

# URI AMIR-KOREN, LSW

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## EDUCATION

2023-Present	<b>Ph.D. Student</b> School of Social Work <b>Rutgers University</b> , New Brunswick, New Jersey
2020-2023	<b>M.S.W.</b> The Paul Baerwald School of Social Work <b>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</b> , Israel Between 2022 and 2023, as an exchange student at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, <b>Yeshiva University, NY</b> , earned three advanced certifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Certificate in Gerontology &amp; Palliative Care Practice</li><li>▪ Certificate in Creative Arts and Healing</li><li>▪ Certificate in Trauma-Informed Practice</li></ul> <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
2019-2021	Study toward <b>Graduate Diploma in Jungian Psychotherapy</b> (Advanced clinical training. On hiatus due to relocation.) Jungian Psychotherapy Program, Continuing Education Unit, Louis & Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work, <b>Bar Ilan University</b> , Ramat Gan, Israel
2011-2013	<b>M.St.</b> (Master of Studies, equivalent to M.A.), Jewish-Christian Relations Woolf Institute, Divinity Faculty <b>Cambridge University</b> , Cambridge, UK <i>Pass (equivalent to Magna Cum Laude)</i>
2005-2008	<b>Post-Graduate Diploma</b> , Drama Therapy Graduate Institute for Drama Therapy Studies <b>Tel-Hai Academic College</b> , Kiryat Shmone, Israel <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
1996-1999	<b>B.A.</b> , Double Major in Jewish and Comparative Folklore & Jewish Thought Humanities Faculty <b>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</b> , Israel 1997 <b>Walter Plaut Award</b> for exceptional undergraduate work in Folklore <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Loneliness, social isolation, and solo aging; life course human development; arts-based and clinically informed interventions.

## FELLOWSHIPS

2025-2026

### **AGESW Gerontological Social Work Pre-Dissertation Fellow**

*Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW)*

Selected as a Fellow for the 14th cohort of the national AGESW Pre-Dissertation Fellows Program, recognizing scholarly promise and commitment to advancing gerontological social work.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-Present

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

*Supervisors: Drs. Emily Greenfield and Ayse Akincigil*

Hub for Aging Collaboration

Rutgers University School of Social Work

New Brunswick, New Jersey

With Dr. Greenfield: Research on age-friendly communities, including qualitative analysis using Dedoose and ATLAS.ti web; quantitative data cleaning, organization, and analysis using STATA and SPSS; literature review, and engagement activities with the Village Movement.

With Dr. Akincigil: Research on Assisted Living Projects (ALPs), including qualitative fieldwork, interviews, and analysis using ATLAS.ti; building a unique quantitative dataset; data cleaning, spot checking, and data visualization using STATA, R, MS Excel, Tableau, and ArcGIS.

2025

### **Trainee in Advanced Qualitative Methods**

*Supervisor: Dr. Judith L. M. McCoyd*

Rutgers University School of Social Work

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Conducted an independent qualitative analysis on Israeli expatriates' experiences and perceptions following the events of October 7<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with and under the mentorship of Dr. McCoyd; manuscript submitted for publication.

- 2023-2024      **Graduate Research Assistant**  
*Supervisor: Dr. Gabriel Robles*  
 Rutgers University School of Social Work  
 New Brunswick, New Jersey
- Research on the sexual health of sexual minority men, including collaborative writing of a research manuscript, and editorial and literature review for two grant applications.
- Fall 2023      **Doctoral Research Assistant**  
*Supervisor: Dr. Edward Alessi*  
 Rutgers University School of Social Work  
 New Brunswick, New Jersey
- Research on trauma-informed qualitative research, and migrant sexual and gender minorities, including literature review and coordination of research team meetings.
- Spring 2022      **Trainee in Qualitative Phenomenology**  
*Supervisor: Dr. Mary B. Morrissey*  
 Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University  
 New York, NY
- Research on vicarious trauma among social workers and attorneys in immigrant services. Trained in phenomenological methods, conducted and analyzed qualitative data, and participated in team data reviews.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Amir-Koren, U.**, & McCoyd, J. L. M. (2025). 'Being Jewish is, in some ways, a highly privileged identity...but in other ways...antisemitism is definitely a thing': Israeli expatriates' perceptions and experiences of antisemitism post-October 7th. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 1-27  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2025.2526088>
- Greenfield, E.A., Scher, C., Pope, N., & **Amir-Koren, U.** (2025). Aging equity and diversity as part of age-friendly community practice in the United States. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 1-26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2025.2470254>
- Greenfield, E. A., Amani, T., Pope, N. E., Martin, R., & **Amir-Koren, U.** (2025). Digital technology use as part of age-friendly community practice. Manuscript under review.

