

# Eli Sperling

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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| <b>University of Georgia</b><br>Israel Institute Teaching Fellow, Department of International Affairs                          | 2022-present |
| <b>Duke University</b><br>Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Center for Jewish Studies | 2020-2022    |
| <b>Emory University</b><br>Visiting Professor, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies                                                | 2019         |
| <b>Emory University</b><br>Senior Academic Research Coordinator, Institute for the Study of Modern Israel                      | 2012-2020    |

## EDUCATION

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| <b>Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Studies</b> , Ben-Gurion University of the Negev<br>The Ben-Gurion Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism<br>Dissertation: "Singing the Land: The Parallel Development of Hebrew Musical Culture in Palestine and the United States during the British Mandate of Palestine" | 2020 |
| <b>M.A., Middle Eastern History</b> , Tel Aviv University<br>Thesis: "Tourism, Internet, and Economic Development: Cultural Changes Amongst M'zeini Bedouin Youth in Dahab"<br>Magna Cum Laude                                                                                                                  | 2010 |
| <b>B.A., Middle Eastern Studies and Political Economy</b> , The Evergreen State College<br>Senior thesis: "The Political Economy of Nasser's High Dam"                                                                                                                                                          | 2006 |

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Books

*Singing the Land: Hebrew Music and Early Zionism in America*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2024.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Can Bilateralism Endure? The 2023-25 Gaza War and the Abraham Accords Framework." With Elizabeth Trumpheller. *Journal of Strategic Security* 18, no. 4 (2025): 101-113.

"Proposing Unique and Effective Policy Recommendations for Achieving a Lasting Two-State Solution." With Charlotte Huck-Greely and Nicolle Martin. *Journal of Strategic Security* 16, no. 4 (2023): 180-206.

### Other Publications

Review of *Fleeing from History: Zionism, Israel, and the United States*, by Ylana N. Miller. *Contemporary Jewry* 46, article 65 (2026). DOI: 10.1007/s12397-026-09770-6.

"Reviving Israeli-Palestinian Medical Collaboration for a Post-War Future." With David Greenky. *Health Affairs Forefront*, November 5, 2025.

Review of *Our Palestine Question: Israel and American Jewish Dissent, 1948-1978*, by Geoffrey Levin. *AJS Review* 49, no. 1 (2025): 213-215.

*Egyptian-Israeli Negotiations' Documents Reader: 1973-1979*. With Kenneth W. Stein and Jacob T. Zack. Emory University Institute for the Study of Modern Israel, 2019.

## PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

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*Improvised Exodus: Transnational Culture, Cold War Politics, and the Roots of Israeli Jazẓ*.

"The Sounds of Statehood: Israeli Music and Jewish-American Zionist Identity Politics, 1948-1953."

"Between Normalization and Resistance: Israeli-Moroccan Relations in the Age of the Abraham Accords."

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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"Building Trust through Healthcare Diplomacy: A Literature Review and Case Study Analysis of the 2020 Abraham Accords between Israel and its Arab Neighbors." With David Greenky.

"From the Arab Peace Initiative to the Abraham Accords." With Josh Goodman.

## CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

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"The Sounds of Statehood: Israeli Music and Jewish-American Zionist Identity Politics, 1948-1953." Association for Israel Studies Annual Meeting, Ramat Gan, Israel, October 19, 2026.

- "Palestinian-Israeli Medical Cooperation: A Path Forward." Association for Israel Studies Annual Meeting, Haifa, Israel, July 7, 2025.
- "Active Learning and Middle Eastern Politics: AI-Based Pedagogic Approaches." International Studies Association ELIAS-CIDE Applied and Experiential Learning Workshop, Mexico City, Mexico, October 30, 2024.
- "Teaching the Arab-Israeli Conflict with AI-Based Pedagogy." Association for Israel Studies Annual Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic, July 3, 2024.
- "From the Arab Peace Initiative to the Abraham Accords." International Studies Association International Security Studies Section and American Political Science Association International Studies Section, Colorado Springs, CO, October 2023.
- "Teaching Sensitive Topics in International Affairs: AI and Middle Eastern Politics." International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, October 2023.
- "Cultural Diplomacy, Novel Political Behavior and the Abraham Accords." Association for Israel Studies Annual Meeting, New York, NY, June 2023.
- "From the Arab Peace Initiative to the Abraham Accords." Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, December 3, 2022.
- "A 'Warm Peace?' Popular Music and Cultural Diplomacy in the Abraham Accords." Association for Israel Studies Annual Conference, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, June 30, 2022.
- "Zionist Notions of Jewish Indigeneity to Palestine in American Hebrew Musical Culture: 1920-1948." American Historical Association Annual Meeting, February 22, 2022.
- "Zionism and the Zionization of American Jewry through Music." Armenian Studies and Israel Studies: New Scholarship, Shared Themes, Mutual Lessons, Azrieli Center for Israel Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, September 2021.
- "Is the Fear of Brain Drain Justified? Elite Israeli Jazz." Association for Israel Studies Annual Conference, June 8, 2021.
- "Conservative Judaism, American Zionism, and Hebrew Folk Songs in the First Half of the Twentieth Century." Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 15, 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 30, 2020.
- "American Zionism's Musical Roots: A Look at the Past to Understand the Present and Future of U.S.-Israel Relations." American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Conference, June 11, 2020.

