



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

מרכז האוניברסיטה העברית לקיימות
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مركز الجامعة العبرية للاستدامة



Scientific Progress

Professors Yitzhak Hadar and Oded Yarden (Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment) joined a multidisciplinary team of over 40 researchers from European universities and industry, striving to assemble a white paper on growing a circular economy with fungal biotechnology. The paper describes how fungal biotechnology can advance the transition from our petroleum-based economy into a bio-based circular economy, and sustainable production of resilient sources of food, materials, chemicals, fuels, textiles, and many more useful products.

A different perspective on circular economy was applied by Prof. Zvi Wiener (Sanger Family Chair in Banking and Risk Management at HUJI's Business School). Prof. Wiener wrote a chapter in the book "Rethinking Sustainability Towards a Regenerative Economy," named "Circular Economy in Construction from Waste to Green Recycled Products in Israel: A Case Study." The chapter argues that the way to achieve the full integration between the circular economy and the legal framework to cope with construction and demolition waste through recycling still involves a wide gap, although big changes and advances have been made toward reaching a comprehensive policy.

Community Impact

About half a million small businesses operate in Israel, and about a tenth of them are located in the Jerusalem area, playing an essential role in creating new jobs and reducing negative immigration from the capital city. Most of them operate in a challenging, demanding and competitive environment, which requires them to adapt to the changing demands of the technology-based labor market. "Digital Starter" is a joint venture of HUJI, the Jerusalem Municipality, Atidim Association, and Google, aimed at helping small businesses to promote themselves in a new digital market. The venture connected 80 students in various fields with approximately 400 small businesses, providing digital support using simple tools, free of charge.

Remote working offers numerous benefits, including lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduced air pollution, improved work-life balance, increased productivity, and better overall employee health. The HUJI Alumni Association organized a remote work exposure evening for young adults, hosting speakers describing remote working environments, practicalities, challenges, and employment options.

Studies and Learning Initiatives

Research students in the Future of Work Lab, headed by Dr. Sharon Arieli (Strategy Department at HUJI's Business School) are studying the skills required for the contemporary world of employment, including creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. The lab's interdisciplinary approach combines theories and methodologies from social psychology, organizational psychology, organizational behavior, and strategy. The lab focuses on how to enhance our understanding of creativity development and innovation at work, and increasing employees' sense of meaning.

The "Person-Work Fit" Master's Degree course, taught by Prof. Lilach Sagiv (Business Administration Department at the Business School) aims to expose students to a central topic in organizational behavior – the congruence between person and work. Each week, a foundational text on the topic is read and then discussed in writing and in class. The course also includes a practical component surrounding the counseling aspect of the topic in question, and self-reflection on professional growth.

The Department of Environmental Economics and Management offers a high-level, flexible and practical teaching program, integrating the disciplines of economics, business administration, and environmental, agricultural and natural resource economics, at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels.

Actions on Campus

The Dean of Students Office offers a program entitled "Equal Employment - an Accessible Career." The program helps students with disabilities to enter the job market immediately following graduation, and to acquire tools and skills when looking for a student job, internship, or post-graduation job that matches the student's education and skills. In addition, it offers assistance in job search and placement at the beginning of the occupational path, while matching all professions and study degrees. The process includes personal and individual guidance by an expert in business work and in the employment of persons with disabilities.

The HUJI JLM Career Center supports students and graduates in developing and promoting their career and preparing them for the world of employment. The career center offers career development workshops, career fairs, meetings with personal career counselors, employers and special mentoring programs. The center operates an active blog on student thoughts on careers that portrays the real struggles and successes of students and alumni in securing decent jobs.