



THE ANNA SOBOL LEVY FELLOWSHIP (ASL) 2022-2023



Left to Right: Armandos POLYCHRONOPOULO, Lucas BARBIERI, Michael BRENNAN, Konrad BABRAJ, FBI Attaché David Zimmermann, Valérie Susskind, Benjamin SPIRO, Diana D'ALBERO, Elisabeth O'CONNELL.

Report & Activities Summary

Fellowship Coordinator:

Valérie Susskind

Fellows:

- Konrad BABRAJ
- Lucas BARBIERI
- Michael BRENNAN
- Diana D'ALBERO
- Elisabeth O'CONNELL
- Armandos
POLYCHRONOPOULO
- Benjamin SPIRO

THE ASL FELLOWS

****In Their Own Words****



Konrad Babraj

I was born in Geneva, New York, but grew up in the Los Angeles area with my older sister, Arianna. My mother is also from California, but my father is an immigrant from Warsaw, Poland. Having always been interested in military service, I attended the United States Military Academy for undergrad, where I received my Bachelor of Science in defense and strategic studies and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Engineer branch of the US Army. While at the academy, I held several cadet leadership positions and competed with the school's club team in crew, a sport which I had been coached in by my father while growing up. I am currently an Anna Sobol Levy fellow, studying counterterrorism and homeland security at Reichman University. In my spare time, I enjoy music production, DJing, and lifting.



Lucas Barbieri

I am Lucas Barbieri. I was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, and moved to Eastchester New York where I grew up and went to Eastchester high school. From there I went to the University of Maryland where I received a B.S. in Chemistry and participated in Naval Rotc. I am now a Surface Warfare Officer and will be serving on the USS Frank E Peterson Jr in Pearl Harbor after I complete this program.



Michael Brennan

Michael Brennan was born and raised in Allentown, Pennsylvania. After high school, Michael attended the College of the Holy Cross where he studied environmental studies and swam at the division one level. A top of school and sport, Michael was a midshipman in the Holy Cross Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). During his final year of his undergraduate degree, Michael service selected to become a Surface Warfare Officer aboard the CG 57 Lake Champlain and was selected to participate in the ASL fellowship. Following his year studying in Israel, Michael will go to his assigned ship in San Diego, California. He is extremely grateful for this opportunity to live and study abroad, and he is excited to take his experiences from the program to the fleet.



Diana D'Albero

Hi, my name is Diana D'Albero and I'm originally from Middletown, NJ! I graduated from Rutgers University with a BS in Geological Sciences and minors in Marine Science and Naval Science. I also commissioned into the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer from Rutgers' Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program. I am an Anna Sobol Levy (ASL) fellow at Reichman University, continuing my education to achieve an MA in Government with a specialization in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies. Outside of school I enjoy going to the beach and cooking with friends.

Elisabeth O’Connell



Hello! My name is Elisabeth O’Connell! I was born and raised in Princeton, New Jersey, and graduated from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. From there, I attended Rutgers University where I earned a Bachelor’s in Chemistry. While studying at Rutgers University, I participated in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program and look to commission into the US Navy. Currently I am attending Reichman University to further my education and complete an MA in Government specializing in Counterterrorism and Homeland Security. Some of my hobbies include

volunteering at my local fire department, gardening, downhill skiing and golfing.



Armandos Polychronopoulos

Armandos Polychronopoulos is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and originally from Athens, Greece. He completed his bachelor of science at the University of Maryland in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Naval Science. During his time at the University of Maryland, he was an active member of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), the Hellenic-American student association (Diogenis), and Navy ROTC. He is grateful to be selected for the fellowship and is looking forward to making connections with his Israeli counterparts and learning counter-terrorism from subject matter experts.

Ben Spiro



Ben Spiro is an Arabic major with geopolitics research experience at the United States Military Academy. Interested in U.S. foreign relations in the Middle East, he has spent the past semester interning with the American Enterprise Institute exploring Sino-Saudi and Sino-Gulf relationships. He has also spent a semester in Amman, Jordan studying Arabic and Levantine politics and participated in the joint West Point-Yale Peace and Dialogue Leadership Initiative in Israel. As a US citizen and future Army officer, Ben will continue to

study the Sino-Middle East relationship to highlight areas of increased cooperation between the United States and China.

