**Eli Sperling, Ph.D.**

348 Mimosa Drive, Decatur, GA 27705

404-550-4189

[sperling.eli@gmail.com](mailto:sperling.eli@gmail.com)

**Education**

**Ph.D.** (September 2019), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel

Dissertation title: “Singing the Land: The Parallel Development of Hebrew Musical Culture during the British Mandate of Palestine in the United States and Eretz Yisrael”

Committee Members: Arieh Saposnik, Edwin Seroussi (outside advisor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Ofer Schiff and Gideon Katz

**M.A.** in Middle Eastern history (August 2010), Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel

Thesis title: “Tourism, Internet, and Economic Development: Cultural Changes Amongst M'zeini Bedouin Youth in Dahab” (based on extensive fieldwork in the Sinai Peninsula)

Honors: Magna Cum Laude, Thesis 95

**B.A.** inMiddle Eastern studies & political economy (June 2006), The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA

Senior thesis title: “The Political Economy of Nasser’s High Dam”

**Languages**

English: native

Hebrew: fluent

Arabic: reading knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic

**Current Position**

* Israel Institute Teaching Fellow, University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs (August 2022-present)

**Forthcoming Publications:**

* *Singing the Land: Hebrew Music and Early Zionism in America,* The University of Michigan Press

**Publications Under Review:**

* “The Jewish National Fund: Land Purchases in Palestine, fundraising in America, and Hebrew Musical Culture,” *Israel Studies* (revised and re-submitted)

**Publications in Process:**

* *Saudi Arabia and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process* with Josh Goodman (Air War College)
* “Is the Fear of Brain Drain Justified? Elite Israeli Jazz”
* **“**Popular Music and Cultural Diplomacy in the Abraham Accords”

**Academic Conference Papers**

* December 3, 2022, “From the Arab Peace Initiative to the Abraham Accords,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
* June 30, 2022, “A ‘Warm Peace?’ Popular Music and Cultural Diplomacy in the Abraham Accords,” Association for Israel Studies Annual Conference, Bar Ilan University, Israel
* February 22, 2022, “Zionist Notions of Jewish Indigeneity to Palestine in American Hebrew Musical Culture: 1920-1948,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting (digital program)
* September 2021, “Zionism and the Zionization of American Jewry through Music,” Armenian Studies and Israel Studies: New Scholarship, Shared Themes, Mutual Lesson, a Workshop hosted by the Azrieli Center for Israel Studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel
* June 8, 2021, “Is the Fear of Brain Drain Justified? Elite Israeli Jazz” Association for Israel Studies Annual Conference
* December 15, 2020, “Conservative Judaism, American Zionism and Hebrew Folks Songs in the First Half of the 20th Century,” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference
* June 30, 2020, “The Jewish National Fund: Land Purchases in Palestine, Fundraising in America, and Hebrew Music During a Period of Zionist Growth,” Association for Israel Studies Annual Conference
* June 11, 2020, “American Zionism’s Musical Roots: A Look at the Past to Understand the Present and Future of US-Israel Relations,” American Jewish Historical Society’s 2020 Biennial Conference

**Research and Teaching Experience**

**PostdoctoralAssociate, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Center for Jewish Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC**

July 2020–June 2022

* Teach undergraduate courses as part of Duke’s Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
  + (Fall 2020) “Introduction to Israeli Culture”
  + (Spring 2021) “Modern Israeli Music”
  + (Spring 2021, 2022) “The History of Zionism”
* Participate in and administer public scholarship events and student programs on Duke’s campus
* Complete Duke’s “Teaching Writing in the Disciplines” certification program
* Prepare book manuscript for submission to R1 press, work on other publications
* Participate in scholarly workgroups that meet regularly

**Senior Academic Research Coordinator, Institute for the Study of Modern Israel (ISMI), Emory University, Atlanta, GA**

November 2012–July 2020

* Managed ISMI’s undergraduate academic research internship program—including recruiting, hiring, training, supervising and mentoring student interns, typically with little experience in academic research and writing
* Collected, edited, and maintained ISMI’s extensive collection of primary source documents about the history, politics and diplomacy of the Zionist movement and modern Israel
* Edited three editions of *History, Politics and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Source Documents Reader*
* Edited and co-authored, *Egyptian-Israeli Negotiations' Documents Reader: 1973-1979*
* Contributed to development work—including attending and/or speaking about modern Israel at events with Emory donors, helping to plan fundraising programs for ISMI in coordination with the development and Dean’s office and helping to plan research grant application materials
* Coordinated and sustained community partnerships and gave lectures about Israeli politics, diplomacy and culture for community partners
* Helped coordinate and contribute content to lectures, seminars, conferences, and other public scholarship events hosted by ISMI

**Visiting Professor, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA**

January 2019–December 2019

* Taught (Spring, Fall 2019) “Israeli Culture and Society: 1880–Present”
* Senior Honors Thesis Advisory Committee Member, chaired by Dr. Meredith Schweig, Emory University, “*Chasing the Andalusian Ideal: Nostalgia and Sephardic Self-Image in Andalusian Music in Israel,”* Xavier Sayed

**Teaching Assistant, Emory University, Atlanta, GA**

Fall 2013, Fall 2016

* “The History, Politics, and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict” taught by Professor Ken Stein
* Lectured on certain topics, led study sections, prepared course materials, corresponded with disability office administration and graded exams

