



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



מרכז האוניברסיטה העברית לקיימות
The Hebrew University Center for Sustainability
مركز الجامعة العبرية للاستدامة



Scientific Progress

Land resource distribution and planning policies to a large extent determine the living conditions and scope of opportunities for different populations and communities. Social planning and spatial justice are based on and adapted to the social, cultural, economic and environmental needs of the population, in the aim of reducing spatial inequalities. Dr. Enaya Banna-Jeries is an urban planner and research fellow (Institute of Urban and Regional Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences) deals with theories of justice and their application in decision-making procedures in planning institutions related to Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel and the residents of East Jerusalem. She specializes in issues of urban planning and the rights of members of Palestinian Arab society as a national minority born in Israel.

Dr. Emily Silverman (Department of Geography) specializes in housing policy, social planning, urban renewal, and planning within the community. Dr. Silverman's research, characterized by an emphasis on applied aspects and promoting values of fairness and equality, is carried out in collaboration with decision-makers and community representatives. Moreover, it influences the formulation of Israel's social housing policy.

Community Impact

The Active University in Jerusalem project is HUJI's flagship social project, in which the university and its students are committed to helping at-risk youth and running various programs which support and empower them. The aim of the project is to expose these youths to higher education and the cultural and emotional worlds of students, to develop their talents and self-esteem, and to give them hope for a brighter future and the opportunity for social mobility.

The project runs five programs, among them "Winning Card," a series of academic enrichment courses held on campus for first generation youth. The programs are intended for teenagers who are interested in enriching themselves in the fields of psychology, business administration, law, or medicine. The youth choose a course at Hebrew University, taught throughout the academic year by carefully selected students of upper standing, who receive a scholarship for their contribution.

Studies and Learning Initiatives

Every year, HUJI offers six pre-academic preparatory programs for more than 1,000 students. The programs cater to Arab students from East Jerusalem, immigrants, ultra-orthodox students, nursing students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, students without a high school matriculation and a general preparatory program. The university invests over ILS 7,000,000 annually in these preparatory programs, in recognition of the crucial importance of providing an opportunity for people from all parts of society to study at the university, with many of them fully subsidized.

"Rishonim Lekidum" is a national program adopted and implemented by HUJI as its policy, and designed to promote equal opportunity. For example, the university offers admission to studies in all of its faculties to candidates with a background of personal, environmental, and family difficulties during adolescence that prevented them from attaining high school diplomas.

Action on Campus

The Diversity and Inclusion Unit of Hebrew University, led by HUJI's Vice President for Strategy and Diversity Prof. Mona Khoury-Kassabri, strives to maintain an academic environment free from discrimination and harassment based on community, national, sectarian, religious, or sexual affiliation of students and faculty members. The unit works to increase the number and proportion of students and faculty members who belong to minority groups in society, mainly ultra-Orthodox, Arabs, Israelis from the Ethiopian community, and people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

The Equal Opportunities Unit, housed within the Office for the Dean of Students, runs an academic guidance program for fostering academic excellence among students who are struggling to maximize their academic and personal potential due to financial, personal, educational, and/or social and mental health difficulties. Support is offered through individual or group tutoring by students who have already passed the relevant courses with excellent grades. Additional lessons are provided for specific courses, as well as individualized English instruction. The financial aid unit of the Office for the Dean of Students, as well as other university units, provide need-based scholarships for students with the premise that financial need should never prevent qualified students from earning a degree. The Office for the Dean of Students also works to minimize student drop-out rates, specifically those from underrepresented communities.