



**Bar-Ilan
University**
אוניברסיטת בר-אילן

A Search for a Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Climate Change, Aging, and Social Isolation in Urban Environments

Join a vibrant and innovative research team investigating the intersection of climate change and social isolation among older persons! We are seeking a highly motivated Postdoctoral Research Fellow to contribute to a Binational Science Foundation (BSF)-funded project examining the impact of climate change on the social integration and isolation of older persons (age 65+) in urban settings. This project is a collaboration between Prof. Liat Ayalon from Bar Ilan University and Prof. Deborah Carr from Boston University, and will focus on comparing experiences in Boston, Massachusetts (USA), and Tel Aviv, Israel.

About the Project:

This project addresses two significant global challenges: the growing social isolation of older persons and the increasing impacts of climate change. We aim to understand how climate-related events and conditions affect older persons' social networks, access to resources, and overall well-being in urban environments. Specifically, we will examine the perceived impacts of extreme heat, natural disasters, and the financial burdens associated with climate change (e.g., rising insurance costs) on older persons' ability to maintain social connections and remain active in their communities. Our research will focus on two contrasting urban environments – Boston (historically cold) and Tel Aviv (historically hot) – to explore how older persons adapt to distinctive climate contexts.

Responsibilities:

As a Postdoctoral Fellow, you will play a vital role in:

- Conducting qualitative data collection (e.g., walking interviews) with older persons in Boston and/or Tel Aviv.
- Analyzing qualitative data to identify key themes and patterns related to climate change and social isolation.
- Integrating qualitative data with environmental and climate data, including GPS locations.
- Contributing to the development of a theoretical framework explaining the relationship between climate change and older persons' social integration/isolation.
- Collaborating with the research team to disseminate findings through publications, presentations, and policy briefs.
- Participating in team meetings and contributing to the overall direction of the project.

- Developing innovative qualitative methods to explore lived experiences.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in relevant fields - e.g., Sociology, Social Work, Gerontology, Urban Planning, Public Health, Geography, Environmental Studies.
- Strong background in qualitative research methods, including interviewing, focus groups, and data analysis.
- Experience working with older persons.
- Knowledge of working with global positioning systems.
- Knowledge of climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.
- Excellent writing, communication, and organizational skills.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment.
- Experience with cross-cultural research is highly desirable.
- Familiarity with qualitative data analysis software (e.g., NVivo) is a plus.

Benefits:

- Opportunity to contribute to a cutting-edge research project with significant societal impact.
- Mentorship from leading experts in the fields of aging, climate change, and social isolation.
- Collaborative research environment with opportunities for professional development.
- Experience working on an international research team.

To Apply:

Interested candidates should submit the following materials:

- Cover letter outlining your research interests and relevant experience.
- Curriculum vitae (CV).
- A writing sample (e.g., a published article, thesis chapter).
- Contact information for three professional references.

Please send your application materials to Prof. Liat Ayalon liat.ayalon@biu.ac.il by **September 1st, 2025**.