

Newsletter

ISRAELI CENTER FOR THIRD SECTOR RESEARCH



BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

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Civil Society and the Global-Local Nexus: Localization of International NGOs, internationalization of local CSOs

ICTR's 12th Annual Spring Conference and 2nd International conference

Debate of civil society today cannot ignore the role of globalization processes in the shaping of civil society organizations' agendas, their organizational structures, their tactics, and more. In fact, civil society organizations are strongly influenced by globalization, and at the same time they are one of the central drivers of globalization. Prominent thinkers such as Peter Berger, David Held and Manuel Castells have shown how civil society organizations disseminate values and norms, promote models of governance, shape global public opinion, and create transnational interpersonal and organizational networks. They also show how resistance to globalization has become a pivotal element in many organizations' agenda in all parts of the world.

Many organizations deal with social issues that are long recognized as spanning beyond national boundaries. Social ills such as prostitution and human trafficking, environmental hazards, and human rights have long become transnational, and tackling these problems efficiently must be done in a transnational context too. In many cases the organizations that work to ameliorate such problems become international NGOs that operate in many countries. Others realize the value of linking local campaigns with global and regional processes. As a result we find a growing number of local organizations that link into transnational networks and coalitions, and mobilize them to promote their causes. An example of this is the way local human

rights organizations mobilize political pressure on their governments through mobilization of powerful international organizations, in what Katherine Sikkink and Margaret Keck call "the boomerang effect".

This global dynamic creates new tensions and challenges. On the one hand, international organizations can struggle to adapt to work in the local organizational and political culture. Many international NGOs developed in a western culture and apply western ways of working and thinking that don't always fit local habits. Sometimes they have to handle resistance to their entry into a specific country, as local civil society organizations may see them as colonialists or as unwanted and continued on p. VII ►

An interview with Prof. Jan Aart Scholte, Conference Keynote speaker, on the role of Global Civil Society Organizations

How do you see the role of global civil society organizations (GCSOs) evolving in the next decade?

Forecasting is a tricky business, but one can pretty confidently affirm that the next decade will bring ongoing struggles for GCSOs to promote effective and legitimate governance of planetary problems. New forms of governance will continue to develop to address global aspects of communications, ecology, energy, finance,

health, human rights, migration, security, etc. A large, adept and creative global civil society will be required to provide due citizen input into, and due citizen control over, this global governance. As in years past, a particular challenge will be to ensure that, as they bring citizens to global arenas, GCSOs open space especially for people (including stateless people) who otherwise go unheard.

continued on p. VII ►



Prof. Jan Aart Scholte

**Annual
Conference**

March 18-19, 2009, Crowne Plaza Hotel, The Dead Sea, Israel

Online registration at:

<http://cmsprod.bgu.ac.il/Eng/Centers/ictr/AnnualConference>

Between Gaza and Beersheba – ICTR and the war

Prof. Benjamin Gidron

The recent war in the South of Israel and the Gaza Strip has just ended, but its effects still continue: in breaches of the ceasefire, in Israeli politics, in the reconstruction efforts in Gaza, and in the international public opinion. We at Ben-Gurion University have felt its terrible consequences too: In addition to a suspension of studies for the duration of the war due to rocket attacks on Beersheba, our colleague and friend, Dr. Racheli Barkan, a faculty member at the Department of Business Administration, was seriously injured by shrapnel of a Grad rocket that fell just outside our campus; she underwent surgery and as these lines are written is still hospitalized. We wish her a speedy and full recovery.

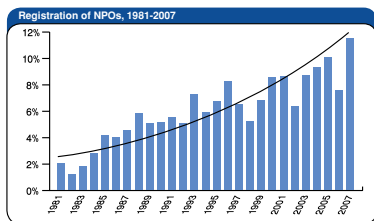
In the Second Lebanon War, during summer 2006, when we saw the fast and intensive mobilization of civil society organizations to fill in for government in providing needed social services to the bombarded citizens in the North of Israel on one hand, and to protests against the war on the other, we felt that it is our duty as a research center to study this phenomenon in real time and to

analyze it. In addition to the knowledge that was gained by that study on how civil society organizations respond to humanitarian crisis, our findings helped in improving the national emergency response policy and the integration of civil society in this effort. This policy proved effective in the recent events, and subsequently, in the recent war civil society organizations had a much less central place in the care for Israeli citizens in the south. Therefore, we didn't feel that replicating the previous study and comparing the two situations was necessary. In addition to that, the attention of civil society, locally and globally, focused on what is happening across the border, where the war caused a humanitarian tragedy of major proportions.

