



Call for Proposals

For Participation
in a Conference Titled

A Partnership-Based Israeli-Palestinian Peace - Toward a Changed Paradigm

The conference
will take place at
the Van Leer Jerusalem
Institute on Wednesday

10.5.23

and at the Hebrew University
of Jerusalem on Thursday

11.5.23

Background

Twenty years after the collapse of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the intensification of the Jewish apartheid regime between the Jordan and the sea there is a growing recognition that the two-state solution has reached an impasse. In light of this, in recent years an alternative paradigm for the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on equality and partnership (the partnership paradigm), has begun to take shape in academic and public discourse. The most significant change is not rooted in a specific political model; instead, this new paradigm signifies a shift in the basic assumptions for evaluating the desired political arrangements and the social processes that may lead to their realization.

The new partnership paradigm assumes that it is not possible, nor is it appropriate, to strive to abolish the existing integration of Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs throughout the country, and recognizes the strong affiliation of the two nationalities to the entire space between the Jordan and the sea. It assumes that national (collective) and individual rights are of equal importance to everyone—Jews and Palestinians—and that their realization is justified insofar as it is consistent with equality between the nations and the individuals.

Topic and Rationale

According to the commonly accepted approach, Israeli-Palestinian peace will materialize only in a framework of two national states, based on political and geographic separation between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs. This separation paradigm has far-reaching implications for academic research and social action. One particular consequence is the restriction of constitutional, social, economic, and political discourse to the land within the Green Line—effectively categorizing anything beyond it as not representative of the “Israeli reality,” and thus outside the acceptable boundaries for research, discussion, and action. Thus, the partnership paradigm requires corrections in all these aspects and their interplay.

The goal of this conference is to encourage and facilitate the growing discourse in academia and civil society that focuses on paradigms of peace and decolonization based on equality and partnership. In this context, the conference aims to examine, from a multidisciplinary, theoretical, and comparative point of view the possible future implications of this paradigm shift for academic research, social action, and cultural production in the Israel.

Possible Proposal Topics

1. Change in the analysis and understanding of the conflict and the local situation, in their various dimensions, arising from the adoption of an approach that assumes political partnership and equality
2. New approaches to measuring and evaluating local social, economic, political, cultural, and spatial data and processes
3. Learning comparatively—historically and theoretically—from other places that have undergone a transition from an exclusionary political framework to a more multinational or multi-communal inclusionary and egalitarian political framework
4. Presentation and examination of approaches to Palestinian and Jewish reconciliation and where they overlap or contradict each other
5. The place of local and regional government and of urban spaces in the approach to peace based on equality and partnership
6. Presentation and examination of grassroots activism aimed at propelling social, cultural, and economic processes for implementing the new paradigm
7. The influence of the new geopolitics, including the changes in regional politics and Israel's status
8. Examination of the roles of the law and the international community, including states, the United Nations, and other international organizations
9. An examination of class, religious, and gender issues and their expression in the partnership paradigm

Submission of Proposals

The steering committee invites proposals related to the conference topic from scholars in a variety of disciplines and using various research methods as well as from individuals involved with the topic in civil society organizations. Each proposal must include the following details: (1) the proposer's full name and academic or organizational affiliation; (2) an abstract of 200–250 words. Proposals for unconventional formats are welcome.

Deadline for Submission of Proposals: 1.3.23

Please send proposals to Nogaf@vanleer.org.il and write in the subject line “Proposal for the conference on partnership-based peace.”

The Conference Steering Committee

Dr. Limor Yehuda, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The University of Haifa

Mr. Ameer Fakhoury, Polonsky Academy, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Prof. Oren Yiftachel, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Dr. Rula Hardel, Shalom Hartman Institute

Dr. Yael Barda, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr. Assaf David, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute