

Curriculum Vitae

Shahar Shoham

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EDUCATION:

- 2017- 2024 **Ph.D. candidate, Area and Global Studies**, The Institute for Asian and African Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany
Dissertation: "The Heroes of Isaan Working in Israel: The Production of Migrants in the Thailand-Israel Migration Regime" (award SUMMA CUM LAUDE)
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Manja Stephan-Emmrich (The Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University, Germany), Dr. Sine Plambeck, (Senior Researcher, Department of Migration & Global Order, Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark)
- 2014-2017 **M.A in Global Studies**, The Institute for Asian and African Studies (IAAW), Humboldt University of Berlin in cooperation with: FLACSO Argentina, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) India and Chulalongkorn University Thailand
Thesis: "Pickers and Packers: Translocal Narratives of Returning Thai Agriculture Labor Migrants from Israel". (award MAGNA CUM LAUDE)
- 2006-2009 **B.A Double Major in Philosophy and East Asian Studies**, Tel Aviv University, Israel. (graduated SUMMA CUM LAUDE)
- 2005-2006 **B.A in Sociology and Anthropology**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University, Israel. (not completed)
- 2001 **Photography Studies**, School of Visual Arts, New York, USA.

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE:

- 2011- 2014 **Department Director** of Migrants and Status-less Persons Department, NGO "Physicians for Human Rights- Israel", Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel.

- 2009 – 2011 **Intake Coordinator** at the Open Clinic for migrants, "Physicians for Human Rights-Israel", Tel- Aviv Jaffa, Israel.
- 2005-2009 **Volunteer** at "Physicians for Human Rights"- Open Clinic for Migrants and Refugees, Jaffa, Israel.
- 2005 – 2007 **Administrative Manager**, "Muzik" Music School, Tel-Aviv Jaffa, Israel.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, CONSULTATIONS and COLLABORATION:

- 2025 **Visiting research fellow**, "ChainGE Lab: Labor Law for a Global Value Chain Economy", (ERC), The Buchman Law Faculty, Tel-Aviv University, Israel (P.I.: Prof. Hila Shamir).
- 2025 **Visual anthropology residency fellowship**, "Purple Tree", Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2024 **Artistic collaboration** with filmmaker Jonathan Omer Mizrahi as part of the exhibition "Bas Bablon", The Center for Digital Art, Holon, Israel.
- 2022-2023 **Visiting fellow**, Max Plank Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany, department of "Anthropology of Economic Experimentation: Frontiers of Transformation" (Director Prof. Biao Xiang).
- 2020-2022 **External consultant**, participatory visual project with Thai migrant workers in Israel by Jonathan Omer Mizrahi.
- 2019-2022 **Visiting research fellow**, "TraffLab: Human Trafficking from a Labor Perspective" (ERC), The Buchman Law Faculty, Tel-Aviv University, Israel (P.I.: Prof. Hila Shamir). Leading co-researcher : "Intersectional perspective of women labor migrants employed in men-dominated occupations: The agriculture sector case" (with Dr. Yahel Kurlander).
- 2021 **External research consultant**, "Borders, global governance and the refugee, 1947-1951" (P.I.: Dr. Anne Irfan)' The Refugees Studies Center, University of Oxford, UK.
- 2021 **External consultant**, Physician for Human Rights-Israel and Kav La'oved, project on Thai migrant farmworkers' health in Israel.
- 2017- 2020 **Full Doctoral scholarship grantee**, Hans Böckler Stiftung, Promotionsförderung fellow, Germany.

- 2017-2018 **Independent researcher**, “Refugees who “voluntarily” departed Israel to Rwanda and Uganda and gained protection in Europe” – an independent research project in Germany and the Netherlands (with Dr. Lior Birger and Liat Bolzman).
- 2017 **Final nominee for outstanding thesis award** for the academic year 2016/17 at the Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin.
- 2014-2016 **Full M.A scholarship for studying in Germany:** DAAD- The German Academic Exchange Service, Germany.

