

AMIT BIRENBOIM - CURRICULUM VITAE
Head, Urban Vitality Research Lab

Personal Details

Date and Place of Birth: 21st April 1980, Israel
Citizenship: Israeli and German
Marital Status: Married + 3

Higher Education

2010-2016 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, PhD in Geography. Supervisor: Prof. Noam Shoval. Dissertation title: Sensing the City in the Smartphone Age: The Geography of Momentary Urban Experiences.
2010-2015 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Master of Business Administration (MBA), specialization in marketing and urban planning.
2007-2009 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Geography, Master's Degree, *summa cum laude*. Supervisor: Dr. Noam Shoval.
2004-2006 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Sociology and Geography, Bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*.

Appointments

2021- Senior Lecturer, The Department of Geography, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
2017-2021 Senior Lecturer, The Department of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University
2015-2017 Post-doctoral researcher, Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Utrecht University.
2011-2015 Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
2011-2014 Research Assistant, Department of Geography, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
2007-2009 Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
2006-2009 Research Assistant, Department of Geography, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Additional Functions at Tel Aviv University

2018-2019 Bachelor's degree advisor, Department of Geography and the Human Environment
2018- Teaching committee (MA), Department of Environmental Studies
2019- Teaching committee, Department of Geography and the Human Environment

Awards and Honors

- 2005, 2006 Faculty of Social Sciences Dean's List (Hebrew University)
- 2009 The Arie Shachar Award for excellent work in the field of urban studies (together with Kineret Cohen and Udi Horovitz)
- 2011 The Hebrew University "HaNasi" (President) Scholarship for excellence – four years PhD candidate scholarship
- 2012 Dov Nir Award for outstanding MA thesis.

Research Grants

- 2013-2015 Municipality of Jerusalem – The Daily Experiences and Sense of Security of City Dwellers. 6,000NIS (~US\$1,600) (PI).
- 2019 The Institute for Innovation in Transportation - A New Approach for Modeling Pedestrian Flows in Israeli Cities. 112,000NIS (~US\$32,000) (PI together with Prof. Itzhak Omer).
- 2019-2022 Israel Science Foundation (ISF) Walking and Walkability in Israeli Cities: Integrating Behavioral and Structural Approaches in Pedestrian Modeling. 390,000NIS (~US\$110,000). (PI together with Prof. Itzhak Omer).
- 2019-2022 European Commission, Horizon2020 – Cities as Mobility Hubs: Tackling Social Exclusion Through 'Smart' Citizen Engagement – SMARTDEST. €230,000/€3,000,000 (PI together with Prof. Itzhak Omer)
- 2021-2024 European Commission, Horizon2020, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks - Systems Approach of Urban Environments and Health – SURREAL €260,000/€3,900,000 (PI)

Publications

Chapters in Collections

1. Shoval, N., M. Isaacson, and **A. Birenboim** (2009). Monitoring Impacts of Visitors with Aggregative GPS Data. In: Gottfried, B., N. Van de Weghe, R. Billen, and P. De Maeyer (eds.), *Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Behaviour, Monitoring and Interpretation (BMI'09)*, pp. 33-46. Ghent, Belgium. [\(link\)](#)
2. **Birenboim, A.**, A. Y. Grinberger, E. M. Novelli, and C. R. Jonassaint. (2018). Daily Monitoring of Mobility as an Indicator of Wellbeing Among Individuals with Chronic Disease. In: Margareta, F., D. Ettema, and L. E. Olsson (eds.), *Quality of Life and Daily Travel*, pp. 219–234. Cham: Springer International Publishing. [\(link\)](#)
3. **Birenboim, A.**, S. Anton-Clavé, A.P. Russo, and N. Shoval (2021) Structure vs. Agency: Which Best Explains Tourist Activity in a Destination?. In: Ferrante, M., O. Fritz and Ö. Öner (eds.) *Regional Science Perspectives on Tourism and Hospitality*, pp. 355-373. Cham: Springer International Publishing. [\(link\)](#)

Conference Papers (Peer Reviewed)

1. Ferrante, M., **A. Birenboim**, A. M. Milito, S. De Cantis (2018). Monitoring Event Attendance Using a Combination of Traditional and Advanced Surveying Tools. 49th Meeting of the Italian Statistical Society (SIS), Palermo, Italy [\(link\)](#)

Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

1. Barzilay, Y., N. Shoval, M. Liebergall, G. K. Auslander, **A. Birenboim**, M. Isaacson, A. R. Vaccaro, and L. Kaplan (2011). Assessing the Outcomes of Spine Surgery Using Global Positioning Systems. *Spine*, 26(4) 256-262. [\(link\)](#)
2. Shoval, N., B. McKercher, E. Ng, and **A. Birenboim** (2011). Hotel Location and Tourist Activity in Cities. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 38(4): 1594-1612. [\(link\)](#)
3. McKercher, B., N. Shoval, E. Ng, and **A. Birenboim** (2012). First and Repeat Visitor Behaviour: GPS Tracking and GIS Analysis in Hong Kong. *Tourism Geographies*, 14(1): 147-161. [\(link\)](#)
4. **Birenboim, A.**, S. Anton Clave, A. P. Russo, and N. Shoval (2013) Temporal Activity Patterns of Theme Park Visitors. *Tourism Geographies*, 15(4): 601-619. [\(link\)](#)
5. Shoval, N., B. McKercher, **A. Birenboim**, and E. Ng (2015). The Application of a Sequence Alignment Method to the Creation of Typologies of Tourist Activity in Time and Space. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, 42(1):76-94. [\(link\)](#)
6. **Birenboim, A.**, K. H. Reinau, N. Shoval, and H. Harder (2015). High Resolution Measurement and Analysis of Visitor Experiences in Time and Space: The Case of Aalborg Zoo in Denmark. *The Professional Geographer*, 67(4): 620-629. [\(link\)](#)
7. Shoval, N. and **A. Birenboim** (2015). The Implementation of Tracking Technologies in Urban Planning. *Tichnon*, 12(2): 19-36 (Heb). [\(link\)](#)
8. **Birenboim, A.** (2016). New Approaches to the Study of Tourist Experiences in Time and Space. *Tourism Geographies*, 18(1): 9-17. [\(link\)](#)
9. **Birenboim, A.** and N. Shoval (2016). Mobility Research in the Age of the Smartphone. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 106(2): 283-291. [\(link\)](#)
10. Jonassaint, C., **A. Birenboim**, D. R. Jorgensen, E. Novelli, and A. L. Rosso (2018). The Association of Smartphone-Based Activity Space Measures with Cognitive Functioning and Pain Sickle Cell Disease. *British Journal of Haematology*, 181: 395-397. [\(link\)](#)
11. **Birenboim, A.** (2018). The Influence of Urban Environments on Our Subjective Momentary Experiences. *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, 45(5): 915-932. [\(link\)](#)
12. Shoval, N. and **A. Birenboim** (2019). Customization and Augmentation of Experiences through Mobile Technologies: A Paradigm Shift in the Analysis of Destination Competitiveness. *Tourism Economics*, 25(5): 661-669 **[invited commentary]**. [\(link\)](#)
13. **Birenboim, A.**, M. Dijst, F. E. Scheepers, M. Poelman, and M. Helbich (2019). Wearables and Location Tracking Technologies for Mental-State Sensing in Outdoor Environments. *The Professional Geographer*, 71(3): 449-461. [\(link\)](#)
14. **Birenboim, A.**, M. Dijst, D. Ettema, J. de Kruijff, G. de Leeuw, and N. Dogterom (2019). The Utilization of Immersive Virtual Environments for the Investigation of Environmental Preferences. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 189: 129-138. [\(link\)](#)
15. Hardy, A., **A. Birenboim**, and M. Wells (2020). Using Geoinformatics to Assess Tourist Dispersal at the State Level. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 82. [\(link\)](#)

16. **Birenboim, A.**, P. Ben-Nun Bloom, H. Levit, and I. Omer (2021). The Study of Walking, Walkability and Wellbeing in Immersive Virtual Environments. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(2):364. [\(link\)](#)
17. **Birenboim, A.**, M. Helbich, and M.-P. Kwan (2021). Advances in Portable Sensing for Urban Environments: Understanding Cities from a Mobility Perspective. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*. [\(link\)](#)
18. Kaplan, N., **A. Birenboim**, N. Omer, and I. Omer (2022). Walking Patterns in Tel Aviv Metropolis: Empirical Findings about Walking Durations and Planning Implications. *Tichnon*, (Heb), 19(1).