THE ASL COORDINATOR

Valérie Susskind



Valérie Susskind was born and raised in Paris, France. She spent many years in New York, NY where she earned a BA in English Communications at Yeshiva University and a MBA in Marketing and Management at NYU Stern School of Business. She held various Marketing positions and taught Marketing and Management courses at LIM Fashion College in New York City. She moved to Israel with her family in 2019 from Riverdale, NY and currently resides in Ra'anana. At Reichman University, Valérie recruits for various Masters

Degrees including the MA in Government, Valérie started coordinating the programming for the Anna Sobol Levy Fellowship in December 2021. For ASL, Valérie oversees the process from recruitment until the end of the Fellows' stay at Reichman, including programming, speakers and day trips.

Activities Summary

Date	Speaker or Trip Destination	Topic
Oct 2022	Opening Meeting	Welcome and Expectations
Nov 2022	Stevie Weinberg	Introduction to the ICT
Dec 2022	Dr. Barak Ben-Tzur	The Israeli Security Agency's Challenge- Dealing with Jewish Subversion and Terror
Dec 2022	Maj. Gen. Ret, Amos Gilad	"Middle East to Where"
Jan 2023	Daphne Richmond-Barak	Underground Warfare.
Jan 2023	Dr. Col. Ret Anan Wahabi	Non-state political actors in the Middle East.
Jan 2023	Trip to Gaza Border with Avi Eliyahu	Gaza Border
Mar 2022	Naftali Granot	The strategic challenges facing Israel
Apr 2023	Trip to Jerusalem with Miri Eisin	Jerusalem
May 2023	Trip to the Golan Heights with Dr. Eitan Azani	Discussion on Hezbollah, Iran, Shiite Militias, Tunnels , visit of Metula at Lebanon Border, Kiryat Shmona
May 2023	Danny Carmon	The significance and role of diplomacy and its contribution to national resilience, Israel's foreign policy, the UN, foreign aid and Israel - India relations
May 2023	Dave Zimmermann	Career paths within the FBI
June 2023	Visit to Machaneh-Aviv army base, home to IDF Spokespersons.	Discussion and presentation by the IDF Spokespersons Unit.

Speakers and Guides

Stevie Weinberg



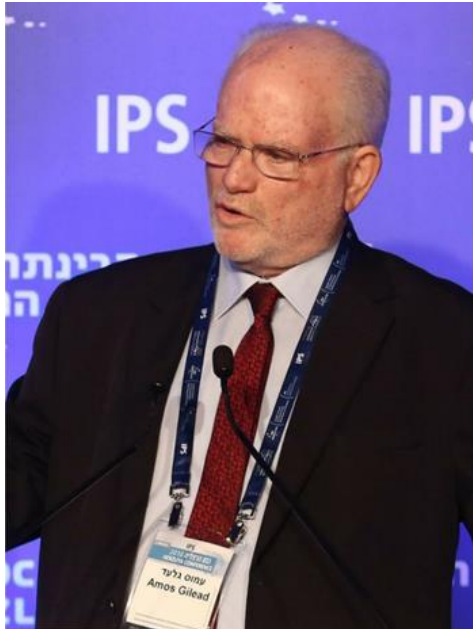
Stevie Weinberg is the Deputy Executive Director of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University, Herzliya, Israel.

Dr. Barak Ben-Tzur



Dr. Col.(Res.) Barak Ben-Tzur is an expert in risk and threat analysis, strategic intelligence, Middle Eastern studies and counter-terrorism.

Maj. Gen. Ret, Amos Gilead



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Amos Gilead served as Director of Policy and Political-Military Affairs at the Ministry of Defense. During his thirty years of service at the IDF, Gilead had been, among other positions, Head of the Military Intelligence Research Division; IDF Spokesperson; Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories; and Military Secretary of Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Today Gilead is a lecturer and researcher at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at Reichman University.

