



**Suzanne Patt Benvenisti** is Director General of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel. Suzie's previous work experience includes serving as Director of Public Policy at Aetna, a US-based Fortune 100 health insurance company, where she advised senior management on issues relating to health care reform.

She has also worked for several non-profit organizations in the areas of programming and resource development and has provided management, strategy, and operations consulting to a range of clients in the US, Israel, and Rwanda, including MIT's Middle East Education through Technology (MEET), the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, Maine's Community Partnership for Protecting Children, and the Judge Baker Children's Center at Harvard Medical School.

In 2010, along with her husband, she volunteered with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Jewish Service Corps at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, where she developed business plans for revenue generation, taught piano and singing, and mentored teenage orphans of the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Patt Benvenisti holds an Masters in Public Policy (MPP) from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Barnard College, Columbia University with a BA in political science. Patt Benvenisti lives in Jerusalem with her husband and three children.



**Miri Eisin** served in the Israeli intelligence community and retired at the rank of full colonel in 2004. Over her twenty year career in the military she served in diverse positions in the field, combat units and research departments. She served as the Israeli Prime Minister's spokesperson from the second Lebanon war until the end of 2007. Eisin now teaches at IDC Herzliya, and works extensively with the media, student groups and diplomats. Miri is a fellow at the Center for International Communication at Bar Ilan University and an associate at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism. She is a board member of the Deborah Forum, Women in Foreign Policy and National Security; and the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.

Eisin holds a BA from Tel Aviv University in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science, an MA from Haifa University in Security Studies, and is a graduate of the Israeli National Defense College.



**Prof. Avi Weiss** is the President of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel. He holds a PhD from the University of Chicago. He has presided as a member of the senior faculty of Bar-Ilan University since 1988 and served as chair of the Economics Department between 2005 and 2008. His area of expertise is applied economics and his research focuses on industrial organization, antitrust, labor economics, law and economics, and behavioral and experimental economics. Prof. Weiss is the editor of *The Economic Quarterly* – the journal of the Israel Economic Association – and is an associate editor of *Economic Inquiry*.

In the public domain, Prof. Weiss served as Chief Economist and Deputy Director of the Israel Antitrust Authority between 2003 and 2005; was a member of the Anti-Dumping Commission of the Ministry of Industry and Trade between 1999 and 2003; served as a member of the Subcommittee on the Cost of Living and Competition of the Trajtenberg Commission on Social and Economic Change; and acted as a consulting member of the Bachar Intra-Agency Committee for Reform of the Financial Sector. Today, he is the academic representative on the Appeals Committee for the Regulation of Prices of Goods and Services Law. He is also a member of the Competition Task Force of Israel's Grand Strategy Forum. Prof. Weiss has been a research fellow at IZA (a labor market research center) in Germany since 2000.

Throughout his academic career, Weiss has published more than fifty articles in refereed journals and professional books.



**Prof. David N. Weil** is James and Merryl Tisch Professor of Economics at Brown University, Director of the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Wealth and Income Inequality Project at Brown, and a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. He has written widely on various aspects of economic growth, including the empirical determinants of income variation among countries, the contribution of health improvements to growth, the geographic determinants of development, the measurement of income inequality, the accumulation of physical capital, international technology transfer, population growth, and the use of satellite

observation as a measurement tool. His textbook on growth has been translated into six languages. He has also written on assorted topics in demographic and health economics including the economic impacts of malaria and salt iodization, population aging, social security, the gender wage gap, retirement, and the relationship between demographics and house prices. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1990.



**Prof. Janet C. Gornick** is a Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. From 2006 to 2016 she served as Director of LIS (formerly, the Luxembourg Income Study), and as of 2016, she serves as Director of the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, and as Director of the US Office of LIS. She is a Harvard University graduate and holds a BA in Psychology and Social Relations, an MPA and a PhD in Political Economy and Government.

Most of her research is comparative and concerns social welfare policies and their impact on gender disparities in the labor market and/or on income inequality. She has published articles on gender inequality, employment, and social policy in several journals. She served as Guest Editor for a special double issue of the *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* (2006-2007), and as a co-author or co-editor of several books.

She regularly presents her work in popular venues, including *The American Prospect*, *Dissent*, and *Challenge Magazine*.

Her research has been generously supported by many sponsors, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the World Bank.

She serves on several advisory/editorial boards, including the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ); Pathways Magazine; the Washington Center for Equitable Growth (WCEG); and the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR).



**Dr. Daniel Gottlieb** was Deputy Director General of Research and Planning at the National Insurance Institute, and a lecturer on economic policy and social policy at the School of Social Work in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Gottlieb is a fellow at the Social Welfare Policy Program at the Taub Center.

