



הקליניקה האורבנית  
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
The Urban Clinic  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

# Urban Clinic Spring Update

## March 2016

Going into the second semester, here are some of the Clinic's recent projects in the fields of housing, social urbanism and urban regeneration. For more information and regular updates, visit our [website](#) and like our [Facebook page](#).



Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development is approaching, taking place at Quito, Ecuador, during October 2016. Following the first-ever **Israel Urban Convention** that brought together over 1000 government, municipal and community leaders, urban thinkers and practitioners in November of 2015, the Ministry of Housing launched the National Commission for Urbanism, charged with developing a long term urban agenda for Israel.

The Urban Clinic serves as academic advisor to the national commission, and is co-leading a series of round tables, consulting practitioners on urban issues such as transport, participation, planning policy and diversity. A new report on Urbanism, frames the debate national and municipal decision makers, showcasing policies and best practices from Israeli and international experience.

“Place Making is now a buzz word in Hebrew”, we’re told, after our week long urban festival with NYC based **Project for Public Spaces (PPS)**. Our new publication profiles leading Placemakers, from the Mayor of Acre to a hostel owner, including artists and architects, municipal officials and government policy makers. It also provides detailed information about the PPS method, as well as critical pieces by HUJI doctorate students.

Our related hands-on placemaking project, the **“Jerusalem fellowship”** is also well on its way, in partnership with the Jerusalem municipal development company, “Eden”, and the Community Councils. 8 graduate students and project director architect Yaara Rosner, are leading placemaking projects in four very different neighborhoods in Jerusalem.



This year's Urban Clinic course exposes graduate students to the unique Jerusalem Community Council model. Co-taught with the Jerusalem municipality deputy chief city architect, Dana Bornstein, the course deals with issues of diversity and inclusiveness through the perspective of the community urban planners. Students are currently mapping and analyzing five different neighborhoods in Jerusalem, and their findings will be presented to an assembly of urban planners across Jerusalem.

**The Urban Clinic at Hebrew University** is an academic body that works to strengthen creative and socially aware urban leadership in Israel, including mayors, city planners, community leaders, academics and developers. The Urban Clinic provides state of the art knowledge about what works in housing, urban regeneration and community planning, to ensure that the current and next generation of urban practitioners are equipped with effective tools and skills to make our cities truly remarkable places for all. Founded in 2013, the Urban Clinic is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University, linked to the Institute of Urban and Regional Studies. The Urban Clinic is headed by Dr. Emily Silverman. Visit our website to learn more.



Our monthly Friday Walks are back, thanks to a timely Canadian support. Each walk features spatial justice issues in a different Jerusalem neighborhood. The first tour of 2016 was led by the urban planner of the Ultra orthodox Bukharim neighborhood, underscoring the shortage of quality public spaces.

Upcoming tours continue to highlight diversity and core issues of planning in Jerusalem, with our next tour to Ein Karem focusing on the tensions between promoting urban nature and housing development.



Three Arab students began their graduate studies in urban planning thanks to the generous Paul and Eileen Goldberg Scholarship and the Jonathan Russo/Deborah Grayson Scholarship, American Friends of the Hebrew University. The scholarships offers much needed financial support as well as an important signal for Arab students that they are truly wanted at Hebrew University and at the urban planning program in particular.

Israel desperately needs a cadre of professionals who can advance appropriate urban planning for the twenty percent of Israeli citizens who are Arab, and for the nearly 300,000 Palestinians in the East Jerusalem area. With very few trained Arab planners working at the field, these scholarships are an incredibly valuable step towards change.



This year the Urban Clinic joined forces with **the Institute of Urban and Regional Planning** to upgrade the annual lecture series “Voices from the Field”, in which top Israeli professionals share their experiences on a select topic. The topic for 2015/2016 is public engagement in planning, and halfway into the year we’ve touched on issues such as innovative technology and NGO engagement in Arab local councils.

Our upcoming talk kick starts the second semester by exposing students to the unique structure of community councils in Jerusalem. Later in the year, a guest lecturer from Toronto university will present public engagement in the development of the largest mixed income project in Toronto, Canada. For the first time, the course is open to municipal planners and community workers, and students are sharing their reviews and thoughts about each lecture. Select reviews are showcased on the popular Hebrew blog – **“Street Language”**.



“Do you think a city could be a great place for children?”. The Urban Clinic and **the Bernard Van leer foundation** are working together to advance Urban 95cm, a new program promoting urban planning for early childhood, focusing on 0-3 years of age, an incredibly influential stage for child development that receives very little attention from government programs so far, despite its long term social effects on crime, education and health.

A new program manager will join the clinic to develop a peer learning network with professionals and decisions makers in municipalities; assimilate knowledge from nation-wide MA courses on the topic; produce policy papers and establish an online knowledge base, using international and local case studies and research.

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