

## **Jacob S. Abolafia**

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### **Academic Appointments**

- Sept. 2021-Present     **Stanford University**  
Stanford Civics Initiative Post-doctoral Fellow
- Oct. 2020-Present     **Van Leer Jerusalem Institute**  
Polonsky Post-doctoral Fellow
- Oct. 2019- Sept. 2020   **Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University**  
Harvard-Tel Aviv Post-doctoral Fellow

### **Education**

- Sept. 2013- May 2019   **Harvard University**  
Ph.D, Political Science, May 2019  
Department of Government
- Oct. 2010- June 2013   **Clare College, University of Cambridge**  
Paul Mellon Fellow
- Oct. 2012- June 2013     Doctoral work in ancient philosophy supervised by David Sedley
- Oct. 2011- June 2012     M. Phil., Ancient Philosophy  
Faculty of Classics
- Oct. 2010- June 2011     M. Phil. (Cantab.), Political Thought and Intellectual History  
Faculty of History
- Sept. 2006- May 2010     **Yale University**  
B.A., Philosophy (Honors), May 2010  
*Magna Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa (Early Election)

### **Publications and Working Papers**

*The Prison Before the Panopticon: Incarceration in the History of Political Thought* (Book manuscript in progress)

“Plato and the Ancient Theory of Incarceration” *Ramus* (Special issue on Classics and Political Theory), Fall 2021.

"Josephus in Jewish Political Thought from Menasseh and Spinoza to Moses Mendelssohn" in *Josephus in Modern Jewish Thought*, ed. Andrea Schatz (Leiden, Brill: 2019), pp. 17-41.

“Essentialism and Pluralism in Aristotle’s ‘Function Argument’ (NE 1.7)”, *Epoche: A journal of the history of philosophy*, Volume 21, Issue 2, Spring 2017, pp. 391-400.

“Solar Theology and Civil Religion in Plato’s *Laws*”, *POLIS: The Journal of Ancient Greek Political Thought*, Volume 32 (2015), pp. 369-392.

“Spinoza, Josephus, and the Critique of the Hebrew Republic” *History of Political Thought*, Volume 35, Number 2, 2014, pp. 295-316.

“A Reappraisal of *Contra Apionem* 2.145 as an Original Contribution to Political Thought.” *Scripta Classica Israelica*, Volume 32, June 2013, pp. 153-73.

### **Selected Journalism and Reviews**

“Rehabilitative Faith” in *The Point*, Vol. 17, Fall 2018.

“City on a Hilltop: American Jews and the Israeli Settler Movement.” *LA Review of Books*, November 2017.

"Habermas and Religion" in *Political Studies Review* Vol. 13, Iss. 2, pp. 241-242, May 2015.

### **Recent Presentations and Lectures**

“Bentham’s Panopticon Revisited” Hebrew University, Jerusalem, May 2021

"A Conceptual Analysis of *Mamlachtiyut*" Israeli Political Theory Workshop, October 2020 (in Hebrew)

"Penal Incarceration in More's *Utopia*" APSA Annual Meeting, September 2021

Comments on Jonny Thakkar's 'Plato as Critical Theorist' APSA Annual Meeting, September 2021

“Arendt’s Benjamin”, Political Philosophy of Hannah Arendt, Leiden University, February 2020.

“The Fragility of Shame: Plato, Williams, and Euripides on the Social Conditions for Punishment” APSA Annual Meeting, Washington DC, September 2019; Descartes Lectures Workshop, Tilberg University, December 2018.

“Penal Incarceration in Democratic Athens”, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, September 2018.

## **Professional Service**

Reviewer for: Cambridge University Press (Philosophy), *History of Philosophy Quarterly*; *European Journal of the History of Economic Thought*; *Journal of Levantine Studies*, *International Journal of the Classical Tradition*.

Organizer: International conference on political myth at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (with Tae-Yeoun Keum and Carmen Dege); Panel on political emotions, APSA Annual Meeting (2019); European Philosophy Workshop, Harvard University (2014-2017)

Co-convener: Political Theory Colloquium, Harvard University (2015-2018); Graduate Political Theory Conference, Harvard University (2015)

Chair/Respondent: Panel on Jewish Political Thought, APSA Annual Meeting (2019)

## **Teaching Experience:**

### **Harvard University**

Lead Instructor: Jewish and Islamic Political Philosophy in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries (REL 98r).

Teaching Fellow: GOV 10: Introduction to Political Theory, GOV 1060: Ancient Political Philosophy from Plato to Aquinas; GOV 1061: Modern Political Philosophy from Machiavelli to Weber;

### **University of Cambridge**

Supervision of undergraduates in the Classics and Philosophy faculties for topics in Ancient Philosophy including tripos part II papers X3 (“Idols”) and B3 (“God/Anti-god”); supervisor for Clare College in Classics and Philosophy for tripos parts 1A and 1B.

**Languages:** Fluent Hebrew; Ancient Greek (reading); German (reading and spoken); Latin (reading); Intermediate Arabic (MSA and Palestinian/Levantine); Reading: Spanish, Italian.

### **References:**

Prof. Danielle Allen  
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Theory and Innovation  
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