



University of Haifa, School of Political Science, Division of PA&P
& University of Potsdam, Chair for Political Science, Public Administration & Organization

Managing the Democratic State: Public policy, management, and administration in Israel

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General: This course offers some intellectual avenues for understanding the dilemmas in managing the democratic state in modern nations, with a focus on the Israeli case. Beyond theoretical background on the dilemma of democracy and bureaucracy, we will analyze Israel's public policy, administration, and management over the years and across services and cases. Our discussion will include historical background of turning the old Yishuv into a state between the early 1900s and 1948. These are followed by a review of major stages in developing modern nations in general, and specifically Israel since the early 1950s and until today. The path towards building Israel as a nation will be explored and criticized with examples of taking difficult policy decisions under complex constraints of time, region, and conflict. While discussing the main challenges facing many modern democracies of our times, especially in turbulent times and under crises, we will examine the Israeli case and its complexity (e.g., demographically, politically, socially, and culturally). The course aims to discuss relevant issues related with the management of the Israeli governance and struggling the tension for building a modern democratic society. We will highlight the difficulties related with policy making process, the implementation of public policy under great challenges such as the Aliya (Jews immigration to Israel), the economic development over the years, reforms and technology changes, national security problems, and Israel's future as an open democracy in the digital era and in view of the current struggle over suggested judiciary reforms.

Goal: To allow the students get knowledge and understanding of the problematic issues, dilemmas and paradoxes related with the process of transforming vision to practice in government with a special eye on the Israeli case.

Structure: The course has several parts: (1) introductory discussions on the evolvement of Israel as a modern democratic state (2) major dilemmas in Israel public policy, management, and administration, (3) project writing on one dilemma related with bureaucratic-democratic paradox in Israeli or in a comparative view. By the end of the semester students will present their projects in class.

Assignments and grade: Students will be directed towards developing personal projects on selected topic, based on relevant issues. Group presentation- 30%; Final paper-70%

Suggested topics for final paper: The illusive phenomena of trust in Israel's democracy, expectations and satisfaction from public services in Israel, religion and participation in labor market, IDF and military concerns in society, Israel in a globalized era, conscription and national security, Israel as a welfare state vs. privatization and the cost of privatization, security issues and human rights, dilemmas in government spending, defensive democracy, budgetary transparency, governability vs. technology challenges, biometric documents, big data and governability, equity and gender, public auditing and accountability, regulatory dilemmas, effective reforms, governability and responsiveness to public demands, involving civic society in decision making.

Major topics and reading list

Major Books:

- Vigoda-Gadot (2009). *Building Strong Nations: Improving Governability and Public Management*. Farnham, UK: Ashgate. Introduction and Chapter 1: pp. 1-28.
- Vigoda-Gadot, E., & Mizrahi, S. (2014). *Managing Democracies in Turbulent Times: Trust and Citizens' Participation as a Road to Better Governance*. Berlin, GE; Springer Publishing. Preface (pp. v-vii)
- Hazan, R.Y., Dowty, A., Hofnung, M., & Rahat, G.(2021). *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*. Oxford, UK. Oxford University Press. <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/34274>
- Galnoor, I., & Blander, D. (2018). *The Handbook of Israel's Political System*. Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/handbook-of-israels-political-system/B528C4CF611C9CE9E797BF88C5CF17BE>

Day1 -19/5/23

1. Managing the Democratic State: Theory, rational, and core arguments

- Vigoda-Gadot (2009). Introduction and Chapter 1: pp. 1-28.
- Vigoda-Gadot, E., & Mizrahi, S. (2014). Prologue (pp. 1-7).

2: Case Background: Through the time-tunnel of Israeli governance and administration

- Hazan, R.Y., Dowty, A., Hofnung, M., & Rahat, G.(2021). *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*. Oxford, UK. Oxford University Press. *Introduction*.
- Galnoor, I., & Blander, D. (2018). *The Handbook of Israel's Political System*. Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press. *Preface*.
- A picture of the Nation: Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel (2023): <https://www.taubcenter.org.il/en/pictures/a-picture-of-the-nation-2022/>
- Cohen, N. (2019). Public administration in Israel: development, structure, legal authority and function. *Papier de recherche de l'ENA, PR ENA AGP 7* (2019).
- Peretz, D., & Doron, G. (Eds.). (1997). *The Government and Politics of Israel: Third Edition* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
- Milward, H.B. and Provan, K. G. (2000). Governing the hollow state. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 10, 2, 359-379.

Movie and Info 1: The Knesset: Elections and Laws

- <https://main.knesset.gov.il/EN/About/pages/KnessetWork.aspx>
- <https://main.knesset.gov.il/EN/activity/Pages/BasicLaws.aspx> -Basic Laws

Civil Service Commission-

- https://www.gov.il/en/departments/civil_service_commission/govil-landing-page

Day2 -20/5/23**3: The start-up nation and the diffusion of knowledge**

Senor, D., & Singer, S. (2011). *Start-up Nation: The story of Israel's economic miracle*. Random House Digital, Inc.

Bozeman B., (2000). Technology transfer and public policy: a review of research and theory. *Research Policy*, 29, 627-655.

Vigoda-Gadot, E. & Levi-Faur, D.(Eds). (2004). *International Public Policy and Management: Policy Learning Beyond Regional Cultural and Political Boundaries*, New York : Marcel Dekker.

Movie 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8LQKBqBcpw&ab_channel=Unpacked

4: Democracy, governance, and political culture in Israel

Mizrahi, S. & Meydani, A. (2003). Political participation through the judicial system: Exit, voice, and quasi-exit in Israeli society. *Israel Studies*,8, 118-138.

Mautner, M. (2013). Law and the culture of Israel: Introduction. *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 11, 1108–1110.

