**Nathaniel Shils** +1 215-307-7446  
[University of Pennsylvania](https://www.upenn.edu/) [nshils@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:nshils@sas.upenn.edu)

[Department of Political Science](https://www.polisci.upenn.edu/) [www.nathanielshils.com](http://www.nathanielshils.com)

133 S. 36th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104-6215

**Education**

**University of Pennsylvania**

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, expected summer 2022

M.A., Political Science, 2016

Dissertation: [*Israelis and Palestinians After the Oslo Accords: Persistence, Adaptation, and the Making of Strategy in Protracted Self-Determination Conflicts*](https://www.nathanielshils.com/main-st)

Committee: [Ian Lustick](https://live-sas-www-polisci.pantheon.sas.upenn.edu/people/standing-faculty/ian-lustick) (supervisor), [Robert Vitalis](https://live-sas-www-polisci.pantheon.sas.upenn.edu/people/standing-faculty/robert-vitalis) (chair), [Brendan O’Leary](https://live-sas-www-polisci.pantheon.sas.upenn.edu/people/standing-faculty/brendan-oleary)

**Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Visiting Research Fellow at [Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations](https://en.davis.huji.ac.il/), 2019

**Hobart College**

B.A. Political Science & Critical Social Studies, *magna cum laude*, 2013

**Academic Appointments**

**University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)**

Postdoctoral Fellow in Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, 2022-2023

**Bryn Mawr College**

Visiting Instructor of Political Science, 2020-2022

**Research and Teaching Interests**

Nationalism and ethnic politics, peace and conflict processes, power sharing in divided places, state building, comparative and international politics of the Middle East, settler colonialism and indigenous politics, Israeli and Palestinian politics, philosophy and methodology of the social sciences

**Publications**

**Peer Reviewed**

“Strategies and Competitions: The Struggle over BDS within and between Israel and the Palestinians” with Ian Lustick. *Accepted and forthcoming in the Israel Studies Review*.

**Working Papers**

“Agency and Conflict in the Boundary Problem of Democratic Theory” with Troels Skadhauge. *Under revision for submission in fall 2022. Presented at MPSA 2021.*

“Self-Determination Strategies: Palestinian Dilemmas and Prospects in Comparative Perspective.” *Presenting at APSA 2022.*

**In Preparation**

“What is Annexation? De Facto and De Jure Change in the Territorial Transformation of States.”

“Settler Colonialism and Political Science: The Uses and Politics of a Category.” *Presented preliminary ideas at APSA 2021 Indigenous Politics Mini Conference.*

“Coevolutionary Dynamics in the Strategies of States and Separatist Movements.” *Article derived from theory and comparative chapters of dissertation*.

**Reviews**

[“To Settle or Not to Settle? State Expansion and Civilian Settlement Projects After 1960.”](https://academic.oup.com/isr/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/isr/viaa050/5879486?redirectedFrom=fulltext) Review of [*Post-Colonial Settlement Strategy*](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-post-colonial-settlement-strategy.html) by Ehud Eiran. *International Studies Review* 22:4, 1004-1005 (2020).

[Featured Review](https://online.ucpress.edu/jps/article/49/3/84/110800/Review-The-Revolution-Within-State-Institutions) in *Journal of Palestine Studies* Vol. 49 No. 3, 84-89 (2020). Books Reviewed:

Dana El Kurd, [*Polarized and Demobilized: Legacies of Authoritarianism in Palestine*](https://global.oup.com/academic/product/polarized-and-demobilized-9780190095864?cc=us&lang=en&)

Yael Zeira, [*The Revolution Within: State Institutions and Unarmed Resistance in Palestine*](https://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/middle-east-government-politics-and-policy/revolution-within-state-institutions-and-unarmed-resistance-palestine?format=PB)

Menachem Klein, [*Arafat and Abbas: Portraits of Leadership in a State Postponed*](https://global.oup.com/academic/product/arafat-and-abbas-9780190087586?cc=us&lang=en&)

\*Remains on Most Read list of *JPS* content 18 months after published

[Review](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13537113.2019.1678246) of [*Disciples of the State? Religion and State-Building in the Former Ottoman World*](https://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/comparative-politics/disciples-state-religion-and-state-building-former-ottoman-world?format=HB&isbn=9781108419086) by Kristin Fabbe. *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* Vol. 25 No. 4, 461-463 (2019).

