

## **IRIS Graduate Summer Fieldwork Award Report**

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With the generous support of the *IRIS Graduate Summer Fieldwork Award*, I was able to spend the summer in Israel for field work. My summer field-work in Israel had 3 main objectives:

1. Extending data collection for my ongoing field-experiment in Israeli medical clinics, where I identify the effects of intergroup contact between Jewish patients and Arab doctors, on prejudice.
2. Develop a collaboration for a field-experiment regarding the effects of ethnic diversity in state institutions, on public goods provision and intergroup prejudice.
3. Continue joint work with Israeli co-authors, on several projects in which I am engaged, relating to (i) the electoral consequences of combatant deaths, (ii) electoral boycotts in East Jerusalem, and (iii) intergroup mobilization for political action in divided societies.

The time I spent in Israel has been invaluable for my professional development. First, extending data collection in Israeli medical clinics, has bolstered the empirical portion of my working paper “[Curing Prejudice through Representative Bureaucracies: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Israeli Medical Clinics](#)”. In addition, I have extended my collaboration with my partnering medical clinics, and we are currently planning a second follow up for this project to collect behavioral measures of prejudice. Following my time in the field, I presented my new evidence at the *American Political Science Association’s annual meeting* in Washington D.C., where my paper was nominated for a best-paper in the public health and policy section of the conference.

In addition, during my time in Israel I set up a strong connection with the Israeli Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). After several productive meetings, we have agreed to collaborate on a field experiment, to be implemented across the country in the first months of 2020. As part of this

field experiment, we will embed messages of inclusivity and diversity at the start of written driving tests, to determine whether such messages can affect (i) minority's test success rates (ii) minority's willingness to cooperate with the DMV (iii) minority's trust in political institutions (iv) and intergroup attitudes. This project, along with my ongoing field experiment in Israeli medical clinics, will serve as a central portion of my dissertation titled: "Reducing Prejudice through State Institutions: Theory and Evidence from Israel."

Lastly, during my time in Israel I had the chance to work closely with Israeli colleagues in order to advance several ongoing projects and explore additional opportunities for future research. More specifically, I advanced my ongoing research project regarding the electoral consequences of military casualties, by refining data analyses and writing up an empirical paper on this subject. I have also allocated time and effort to continue my collaboration with a local NGO, on a project regarding intergroup mobilization in divided societies. In doing so, I analyzed a large database of responses to the NGO's email based information campaign. Based on the analysis of this data, we started working together on setting up a field-based canvassing study which will test different strategies for mobilizing Jewish and Arab citizens for political activity around social issues in Israel. Lastly, in collaboration with several colleagues I began working on a survey experiment to be implemented in East Jerusalem, testing different individual level explanations for voters' compliance with municipal electoral boycotts.

As an empirically minded scholar of conflict and prejudice reduction in the Middle East, spending time in the region is imperative for producing rigorous work with important policy implications. Therefore, I am grateful for the opportunity I had to spend my summer in Israel. The data I have collected in Israel, and the connection I set up, will allow me to continue producing rigorous empirical research.