FROM COMPREHENSIVE TO DIFFERENTIATED PLANNING REFORM
THE CASE OF ISRAEL’S PERIPHERY

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ABSTRACT

Many countries revise planning regulation and practices in response to liberalization, democratization, and/or decentralization. These processes create new challenges that lead to the transformation of planning and municipal systems in response to needs of the various communities. The Israeli hierarchical and centralized planning system was established during the post-colonial and nation-state building period, and does not have the capacity to bridge the gaps between the traditional and modern planning and municipal systems management. Many countries including Israel have enacted reforms to cope and improve governance in a global-local world. These reforms are usually comprehensive, do not differentiate between center and periphery, large and small localities, and/or between ethno-national and socio-economic groups. This inability of the reforms to differentiate, raises internal and external barriers to effective implementation of the reform. The goals of this paper are; 1. to present and discuss the reform in the Israeli planning system during the last decade; 2. to throw the shadow on the reform whose intent was to decentralize the planning system and create both a structural and functional transformation 3. to discuss the barriers which medium and small localities face in attempting to implement the reform compared to large
communities; 4. to demonstrate the problematic implementation of the reform in the peripheral Arab localities. The paper is based on research, which aimed to evaluate the barriers which Arab communities in the periphery of the state face when trying to implement the reform.