Robles, G., Reynolds, A., **Amir-Koren, U.**, Rendina, H. J., & Rodríguez-Díaz, C. E. (2025). Preferences for PrEP selection: An exploratory study of a discrete choice experiment among sexual minority men in the U.S. Manuscript under review.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

Greenfield, E. A., Pope, N.E., & **Amir-Koren, U.** (2025). Older adults' strengths as leaders of age-friendly community initiatives. Manuscript in progress.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

**Koren, U.** (2018). Running larps as a drama therapist. In C. B. Nielson, K. Jacobsen Meland, Y. I. Kot, & L. Pulertis (Eds.), *The Larpwriter Summer School Collection* (pp.112-131). [https://www.academia.edu/40465882/Running\\_Larps\\_as\\_a\\_Drama\\_Therapist](https://www.academia.edu/40465882/Running_Larps_as_a_Drama_Therapist)

## REPORTS

Akincigil, A., **Amir Koren, U.**, Akman, J., Bischoff-Hashem, D., and Zurlo, K. (2025, August) *Supporting Aging in Place in New Jersey: A SWOT Analysis of the Assisted Living Programs*. New Jersey State Policy Lab. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University. <https://policylab.rutgers.edu/publication/report-release-supporting-aging-in-place-in-new-jersey-a-swot-analysis-of-assisted-living-programs/>

Akincigil, A., & **Amir-Koren, U.** (2025, February). *NJSPL: Affordable housing database for older adults in NJ* [Blog post and interactive map]. Hub for Aging Collaboration & New Jersey State Policy Lab, Rutgers Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. <https://policylab.rutgers.edu/publication/database-of-affordable-housing-for-older-adults-in-new-jersey/>

Akincigil, A., & **Amir-Koren, U.** (2024, March). *Sustainable assisted living programs in New Jersey* [Blog post]. Hub for Aging Collaboration & Rutgers New Jersey State Policy Lab. <https://policylab.rutgers.edu/publication/sustainable-assisted-living-programs-in-new-jersey/>

Akincigil, A., & **Amir-Koren, U.** (2024, February). *Enabling aging in place: A vital strategy for residents of subsidized senior housing* [Blog post]. Hub for Aging Collaboration & Rutgers New Jersey State Policy Lab. <https://policylab.rutgers.edu/publication/enabling-aging-in-place-a-vital-strategy-for-residents-of-subsidized-senior-housing/>

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Akincigil, A., & **Amir-Koren, U.** (2025, February). Research to strengthen aging-in-place program innovation for NJ older adult housing. Research presentation at *EngAGED Research on Aging in New Jersey: A Multi-Chancellor-Unit Virtual Symposium*. Hub for Aging Collaboration.

**Amir-Koren, U.** (2025, January). Israeli expatriates' perceptions, experiences, and coping mechanisms post-October 7<sup>th</sup>. Research presentation at the *Social Work Doctoral Forum*. School of Social Work, Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

**Amir-Koren, U.** & Attias, Y. (2024, July). Context-aware research on the events of October 7th. Guest lecture presented as part of D. Strayer-Rohr's *Context Aware Research* course at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

**Koren, U.** (2020, February). *Dungeons & Dragons in the service of therapy: Drama therapy on the table*. Lecture presented at the Art as Therapy - New Theories and Models in Art Therapy Conference, The School for Society and the Arts - the Ono Academic College, Israel.

**Koren, U.** (2018, December). *LARP applications as a therapeutic tool*. Talk presented at the State of the Larp Conference, Norway.

Blum-Yazdi, D., & **Koren, U.** (2018, December). *The "Leila" method - The game in itself*. Workshop presented at the Israeli Association for Creative Arts Therapies (YAHAT) Conference on Playfulness, Israel.

**Koren, U.** (2018, May). *"Clowns" - An exploration of innocence through a live role play*. Workshop presented at the Israeli Association for Creative Arts Therapies (YAHAT) Conference on Medical Clowning, Israel.

## PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Amir-Koren, U.** (forthcoming, January 2026). *Israeli expatriates' perceptions and experiences of antisemitism post-October 7th*. Poster presentation to be delivered at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, Washington, DC. (*Session 138: ePoster Presentations V, January 16, 2:00–3:30 PM Eastern*).

**Amir-Koren, U.** (forthcoming, January 2026). *Preserving independence: Evaluating an innovative model for low-income seniors living in subsidized housing*. Poster presentation to be delivered at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference,

Washington, DC. (Session 304: ePoster Presentations XI, January 18, 8:00–9:30 AM Eastern).

**Amir-Koren, U.** (2025, May). Israeli expatriates' experiences and coping mechanisms post-October 7<sup>th</sup>. Poster presentation at *Mental Health in a Reality of War: The Implications of October 7th and the Subsequent War*. Israel Center for Addiction and Mental Health (ICAMH), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. In absentia.  
<https://icamh.org.il/events/conference-on-mental-health-in-times-of-war/>

**Amir-Koren, U.** (2025, January). Israeli expatriates' perceptions, experiences, and coping mechanisms post-October 7<sup>th</sup>. Poster presentation at Society of Social Work and Research (SSWR), Seattle, WA.  
<https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2025/webprogram/Paper57608.html>

Acocella, F., Briceno, D., Mata, J., **Amir-Koren, U.**, & Morrissey, M. B. (2024, January). *Vicarious trauma among social workers, attorneys, and allied professionals in immigrant services and asylum*. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, Washington, DC.  
<https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2024/webprogram/Paper54299.htm>

## MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Rhodes, J. (2025, March 11). U. professor, graduate student publish subsidized housing census for older adults. *The Daily Targum*. <https://www.dailytargum.com/article/4kfes5czutbu-20250311>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025	Adjunct Lecturer, Aging Policy, October Residency for Cohort 2026, Rutgers University DSW Program. October 17, 2025.
2025	Guest Lecturer, Introduction to Experimental Psychology (PSYC 0001.900), University of Pennsylvania, College of Liberal & Professional Studies. Lecture title: "Case Studies in Psychotherapy". July 3, 2025.

## CLINICAL WORK EXPERIENCE

2018–2025	<b>Psychotherapist</b> <i>Private Practice</i> Jerusalem, Israel (in-person 2018–2022; online 2022–2025)
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Provided psychotherapy to young and older adults, with a focus on LGBTQ+ clients and immigrants navigating loneliness, marginalization, and social isolation. Employed an integrative approach grounded in depth psychology, combining psychodynamic talk therapy, creative arts, and psychosocial interventions.

2021 – 2022

**Social Work Intern**

*MILAM – Counselling and support center for family members of people with psychosocial disabilities*

Jerusalem, Israel

Psychotherapy and psychosocial interventions provided to six clients (including older adults) with family members of people with mental disabilities.

2020 – 2021

**Social Work Intern**

*Association of Americans & Canadians in Israel (AACI)*

Jerusalem, Israel

Provided psychotherapy and psychosocial interventions to five English-speaking older adults suffering from loneliness, social isolation, depression, and anxiety primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2017 – 2018

**Drama Therapist**

*Private Practice*

Jerusalem, Israel

Established and facilitated a private intergenerational group in drama therapy focused on self-awareness and self-development through dramatic play for 15 neurotypical adults from the Jerusalem community.

2019 – 2020

**Creative Arts Therapy Supervisor**

*MATYA MA'ALE VA'HAR – Ministry of Education*

Jerusalem, Israel

Supervised two expressive arts therapy interns from Haifa University and David-Yellin College, working with children in the special needs system in an elementary school in Har Adar.

2014 – 2020

**Drama Therapist**

*MATYA MA'ALE VA'HAR – Ministry of Education*

Jerusalem, Israel

Provided individual and group emotional therapy for children within the special-education system (e.g., children with ADHD, high-functioning autism, challenges related to emotional and sensory regulation, complex family dynamics). Treated around 22 children annually, with some receiving continuous care for several years.

2013- 2015

**Drama Therapy with children**

*Freelancer*

Jerusalem, Israel

Led drama therapy based on role-playing games to groups of diverse child populations: gifted, typically developing, at-risk, and psychiatric.

