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Planning in an Indecision Situation: The Case of the Negev

Batya Roded

The paper analyzes the connections between state policy, the planning system and the impacts of their relations on the social space of a peripheral frontier area, in the case of the Negev. It argues that the state's indecisiveness confronting its central problems - as a strategy -produces a passive planning system that is technical by nature and abandons its central, professional principles. This process is weakening the frontier region instead of empowering it. The first part of the paper sets up an appropriate theoretical framework; the second, describes and analyzes the process in the Negev region in Israel through 3 cases: the Haredic city of Kasif near Arad, the recognition of 2 unrecognized Bedouin villages and its cancellation, and the establishment of 6-10 settlements along Highway 31 to Arad. Finally, the paper summarises the debate on the issue with concluding remarks.

Keywords: politics of indecision, planning system, frontier, Israel, Negev, neglecting control

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