Dr. Daphné Richemond-Barak

Dr. Daphné Richemond-Barak joined Reichman in 2009. Her book *UNDERGROUND WARFARE* was awarded the Prize Chaikin by the Chair in Geostrategy at the University of Haifa for its contribution to the geostrategy of Israel and the Middle East. She has acted as a private counsel for international law firms and as a legal adviser to states including the government of Colombia in its territorial dispute against



Nicaragua before the International Court of Justice. She served as a member of the Committee on International and Security Affairs at the New York Bar Association, and is admitted to practice law in New York and Paris.

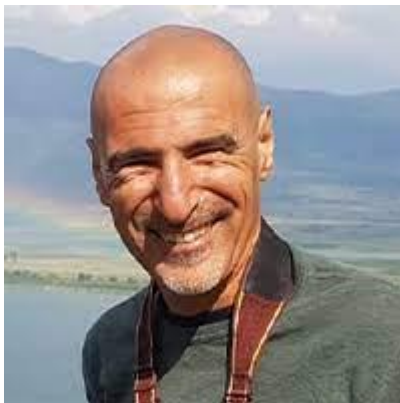
Teaching and research interests include the role and status of non-state actors, law and terrorism, asymmetric warfare and the morality of war, international institutions, and the relationship between international law and international relations.

Dr. Col. Ret Anan Wahabi



A lecturer at the University of Haifa and former chief instructor at the Israel Defense Forces National Defense College.

Avi Eliyahu



Col. (Res.) Avi Eliyahu is an Associate at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University, Herzliya. Col. (Res.) Avi Eliyahu served in the IDF Intelligence Directorate for more than 30 years in various command and operational capacities including among others, Head of Operational Division in the Military Intelligence Directorate as well as Israel Military Intelligence Attaché in the United States, Washington D.C. In his last position he served as the Southern Command Chief Intelligence Officer.

Naftali Granot



Naftali Granot concluded his intelligence career as Deputy Director of the Mossad in 2007. He joined the Mossad in 1982 and served in Lebanon and various western countries. Granot was nominated Head of the HUMINT (Human Intelligence) division in 2002. Granot lead many ground-breaking operations for the Mossad. In 2004, he was the recipient of the highest security decoration awarded by the President of the State of Israel.

Col. Ret. Miri Eisin



In 2006, Eisin became the foreign media advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. She was the first woman in Israel's history to serve in the position. Eisin started the job when the Second Lebanon War broke out in July 2006. In November 2007, Eisin accompanied Olmert to the Annapolis

Conference, a Middle East peace conference held in Annapolis, Maryland. Eisin has an undergraduate degree in political science and Middle Eastern Studies from Tel Aviv University. She went to Haifa University and the IDF Defense College for graduate studies in security studies.

Danny Carmon



Attaché in Washington, DC, from 1978 to 1982 and member of the Israeli Delegation to the Camp David peace talks. Carmon also served as the Commercial Director of a high tech company in Jerusalem, before returning to the Foreign Ministry. Upon his return, he served in the Personnel Division. He was in Israel's embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, first as Consul, Counselor and Administrative Officer , and later as commercial attaché and as Deputy Chief of Mission. In

1995 Ambassador Carmon was appointed Head of the Situation Emergency Room in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Carmon also served as Head of the Information and Internet Division in the Department of Public Affairs as well as Head of the Bureau for Coordination, and Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Director General's Bureau. From 2005 to 2010, he served as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative at Israel's Mission to the United Nations in New York. In 2011, Ambassador Daniel Carmon was appointed Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Head of MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation. In 2013, he was awarded the highest award of Excellence of Israel's Public Service. He was appointed MFA- Ministry's Senior Deputy Director General Interim in addition to his role as Head of Mashav. On July 2014, Ambassador Carmon assumed his functions as Ambassador of Israel to India and Sri Lanka. He completed his term in September 2018 and returned to Israel.