## INVITED LECTURES

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- "Israeli Culture and Domestic Politics." U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Institute, Arlington, VA, May 20, 2025.
- "Singing the Land: Hebrew Music and Early Zionism in America." New York University, New York, NY, April 4, 2024.
- "Singing the Land: Hebrew Music and Early Zionism in America." Emory University, Atlanta, GA, March 18, 2024.
- "The Gaza War in Context." University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, November 16, 2023.
- "The Gaza War: Political and Social Context." Georgia Gwinnett College, Gwinnett, GA, October 23, 2023.
- "Zionist Culture in Words, Art and Music: An Expert Panel of Scholars in Conversations with Professor Emeritus Ken Stein." Emory University, Atlanta, GA, January 11, 2023.
- "Israeli National Elections, American Midterms and the U.S.-Israel Relationship." University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, November 1, 2022.
- "U.S.-Israel Military Partnerships: Dinner, Lecture, and Discussion with Duke Professor Eli Sperling." University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, February 22, 2022.
- "The Jewish National Fund: Land Purchases in Palestine and American Hebrew Musical Culture." North Carolina Jewish Studies Seminar, Duke University, Durham, NC, January 23, 2022.
- "Hebrew Music and the Development of Transnational Zionism Amongst American Jewry: 1920s-1940s." Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA, October 1, 2020.
- "Israel, Zionism and Progressive Judaism in America." American Jewish University, Los Angeles, CA, April 28, 2020.
- "From Sadat's Visit to Jerusalem to Today: Challenges and Opportunities in Arab-Israeli Multilateral Negotiations." St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY, March 3, 2020.
- "The Formation and Evolution of Israeli National Culture." Emory University, Atlanta, GA, June 25, 2019.
- "Hebrew Music and the Proliferation of American Zionism: 1920-1948." Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA, November 27, 2018.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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**University of Georgia:** Israeli Politics; The Politics of Israel and Palestine; The U.S.-Israel Relationship; Middle Eastern Politics; Popular Culture and Global Politics; Introduction to Global Issues.

**Duke University:** Introduction to Israeli Culture; Modern Israeli Music; The History of Zionism.

**Emory University:** Israeli Culture and Society: 1880-Present; History, Politics, and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

## RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

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### **University of Georgia, Israel Institute Teaching Fellow**

2022-present

Teach undergraduate courses on Israeli politics, Israel/Palestine, U.S.-Israel relations, Middle Eastern politics, and global issues. Develop Israel- and Middle East-focused curriculum, mentor undergraduate researchers and honors students, organize campus and public programming, and support study abroad and experiential learning initiatives.

### **Duke University, Postdoctoral Associate**

2020-2022

Taught undergraduate courses in Israeli culture, modern Israeli music, and the history of Zionism. Participated in Duke's "Teaching Writing in the Disciplines" certification program. Administered public scholarship events and student programs through the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and the Center for Jewish Studies. Prepared first book manuscript for press submission and participated in interdisciplinary scholarly workgroups.

### **Emory University Institute for the Study of Modern Israel, Senior Academic Research Coordinator**

2012-2020

Managed undergraduate academic research internship program, including recruiting, training, supervising, and mentoring student researchers. Collected, edited, and maintained primary-source materials on the history, politics, and diplomacy of Zionism and modern Israel. Edited documentary readers and coauthored Egyptian-Israeli Negotiations' Documents Reader: 1973-1979. Coordinated public scholarship, community partnerships, lectures, seminars, conferences, and development-facing programming.

### **Emory University, Visiting Professor, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies**

2019

Taught "Israeli Culture and Society: 1880-Present." Served on senior honors thesis advisory committee for Xavier Sayed, "Chasing the Andalusian Ideal: Nostalgia and Sephardic Self-Image in Andalusian Music in Israel."

### **Emory University, Teaching Assistant**

2013, 2016

Served as teaching assistant for "The History, Politics, and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict," taught by Professor Kenneth W. Stein. Led study sections, lectured on selected topics, prepared course materials, coordinated with disability services, and graded exams.

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

2008-2010

Researched, edited, and contributed writing to academic articles, book chapters, policy briefs, and a book manuscript on Saudi-Israeli relations.

## LANGUAGES

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English, native; Hebrew, professional proficiency; Arabic, reading knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic.

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SERVICE

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### **Association for Israel Studies**, board member

Association for Jewish Studies

Middle East Studies Association

International Studies Association