Reports

1. Shoval, N., **A. Birenboim**, S. Anton Clavé, M. Isaacson, and P. Russo (2008). Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Visitors to PortAventura Park April 2008. School of Tourism and Leisure (EUTO), University Rovira i Virgili (105 pages).
2. **Birenboim, A.**, K. H. Reinau, N. Shoval, and H. Harder (2013). Evaluation of the ACTUM GPS Data and Advice for Future Research (48 pages). [\(link\)](#)
3. **Birenboim, A.**, Y. Bulis (2020) Smart City / Destination Initiatives. In: Bornioli, A., A. P. Russo, S. Vermeulen, and R. Valente (eds.), *The Spatial Articulation and Local Effects of Tourism and Associated Mobilities*, pp. 33-41 (9 pages). [\(link\)](#)
4. **Birenboim, A.**, J-A. Ivars-Baidal, S. Anton Clavé, A. Ganzaroli, M. Farkash, and A. P. Alcaraz (2021) Tourism, Smartness, Inequality and Social Exclusion in European Regions. In: Bornioli, A., and A. P. Russo (eds.), *Tourism-Related Mobilities, Spatial Effects and Local Responses*, pp. 74-81 (8 pages).

Presentations in Scientific Conferences

1. "GPS in the Service of Human Geography", The Annual Meeting of the Israeli Geographical Association, December 2010. Jerusalem, Israel (Heb).
2. "Smartphones on the Street", The Annual Meeting of the Israeli Geographical Association, December 2011. Tel Aviv, Israel (Heb).
3. "How about Smartphones in Regional Science?". Meeting of the Israeli Regional Science Association, February 2012. Rehovot, Israel (Heb) .
4. "Smart-phones! Smart Surveys?". Mobile Tartu 2012, August 2012, Tartu, Estonia.
5. "The Geography of Urban Experiences". The Annual Conference of Urban Affairs Association, April 2013, San Francisco.
6. "A Smart(Phone) Exploration of Subjective Attitude Toward the Environment". The Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers (AAG), April 2013, Los Angeles.
7. "GeoTagging Emotions: Exploring Experiences in a Spatial Context". The 4th Emotional Geographies Conference, July 2013, Groningen, The Netherlands .
8. "HD Zoo Experience: The Spatial Distribution of visitor Experiences in the Zoo". The Annual Meeting of the Israeli Geographical Association, December 2013. Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel (Heb).

9. "Big Data and Tracking Technologies: We Know where is Everybody, What are We Going to Do with It Now?". Meeting of the Israeli Regional Science Association, January 2014, Ort Braude college, Karmiel, Israel (Heb).
10. "The Momentary Experiences of Residents in Jerusalem: An Ecological Research Approach". The Annual Meeting of the Israeli Geographical Association, December 2014. University of Haifa, Israel (Heb).
11. "The Effect of Time and Space on Subjective Experiences". Meeting of the Israeli Regional Science Association, January 2015, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel (Heb).
12. "The Environment and Our Momentary Wellbeing". The Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers (AAG), April 2015, Chicago.
13. Using Virtual Reality to Measure Cyclists' Environmental Preferences. The Annual Meeting of the Israeli Geographical Association, December 2017. Ben Gurion University, Be'er Sheva, Israel (Heb).
14. "Using off-the-shelf Wearables as Markers of Changes in Mental State in Everyday Environments". The Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), April 2018, New Orleans.
15. "Streetscape Preferences to Encourage Cycling: Results from a Conjoint Experiment Using Immersive Virtual Technology". The Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), April 2018, New Orleans.
16. "Combining GPS Tracking and Bio-Sensing Techniques to Detect Episodic Changes in Mental State during Outdoor Activities". Mobile Tartu 2018, June 2018, Tartu, Estonia.
17. "Monitoring Mobility of Patients with Chronic Diseases Using Smartphones". The Annual Meeting of the Israeli Geographical Association, December 2018. Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel (Heb).
18. "The Investigation of cyclist's environmental preferences using Immersive Virtual Environments". The 47 Annual Conference for Science and the Environment, June 2019, Tel Aviv, Israel (Heb).
19. "Factors that Affect Tourist Dispersal at the State level: The Case of Tasmania, Australia". The 60th Annual Meeting of the Israeli Geographical Association, December 2019, Haifa University, Haifa, Israel (Heb).
20. "The Evolution of Urban Experiences Measurement". 2nd 7 Experiences² Summit 2021. September 2021. Online.

