

The Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Center aims to tackle one of the most difficult problems facing the Israeli society. In Israel, poverty and social inequality are on an increasingly worrisome upwards rise. Despite the minor decline in poverty in recent years, the percentage of families living in poverty in Israel increased from 17.4 % in 1998, reaching a high of 19.9% in 2011 (National Insurance Institute of Israel , 2012). These numbers represent a steady increase in poverty. In Israel approximately 1,838,000 people live below the poverty line of which 390, 000 are children. In tandem with the upward trend in poverty, there is an increasing level of social inequality , which is reflected in the rise in Gini Index by 5.8 % between 2002 and 2011 . The Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion strives to provide the academic ground for the cooperation of researchers from different disciplines, policy makers, representatives from the economy sector, social service institutions, civil society, and community leaders from poor and excluded communities in the process of knowledge development needed to offer alternative inclusive policies.

Goals

1. Developing inclusive, interdisciplinary knowledge for the reduction of poverty and social exclusion

2. Fostering cooperation between researchers, policy makers, representatives from the economy, social service institutions, civil society and leaders and members from impoverished and excluded communities in the process of knowledge, action and policy development.
3. Creating innovative participative, mixed quantitative-qualitative, interdisciplinary research methodologies for the study of poverty and social exclusion
4. Disseminating knowledge among policy makers, professionals and communities living in poverty
5. Developing alternative policies for the eradication of poverty and social exclusion
6. Nurturing academic, professional and community leadership committed to combating poverty and social exclusion
7. Initiating and supporting new and continuous research in the field of poverty and social exclusion by young researchers in the sciences.

Researchers come from a variety of disciplines and departments including the School of Social Work, the School of Public Health, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Department of Gerontology, Department of Nursing, Department of Psychology, Department of Community Mental Health, Department of Human Services, Faculty of Education, Department of Economics, Department of Communication, Department of Political Science, Department of Economics, and the Faculty of Law.