**Grants, Fellowships, Awards**

**Grants and Fellowships**

2022 Penn Political Science Conference Travel Grant, *$1,000*

2021 Academic Year Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship for Arabic, Penn Middle East Center, *$18,000 language study tuition & $15,000 stipend*

Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship for Arabic, Penn Middle East Center,

*$5,000 language study tuition & $2,500 stipend*

Browne Center for International Politics at Penn, Summer Research Award, *$2,000*

2020 John Anson Kitredge Fund Grant (private foundation), *$12,000*

Turner-Schulman Fellowship, Ctr. for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, & Immigration at Penn, *$1,000*

Penfield Dissertation Research Fellowship, Penn School of Arts and Sciences, *$2,000*

Schwartz Research Award, Penn Jewish Studies Program, *$1,000*

Browne Center for International Politics at Penn, Summer Research Award, *$1,000*

2019 Teece Dissertation Research Fellowship, Penn School of Arts and Sciences, *$5,700*

Browne Center for International Politics Summer Research Award, Penn, *$1,600*

President Gutmann Leadership Award, Penn, *$1,150*

Brenner Research Award, Penn Jewish Studies Program, *$1,500*

Goldfein Research Award, Penn Jewish Studies Program, *$1,500*

Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship for Hebrew, Penn Middle East Center,

*$5,000 language study tuition & $2,500 stipend*

2017 Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Hebrew, Penn Middle East Center, *$5,000 language study tuition & $2,500 stipend*

2015 Benjamin Franklin Fellowship (standard Penn funding package) 2015-19

2014 Geo L. Harrison Fellow (distinctive endowed funding package from Penn)

2012 U.S. State Department Critical Language Fellowship for Russian (Ufa, Bashkortostan)

**Awards and Distinctions**

2017 Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, Penn School of Arts and Sciences

2015 Dean’s Scholar Award, Penn School of Arts and Sciences

2013 Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate National Political Science Honor Society, HWS

2013 Maynard Smith Prize in Political Science (outstanding senior major), HWS

2012 James M. Williams Prize in Social Science (highest GPA in social sciences), HWS

**Teaching & Pedagogy Development**

F=Fall, S=Spring, SMR=Summer, WNTR=Winter,

**Instructor at UCLA**

Conflict and Power Sharing in Deeply Divided Places W 2023

**Instructor at Bryn Mawr College**

US and the Middle East – POLS 318 (upper-level seminar) S 2022

Islam and Politics – POLS 360 (upper-level seminar) S 2021

Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Politics – POLS 314 (upper-level seminar) S 2021

Middle East Politics – POLS 283 (mid-level course) F 20, F 2021

Politics of Nationalism – POLS 202 (mid-level course) F 2020

Anti-Political Theory and Radical Study – POLS 317 (upper-level seminar, with Joel Schlosser) F 2020

Politics of International Law and Institutions – POLS 241 (mid-level course) S 2020

**Instructor at University of Pennsylvania**

Oil and Politics in the Middle East (developed online course, not taught) WNTR 2020

Freedom & Domination in American Pol. Thought, (intro level, co-taught with Loren Goldman) SMR 2018

**Teaching Assistant at University of Pennsylvania**

International Politics of the Middle East (mid-level), Prof. Robert Vitalis F 2019

American Political Thought (intro level) Prof. Anne Norton S 2017

Modern Political Thought (intro level), Prof. Loren Goldman F 2016

Arab-Israeli Relations (mid-level), Prof. Ian Lustick S 2016

Political Change in the “Third World” (intro level), Prof. Rudra Sil F 2015

**Hobart & William Smith Colleges**

Teaching Assistant for Problems & Methods in the Study of Politics, Prof. Stacey Philbrick Yadav F 2012

Peer Tutor for Introduction to Comparative Politics, Prof. Stacey Philbrick Yadav S 2010

**Other Academic Training**

**Pedagogy Development at Bryn Mawr College**

[Pedagogical Partnership Program](https://www.brynmawr.edu/tli/salt-program/student-consulants) 2020-2021

[Creating and Rethinking Syllabi Workshops](https://www.brynmawr.edu/tli/syllabusdesign) SMR 2020

[Online Teaching Institute](https://www.brynmawr.edu/blendedlearning/online-teaching-institute) SMR 2020

**Summer Programs**

[Israel Policy Forum](https://israelpolicyforum.org/) Leadership Delegation to Israel and the West Bank, 2022

[Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies & The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Summer School](https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/educationstudents/advanced-summer-school-graduate-students-jewish-studies) on “Shaking Foundations,” 2016

[Jack Miller Center Summer Institute](https://jackmillercenter.org/programs-2/higher-education/jmc-programs/#jmc-summer-institute) on “Property, Power, and the Rise of Atlantic Constitutionalism,” 2015

**Language Training**

Arabic: [Sijal Institute](https://www.sijal.org/), 2021-2022 (summer intensive and academic year private tutoring, MSA & Levantine)

Hebrew: [Hebrew University](https://en.huji.ac.il/en), 2019; [Tel Aviv University](https://english.tau.ac.il/), 2017; [University of Haifa](https://www.haifa.ac.il/?lang=en), 2017 (intensives)