The protest regarding the harming of civilians, which was expressed by practically hundreds of civil society organizations throughout the world and in Israel as well, is an aspect of civil society's activity during war that a research center like ours needs to address. It is very important that the public at large and policy makers be knowledgeable about that aspect

of civil society and sensitive to its messages, even if these messages are unpleasant for the Israeli ear, and even if they are one-sided and unbalanced. The power of a healthy civil society is in the expression of its independent views, that often oppose those of government; yet these organizations sometimes have the ability to influence government.

We believe that ICTR, as a research center of civil society, shouldn't ignore what has happened in Gaza and in Israel, and we ought to consider what has happened in Gaza through the lens of civil society's different roles in such circumstances. Our upcoming annual conference next month - "The Local-Global nexus of Civil Society" - is an excellent opportunity to do just that. In addition to changes we made to the conference program to allow such discussion, several of the international speakers will refer to the role of global and local civil society organizations in the mitigation of violent conflicts and human rights violations, and in the promotion of international rule of law and governance. I therefore expect a most interesting and challenging conference.



In our last newsletter (no. 30), we omitted the words "Arab Organizations" from the heading of the diagram. The diagram shows the rise in registration of Arab organizations, from total registration of non profit organization in Israel in 1981-2007

Prof. Gidron to end his roles as Director of ICTR and Head of the Program for NPO Management at Ben Gurion University

Towards his retirement from BGU, Prof. Gidron announced his plan to step down from his two roles as Director of ICTR and Head of the Program for NPO Management at the end of the first semester.

Prof. Gidron founded ICTR in 1997 and served as its director since. He is considered as the person laying the foundations for Third Sector research in Israel.

He also initiated and directed a strategic move last year which led to the opening of the NPO Management Program at Ben-Gurion University's Gilford Glazer School of Business and Management.



The Israeli third sector and the economic crisis

New findings from the "Observation to the Third Sector" project

Dr. Hagai Katz and Hila Yogev

As elsewhere around the globe, the economic downturn has not skipped over the third sector organizations in Israel. The press has been, recently, increasingly reporting about organizations that have been closing branches, cutting down operations, dismissing workers and even shutting down completely.

Consequently, we decided to carry out a survey on the affects of the economic downturn on the third sector. The survey was prepared in the framework of the "Observation to the Third Sector" project, in cooperation with two organizations; Shatil (Empowerment and Training Center for Social Change), and the Israeli Civic Leadership Association, so that the survey included beyond the 100 organizations which are a part of the Observation Project, also organizations affiliated with these two major third sector organizations.

The survey was carried out in November and December 2008. We surveyed 220 organizations nationwide which work in various fields. The survey included questions about the financial aspects of the organizations in 2008 in comparison to 2007, the changes in scope of activity and workforce, the factors affecting its financial situation and strategies for coping with the situation. The organizations were requested to evaluate their financial abilities and their capability to cope with the financial downturn it the coming year.

The reports we received in the survey portray a distressing picture that confirms and verifies the concerns about the state of the third sector's resilience and financial stability for the current financial year. More than half of the organizations had increased expenses in 2008 in comparison to 2007. Almost a half has undergone a decline in revenue. When we overlap these two groups we find that 15% of Israel's third sector organizations experienced in 2008 both

a decrease in revenue and an increase in expenses, and can be said to be in extreme financial risk. 81% of the organizations report they are experiencing financial difficulties, and one out of every seven organizations reports that it is considering shutting down completely. The feeling of distress is heightened due to the pessimism that the organizations express on the chances of a recovery in 2009 – over 60% of the organizations expect a decline in revenue. According to them the reasons for their financial concerns are the decline in donations during the past few months, the decline of the US dollar exchange rate in the past two years, the increase in expenses due to rising prices in the past year, a growth in the number of populations in need and in the demand for their services. The implications of this financial distress are expressed in cuts in services and employment that have already taken place, and more cuts that are expected (see figure).