He holds a PhD in economics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and completed his BA and MA degrees at the University of Zurich and the London School of Economics, respectively. Between 1986 and 1988, he worked as an economist for the International Monetary Fund. He then began work as an economist in the economic unit of the Foreign Currency Department at the Bank of Israel, and later served as Chief Economist in the bank's research department. He also served for 12 years as a senior consultant to the bank's governors Yaakov Frenkel, David Klein, and Stanley Fischer. In his research, Gottlieb looked at issues such as monetary policy, inflation, the capital account of the balance of payments, public debt, the optimal level of the country's foreign currency reserves, liberalization of foreign currency, macroeconomic policy, and public policy. Since 2000, his research has focused on social-

economic policy, in particular, on the issues of poverty and the labor market. Over the years, he has published many research studies in professional journals, and has written chapters in books on the economy and society.



**Prof. Joseph (Yossi) Zeira** is a professor of economics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Broadly speaking, his field of study is macro-economics, and his research has dealt with economic growth, inequality, new technologies, learning processes, and inflation. He is known for his groundbreaking research that was one of the first to point to the relationship between inequality and economic growth. Another well-known study of his

laid the theoretical basis for an analysis of automation processes and their economic impact. Yet another research area of his is the Israeli economy where he focuses on budget policy. Since 2005, he is a member of the AIX group, where Israeli and Palestinian researchers examine together the economic aspects of the peace process. In 2011, he headed the economic team that advised the social protest movement. In 2014, he served on the Elalouf Committee for the War Against Poverty. In 2018, he published his book *The Economy of Israel*. Since 2016, Yossi has served as President of the Israel Economic Association.



**Shavit Madhala** is a researcher at the Taub Center since 2014. She holds a BA in Agricultural Economics and Management from the Hebrew University and is a graduate of the Amirim honors program at the Hebrew University, and holds an MA in Agricultural Economics from the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Madhala's research at the Taub Center has focused on the areas of welfare and the labor market. In 2015, she wrote on the future of the labor market — the first research of its kind in Israel. Since then, she has lectured and advised the Civil Service Commission, as well as organizations like Tevet (Joint Distribution Committee) and CIMI (The Center for International Migration and Integration). She is also a member of the team on the future labor market of the Israel Democracy Institute and the government appointed Employment 2030 Committee.

Prior to joining the Taub Center, Madhala served as a teaching assistant for undergraduate and graduate courses and a research assistant in the Department of Economics at the Hebrew University. She also served as an economist for the strategic business consulting company Zenovar.



**Dita Bronicki** is one of the first business women and entrepreneurs in Israel. In 1965, together with her husband, Yehuda Bronicki, she founded the Ormat Group and has continued to manage this global group for several decades. This world leader in geothermal energy applies unique management principles, technological and business innovation while continually contributing to the community. In 1970, the group established the Ormat Ort vocational school, which in its first year had more pupils

enrolled than the number of Ormat employees at the time. Since her retirement, Dita has expanded her public activity in areas like technical education and Jewish-Arab co-existence.

Dita has been the recipient of numerous public awards including being awarded the Israel Prize in 2018.



**Shira Greenberg** is Chief Economist at the Ministry of Finance. Since 2008, she has served in a wide variety of positions in the Ministry of Finance and, from 2015 to 2019, she served as a senior deputy to the director of budgets. She has also been a member of many public committees and agencies including: the Israel Innovation Authority, the board of directors for Investment Funds in Innovative R&D in Industry of the Innovation Authority with Foreign Governments, Chair of the Steering Committee for

Recommendations on Removing Barriers for Personal Imports, Chair of the joint committee for assistance to the self-employed on issues of pension and unemployment. Greenberg has served on numerous public committees including the public committee to strengthen the competitiveness of Israeli industry, the committee for taxation of the high tech industry, the advisory committee for the Center for Leadership and Governance at the Joint Distribution Committee in Israel, the public committee for increasing the healthcare basket (2013 and 2014), and the directorate of the Eilat Port Authority.

Greenberg holds a BA in mathematics and economics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an MA in economics from Tel Aviv University, both summa cum laude.

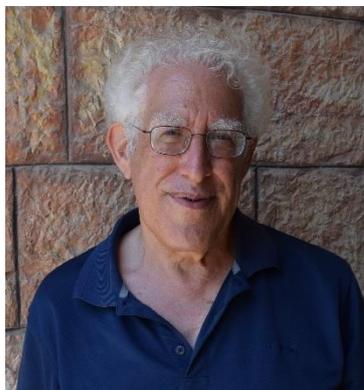


**Dr. Sigal Shelach** is the CEO of JDC Israel. She holds an MA and PhD from Tel Aviv University's Department of Labor Studies, specializing in employment and migration. Shelach is a fellow at the Labor Market Policy Program at the Taub Center. She worked as a Senior Research Fellow at Israel's Ministry of Economy and Industry where she was involved

in leading and implementing programs for integrating different populations into the labor market.

In 2007, Shelach joined JDC-Tevet, a shared project of JDC-Israel and the Israeli government efforts to help Israelis exit poverty through employment. She steered the Initiative toward providing tools for Israel's ever evolving workforce, with particular focus on the Arab Israeli population as well as immigrants and relations with employers. As Deputy Director of JDC-Israel since 2014, Sigal also applied her forward-thinking approach to shaping JDC's overall strategy in Israel.

As the first CEO of JDC-Israel to have "risen through the ranks" of JDC's field staff, Sigal is keen to actively involve her colleagues in planning for the organization's future.



