

Illegal but Pay Up: The Allocation of Parcels in the Negev to Polygamous Families

Havatzelet Yahel

Although polygamy is prohibited in Israel, it is widespread among the Bedouin of the Negev. Over the years, not only did Israel not act to eradicate the phenomenon in the Negev, but actually encouraged it. The present article focuses on the land allocation to polygamous families, which is done according to the number of women. This allocation has a significant impact on planning. The roots of this policy lie in a conditioned legal opinion by the Attorney General in the 1980's, which was expanded over the years. Refraining from implementing the law that prohibits polygamy in the Negev is just one of the manifestations of the general policy, which prefers to use planning tools over enforcement. This article will argue that, in view of the serious implications of Polygamy, it is essential to change this policy.

Havatzelet Yahel, Adv. is a Kreitman Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel & Zionism, and teaches in Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Dr. Yahel was the founder and director of the Land Department, and until 2014 was the deputy to the Southern District Attorney for Civil Matters at the Ministry of Justice in Israel. She also served as an advisor to the Goldberg Commission whose mission was to present a solution to the land and settlement conflicts between the State and the Negev Bedouins. Dr. Yahel specializes in land rights, settlements, minorities and indigenous rights. havatzelety@gmail.com

From Sharon to Sharon: Spatial Planning and Separation Regime in Israel/Palestine

Oren Yiftachel

Two personalities, more than any, represent the face of Israeli spatial planning – Arieh Sharon – an architect-planner and Ariel Sharon – a general and politician. Both have had an enormous impact on the political, military and legal geographies of Israel/Palestine. Despite notable political differences, the two men led Israeli planning to promote a similar spatial strategy throughout the first six decades of the state, encapsulated by the acronym SEEC – Settlement, Expansion, Ethnicization, Control/Commercialization. This strategy has provided a meta-planning framework for the contested Judaization of Israel/Palestine. This paper uses (post)colonial approaches to conceptualize