Zeedan R, Vigoda-Gadot E, & Ben-Artzi Y. (2017). Causes of (and solutions for?) financial crises in local governments: Insights from local Arab authorities in Israel. *Administration & Society*, 49, 1065-1083.

Van Kersbergen, K. & Van Waarden, F. (2004). 'Governance' as a bridge between disciplines: Cross-disciplinary inspiration regarding shifts in governance and problems of governability, accountability and legitimacy. *European Journal of Political Research*, 14, 143-171.

Movie 3: <https://youtu.be/vCH0uecc4dY> -Religion

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBVI_VceseQ&ab_channel=%D7%94%D7%97%D7%91%D7%A8%D7%AA%D7%99%D7%AA -Arabs

5: Sectors and policies in Israel: The public, the private and the in-between

Vigoda-Gadot, E., & Mizrahi, S. (2014). Ch 2-3 (pp. 11-34, 37-59).

Menahem, G., & Zehavi, A. (Eds.). (2016). *Policy Analysis in Israel*. Bristol, UK; Policy Press.

Eikenberry, A. M. (2007). Philanthropy, voluntary association, and governance beyond the state-giving circles and challenges for democracy. *Administration & Society*, 39, 857-882.

Israel in Figures: https://www.cbs.gov.il/he/publications/DocLib/isr_in_n/sr_in_n21e.pdf

Israel in OECD: <https://data.oecd.org/israel.htm>

Day3- 26/5/23**6: Cross-sector collaboration and regulation in Israel**

Vigoda-Gadot (2009). Ch. 6: pp 151-164.

Almog-Bar M. (2021) Civil Society Organizations in Collaborative Governance: Cross-sector Partnerships as a Test Case. In: Sher-Hadar N., Lahat L., Galnoor I. (eds) *Collaborative Governance*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham

Tevet E., Shiffer V., & Galnoor I. (eds) (2021). *Regulation in Israel*. New York; Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Movie 4:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Flfn3MI17eA&ab_channel=%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%93%D7%94%D7%90%D7%95%D7%A6%D7%A8 – PPP projects

7: The public management revolution in Israel; Civic servants and citizens at the front

Galnoor, I. (2010). *Public Management in Israel: Developments, Structure, Functions, and Reforms*. London; Routledge.

National Assessment Project of Public Administration in Israel (NAPPA-IL): 2001-2023;

https://sites.google.com/d/1AVUVjkh7I_dLCUoDbRiQia_XMp4CTK-/p/1ayu--Ej6k8ZBwhZm_LetmlFwoeC1S5NV/edit

Vigoda-Gadot, E., Mizrahi, S., & Cohen, N. (2020-2021). The Performance of the Israeli Public Sector: A Citizens Survey and National Assessment (research paper #18). The Division of Public Administration and Policy, School of Political Sciences; The University of Haifa. A working paper.

Bright, L. (2005). Public employees with high levels of public service motivation: Who are they, where are they, and what do they want? *Review of Public Personnel Administration*, 25, 138-154.

Movie 5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfmBlkGlu20&ab_channel=VoiceofAmerica

Privatization in Kibbutzim**8: Reforms in public administration and management (A): Theory**

Durant, R.F. (2008). Sharpening a knife cleverly: Organizational change, policy paradox, and the "Weaponizing" of administrative reforms. *Public Administration Review*, 68, 282-294.

9: Reforms in public administration and management (B): Major reforms in Israel

Vigoda-Gadot, E., & Mizrahi, S. (2014). Ch. 4-5 (pp. 65-112).

Vigoda-Gadot, E., (2009). Ch. 2: pp. 29-44.

Roznai, Y. & Volach, L. (2018). Law reform in Israel. *The Theory and Practice of legislation*, 6, 291-320.

Benish A. (2018) The privatization of social services in Israel. In: Paz-Fuchs, A., Mandelkern, R., Galnoor I. (eds). *The Privatization of Israel*. New York; Palgrave Macmillan.

Movie 6:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjCOG2MvoRc&ab_channel=%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%93%D7%94%D7%91%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%90%D7%95%D7%AA-MinistryofhealthIsrael

Healthcare

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZXXC-oVhA4&ab_channel=CenterforIsraelEducation

Education

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88tzcGieLN4&ab_channel=Myers-JDC-BrookdaleInstitute

Poverty and social issues

Day4-27/5/23**10: Israel public policy under security challenges**

Vigoda-Gadot, E., & Mizrahi, S. (2014). Ch 6 (pp. 121-168).

Freilich, C.D. (2018). *Israeli National Security: A New Strategy for an Era of Change*. Oxford, UK; Oxford University Press.

Movie 7:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytWmPqY8TE0&ab_channel=TheJerusalemCenter

Israel defense borders 2023**11. Open Governance: Israel's policy, management, and administration in the digital era**

Bannister, F., & Connolly, R. (2011). The trouble with transparency: A critical review of Openness in E-Government. *Policy & Internet*, 3, 1-30.

Movie 8:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxau6TCsiX4&ab_channel=%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%A8%D7%9A%D7%94%D7%93%D7%99%D7%92%D7%99%D7%98%D7%9C%D7%94%D7%9C%D7%90%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%99

A comparative look**12. The State of the Nation: Quo Vadis?**

Israel 75-100. Israel's Governance, Public Policy, Administration, and Management at a crossroad.

The External Conflict

The Internal Conflict

The NonFlict and the Bureaucracy-Democracy Paradox

World Happiness Report: <https://happiness-report.s3.amazonaws.com/2023/WHR+23.pdf>

13: Student's presentations and knowledge dissemination

Analyzing a specific case of democracy-bureaucracy paradox and its meaning in the Israeli contexts. How to build good governance while safeguarding democratic values? Analysis will be based on cases from Israel.