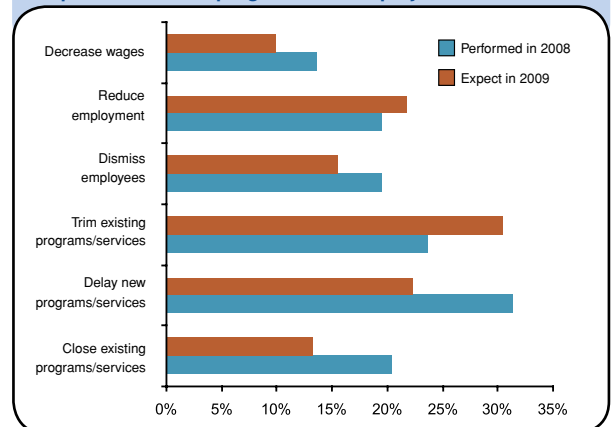
There are also direct macro-economic implications – the third sector is responsible for 7.5% of Israel's GDP and 17.5% of the total number of waged employees in Israel. A radical reduction in its activities could mean substantial decrease in the economic capacity nationally, and a dramatic increase in unemployment at the national level.

The findings show that after 30 consecutive years of rapid growth of the third sector, we can now expect a substantial reduction in its size and strength. Due to the pivotal roles that third sector organizations plays in society and the economy, this is bound to have negative ramifications on the resilience of civil society, the effectiveness of social service provision and the quality of life in Israel.

The "Observation" (Tazpit) project

The "Observation" (Tazpit) project was established in order to improve the understanding among the public, decision makers and the organizations themselves about the challenges facing third sector organizations; the pressures they undergo, available resources, and innovative ways the organizations use to cope with the challenges they encounter. The organizations which take part in Tazpit are among the most prominent ones in the Israeli third sector, they are used as observation and insight units ('listening posts') to third sector trends. Joining the program is for the long haul, every few months the participating organizations are asked to convey their opinion and share with ICTR and with other participants their experience on a particular issue concerning the sector or a policy towards it. Organizations participate in identifying critical issues of nonprofit organizations, and have a say in the future observations. Beyond the benefit from mutual learning, they benefit from occasional benefits and services.

Impact of crisis on programs and employment



Research in progress

A few studies are currently underway in the center. These studies match our new policy and approach at ICTR, to shift from occasional studies that take snapshots of third sector issues, to long-term studies that allow for research and analysis of trends and processes

Giving and volunteering survey

The first of these studies is a new round of our giving and volunteering survey. The giving and volunteering survey was last conducted two years ago, and we are in the field now surveying the public's patterns of giving and volunteering in 2008. This year's surveys includes the main questions on the scope, targets and motivations of giving and volunteering by Israeli households, so that these can be compared with the 2006 data, and form a time series of data on philanthropy in Israel.

However, the current survey differs from previous surveys; (a) this year's survey includes the entire Israeli

population and not only the Jewish population as we did in the previous survey. To do so the questionnaire was translated into Arabic, and the survey will be conducted in both languages. (b) The current survey includes an aspect of philanthropy that we never tested before – organ donations. Adding a section to the survey that examines local attitudes towards organ donations will allow not only examining the scope of this phenomenon and the motivation behind it, but it will also allow us to examine how philanthropy of the body relates to other aspects of philanthropy. (c) Another new component in this year's survey is the topic of social and political engagement. Adding this element to the survey places

philanthropic behavior in the broader context of social engagement, so that we can draw a more comprehensive picture of Israelis' involvement in the life of their community. The study is performed by Dr. Hagai Katz and Dr. Debby Haski-Leventhal.

Employment and manpower in the third sector

A second study that we are now commencing is a research project that will look into the different aspects of employment and manpower in the third sector. This study will analyze existing data on employment and wages in the third sector, data that are collected by various public agencies, but were never analyzed or were never analyze with

To manage or lead? Principles of management, vision and success in third sector organizations in Israel

Dr. Rita Mano, University of Haifa, Pardes Publications

In recent decades we witness the immense growth in activities of the third sector. Concurrently the importance of coping with managerial and financial strategies is an inevitable necessity for securing financial sustainability and social legitimacy.

The book presents third sector related theories and analysis from the field of organizational studies relating to not for profit organizations.

The book examines general organizational, fundraising, commercialization, marketing, evaluation

and visionary events, as well as facets such as organizational structure, human resources, volunteer recruitment, training and retention, and methods of empowering activists, organizational success and proactive and reactive strategies, and a chapter on new challenges facing nonprofit organizations such as organizational learning, crisis management and the use of digital networking.