Dr. Eitan Azani



Director of Research, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) & Lecturer, BA & MA with Specialization in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at Reichman University. He is a Colonel (Res.) in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) with operational, research and academic experience in counter-terrorism in the regional and international

arenas. He previously served as the Deputy Executive Director of ICT. As part of his position at ICT, Dr. Azani maintains working relations and advises both private and government entities on counter-terrorism issues. Dr. Azani lectures at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at IDC Herzliya and additional security and organizational establishments in Israel and abroad. He testifies on the subject of Hezbollah in front of the United States House of Representatives' Committee on International Affairs as well as the European Parliament.

Dave Zimmermann

Dave is currently the assistant legal attaché with the FBI in Tel Aviv.



Our Program in Pictures

Raphael Recanati International School Orientation Trip to the Negev, Ben-Gurion's Grave – October 2022

(Not part of specific ASL Programming)



Left to Right: Liz O'Connell, Jonathan Davis, Konrad Babraj, Armandos Polychronopoulos, Lucas Barbieri, Mike Brennan, Valérie Susskind.

Meeting with Stevie Weinberg



In early December, the Fellows met with Stevie Weinberg, the Deputy Executive Director of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), here are Reichman University. The meeting included a fruitful discussion of Stevie's professional experience and of current events. The fellows were able to ask him questions about tensions in the Middle East and global counterterrorism, information

that will help the fellows to advance their own knowledge and strengthen their career as a US military officer.

Meeting with Barak Ben-Tzur



The Fellows met with Dr. Col. Barak Ben Tzur, former military-intelligence official and expert in risk and threat analysis. Dr. Ben Tzur discussed the structure of the Israel Security Agency (ISA) and highlighted the importance of domestic intelligence collection. Dr. Ben Tzur concluded by showcasing prominent examples of ISA thwarting “strategic surprises” and preventing domestic terrorism.

Through opportunities for discussion and questions, the fellows enhanced their understanding of both Israeli domestic intelligence and risk analysis.

Meeting with Amos Gilead



The Fellows met with Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amos Gilead, the executive director of the Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) at Reichman University and served as Director of Policy and Political-

Military Affairs at the Ministry of Defense. The meeting included discussion of Israel's international strategy and political-military relations with superpowers and smaller powers alike. The use of nuclear weapons for strategy and deterrence was also a topic of discussion and the meeting concluded with a Q&A, helping the fellows further their understanding about tensions in the Middle East and their international effects.

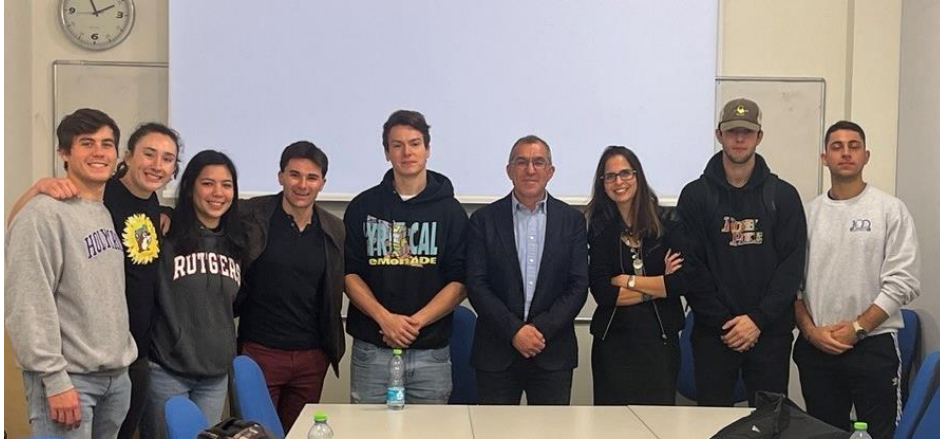
Meeting with Daphné Richemond-Barak



Dr. Daphne Richemond-Barak offered an incredibly insightful information session about the emerging theatre of underground warfare. This