Presentations in Workshops and Symposiums

1. "Implementing GPS Information to the research of Human Behavior", SENTRA project Kickoff meeting, Heidelberg, Germany, 2006.
2. "DESURBS Project: Methodological Tools", Bezalel Academy Team – Round Table Discussion, Jerusalem, Israel, 2011 (Heb).
3. "Smartphones and the City", Urban Planning Workshop (Arie Shachar Memorial Event), Jerusalem, Israel, 2011.
4. "Sense of Security in the City", Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) – A workshop organized by METZILA (Ministry of Public Security), Tel Aviv, Israel, 2012 (Heb).

5. "Ubiquitous Data Collection", ACTUM project workshop, Aalborg, Denmark, December 2012 .
6. "Smartphones and Social Science", A seminar given in Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands, December 2012 .
7. "Sensing Tourism and Leisure Activity", A workshop for PhD students at Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Vila Seca, Spain, November 2013. **[INVITED SPEAKER]**
8. "Exploring Our Momentary Wellbeing Using Smartphones", A workshop on inequalities in health promoting environments, Haifa University, February 2015.
9. "The Implementation of Smartphones in Spatial Behavior Research", A workshop on geographical research and technology, Be'er Sheva, Israel, May 2015 (Heb) .
10. "Tracking Tourists in the Smartphone Age", Tourism Mobility and Behavior: A Changing Lifestyle, Bruneck, South Tyrol, Italy, October 2015. **[INVITED SPEAKER]**
11. "Tourism Mobilities", A workshop for PhD students at Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Vila Seca, Spain, April 2016. **[INVITED SPEAKER]**
12. "Utilizing Virtual Reality to Measure the Influence of the Environment on Willingness to Cycle", Meeting of the Regional Science Association Nederland – a workshop on mobility and transportation, The Hague, The Netherlands, March 2017.
13. "How Can Location Tracking Technologies Tell Us Even More About Our Tourists: An Analytical Perspective", Tourism Tracking Symposium, Hobart, Tasmania, February 2019. **[INVITED SPEAKER]**
14. "Studying the Influence of Urban Environments on Walking and Cycling Experiences Using Immersive Virtual Environments", Experiencing the City, A live webinar, organized by the Eindhoven University of Technology, May 2021. **[INVITED SPEAKER]**
15. "Utilizing Augmented Reality (AR) to Study the Impact of Short-Term Environmental Exposure on Momentary Wellbeing". MoHeaP - Virtual Workshop on Mobility, Health, and Place, hosted by University of Zurich, Switzerland, June 2021.

Academic Visits to Institutions Abroad

Universitat Rovira i Virgili, School of Tourism and Leisure (EUTO), Vila Seca, Spain. 2008 (for four months).

Hong Kong Polytechnic University, School of Hotel & Tourism Management, Hong Kong. 2009, 2010 (one month in total).

Courses Taught

1. Implementation of Advanced Tracking Technologies in Geographic Research, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (course number: 40836, 2015, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem).
2. Health, Place and Society (course number: 40258, 2021-, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem).
3. Urban and Environmental Issues in Tourism (course number: 40752, 2021-, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

4. A Workshop in Urban Analytics (course number: 40259, 2021-, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem).
5. Project: Technologies for Managing the Smart City (course number: 01536, 2021-, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem).
6. Advanced Location Tracking Technologies (course number: 0349-4354-01, 2017-2020, Tel Aviv University).
7. Geography of Tourism and Recreation (course number: 0349-2287-01, 2017-2020, Tel Aviv University).
8. Health, Place, and Society (course number: 0349-2134-01, 2017-2020, Tel Aviv University).
9. Geographical Thought and Methodology (course number: 0349-4699-01, 2017-2020, Tel Aviv University).
10. Workshop in Urban Analytics (course number: 0349-4865-01, 2017-2020, Tel Aviv University).
11. Qualitative Methodologies (course number: 0349-2400-01, 2018-2020, Tel Aviv University).
12. Regional and Metropolitan Planning (course number: 0349-4235-01, 2018, Tel Aviv University).

