

## Of Interest:

Articles on theory, research and practice

### **Conflict Resolution Processes in Arab Settlements Related to the Land Ownership Model**

*Said Suliman and Itzhak Schnell*

The land ownership model, which developed in the Arab towns in Israel in the last 150 years, has generated conflicts between the extended families that have joint land ownership. According to this model, the land is still shared by one extended family and sometimes several. This article analyzes the process of regulating these conflicts: why they came into being, how they are managed and how they are resolved. This research is based on an in-depth study of an Arab settlement in central Galilee; the findings of this qualitative study were validated by a quantitative analysis of fourteen Arab settlements in the Galilee. The results of the analysis show that this landownership model delays land development, because the number of heirs holding rights to the land grows while the land is not registered to the present owners, but in the names of the original owners at the time of the British Mandate. This situation inhibits development by the current owners, since control over the land is still in the hands of the elders in whose name the land is registered. In the light of the above, land registration in the names of the current owners is to be encouraged. This can be done in several ways, including drawing up plans for reparcellation and consolidation of lots, annulling past debts, etc.

**Keywords:** land ownership model, extended family, conflict regulation

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