evolving warfare domain poses new threats to both Israel's northern border with Lebanon along with the Gaza Strip. Similarly, the US faces the same challenges on its southern border with Mexico in terms of the cartel's heavy usage and reliance on underground passageways. Underground warfare poses a plethora of issues including its legality, cause for war, and countering the threat. Both Hamas and Hezbollah have used tunnels to pass firearms, explosives, and people to circumnavigate Israeli detection. This in turn is an exceptionally effective fear tactic for the civilian population as it creates a heavy sense of insecurity stemming from possible unmonitored and undetected attacks. Furthermore, underground warfare has a direct correlation with subsurface naval warfare. In 2019 Hamas attempted and succeeded in building a hybrid tunnel that began on land and ended on the sea bed. This was done to enable Hamas' amphibious special operators to clandestinely attack Israel via the seafront. Although this specific tunnel and operation were stopped before a major attack could take place, it demonstrates the depth of this issue and the need for joint US-Israeli tactics to counter the threat.

Meeting with Anan Wahabi



The Fellows met with Dr. Anan Wahabi, a reserve Colonel in the Israeli Defense force and a research fellow

at the International Institute for Counter-terrorism. As a former paratrooper, an intelligence officer, a commander of an information operations unit, and a member of the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Wahabi brought plenty of experience that he was happy to share with our new officers. Dr. Wahabi enlightened the fellows with an intriguing presentation about the roles nation-states and non-state actors play in the modern global age, especially in the middle east. Hearing from such a well-versed officer helped our ASL fellows grasp the complex issues that arise when dealing with complex regions like the Middle East, which may be useful in their military careers.

Trip to Gaza Border with Avi Eliyahu



On the left, in Sderot: Avi Eliyahu, Jonathan Davis, Kobi Harush

In January, The Fellows took an insightful trip down to the Gaza border. Guiding them was Col. (Res.) Avi Eliyahu, an Associate at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University who served in the IDF Intelligence Directorate for more than 30 years. Given his last position as the Southern Command Chief Intelligence Officer, he came with extensive and

personal experiences and knowledge regarding the situation in the Gaza Strip and the various armed engagements conducted in recent years against Israel from the area. The fellows first traveled to an Israeli settlement right along the border, where Col. Eliyahu discussed with them the history and complexity of the Gaza Strip. He also introduced them to Noam, a local Israeli settler who has spent the last eight years in the community with his family. Along their tour, he provided valuable insight to the fellows on the experiences and difficulties of living so close to the border and took them to key sights such as the famous Peace Wall as well as the border wall itself. They finished their day in Sderot, on Kobi Hill with Kobi Harush himself, the security chief of Sderot. Mr. Harush recounted his history with the hill as an observation point for monitoring movement and rocket attacks from across the border. As the sun set over Gaza, he also honored four fallen Israeli Soldier who died in an attack several years ago. These four, one of whom was a Reichman University Alumni, now have a memorial monument on the hill, overlooking the town they died protecting.

Meeting with Naftali Granot



The ASL Fellows had the opportunity to talk today with Naftali Granot. He concluded his intelligence career as Deputy Director of the Mossad in 2007. He joined the Mossad in 1982 and served in Lebanon and

various western countries. The fellows discussed potential security threats with Iran and how the worlds shifting balance affects Israel. We also discussed the current political issues within Israel and how that might affect the state of democracy within the country and how that might affect the security of the country as a whole.

Trip to Jerusalem with Miri Eisin



From Left to Right: Miri Eisin, Konrad Babrak, Lucas Armandos Polychronopoulos, Valérie Susskind, Ben Spiro, Mike Brennan, Diana D'Albero, Mike Snowden





On the Fellows' Jerusalem trip with ret. Col. Miri Eisin,, they learned about Jerusalem's strategic importance is derived from its location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Throughout history, the city has been a prized possession for various empires and civilizations, from the Canaanites and Israelites to the Romans, Ottomans, and British. Jerusalem's religious significance also adds to its strategic value, as it is considered holy by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Control over the city has been a source of conflict for centuries, with multiple wars and diplomatic efforts aimed at securing it. Today, Jerusalem remains a contentious issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with both sides claiming it as their capital. Its strategic importance is undeniable both in terms of its geographic location and its cultural and religious significance.

