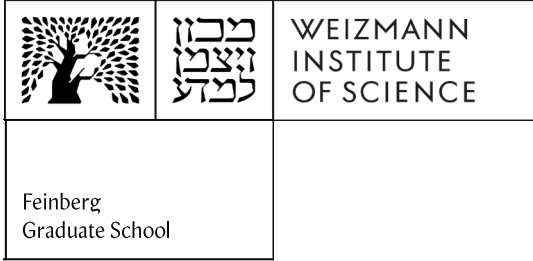
Family and Location

Most of us (especially Israelis) get to our postdoc in our 30s. This is an important period in life beyond our academic career. **A successful postdoc is one that manages to maintain a good work/life balance!**

Things to consider:

- Which country do I want to go to?
- What is the prime language? (both at work and for your family)
- Is my family happy with my choice?
- What are the prospects of my spouse finding a job?
- Is this postdoc financially feasible?
- Daycare/school availability and prices?
- Is there a supporting community?

Panel Discussion



- **Assaf Gal**, Dept. of Plant and Environmental Sciences
PhD: WIS, 2014; Postdoc: MPI (Germany), 2014-2017
- **Hillel Aharoni**, Dept. of Physics of Complex Systems
PhD: HUJI, 2015; Postdoc: Upenn (USA), 2015-2019
- **Mark Schusterman**, Dept. of Mathematics
PhD: TAU, 2018; Postdoc: Wisconsin/Harvard (USA), 2018-2022
- **Maya Schuldiner**, Dept. of Molecular Genetics
PhD: HUJI, 2003; Postdoc: UCSF (USA), 2003-2008
- **Shira Raveh-Rubin**, Dept. of Earth and Planetary Sciences
PhD: WIS, 2012; Postdoc: ETH (Switzerland), 2012-2017
- **Yohai Kaspi**, Dept. of Earth and Planetary Sciences
PhD: MIT, 2008; Postdoc: Caltech (USA), 2008-2011