The book is currently in press and will be available in March, 2009



respect to the third sector. In addition to this we will also collect primary data on patterns of hiring, employment and training of personnel in third sector organizations in Israel. This is the first year that we are conducting this study, and we plan to repeat it on a bi-annual basis so that the third sector's role in the labor market can be analyzed in a longitudinal fashion. The study is performed by Dr. Nissan Limor and Dr. Hagai Katz.

Social engagement of teens and young adults in Israel

The third study that is underway focuses on the social engagement of teens and young adults in Israel. It is a study that looks at various facets of engagement of teens and young adults in civil society – giving and volunteering, patterns and motivations of social entrepreneurship of young adults, a series of case studies of the emergent phenomenon of young communities that locate in low-income communities and engage in services on behalf of the surrounding community, and more. The first component of this study that

is already underway is the analysis of the patterns of giving and volunteering by teens and young adults. For that purpose we added a special module to the giving and volunteering survey mentioned above, that examines the philanthropy behavior of teens and young adults in the sampled households, the philanthropy history of adults in the household, as well as the attitudes of adults to the volunteering of their children and the question of education for volunteering. For this purpose we also over-sample persons under 30 in the survey.

The second component that is currently underway is the study of young communities, here we will use qualitative research methods – in-depth interviews and focus groups – to study a select number of such communities of different types. We will explore issues such as the background and motivation behind the establishment of these communities and behind joining them, their ideology and values, the relations they have with the surrounding community, and more. The study is performed by Dr. Hagai Katz, Dr. Debby Haski-Leventhal and Shelly Sharon.

Annual Conference

**March 18-19
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Between similarity and difference

The place of civil society organization in 'affluent' municipalities in light of organizational and funding data

Eran Klein

In ICTR's 12th annual spring conference, a position paper will be presented that provides answers to some of the major queries about municipal funding: How much funding do affluent municipalities provide to nonprofit organizations operating in their jurisdiction? How much of the funding comes directly from the municipal budget? Are there similarities in the scale and targets of funding to third sector organizations by the 15 'independent' cities (from Haifa in the

north to Beersheba in the south)?

How many organizations are active in each municipality, and can their numbers account for different needs, or do they reflect the needs and interests of the organizations themselves? The paper will answer these questions and discuss the positive and negative implications of the institutionalization of funding of third sector organizations at the municipal level, a process that started a few years ago following severe criticism from the state comptroller.

The paper is the first of a series of planned position papers making use of the data in the Israeli third sector database.

Eran Klein heads the budget project at Shatil - Empowerment and Training Center for Social Change. Mr. Klein published position papers on various subject in the frameworks of Shatil and the Israeli Democratic Institute

An interview with Prof. Jackie Smith On transnational movements, and their global and local influence



Prof. Jackie Smith

Are there particular characteristics to western vs. third world social movements, with relation to their influence, methods and roles ?

We tend to think of the “North-South” division as the primary one in global affairs, and indeed, it is an important factor in social movement networks. The historical context of colonialism, anti-imperialist movements, and the particular ways Southern peoples have experienced

economic globalization affect civil society networks as well as the analyses activists bring to their advocacy work. For instance, there have been major divisions in the global labor movement over whether the WTO should have stronger provisions to ensure labor rights—a perspective favored by large North-based trade union confederations—or whether the organization should have any role at all in defining national labor or environmental policies. Southern activists, whose governments have had little voice in shaping the policies of the WTO, tend to want to limit its role in governance.

However, the North-South classification is essentially about a global class divide as much as anything, and I think we’re finding that this rough geographic classification may be less important than a group’s constituency and level or scope of action. For instance, many Southern popular groups look more like what are referred to as “grassroots” groups of low-income people and people of color in the global North. Also, some of the more policy-oriented groups in the South look more like their professionalized counterparts in the global North.

Also, because of the limited resources available in the global South—as well as due to shifts in official development aid

away from national governments and towards the NGO sector—international NGOs tend to have a more prominent role in shaping, and even distorting, civil society in the countries of the global South. The resources these professional groups bring in are often shaped by agendas of powerful elites. Even well-meaning NGOs promoting humanitarian agendas can have anti-democratic effects on local and national civil societies.

On the positive side, I think that the increased opportunities for activists from the global North and South to communicate, meet face-to-face, and to share analyses of globalization have helped generate some new thinking that can address some of these inequities in global civil society. I’m not saying we’re there yet, but the World Social Forum process, among other developments, has generated new learning and thinking about how to address inequities of power in global civil society.

How do transnational networks of social movement activists evolve from a local to a global movement ?