Russian: [Bashkir State Pedagogical University](http://eng.bspu.ru/), 2012; [Bryn Mawr College Russian Language Institute](https://www.brynmawr.edu/rli), 2011

French: acquired basic reading and speaking competence prior to college

**Conferences and Presentations**

2022 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference

Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference

2021 Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference

*Organized panel Transnational Activism and the Politics of the BDS Movement (sponsored by PARC) and roundtable New Directions in the Study of Palestinian Politics*

American Political Science Association (APSA)

*Organized roundtable Settler Colonialism, Indigenous Politics, and Political Science: Critical Histories and New Directions*

Association for Israel Studies (AIS) Annual Conference

*Organized panel The Politics of BDS in Israel and Abroad*

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference

2020 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference

*Co-organized panel Strategies of Shaping Peoples and States (with Meghan Garrity)*

Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Pennsylvania

2019 Yitzhak Rabin Conference in Political Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference

Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania

2017 Political Theory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania (x2)

Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Pennsylvania

2016 Western Political Science Association (WPSA) Annual Conference

Political Theory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania

**Service and Other Experience**

**Bryn Mawr College**

Facilitated two college-supported equity, inclusion, and anti-racism teach-ins: “The Palestinian Struggle for Justice Contextualized” (Spring 2022); “Thinking with Fred Moten and Stefano Harney: Reimagining Political Science” (Spring 2021).

Political Science senior capstone projects: advised two and second reader for eight students, 2020-2022.

Guest lecturer in Introduction to Middle East Studies (taught by [Rubina Salikuddin](https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/people/rubina-k-salikuddin)), 2021 & 2022

**University of Pennsylvania**

Middle East Center [Speaker’s Bureau Program](https://mec.sas.upenn.edu/k-12-resources/speakers-bureau) (outreach at Philadelphia-area K-12 schools & community organizations): invited talks at Camden Community College, Spring 2022; Central High School, 2017.

Moderator for talk and discussion with [Hiba Bou Akar](https://www.arch.columbia.edu/faculty/518-hiba-bou-akar) at the Middle East Center, 2020

Discussant at Political Science workshops and talks by [Charles Freilich](https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/charles-david-freilich-0) 2020, [Julie Cooper](https://english.tau.ac.il/profile/cooper) 2016, [Clarissa Rile Hayward](https://polisci.wustl.edu/people/clarissa-rile-hayward) 2016, [Massimiliano Tomba](https://politics.ucsc.edu/faculty/index.php?uid=mtomba) 2015. Internal graduate student workshops in 2020, 2017, 2015

Organizing committee for University of Pennsylvania Political Science Graduate student conference “State, Economy, and Inequality,” 2016.

Speaker on panel “Israel, Palestine, and the Occupation: A Conversation About the Viability of a Two-State Solution.” Launch event for student group Penn Students Against the Occupation, 2020.

Discussant for International Relations Subfield Panel of Pi Sigma Alpha Regional Conference (undergraduate political science honors society), 2019.

**Research Assistant**

Ian S. Lustick, research for article and preparation for teaching a seminar on the politics of transnational boycotts. Spring and Summer 2020.

Jeffrey E. Green, late-stage research and manuscript preparation for *The Shadow of Unfairness: A Plebian Theory of Liberal Democracy* (Oxford: 2016)*.* Spring and Summer 2015.

**Professional Affiliations**

American Political Science Association

International Studies Association

Middle East Studies Association

Association for Israel Studies

**References**

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| [Ian Lustick](https://live-sas-www-polisci.pantheon.sas.upenn.edu/people/standing-faculty/ian-lustick)  Professor of Political Science  University of Pennsylvania  (215) 898-5719  [ilustick@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:ilustick@sas.upenn.edu) | [Robert Vitalis](https://live-sas-www-polisci.pantheon.sas.upenn.edu/people/standing-faculty/robert-vitalis)  Professor of Political Science  University of Pennsylvania  (215) 898-6497  [rvitalis@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:rvitalis@sas.upenn.edu) | [Brendan O’Leary](https://live-sas-www-polisci.pantheon.sas.upenn.edu/people/standing-faculty/brendan-oleary)  Professor of Political Science  University of Pennsylvania  (215) 573-0645  [boleary@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:boleary@sas.upenn.edu) |
| [Joel Schlosser](https://www.brynmawr.edu/people/joel-alden-schlosser) (Teaching Reference)  Department Chair  Associate Professor of Political Science  Bryn Mawr College  (610) 526-5291  [jschlosser@brynmawr.edu](mailto:jschlosser@brynmawr.edu) | |  |