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-Reviewed Academic Journals:

- Birger, Lior and Shoham, Shahar (2024). “Ethical considerations of ‘going public’: public and media co-dissemination of research findings with refugees”. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 50:2, 341-358 <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2023.2245155>
- Kurlander, Yahel, Shoham, Shahar and Kaminer, Matan. (2024). "Crucial Yet Disavowed: Three Decades of Relations between Israeli Farmers and Thai Migrant Workers". *Geography Research Forum*, 43, 105-128. https://www.academia.edu/117259920/Crucial_Yet_Disavowed_Thai_Migrant_Farmworkers_and_Israel_s_Migration_Regime
- Nakash Ora, Benjamin Langer, Mayaan Nagar, Shahar Shoham, Ido Lurie, Nadav Davidovitch (2015). "Exposure to traumatic experiences among asylum seekers from Eritrea and Sudan during migration to Israel". *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, Volume 17, Issue 4, pp 1280-1286. DOI: [10.1007/s10903-014-0022-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-014-0022-y)

Book chapter:

- Shoham, Shahar, Lior Birger, & Tesfalem. S. Fisaha, (2024, *in press*). The afterlife of research: Reflections on co-dissemination methods in an anti-deportation struggle. In: A. Radziwinowiczówna (Ed.), *Methods in deportation research: Towards the power-knowledge approach*. Edward Elgar. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035313112.00018>

Selected Reports and Policy Papers:

- Shoham, Shahar & Ben Israel, Hanny (2022). Chapter 9: Family and Community. In: Shamir, Hila and Niezna, Maayan (eds.), *An Alternative Anti-Trafficking Action Plan: A Proposed Model Based on a Labor Approach to Trafficking*, TraffLab (ERC) Research Group Policy Paper, Tel Aviv University. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3835710

Shoham, Shahar and Kurlander, Yahel. *Sexual Violence Against Migrant Workers in the Agriculture Sector in Israel*, October 2021 [[Hebrew](#)], (Policy Paper submitted to the Knesset Special Committee on Foreign Workers). Presentations to the Foreign Workers Committee: 19.10.21

Birger, Lior, Shahar Shoham & Liat Bolzman (2018). "' Better a prison in Israel than dying on the way' - Testimonies of refugees who 'voluntarily' departed Israel to Rwanda and Uganda and Gained Protection in Europe." Humboldt Universität zu Berlin <http://dx.doi.org/10.18452/20087> (equal contribution of authors)

Selected Media Articles:

Shoham, Shahar (2025). "[Upon their release from captivity, the Thai hostages were elevated to the status of 'human beings'](#)." Ha'aretz Op-Ad, February 17 2025 (Hebrew).

Shoham, Shahar (2025). "[Songs of Heroism and Resistance](#)". Essay published in the catalogue for the exhibition "Bas Bablon" by artist Jonathan Omer Mizrahi, Center for Digital Art, Holon, Israel, February 2025.

Weise, Julie and Shoham, Shahar (2024). "[Plight of migrant laborers killed, held hostage in Middle East exposes Israel's reliance on overseas workforce](#)". The Conversation.

Shoham, Shahar, Bolzman, Liat and Birger, Lior (2018). "[Moving under Threats: The Treacherous Journeys of Refugees who 'Voluntary' Departed from Israel to Rwanda and Uganda and Reached Europe](#)." In *Border Criminologist Blog*, Oxford Law Faculty, UK.

Shoham, Shahar (2015) "[What Syrian Refugees Have to Say about Coexistence with Israel](#)." The Forward, 6.September 2015, U.S.

Shoham, Shahar (2015) "[They're butchering us—only open borders will save us](#)." +972 Magazine, 9 September 2015, Israel

SELECTED MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Haaretz: Itai Mashich, "*The work is exhausting and the heart is lonely*": When Thai workers in our fields play the blues", 24, January, 2025 (Hebrew)
<https://www.haaretz.co.il/magazine/2025-01-23/ty-article-magazine/.highlight/00000194-8e5c-d166-a5f6-ff5e29e10000#comments-section>

The Nation: Timothy McLaughlin, "*The Invisible Lives of Israel's Thai Workforce*", 13, May 2024
<https://www.thenation.com/article/world/the-invisible-lives-of-israels-thai-workforce/>

BBC World Service Radio News Hour: "*The effect of the Israel Hamas War on Thai migrants in Israel*". 24 November 2023.

