- Planning in Civil Society:

Twenty Years of Bimkom: On Planning, Community and Human Rights

Oren Shlomo, Erez Tsfadia and Efrat Cohen-Bar

Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights celebrates two decades of activity. This milestone evokes an observation on Bimkom's activities and its special role in the planning arena in Israel and in the occupied territories. Our review suggests that Bimkom has successfully positioned itself at the convergence of three fields: the planning administration, marginal communities, and human rights organizations. Here Bimkom serves as an integrator, translator and mediator of information, knowledge and practice between these three fields. Bimkom employs several novel devices for this operation: bottom-up planning through working with communities, incremental policy change, legal activity, research and production of knowledge. These insights, based on our top-down observations, are demonstrated in the article by several examples of Bimkom projects.

Efrat Cohen-Bar is Deputy Director of Planning at Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights. She is an architect, graduate of Betzalel (1995) and urban designer with an MS in urban design, Betzalel (2019). efrat@bimkom.org

Prof. Erez Tsfadia is chair of the Executive Committee of Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights, and lectures in administration and public policy at the Academic College Sapir. He is a graduate of the Dept. of Geography, Ben Gurion University, Lady Davis Fellow at the Hebrew University, and Visiting Lecturer at Rutgers University and the State University of Maryland. His current research focuses on local governance in Beduin society, exclusion, marginalization and spatial peripheriality. His over fifty academic publications include books, edited volumes and articles in scientific journals, with dozens of publications in professional journals, newspapers and professional blogs. erezt@sapir.ac.il

Dr. Oren Shlomo is on the faculty of the Dept. of Sociology, Political Science and Communication in the Open University, and his research is in the fields of political geography and urban studies. He received his doctorate from Ben Gurion University, and continued post-doctoral research at Harvard, the Interdisciplinary Center and Haifa University. Shlomo is a member of the Executive Committee of Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights since 2015. orenshl@gmail.com