The Department of Humanities and Arts is proud and excited to update the following scholarship winners:

**Dr. Noa Lahav Ayalon**, won the Rothschild scholarship for 2024.

**Shiran Yuan**, a Ph.D. student under the guidance of Dr. Avital Binah-Pollak, won Miriam and Aaron Gutwirth scholarship in recognition of her excellence in research.

**Lital Shemen**, a PhD student under the guidance of Dr. Avital Binah-Pollak, won the Fine Family Scholarship in recognition of her excellence in research.

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**DR. NOA LAHAV AYALON**

Dr. Noa Lahav Ayalon, a post-doctorate fellow at the Department of Humanities and Arts, has been awarded the Rothschild Fellowship for 2024. This scholarship will allow her to study at a top university next year (TBD), researching the mind-body problem and life sciences in Descartes' and Spinoza's philosophy.

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**LITAL SHEMEN**

Lital Shemen, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Humanities and Arts at Technion, was honored with the Fine Scholarship in recognition of her academic performance in her PhD research. Under the supervision of Dr. Avital Binah Pollak, Lital research explores the influence of socio-cultural factors on Chinese and Israeli science and engineering undergraduate students' mathematical practices and conceptions. While learning is considered a universal cognitive ability, studies show that different beliefs, norms, and educational motivations can deeply influence academic learning. Like any social interaction, classroom behavior rests on assumptions that vary systematically between cultures. Even within the field of mathematics education, studies show that in addition to its strict, rigorous, logical body, mathematics is also a human activity, and as such its practice is affected by all aspects of human cognition. However, while there is scientific evidence regarding links between reasoning and culture, studies focusing on culture as a potential mediator of cognitive processes are relatively scarce. Lital research reflects her ability to bridge disciplinary gaps and contribute valuable insights to the intersection of mathematics and cultural dynamics.

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**SHIRAN YUAN**

Shiran Yuan, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Humanities and Arts at Technion, was honored with the Miriam and Aaron Gutwirth Scholarship in recognition of her academic performance in her PhD research. Under the supervision of Dr. Avital Binah Pollak, Shiran's research explores the discourse of science and science education in contemporary China. Her study is particularly focused on understanding how science is perceived, learned, and taught within the Chinese educational landscape, with an emphasis on secondary education. Shiran Yuan’s research is based on integrated research methods which include policy analysis, fieldwork, and digital ethnography. As part of the research methods, Shiran conducted an intensive four-month fieldwork in a middle school in Chengdu, China where she gathered invaluable data on how science is perceived and taught in contemporary China. Shiran's success in gathering extensive data is remarkable and demonstrates excellent research abilities.