

Abstracts

Einat Minkov joined the Information Systems department at University of Haifa in 2010. Her Ph.D degree is from the Language Technologies Institute, Carnegie Mellon University. Before joining the University of Haifa, she was a member of the research staff at Nokia Research. Her main research interests include text mining, information retrieval and semantics.

Dr. Silvio Nocera is a tenured Assistant Professor of Transportation at the Department of Architecture and Arts of IUAV University of Venice. He received his Ph.D in Transportation from the Technical University of Munich, and is also accredited as Associate Professor of Applied Economics. His research interests span economic evaluation of transport systems, external costs of transportation, big data and transportation, demand responsive transport systems, logistics, intelligent transport systems, and transit quality.

Itay Shor is a graduate student in the Computer Science Department at the University of Haifa.

Using Cellular Data to Analyze Spatial Activity: The Case of the Tel Aviv Metropolitan CBD

Eyal Ashbal, Igal Charney and Eran Razin

In this paper we use cellular network data to examine spatial activity. So far, the majority of data on spatial activity such as commuting and travel for leisure and shopping purposes were based on census and/or survey data. Normally, data was based on a limited number of participants and the time interval between data collection and its release for research resulted in a time gap between actual identification of a phenomenon and its analysis. Using data stored in smartphones is of great potential for research and application in the planning discipline. In this paper we use data obtained from a start-up company that monitors the activity of cellular network data in Israel. This type of big data enables the identification of place-of-residence and activity patterns of smartphone users. By focusing on the metropolitan CBD of Tel Aviv, we analyze the spatial activity of visitors and provide empirical evidence for well-recognized but ill-documented processes.

Eyal Ashbel has a Ph.D in Economic Geography from the Geography Department at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He specializes in Integrated Land use Transportation Models, Geographic Information Systems, application of innovative technologies and Big Data for research and planning. He was formerly Chief Analyst at "Trendit". Currently he is Head of the Transportation Department at PGL Transportation Engineering and Planning Ltd.

Dr. Igal Charney, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Haifa. His major areas of research are urban geography and urban planning. The focus of his research has been the interface between politics, planning and entrepreneurship in urban settings. Recent studies have examined politics and planning in shaping high-rise development in Jerusalem, metropolitan development in Israel, interactions between planning authorities and property developers, and the motivations of newcomers to move into newly-built neighborhoods in kibbutzim.

Prof. Eran Razin, Department of Geography, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, holds the Leon Safdie Chair in Urban Studies. He serves as the director of the Institute of Urban and Regional Studies (the urban planning program) and heads Floersheimer Studies at the Hebrew University. He specializes in the study of local government, urban planning and development, including metropolitan dynamics.



Of Interest

Refereed articles on theory, research and practice

The Population Dispersal Plan and National Population Distribution of 1963

Eliahu Boruchov

The population dispersal plan that was prepared by the Interministerial Committee in 1963 proposed focusing efforts on the urban population. It presented a policy for strengthening the development towns, especially the distant ones. The Committee's report shows awareness of the resource constraints on agricultural settlement development, and recognition that too many urban settlements, which were also too small, were founded in peripheral areas during the 1950s. The Committee proposed concentrating on reinforcing the existing cities in the years to 1970, increasing their residents to reach their target populations of 10,000 as soon as possible, and advised against establishing any new towns until the existing cities reach their minimum target populations.