



**Department of Environment,
Planning and Sustainability**
Faculty of Social Sciences
Bar-Ilan University

We are seeking a PhD candidate and a MA student to work on a project titled:

Sacred Archetypes and the Architecture of Worship: The Anthropology of the Holy Land's Womb-Tomb Shrines

Project description:

There is ample literature indicating that people have venerated holy sites for centuries, especially those with underground tomb structures and mausoleums, whether in Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, Old Europe, the pre-Columbian Americas, or the Middle East. This veneration nevertheless contains a paradox: on the one hand, it encompasses cosmologies of life, mythologies of creation, fertility, and reproduction. On the other, these same places are associated with death, strong taboos, borders, and political contestation. How can we broaden the methodological focus supporting spatial analysis research and practice? How can we enhance the study of body-space interactions by linking theory and practice while engaging the public? This project aims to develop a contemporary point of view on tomb adoration as a key to understanding basic human concepts related to the origin of life, death, beliefs and the local ecological system. By implementing a selected combination of tools and creating a digital archive that critically reflects on these built-bodily-spatial relations we will explore how they accommodate the ancient and the new, and how they enable adaptation of cultures and physical environments.

Qualifications:

- An undergraduate degree in Architecture, Engineering, Geography, or a related field;
- MA student (Planning, Geography, or a related field).
- An interested in cave trips;
- GIS
- English proficiency
- We work with the MABAT company in Haifa. It will be necessary for you to travel there several times a year.

Funding:

This project is funded by the ISF. It will begin in January 2024 and will last for 3 years. Successful applicants joining the research will receive a partial scholarship for the duration of their studies.

Please send your grade transcript, CV and cover letter to Shlomit Flint: shlomit.flint-ashery@biu.ac.il