- Tortois podcast, Hashi Mohamed: "Visit Rwanda: Britain's harsh welcome for refugees", 13 June 2022. <https://www.tortoisemedia.com/audio/visit-rwanda-britains-harsh-welcome-for-refugees/>
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany: Tomik, Stefan and Jochin Stahnk "Auf der Welt Verloren", 5 February.2018 <http://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/fluechtlinge-aus-eritrea-abschiebung-aus-israel-nach-ruanda-15433849.html>
- +972 magazine, Israel: Leifer, Jushua : "Asylum seekers sent to Rwanda warn: 'If you don't want to die, stay in Israel'" 2 February 2018 <https://972mag.com/asylum-seekers-who-left-israel-warn-if-you-dont-want-to-die-stay-in-israel/132847/>
- Israeli Channel 2: "The Agonizing Journey of the African Migrants", https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=4HMmMfTkuRg&ab_channel=MoranBarir
- The Telegraph, Raf Sanchez: "Israel accused of turning blind eye as it sends migrants to 'face abuse' in Rwanda", 3 December 2017. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/12/03/israel-accused-turning-blind-eye-sends-migrants-face-abuse-rwanda/>
- Haaretz, Israel: Zur, Yarden and Shai Zilber: "Theft, Extortion and Death: The Agonizing Stories of Refugees Israel Deported to Africa" .25 November 2017 <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium.MAGAZINE-the-agonizing-stories-of-refugees-israel-deported-to-africa-1.5626827>
- Medico International: Cohen, Tsafir: "Die Offene Klinik der Ärzte für Menschenrechte - Israel Afrikanische Folteropfer aus dem Sinai, Flüchtlinge, Migranten und das Recht auf Gesundheit- interview mit Shahr Shoham" (German), Medico International,14 August 2013, Germany <https://www.medico.de/die-offene-klinik-der-aerzte-fuer-menschenrechte-israel-14623/>
- Hinuhit 23,Israeli T.V. channel: Gabai, Gal (T.V. interview- Hebrew) Gabai, Gal "Transparent Patient, Ten of Thousands Refugees with no Medical Treatment", November 2013, Israel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rK3D0nEwU38>
- Haaretz: Even, Dan.: "Health Ministry: Israel Immigration Police 'Ambushing' Africans", 10 January 2013, Israel <http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/health-ministry-israel-immigration-police-ambushing-africans.premium-1.492991>
- New York Times : Lynch, Sarah. "Sinai Becomes Prison for African Migrants". New York Times, 31 October 2012, U.S http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/01/world/middleeast/01iht-m01-sinai-migrants.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

The Guardian : Greenwood, Phoebe. *"Egyptian authorities look the other way as Bedouin kidnap refugees"*. The Guardian, 14 February, 2012, U.K
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/feb/14/egypt-bedouin-kidnap-refugees-israel>

A.P.: Hadid, Dia. *"African migrants tortured in Egypt's Sinai desert"* A.P., 16 February 2012, Israel
http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2012/02/16/african_migrants_tortured_in_egypts_sinai_desert/?page=full

BBC Radio (radio interview) *"Sinai camps"*. BBC Radio, January 2012, U.K
<https://soundcloud.com/phr-israel/shahar-shoham-sinai-camps-bbc>

IRIN: "Egypt/Israel: Tortured for ransom in the Sinai desert", 7 June 2011
<https://webarchive.archive.unhcr.org/20230519132056/https://www.refworld.org/docid/4df1f66d2.html>

LECTURES and PRESENTATIONS:

Selected Invited Lectures:

