



END POVERTY IN  
ALL ITS FORMS  
EVERYWHERE

## RESEARCH

### ERC Grant: Causes of Inequality in the Labor Market

Prof. Tali Kristal of the Department of Sociology [researches the various dimensions of economic inequality](#) and demonstrates why and how economic inequality in Israel, the US, and other developed societies is related to institutional and structural features of labor markets. This year, Prof. Kristal was awarded the prestigious European Union ERC Consolidator grant for the second time. Her research will challenge prevailing assumptions on income inequality, investigating the origins of inequality using workplace-derived data.

### Article: Non Citizenship and Poverty amongst Palestinian Families in Israel

The article 'Families in Poverty and Non Citizenship: An Intersectional Perspective on Economic Exclusion' published in *Journal of Family Issues*, by Dr. Einat Lavee of the Department of Human Services, and Prof. Roni Strier, founder of the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion, discusses the [relationship between noncitizenship and poverty](#) among Palestinian families in Israel. It explores the survival



Soul of Rwanda (Credit: Dr. Rinat Feniger-Schaal)

strategies of noncitizen families through qualitative interviews, highlighting mechanisms of economic exclusion. The study suggests adopting a transnational protection framework for inclusive economic and social integration of noncitizens.

### Reconceptualizing Uneven Global Relations

Prof. Ayelet Ben-Yishai, former Chair of the Department of English Language and Literature, specializes in British and Postcolonial literature and cultures. She observes that as the initial promise of a more just postcolonial world order slips further away, the academic field of postcolonial studies must urgently reconceptualize the uneven global relations that continue to dominate our world. She works to [bring together scholars from around the world](#) to the complex

social and cultural ecosystem of Haifa and address poverty, ongoing violence, the refugee crisis, and the environment.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### Relieving Debilitating Debt

The Civil Litigation Clinic, directed by Adv. Reut Cohen, provided legal aid and representation to 130 clients, [offering pro bono legal aid](#) in areas including debt, social security issues, housing, banking and SLAPP. Several cases involved court representation and Execution Office proceedings, and one case involved a petition for pardon filed with the president of Israel on behalf of a client with a criminal fine debt. The clinic sits under the Clinics for Law and Social Change, directed academically by Dr. Tammy Harel Ben Shazar of the Faculty

of Law and was established two decades ago. The team of six leading lawyers oversee students in 500 cases annually, impacting thousands.

### Soul of Rwanda

Dr. Rinat Feniger-Schaal, from the Drama and Health Science Lab at the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, traveled to Rwanda to explore a new partnership to with Soul of Rwanda, a shelter started by two brothers who survived the mass genocide. The shelter provides shelter, food, and education for 45 children. [Dr. Feniger-Schaal and a team of volunteers traveled there](#) to help build sustainable economic, educational, and treatment programs, raised funds and brought art supplies to support their work.

### Interest-free Loans for Students

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles [provides interest-free loans](#) ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000, to University students who have completed military or national service, demonstrate financial need, and have Iranian heritage. Repayment occurs in 10 equal installments, starting one semester after expected graduation.

## LEARNING AND STUDENTS

### NEW International Jewish Studies and Global Activism MA

Together with *Tevel b'Tzedek*, a new MA program in Jewish Studies [combines rigorous Jewish learning with global activism](#). *Tevel b'Tzedek* is an Israeli Non-Profit supporting vulnerable rural

communities in the global south, such as the region of Mphande, Zambia, in creating sustainable transformations. Students will study relevant topics such as social justice in Hebrew Bible and charity in Rabbinic literature. In the third semester, students will engage in live activism abroad through *Tevel b'Tzedek* programs. The MA is earned over two semesters: one at UofH and one abroad.

### Unlocking Opportunities for Lower Income Students

UofH is [unlocking opportunities for students of less financial means](#). According to Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) data

**35% of BA, 27% of MA, and 18% PhD students at UofH are from towns and cities in Israel that are considered low on the Israeli socioeconomic scale.**

### Cultural Sensitivity in Higher Education

In Israel, like in higher education systems worldwide, academia is becoming more accessible to diverse populations. The 'Cultural Sensitivity in Higher Education' conference, held by the Dean of Students, together with the [Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion](#), Haifa Center on the Politics of Inequality, and the Department of Leadership and Policy in Education, examined the impact of diverse populations entering higher education, the challenges they face, and potential paths to ensure social mobility.

## OPERATIONS

### Future Leaders Scholarships

The '[Future Leaders Scholarships](#)' initiative, offered by the Dean of Students Unit, is designed to empower first-generation, ambitious students from Israel's socio-economic periphery. Participants receive comprehensive support, including tuition scholarships, housing assistance, academic guidance, personal development, and career counseling. The selection process involves group dynamics, economic scoring, and personal interviews.

### Meeting the Needs of the First-Generation in Higher Education

The Division of the Presidency and External Relations introduced the Ambassadors Lecture Series, showcasing passionate faculty and professionals who align with the University's academic and social goals. As part of the series, Dr. Yael Granot-Bein, Director of the Social Engagement Unit, discussed 'First Generation Students as Agents of Change'. She underscored that 47% of UofH students are first generation, and how the institution can better tailor their programs [to ensure their success](#). Dr. Granot-Bein is leading the institution's new Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community, headed by Prof. Arin Salamah-Qudsi.