



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

Scientific Progress

HUJI's Lafer Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences coordinates programs and research on gender and women's studies. Hadas Gur-Ze'ev, a Lafer Center Doctoral Fellow, wrote her dissertation on "The Gendered Culture War: Feminist Trends and Countertrends in Online Discussions of Popular Culture," focusing on the clash between feminism and misogyny on digital platforms, and the way they are used in public discussions. Ayisha Agbaria, also a Lafer Center Doctoral Fellow, wrote her thesis on building, breaking, and restructuring social ties, and their crucial part in identity formation and social networks during religious identity re-formation amongst young Muslim women. Ayisha's research explores how Muslim women in Israel manage social ties while forming individual religious identities within their complex reality.

The Sophie Davis Forum for the Study of Gender, Conflicts and Their Resolution operates within the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, also at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The forum works to integrate gender thinking into conflict research and international relations studies, and to promote collaborations with civil society organizations dealing in related fields. The Forum of Female Researchers established at the Truman Institute organizes different events and activities such as meetings with innovative women in academia, as well as practical workshops with varied lecturers.

Community Impact

The Clinical Legal Education Center at the Faculty of Law features a clinic for women and the economy, examining questions of gender division for paid and unpaid work, diverse occupational barriers, the positioning and discrimination of women in the labor market, their relegation to "feminine" professions that are under-rewarded, the design of gender-sensitive economic policies, and the ways in which national economic programs affect the lives of women. The clinic serves as a platform for practical work and critical thinking about key issues in economic and social policy from a gender perspective. Alongside these activities, the clinic assists individual women from the socio-economic margins of Israeli society.

HUJI's Taking the Stage project aims to close significant representation gaps between women and men in public and academic discourse by ensuring adequate representation of academic women as spokespeople in public discussions.

Studies and Learning Initiatives

The Lafer Center for Women's and Gender Studies also offers a Master's Degree in Gender and Diversity covering issues in psychology, gender and group identities, and challenges of multiculturalism, gender, sexuality, and psychoanalysis. Also addressed are feminist theories and feminist-critical research methods, leadership, creativity and communication skills in heterogeneous environments, dialogue, recognition and power relations, masculinity and femininity through the lens of queer theories.

Cooperation between HUJI's Social Engagement Unit and the Lisan Association led to the creation of the Medabrot Ivrit project, providing a focused and optimal response to challenges faced by female students as Arabic-speaking residents of East Jerusalem by providing Hebrew lessons. So far, over 2000 students have participated in this free course, with volunteer students doing the teaching.

HUJI offers over 35 different scholarship programs for female students. One of them, the "Women's Circles" program, in cooperation with municipal and community bodies in West and East Jerusalem, offers a scholarship aiming to raise awareness of female and gender issues among female students and other women from Jerusalem, and to encourage mutual social involvement. The students experience interpersonal, empathetic and critical discourse on feminine, gender, and social issues. In addition, they discuss the differences and commonalities of women, and examine the connection between the personal, the feminine, the social, and the political.

Actions on Campus

HUJI's Committee for Gender Fairness, chaired by Prof. Haya Lorberbaum-Galski, is comprised of faculty members from all academic units, working together to promote and implement gender fairness. The committee promotes female researchers in the academic track, holds workshops on unconscious biases, and empowers doctoral students to pursue an academic career. Wisser, a mentorship initiative for Israeli women postdocs, provides informal support and guidance during the postdoctoral career.

HUJI decided to adopt International Women's Day in Science as an annual tradition for celebrating and honoring the contribution of female researchers to science, in the hopes of accelerating gender equality in academia. Prof. Haya Lorberbaum-Galsky, HUJI's adviser to the President for gender fairness, has called on the Minister of Science and on academic institutions to embrace this day.