Other Scientific Activities

Organization of Conferences, Workshops and Symposiums

1. Organizing a special track (5 sessions, 22 lectures) on “Mobility and Transportation” – The Annual Meeting of the Israeli Geographical Association, December 2019, Haifa, Israel.
2. Organizing an online symposium on “Health Promoting Cities” as part of the Israeli Geographical Association series of symposiums, April 2020. ([link](#))

Editorial Board

- 2020- International Journal of Culture, Tourism and Hospitality Research
- 2021- Annals of Tourism Research Empirical Insights

Guest Editorship

1. Data, Special issue on ‘Geospatial Data’ (together with Jamal Jokar Arsanjani, Marco Helbich and Amin Tayyebi). Published during 2017. ([link](#))
2. Computers, Environment and Urban Systems, Special issue on “Advances in Portable Sensing Methodologies for Urban Environments: Understanding Cities from a Mobility Perspective (together with Marco Helbich and Mei-Po Kwan). Published during 2021. ([link](#))

Supervision of Master’s Theses (Utrecht University)

Eilis Garvey (2016), Anje Koop (2016), Yu-Ping TUNG (Wendy) (2016)

Supervision of Research Students

MA students

Michal Farkash (2018-2021) – Identifying Alternative Walking Routes as an Environmental Solution for Tourism Carrying Capacity Problems of Cities (Together with Prof. Aliza Fleischer).

Lihi Yalin (2021-) – TBD

PhD students

Amnon Franco (2019-) – Mobility in Physical and Virtual Spaces and its Impact on Place Making Processes Among Children (Together with Prof. Itzhak Omer)

Alon Goldenberg (2019-) – Using ‘Big Data’ to Infer the Influence of Urban Environments on Human Behavior.

Martha Wells (2020-) – Influencing Tourists’ Geographical Dispersal Using Serious Game Strategies (University of Tasmania, together with Prof. Anne Hardy)

Rebeca Shilselberg (2020-2021) – Using Motility Measures to Promote Eudemonic Well-being in Transport Policies (formerly a student of the late Prof. Moshe Givoni). Tel Aviv University.

Li Min (Alex) Wang (2021-) – The Identification, Development, and Testing of Sensor-Based Technologies for the Purpose of Assessing Individuals’ Environmental Exposures, Activity, and Mobility and the Resulting Health Outcomes (Together with Prof. Basile Chaix).

Michal Zuckerman Farkash (2021-) – Mobility Patterns of Deprived Populations in Cities.

Service in Academic and Research Institutes and Organizations

2019- Secretary of the Israeli Geographical Association (IGA)

Grants Committees

2018 Tel Aviv University and The Triangle Research and Development Center research grants.

Referee

Journals

Annals of the American Association of Geographers (3), Annals of Tourism Research (6), Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy (1), Computers, Environment and Urban Systems (6), Geografisk Tidsskrift-Danish Journal of Geography (2), Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science (1), Horizons in Geography (Heb) (1), International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction (1), International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (1), International Journal of Geo-Information (1), International Journal of Health Geographies (2), Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health (1), Journal of Global health (1), Journal of Travel & Tourism Marketing (1), Landscape and Urban Planning (1), Leisure Studies (1), Regional Studies, Regional Science (1), Sustainability (1), The Professional Geographer (1), Tourism Geographies (6), Tourism Management (16), Tourist Studies (1), Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice (1), Transport Reviews (2), Urban Studies (2).

Theses and Dissertations

MA Theses: Haifa University (2), Tel Aviv University (4), Utrecht University (2)

PhD Dissertations: Technion (1)

Grants Proposals

Israel Science Foundation (ISF) (1), National Science Centre (NCN) Poland (1), Technion – Haifa University Milgram grants (1)