**Prof. Benjamin Bental** is a Taub Center Principal Researcher and the Center's Economics Policy Program Chair. Bental holds a PhD in economics from the University of Minnesota and is Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Haifa. He has been a visiting professor at several universities around the world, including: the University of California San Diego, Humboldt University in Berlin, the New Economic School in Moscow, the Tongji University in Shanghai, and Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

His research interests include macroeconomics and economic growth. In recent years, his research has focused on the impact of contractual frictions stemming from asymmetric information, especially in the labor market, on macroeconomic policies.



**Emanuel Bohbot** is Vice President of Research and Development at Social Finance Israel (SFI), responsible for the development of Social Impact Bonds that tackle a number of critical social issues in Israel. He joined SFI as one of its founding team members in June 2013. He led the development of Israel's first Social Impact Bond (to reduce dropout rates from higher education).

Previously, Bohbot was Director of Research at the Rashi Foundation, which focuses on educational opportunities and the reduction of welfare inequalities. Prior to joining the Rashi Foundation, he was a quantitative market researcher in a large business-oriented research institute (C.I.).

Bohbot holds a BA in psychology from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and an MA in psychobiology from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is a lecturer in statistics and research methods at several academic institutions.



**Prof. Zvi Eckstein** is dean of the Arison School of Business and Tiomkin School of Economics and Director of Aharon Institute at The Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya – IDC, visiting professor at the Wharton School, Finance Department, University of Pennsylvania, Professor (Emeritus) at the Eitan Berglas School of Economics, Tel Aviv University. In 2017, he was appointed Chair of the government appointed Employment 2030 Committee.

Zvi served as Deputy Governor of the Bank of Israel from 2006 until 2011. He was Chairman of the Investment Committee and Director of Provident Funds of Bank Leumi and Mercantile Discount Bank and a member of various public committees. He has also served as the chair of government committees for structural reform especially in the area of employment. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society (CES) and the American Economic Association (AEA), and a research fellow of the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and other centers worldwide.



**Motty Elisha** is the General Director of the Labor Division in the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services. Prior to this position, he served as Senior Deputy to the Accountant General in the Ministry of Finance (Economic Ministries) and Senior Deputy to the Accountant General in the Ministry of Finance (Wages, Pensions and Terms of Service). He has also worked as Director of the Pensions Administration in the Ministry of Finance and Director of Human Resources in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social

Services.

Elisha holds a BA in Industrial Engineering and Management and in Economics and Business Administration from Ariel University, an MBA from Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and an MA in Government and Public Policy and in Conflict Management and Mediation from Tel Aviv University.



**Rabbi Menachem Bombach** is a community leader and educational entrepreneur in the Haredi community. He has served as principal of the award-winning “Le’Zion Be’Rinah” high school; founded the preparatory program for Haredi students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and directed the youth department of the Beitar Illit local authority. Menachem heads the “Netzach” Haredi educational network, which he founded, and which combines religious and secular studies, and aims to educate students to become

observant, Torah-loving Jews who are also prepared for practical life. He also heads the Hasidic girls’ seminary affiliated with the network. Bombach studied at the Vizhnitz “Ahavat Yisrael” yeshiva and at the Mir yeshiva, and holds a BA in education from Moreshet Yaakov College and an MA in public policy from the Hebrew University. He lectures in Israel and abroad on education and society. His main areas of interest are education, managing education systems, and inter-cultural dialogue.



**Nasreen Hadad Haj-Yahya** is a doctoral candidate in the History Department, Tel Aviv University and, since 2015, is the Director of the Arab-Jewish Relations Program at the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) and has recently started working as a Project Manager at the Portland Trust.

The topic of Hadad Haj-Yahya’s doctoral dissertation is “The contemporary impact of social space barriers on the inaction and future orientation of young Arabs aged 18-22.” She holds an MA in education and social geography. Since 2012, she has been a researcher at the IDI. She is a social activist in the area of education and generally focuses on the integration of the Arab minority in Israel in the social-economic arena in Israel. She is married and the mother of three girls.



**Michal Avera-Samuel** is the CEO of Fidel Association for Education and Social Integration of Ethiopian Jews in Israel. She was born in the Gondar region of Ethiopia, and made aliyah with her family as part of Operation Moses at the age of 9 following a 6 week trek and a year-long wait in Sudan. She has a BA and MA in Educational Counseling from Haifa University.

Avera-Samuel served on the Prime Minister's office Round Table Panel on Social Issues bringing together leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors. In 2004, Avera-Samuel was honored to present on the absorption and integration of the Ethiopian Israeli community at the International Lion of Judah conference in Washington DC and, in 2000,

was chosen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to represent Israel at the Epcot Millennium Village pavilion in Orlando.

She joined the Fidel Association in the year 2000 and served as director of professional training, PR, community development and was deputy director prior to being appointed executive director in 2011.

Beyond her dedication to advancing the Ethiopian-Israeli community, Michal serves as a board member of the Israel Center for Educational Innovation and volunteers at “Women to Women,” Haifa, supporting victims of domestic violence.