The trajectories vary. Many organizations form at local or national levels and then “scale up” as they learn and develop their analyses of the global causes of local problems. In the past, activists tended to form more cohesive, formal international organizations to help them address global interdependencies. Amnesty International is one prominent example of such a group. These have international secretariats and national bodies that meet on a routine basis and organize participation in a rather centralized way. In recent decades, though, we’ve seen the rise of flatter, more diffuse, networked type organizations or coalitions. Here, local and national groups can maintain their own focus and identity while connecting with national and global networks to facilitate their access to information, analyses, and solidarity from groups in different places and with

different sorts of expertise.

Some groups form at global levels, building upon the earlier experiences and analyses developed in the course of transnational activism. For instance, many organizations are formed at global meetings such as United Nations global conferences or now the World Social Forums. The increased frequency of these meetings both encourages global analyses and facilitates activists’ learning by enabling cross-national communication and relationship-building. What is more important about these meetings is not the few days in which activists come together, but in the networks and relationships that are formed. Following these meetings, people often continue to communicate and share ideas. Or maybe they don’t have regular contact, but when a crisis emerges, they look to these networks for ideas and support. It is this realization that helped shape the World Social Forum process. Activists wanted to create their own space and opportunities for ongoing, routine networking and movement-building. The World Social Forum liberates civil society networks from a dependency on governments and international organizations like the UN.

How do global, transnational movements influence national governance?

This is a key story in my recent book, *Social Movements for Global Democracy*, which offers examples of particular social movement campaigns that aim to change the world in different ways. Networks like Kyoto Now! are working to shape national policies from the bottom up, by convincing local authorities, schools and other social groups to adopt global emissions limits specified in the Kyoto Protocol. They’ve had a pretty big impact on local practices in the U.S., even as the national government continued to oppose Kyoto.

The Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign is offered in the book as



continued from p. 1 ►

Civil Society and the Global-Local Nexus: Localization of International NGOs, internationalization of local CSOs

unfair competition for scarce resources. On the other hand, local organizations often have a hard time linking into international networks, the costs of 'going global' can be sometimes daunting, and they need to learn to maneuver in a system that is often different and alien, where the rules of the game are dramatically different than what they are used to.

As the scholarly literature on these issues and challenges is still limited, we decided to make them the focus of our annual conference this year. The plenary sessions will discuss the principle question of the global-local nexus of civil society, and will explore different sources for the globalization of civil society. The parallel sessions will showcase empirical research

examining such questions in different parts in the world. Scholars from almost every region of the world will be presenting – from Africa, Asia, Europe and America.

In addition to that, as in our conferences in the past, ICTR's staff and scholars from different Israeli universities and NGOs will present new research on the Israel's civil society and third sector.

an example of how civil society networks help “domesticate international law.” PPEHRC has sued the United States government in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for violations of international human rights law. While their case has not won many legal victories, it has gained a hearing on the question of U.S. obligations to respect economic rights of citizens. The campaign has also generated popular awareness and discussion of international law and national obligations that otherwise would not take place.

One other example is the World Social Forum process. The global meeting of the WSF has generated many hundreds of gatherings at regional, national, and local levels. The process encourages activists to think about the connections between global policies and practices and locally experienced problems. Many organizers attend social forums at different levels, and they help other activists develop their analyses of economic globalization and ways to resist it in different national and local contexts. At the first U.S. Social Forum in 2007, for instance, plenary sessions helped show the connections between global campaigns, the policies of global financial institutions, and the local agendas of activists working to promote economic rights, fight racism, or foster more environmentally sustainable practices. Workshops provided opportunities for groups to network and develop strategies for addressing problems. For instance the “Right to the City” campaign emerged there to resist gentrification in U.S. cities. The fact that the WSF process connects people and conversations across time and place means that a global movement can learn, develop, and respond to changes in the global arena more quickly than it could if it lacked such regular opportunities to convene and this model of global-local action.

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An interview with Prof. Jan Aart Scholte, Conference Keynote speaker, on the role of Global civil society organizations

How do you see the relationship between the state and GCSOs?

Contrary to views that circulated widely in the early 1990s, contemporary globalization has not contradicted the state and on the contrary is closely bound up with – and to some extent dependent upon – national territorial governments. Thus GCSOs inhabit a world of states (albeit not states alone). Global citizen action continually intersects with state laws and state conflicts. GCSOs can use and/or be used by states. GCSOs can strengthen or weaken a given state or national government. GCSOs can challenge or be complicit in state abuses. Conversely, GCSOs can be promoted or undermined by a given state, too. Needless to say, all of these points apply to the Israeli state as much as to any other.