2013- 2014

**Drama Therapy with young adults**

*Freelancer at SUMMIT Institute (foster care for children and youth at risk and psychosocial rehabilitation)*

Jerusalem, Israel

Led a drama therapy group of ten young adults within a mental health psychosocial rehabilitation program.

2008 – 2009

**Drama Therapist**

*MATYA EITAN – Ministry of Education*

Beit Shemesh, Israel

Provided individual and group emotional therapy for around twenty children within the special education system in three educational settings: a language kindergarten, a kindergarten for complex learning disabilities, and an elementary school.

2007 – 2009

**Coordinator and Social Facilitator**

*ENOSH – The Israeli Mental Health Association*

Jerusalem, Israel

Managed and facilitated the "Six" and "Six-and-a-Half" clubs, therapeutic-psychosocial rehabilitation clubs designed for adults aged 25–45 with a history of psychiatric diagnoses, many of whom experienced prior hospitalization in mental health facilities. The work included group facilitation with a socio-rehabilitative emphasis, collaboration with treatment coordinators, and organizing social activities and events.

2007 – 2008

**Drama Therapy Intern**

*MAON YERUSHALAYIM – Intensive Day Treatment Center for Mental Health (Kfar Shaul Mental Hospital)*



Jerusalem, Israel

Conducted individual and group drama therapy sessions for psychiatric adults experiencing acute mental crises, mental illnesses, and severe personality disorders.

2006 – 2007

**Drama Therapy Intern**

*KFAR SHALEM CENTER – Local Psycho-Educational Service*

Tel Aviv, Israel

Provided individual drama therapy treatments for adolescents (aged 12-13) from disadvantaged family backgrounds, addressing emotional and behavioral challenges.

2002 – 2005

**Student Leader and Community Coordinator**

*Levana Center for Jewish Renewal and Holistic Growth, Beit Hillel,*

*Hebrew University*

Jerusalem, Israel

Led and managed the Levana Center, a community-based initiative, mentoring teachers and volunteers, and organizing workshops and events in community theater, creative arts, meditation, and listening circles. Additionally, I managed event production and logistical coordination.

2000 – 2005

**Rehabilitation Guide**

*BEN-AMI INSTITUTE – Ministry of Defense*

Jerusalem, Israel

Provided rehabilitation support and guidance for army veterans experiencing psychiatric disabilities in a halfway house setting, facilitating psychosocial adjustment, daily living skills, and integration into the community.

## SERVICE

### Academic

2025

**Ad hoc reviewer**

*Dramatherapy*

Peer-reviewed scholarly submission on arts-based therapeutic practice and qualitative-based research methodology.

2024 – 2025

**Events Coordinator**

*Doctoral Student Association*

Rutgers University School of Social Work

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Organized academic and community-building events for doctoral students. Founded and facilitated a study group to enhance focus and accountability, open to all Social Work PhD and DSW students.

**Community**

2020 – 2022

**Psychotherapist (Volunteer)**

*Israel Hillel – Leaving the Orthodox World*

Jerusalem, Israel

Provided psychotherapy and emotional support to young adults transitioning out of ultra-Orthodox communities.

2013 – 2014

**LGBTQ+ Youth Social Guide (Volunteer)**

*The Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance*

Jerusalem, Israel

Facilitated weekly supervised gatherings for LGBTQ+ youth, offering social support and mentorship.

2019

**Israeli-Palestinian Grassroots Peacemaking (Volunteer)**

*Thich Nhat Hanh Zen Monastery*

Plum Village, France

Participated in a two-week mindfulness retreat fostering deep dialogue and interpersonal connection between Jewish-Israelis and Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

2002

**The North Walk for Peace (Volunteer)**

*TOVANA Insight Meditation Center*

Galilee, Israel

Joined a two-week peace walk through Arab villages, Jewish towns, and kibbutzim. Promoted reconciliation through talking circles, shared experiences, and cultural exchange.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW)  
Creative & Expressive Arts Therapies Association in Israel (YAHAT)  
Gerontological Society of America (GSA)  
Society of Social Work Research (SSWR)

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and Hebrew

## SOFTWARE FOR DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND VISUALIZATION

ATLAS.ti, DeDoose,  
STATA, R, SPSS, SPSS Amos,  
Qualtrics  
ArcGIS, Tableau  
Excel