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Thanks to the generous support of the Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant, I was able to travel to Tel Aviv to conduct preliminary dissertation fieldwork. As a result of this funding, I was able to carry out extensive participatory action research as an intake translator with a migrant workers' rights organization, become acquainted with several representatives of international migration governance organizations, witness migrant workers organizing informally for their rights, and attend a Hebrew immersion program to improve my language skills. This preliminary research offered me insights into non-Jewish migration into Israel, fostering valuable connections to migrant workers, non-profit organizers, and members of international migration organizations.

My dissertation project expands on my previous research on Israeli immigration policies. In my master's thesis, co-advised by Drs. Jenna Loyd and Sarah Moore, I examined Israeli immigrant settlement policies and practices between 1948 and 1967, specifically as they were carried out by the Ministry of Absorption and the Land Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency. My archival work at Givat Ram, Central Zionist, and Israeli State archives offered me an insight into the development of Israel's immigration apparatus. This research helped me to understand the systems that governed Jewish migration to Israel, as well as the influence that Jewish migrants from the Middle East and North Africa had on these systems over time.

After studying Israeli governance of Jewish migrants, however, I continued to wonder about how Israeli authorities worked to govern non-Jewish migration to the area. I learned that while the Ministry of Absorption continues to manage Jewish migration to this day, non-Jewish migrants are subject to regulation by the Israeli Population and Immigration Authority. Originally, I had intended to work primarily with asylum-seekers. I reached out to a number of organizations working on refugee rights and found one that was very interested in having me help out. However, as a fluent Russian- and English-speaker, I found that I would be more valuable to this organization working with migrant caregivers rather than asylum-seekers.

In the course of a day, I would help enter migrant caregivers' information into the organization's database, identify their grievances against their employers, calculate the wages they were owed, consult them about their rights, give them advice about how to take vacation days and collect their pensions, and occasionally, in cases of significant employer abuse, interview them and translate their responses in order to draft legal affidavits that would help protect future workers from abusive employers. In addition to my day-to-day support at the organization, I also observed a major public protest by former migrant caregivers who were at risk of deportation, participated in meetings with representatives from international labor governance organizations, conducted archival research on the history of migrant caregiving in Israel, attended an informal meeting of Moldovan migrant caregivers in Haifa, and helped translate a number of workers' rights documents and an annual report for the organization.

In the course of working with the organization, I still occasionally connected asylum-seekers to resources, spoke extensively to refugee-serving staff members about their work experiences and ongoing projects, worked with a refugee from Russia to address her experience of wage theft, and helped translate the organization's annual report, which detailed the living

conditions of asylum seekers and the organization's efforts to support their rights. However, since I did not speak Amharic, Arabic, Tigrinya, or Hebrew, I could not be particularly helpful to the organization's work with most of the refugees, who had arrived from Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan several years prior. As a result, I am continuing to take Hebrew courses in order to improve my language skills. In my future fieldwork, I hope to have the opportunity to work with more of the populations served by this workers' rights organization in order to compare the experiences of migrant workers to asylum seeking workers.

Throughout my research with migrant caregivers, I learned a lot about the life of non-Jewish people in Israel/Palestine. I found that caregivers from Southeast Asia and the Former Soviet Union share some—but not all—of the same challenges. All workers often deal with stolen wages and verbal abuse from employers, though men are more often accused of theft while women are frequently targeted for not being adequately “nurturing”. Workers from Southeast Asia face gendered racism on the job and are profiled in public for deportation if they overstay their visas. Workers from the Former Soviet States face significant barriers in accessing social resources due to their lack of English language skills; however, since they can more easily pass as Israelis, they are not as readily targeted for deportation based on appearance alone. In working closely with Russian-speaking migrants, I also found a recurrent phenomenon: there was a category of workers that had not been permitted to leave the home of their employer for two or more months straight. These workers, who also showed the most significant signs of psychological distress, seemed the most likely to be isolated from sources of social and political support.

While this summer allowed me to better understand how migrants experience day-to-day life in Israel, I also learned a lot about systems of international governance of migrant workers. Prior to the summer, I had only a faint understanding of how international organizations can help arrange bilateral agreements between governments to facilitate labor migration, the economic forces that shape these bilateral agreements, and the ways in which both private and public actors shape the daily experiences of care workers. After sitting in on these meetings during this latest research trip, I am particularly interested in studying the transnational forces that shape the intimate experiences of migrant workers in Israel/Palestine.

Overall, my summer of research was incredibly informative for me as I plan out the scope of my dissertation research. It helped me to better understand the connections between the shared and divergent struggles of various groups of labor migrants, low-wage workers, refugees and asylum seekers in Israel/Palestine. It also helped me to develop key relationships with an organization that supports workers' rights for both asylum seekers and migrant workers. The staff of this organization has expressed an interest in ongoing collaboration through focus groups, interviews, and participatory research. Throughout the course of this research, I also connected to a group of migrant caregivers who are interested in collaborating with me on a series of know-your-rights workshops. As such, this research has helped me to gain a better understanding of non-Jewish migrants' experiences in Israel/Palestine and allowed me to develop a number of ideas for how I might carry out my dissertation research going forward.

Overall, my fieldwork trip has been immensely beneficial for me as I begin to lay the groundwork for my dissertation. I am very grateful to the Jenson family, to the Institute for Regional and International Studies at UW-Madison, and to everyone else who has facilitated this research!