How, if at all, will GCSOs be affected by the present economic crisis?

Economic crisis is nothing new to globally oriented and operating civil society associations. Since the 1980s various GCSOs have addressed Third World debt, structural adjustment, and previous financial collapses across most continents. The present crisis (or is it the latest moment in a long-term global economic crisis?) could well shift the overall agenda of global civil society (at least temporarily) to issues such as financial regulation, social guarantees, and food security. Hopefully the crisis stimulates GCSOs further to interrogate prevailing economic models

and to explore alternative (even anti-) development strategies. Hopefully GCSOs will also be prompted by the crisis to obtain more thorough understandings of the global economy and its complex governance arrangements. In any case GCSOs will likely need to adopt extra vigilance – in the Middle East as elsewhere – to counter upturns in intra- and inter-state violence that economic hardship can encourage.

What can civil society organizations both local and global learn from the present global economic crisis?

The currently unfolding crisis demonstrates that existing governance regimes for the global economy are not fit for purpose. Faced with the latest financial market collapses and ensuing recessions in the OECD sphere, even the most privileged elites of the global economy must acknowledge that there are systemic faults. Prevailing rules and regulatory institutions are not providing anything close to the desired combination of efficiency, stability, ecological integrity, social equity, democracy, peace and moral decency that would mark a well-governed global economy. GCSOs can make a positive political contribution to this situation by highlighting existing shortcomings and spurring quests for better arrangements.

Professorial Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, University of Warwick. Centennial Professor, Centre for the Study of Global Governance, London School of Economics



Wednesday, March 18th, 2009

Conference Program

- 09:00** Registration opens
- 09:45-10:45** Workshop: Data sources for the study of civil society in Israel and globally
- 11:00-12:30** Parallel Sessions 1: Research on the third sector in Israel (in Hebrew)
- 12:30-13:30** Light Lunch
- 13:30-14:30** Hotel check-in and room allocation
- 14:30-16:00** Parallel Sessions 2: Research on the Local-Global Nexus of Civil Society around the world
- 16:00-16:30** Coffee break
- 16:30-18:30** Plenary -
Keynote: **Prof. Jan Aart Scholte**, Warwick University,
Global-Local Interfaces in Civil Society: Perils and Promises for Peace
Discussant: **Prof. Uri Ram**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Chair: **Mr. Eliezer Ya'ari**, CEO, New Israel Fund
- 18:30-20:00** Free time
- 20:00** Dinner
Greetings: **Prof. Rivka Carmi**, President, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev,
Opening remarks: **Prof. Benjamin Gidron**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, ICTR,
"Globalization and the war in Gaza"

Thursday, March 19th, 2009

- 09:00** Registration opens
- 08:00-09:00** Breakfast
- 09:00-10:30** Parallel Sessions 3: Research on the Local-Global Nexus of Civil Society around the world
- 10:30-11:00** Coffee break
- 11:00-13:00** **Plenary - International Panel: The Local-Global Nexus of Civil Society - Divergent Approaches** | **Dr. Marlies Glasius**, University of Amsterdam - Global Justice Meets Local Civil Society: The International Criminal Court's Investigation in the Central African Republic | **Prof. Jackie Smith**, Notre Dame University - Thinking Globally, Acting Locally within the World Social Forum Process: Prospects and Challenges | **Dr. Lisa Anteby-Yemini**, CNRS, IDEMEC, Aix-en-Provence - African Asylum Seekers in Israel: Global Discourse and Local Activism
Chair: **Dr. Hagai Katz**, Ben-Gurion University
- 13:00-14:00** Lunch
Prizes and awards: **Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt**, Rector, Ben - Gurion University of the Negev
- 14:00-17:00** Massada excursion departs
- 14:00-15:30** Parallel Sessions 4: Research on the third sector in Israel (in Hebrew)
- 15:30-16:00** Coffee break
- 16:00-17:00** Plenary - New findings from ICTR research (in Hebrew)
Mr. Joel Balabachan, ICTR - Trends in Israel's third sector and its funding, 2007-2008: new findings from the Israeli Third Sector Database
Mr. Eran Klein, Shatil - Between similarity and difference: The place of civil society organization in 'affluent' municipalities in light of organizational and funding data