Lt. Col. Mike Snowden



Lieutenant Colonel Michael Snowden is currently serving as an US Army War College Fellow at the International Institute for Counter Terrorism. He is an US Army aviator whose command assignments include platoon, company and battalion level commander positions serving in an AH-64 Attack Battalion. He most recently served as the commander of 1-82 Attack Battalion at Fort Bragg, NC. LTC Michael Snowden also served in multiple leadership capacities in special operations aviation. LTC Snowden's staff and broadening assignments include Battalion Assistant Operations Officer, Aide-de-Camp, Force Modernization Officer, Battalion Executive Officer, and Joint Air Operations Officer. He is also a Joint Qualified Officer. LTC Snowden deployed numerous times to Iraq and Afghanistan from 2004-2021. Additionally, he participated to multiple US Joint and multi-national training exercises in the United States and Europe. His military schooling includes the Aviation Officer Basic Course and Captains Career Course, Airborne, Air Assault, and SERE courses. He holds a bachelor's degree from the United States Military Academy and a master's degree in Adult Education from Kansas State University. Mike Snowden accompanied us on the Jerusalem Trip with Miri Eisin.

North Trip with Eitan Azani



At Har Bental, from left to right: Valérie Susskind, Eitan Azani, Ben Spiro, Mike Brennan, Diana D'Albero, Liz O'Connell, Konrad Babraj.



In early May, the Fellows traveled to northern Israel with Dr. Eitan Azani, an expert on terrorism in Iran, Lebanon, and Syria. The group began the day by visiting Mount Bental in the Golan Heights where they discussed the security and counter-terrorism situation in Syria. The group continued the tour by visiting the nearby Saar Stream where they further discussed the complexities of the situation and ongoing threat to Israel, After a delicious lunch at

Mama Halsa in Kiryat Shmona, the group ended the day with a visit to Dado lookout. There, the group focused on the role of Hezbollah in Lebanon and Iranian influence.

Meeting with Danny Carmon



From left to Right: Lucas Armandos, Konrad, Danny Carmon, Valerie Susskind, Diana, Liz, Ben

In mid May the Fellows met with Danny Carmon, an Israeli diplomat who served as the ambassador of Israel to India from 2014-2018. The significance and role of diplomacy and its contribution to national resilience was discussed, as well as Israel's foreign policy and place in the international system. The meeting concluded with discussions on Israel and India's relations and judicial coup and what it signifies, and the fellows were able to partake in a Q&A, furthering their knowledge on diplomacy in the international community.

Meeting with Dave Zimmermann



Later in May, the Fellows met with David Zimmerman, a FBI attaché working in the Tel Aviv branch of the US embassy. Mr. Zimmerman works as a counter-terrorism agent within the country, cooperating with the Mossad and Shin Bet agencies in order to combat ongoing threats to Israel and the United States. He took the time with the fellows to share a brief overview of his lengthy career, from Marine Corps Aviation to his current position with the FBI. During their talk, Mr. Zimmerman gave insight into the various roles and opportunities the agency has to offer, as well as how it operates with foreign partners such as Israel. Through their time with him, the fellows gained a deeper understanding of how counter-terrorism organizations operate and, perhaps more importantly, coordinate in theaters such as the Middle East, where multiple agencies and partners must combat a complex threat together.

Visit to the IDF Spokespersons Unit in Machaneh Aviv Base



In June, the Fellows had the opportunity to visit the IDF spokesperson unit in northern Tel Aviv. They saw how the IDF disseminates information to both Israelis and the international community. They were also briefed on the different threats that Israel faces from both Lebanon and Iran and how the spokesperson unit gets information about operations out to the community.

*****End of 2022-2023 Annual Report*****