

Special section: Social Justice and Israeli Planning

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Planning, Justice and LGBT Politics in the City: Case Study of Tel-Aviv's Gay Center

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The paper discusses planning policies and urban politics, their relation to LGBT communities in the city, and their potential to promote spatial justice within the local planning policies. The paper briefly reviews the main theoretical issues discussed in the literature regarding the connection between planning and sexuality. It also reviews three theoretical concepts of justice that relate to planning policy and urban politics - distributive justice, procedural justice and recognition. The case of Tel-Aviv's Gay center in Gan-Meir and the process of its planning and opening are analyzed in the paper through these three concepts of spatial justice. The main argument is that this case is a clear example of the implementation of distributive and procedural justice. However, when we analyze this case study in light of the concept of recognition and social justice it is not completely clear: on the one hand the story of the Gay center shows promotion of recognition towards the LGBT community in the city, but on the other hand, a queer analysis shows that this recognition is partly and limited to some parts of the community and spaces used by LGBTs in Tel-Aviv.

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