



UPDATES FROM THE URBAN CLINIC: SPRING 2018

<https://openscholar.huji.ac.il/urbanclinic>

The Urban Clinic at Hebrew University is an academic body that works to strengthen creative and socially aware urban leadership in Israel. 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, and linked to the Institute of Urban and Regional Studies. Through courses, tours, publications and policy papers, network building, and partnership projects, we seek new forms of developing local knowledge that successfully combines on the ground practice and the latest global advancements in social urbanism research and policy.

► EAST JERUSALEM: ENABLING PROFESSIONAL URBAN PLANNERS

More than a third of Jerusalem's residents are East Jerusalem Palestinians, but the number of Palestinians working as urban planners with the city can be counted on one hand. The Urban Clinic is working to change that: thanks to generous donors, we offer tuition scholarships and mentoring to East Jerusalemites who learn Hebrew and enroll in the MA in Urban Planning. The first three scholarship recipients are on track to complete the two-year program in summer 2018. The job market is wide open - two were hired within their first year as Community Planners in East Jerusalem, and one has been awarded departmental scholarships for cutting-edge research.

These students use the Urban Clinic as a platform and a network for social initiatives. Architect Islam Idaes, for example, dreamed of helping East Jerusalem high school students improve their neighborhoods. She recruited sixteen tenth graders for Sunday sessions at the University --the first time most had ever been on campus. The students identified under-used spaces in their neighborhoods, and developed visions for transformation. About fifty city officials, urban planners, teachers and neighborhood leaders participated in the final competition. Nothing planned has yet been built - but the groundwork is there.



► ENGAGED SCHOLARS: CITIES, DIVERSITY AND SPATIAL JUSTICE

How do students learn to be 'engaged scholars' - working with professionals who can use their research to make cities more equitable and better places? The Urban Clinic's deputy director, University of Toronto PhD student Noga Keidar, teamed up with the Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Diversity and the Jerusalem Institute of Israel Studies to help young researchers develop skills of public engagement. Twenty-five advanced graduate students from law and real estate, sociology and urban planning, social work and media studies and geography have been pooling their knowledge over the year, and are now creating a podcast series showcasing the applied implications of their work. Link coming!



► "TALKING ABOUT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING"

Just about everyone in Israel agrees that 'public participation in planning' is often a travesty here. The typical format is a tense and crowded evening meeting where anxious residents are asked to respond on-the-spot to complex maps and professional jargon. The Urban Clinic invited seven reflective practitioners to profile new approaches in a monthly seminar series for all students at the Hebrew University Institute for Urban and Regional Studies. Main insights from the lectures, and student responses, were compiled into an attractive and accessible Hebrew-language publication, written by the former Urban Clinic coordinator, Hila Bar-Ner. The publication, available on the website, was launched this Spring at the Jerusalem

"Sustainability and Community" Conference. We asked whether it is time to develop a coherent new vision for public participation in planning in Israel — and received a resounding 'YES'.

