

Mada al-Carmel- Arab Center for Applied Social Research  
Call for papers

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# ولبيرالية Neoliberalism

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## **Israeli Neoliberalism - Social, Economic and Political Transformations in the Palestinian Society in Israel**

### **Introduction**

By adopting free-market and neoliberal policies in most countries of the world, governments have been able to isolate politics from economics, and were able to shirk their responsibilities towards their citizens, particularly the weak minorities. Perhaps the most dangerous impact of neoliberalism is not the economic crisis it has caused, but the political crisis.

The Israeli Right wing, in the mid 80s, initiated neoliberal reforms that contributed to improving the State's economic position in recent decades. This success couldn't be reached without the abandonment of welfare and social concepts, by the Left. To improve the economic position of the State of Israel, the right neoliberal governments adopted policies to integrate the Palestinians into the neoliberal market as individuals. Thereby, they maximized the idea of personal achievements and distinctiveness, vs strengthening the collective ethnoreligious character of the Jewish group, which was recently expressed in the Nation-State Law.

Several studies have examined the role of neoliberal economic policies in dismantling some of the pillars of the social welfare State under the weight of accelerating privatization. These transformations were accompanied by the rise of the extreme and liberal Israeli Right wing, in contrast to the vanishing historical role of the Left, after it lost its historic economic and social institutions.



However, these dramatic and accelerating transformations, have undoubtedly left their mark on the lives of the Palestinians, whether they are inside Israel, or in the occupied Territories and Jerusalem.

From this standpoint, Mada al-Carmel wants to gain a deeper understanding of the implications of the neoliberal policies, particularly the economic, on the Palestinians' lives in the following themes:

- The role of neoliberal policies in promoting individual identity at the expense of the collective identity and its impact on the Palestinians' political and partisan map.
- Trends towards "Israelization."
- Absorption of the Arab as an individual consumer with a functional role in the Israeli economic structure.
- The Palestinians' socio-economic transformations during the past three decades, and how they led to displacements in the class structure within the Arab/Palestinian society.
- The position of the Palestinians in the Israeli economic structure, in terms of workplaces, sectors of employment, investment, employment, and education.
- Poverty and unemployment in the Arab community, and the ability of institutions, political parties and representative bodies to respond to the concerns of the Arab individual in the face of the neoliberal tide.
- Internal migrations from Arab villages and towns to different urban centers and their impact on the social fabric.
- Changes in the Palestinian lifestyle in light of the neoliberal policies that enhance consumerism and credit, and develop a sense of risk and uncertainty in the labor market and family life.
- The growing regional feuds and prejudices, which left their mark in a noticeable way at the level of Palestinian municipal and local councils, and often appear in violent ways.
- How did the relationship between neoliberalism and colonialism unfold within the State of Israel?
- How can we understand the successive Zionist legislation and laws that aim to exclude the Palestinians in the context of neoliberal policies?
- How has neoliberalism, and the privatization of State facilities, as an ongoing project, affected the structure of the Israeli occupation in the occupied Territories?



It must be noted that these themes inextricably intertwine and intersect. Dividing them in this way, does not mean that the boundaries that separate them are clear and concrete. Accordingly, Mada al-Carmel encourages contributions that focus on a fundamental theme without ignoring its dialectical relationship with all the other themes. While Mada al-Carmel Center pays special attention to the impact of the neoliberal policies on the lives of the Palestinians inside Israel, it believes that the effects of neoliberalism have affected all the Palestinian groups, each according to its geographical location and position within the colonial project. Hence, the Center welcomes those contributions that focus on the impact of the Israeli neoliberal tendencies on the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem and the Diaspora, or the people of the Golan in various areas.

### **Regulations:**

1. Mada al-Carmel accepts original academic research in Arabic or English.
2. Mada al-Carmel accepts two types of contributions: the first, short research (2500 – 3000 words), and the other, long research (5000 – 7000 words).
3. Book reviews are within the short research.
4. The articles are subject to academic arbitration, as is customary.
5. The deadline for the submission of an abstract of 250 – 300 words is **March 20th 2020**. The abstract should include the research question, methodology and contribution.
6. Approval or rejection of the abstract will be sent up to two weeks after the abstract is received.
7. Mada al-Carmel will pay reward for the published research.
8. The various research will be published on Mada al-Carmel's website, with the possibility of publication in a book at a later date.
9. Abstracts and articles should be sent to the following E-mail:

**[inas.khateeb@mada-research.org](mailto:inas.khateeb@mada-research.org)**

Respectfully,

Mada al-Carmel