- 2025 "Political Gravitas and Translocal Epistemologies of Sending Communities: The Thailand-Israel Migration Regime in the Orbit of Isaan", Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Thailand.
- 2024 "Trading our sweat for their money: On the histories, experiences, and cultural production of Thai migrant workers in Israel", part of the exhibition "Not in Your Service" in Gallery Wedding, Berlin, Germany.
- 2023 "Caught in the Middle Thai Migrant Workers in Israel Today", SEA Junction in cooperation with Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Thailand.
- 2019 "Working and Living in the Rural Margins: Understanding 30 years of Thailand-Israel labor migration through return narrative". Institute's curriculum, Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2019 "Images from the Fields: Representations of Thai Migrant Labor in Israel", Trafflab (ERC) colloquium, Tel Aviv University Law faculty, Israel. Part of the session on "Visual Ethnography: On visual documentation of your research"
- 2018 "Migration experiences from Thailand to Israel and Back", Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI), Jerusalem, Israel.

- 2018 "30 years of migration from Thailand to Israel", SEA Junction, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2017 "Translocal narratives of Thai farm migrant workers in Israel". Seminar for Researchers on Thai Migration in Israel. Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 2015 "Refugees struggle for rights in Israel", JNU, New Delhi, India.
- 2014 "Refugees in Israel", FLASCO, Buenos-Aires, Argentina.

Scientific Conferences:

- 2023 "The 'Migrant Heroes' of Isaan and the Translocal Vernacular Migration Archive of Thai Farmworkers in Israel", Royal Anthropology Institute (RAI), Film Festival Conference, UK.
- 2023 "The co-dissemination relationship in participatory research with refugees: Shifting roles and power relations." With Dr. Lior Birger, European Conference for Social Work Research, Milan, Italy.
- 2022 "Between political activism and research ethics: methodologies of co-dissemination in an anti-deportation campaign". With Dr. Lior Birger, IMISCOE 2022 Annual Conference, Oslo.
- 2022 "From farmworker to entrepreneur: Migration as Development in Thailand-Israel labor migration regime", American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting 2022, Seattle, U.S.
- 2022 "The Ideal Farmworker becoming "The Entrepreneur Returning Migrant": Migration as development in Thailand to Israel labor migration regime". Oxford Migration Studies Association, Oxford University, UK.
- 2021 "The Superman college: Migration as development agenda in Thailand to Israel labor migration regime". The European Association for Southeast Asia Studies (AAS 2021) Annual Conference, Association for Asian Studies, USA.
- 2020 "I'm Only a Worker: Rural to rural migration narratives of returning Thai farmworkers from Israel". South East Asia Program Graduate Conference, Cornell University, USA.
- 2020 "On Being (only) a Worker: Thai migrant workers in Israel's agriculture sector". European Association of Social Anthropologist" (EASA) Biennial Conference. Lisbon University, Portugal.

- 2018 "Participation from Afar: Rural to Rural Translocal Acts of Solidarity between Thai Farm Migrant Workers in Israel and their Village Community in Isaan". TransRe conference: Adaptation in Motion: Linking Climate Change, Migration and Resilience. Bonn University, Germany
- 2018 "'Nowhere to Go': Rural to Rural Agriculture Work Migration from Thailand to Israel". European Association of Social Anthropologist"(EASA) Biennial Conference, Stockholm University, Sweden.
- 2018 "Merit making from the fields: Translocal acts of solidarity and belonging between Thai migrant farmworkers in Israel and their community of origin." Ruppin International Conference on Immigration and Social Integration, Ruppin Academic Center, Israel
- 2017 "Pickers and Packers from Thailand to Israel and Back: research presentation". International Summer Academy of "Re: Work: Human Life Cycle in Global History", Käte Hamburger Collegia for research in the social sciences (BMBF), in cooperation with the National University of General San Martín, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Co-Founder: "Aid for Farm workers Collective".

The European Association of Social Anthropologist (EASA)

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE)

The European Association for Southeast Asia Studies (EUROSEAS)

Association for Asian Studies USA (AAS)

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Hebrew: mother tongue

English: fluent

German: intermediate

Thai: basic