**Research Assistant to Professor Yosi Kostiner, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel**

2008–2010

* Researched, edited and contributed writing to four published academic articles and book chapters, and two articles published in the Moshe Dayan Center’s “Tel Aviv Notes” series
* Researched, edited and contributed writing to one book manuscript about the historic complexities of Saudi-Israeli diplomacy

**Invited Lectures and Keynotes**

* January 23, 2022, “The Jewish National Fund: Land Purchases in Palestine and America Hebrew Musical Culture,” North Carolina Jewish Studies Seminar, a collaborative partnership between Duke University, North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University, Durham, NC
* June 15, 2021, “Music’s Role in Israeli State Making: Nineteenth Century to the Present,” Emory University Institute for the Study of Modern Israel and Center for Israel Education Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA
* October 1, 2020, “Hebrew Music and the Development of Transnational Zionism Amongst American Jewry: 1920s–1940s,” Sonoma State University—a joint lecture as part of Sonoma State’s Jewish Music Series and Lecture Series on Israel Studies, Rohnert Park, CA
* April 28, 2020, “Israel, Zionism and Progressive Judaism in America,” American Jewish University, Los Angeles, CA
* March 3, 2020, “From Sadat’s Visit to Jerusalem–Today: Challenges and Opportunities in Arab-Israeli Multi-Lateral Negotiations,” St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY
* June 25, 2019, “The Formation and Evolution of Israeli National Culture,” Emory University Institute for the Study of Modern Israel and Center for Israel Education Annual Conference, Atlanta,

GA

* November 27, 2018, "Hebrew Music and the Proliferation of American Zionism: 1920–1948," Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA

**Professional Associations**

* Association for Israel Studies
* Association for Jewish Studies
* Middle East Studies Association

**Certifications and Fellowships**

* “Certificate of Accomplishment in Teaching Writing in the Disciplines” from Duke University
* Fellow, Marvin C. Goldstein Black-Jewish Project Understanding, organized by the American Jewish Committee’s Atlanta Black-Jewish Coalition, Peachtree City, GA, August 2019
* Fellow, “Anti-Defamation League Glass Leadership Institute,” Atlanta, GA, September 2018–July 2019

**Advisory Board Experience:**

* Gala Chair/Music Director/Programming Committee Member, Limmud Atlanta + Southeast, Atlanta, GA, 2014–2020
* Board Member, Judaic Mosaic, Atlanta, GA, 2014–Present
* Board Member/Programming Committee Co-Chair, Atlanta Jewish Music Festival, Atlanta, GA, 2013–2019

**Recent Public Scholarship**

* April 23, 2022, “Introduction to Israel," Greensboro Jewish Federation Leadership Initiative, Greensboro, NC
* March 29-31, 2022, Screening of Israeli Director Avner Faingulernt’s diptych, “In The Dessert” with conversation between Dr. Faingulernt and Dr. Eli Sperling, Duke University, Durham, NC
* February 22, 2022, “US-Israel Military Partnerships: Dinner, Lecture, and Discussion with Duke Professor Eli Sperling,” University of North Carolina Hillel, Chapel Hill, NC
* June–July, 2021, “The Politics of the Arab-Israeli Conflict,” series of lectures for a Marcus Foundation teen educational initiative, Atlanta, GA
* June 4, 2021, “What is going on in Israeli Electoral Politics?” Durham Jewish Community Center, Durham, NC
* May 23, 2021, “The Origins and Evolutions of Zionism,” The Marcus Foundation and Jewish Federation of Atlanta, GA
* April 18, 2021, “Israeli Elections—Electoral Politics, Culture and Society,” Duke University, Durham, NC
* February 26, 2021, “Panel on Israeli Election with Professors Eli Sperling and Nachman Shai,” Freeman Center for Jewish Life at Duke, Durham, NC
* February 14, 2021, “Israeli Politics and Musical Culture,” Center for Israel Education, Atlanta, GA
* January 19, 2021, “Israeli Hip Hop and Electoral Politics,” Palm Beach Jewish Federation, Palm Beach, FL
* January 3, 2021, “Music as a Pedagogical Tool to Teach about Israel’s Complexities,” Jewish Federation of Atlanta Annual Educator’s Assembly Conference, Atlanta, GA
* November 10–December 1, 2020, “Topics in Israeli Politics, Culture and Society: A Four-Part, Annual Lecture Series on Modern Israel as Part of The Temple's (Zoom) Tamid Adult Education Program,” The Temple, Atlanta, GA
* October 28, 2020, “American Elections and Israel: A Panel Discussion with Professors Nachman Shai, Eli Sperling, and WINEP Fellow Dana Stroul,” Duke University, Durham, NC
* October 25, 2020, “The Jews Are Coming: Biblical Satire and Modern Israeli Culture,” A Panel Discussion with Professors Shai Ginsburg, Marc Zvi Brettler, Sarah Baker and Eli Sperling, Duke University, Durham, NC
* October 21, 2020, “Israeli Pop Culture Meets Israeli Politics,” Jewish Community Center, Raleigh, NC
* August 10-13, 2020, “Scholar in Residence—Israeli Politics,” Wildwood Acres, Leicester, NC

**References:**

Shai Ginsburg, Associate Professor, Department Chair Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC

[shai.ginsburg@duke.edu](mailto:shai.ginsburg@duke.edu), (919) 681-4592

Eric Goldstein, Associate Professor, Department of History, Director of Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

[egoldst@emory.edu](mailto:egoldst@emory.edu), (404) 727-4470

Arieh Saposnik, Associate Professor, Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel; President, Association for Israel Studies

[saposnik@bgu.ac.il](mailto:saposnik@bgu.ac.il), +972 08-6596936