

Preface

With the publication of this issue, Hagar Journal resumes its activity after a ten-year hiatus. The founding of the journal in 2000 was part of a social research boom, which dealt with the various new configurations of post-colonialism in a global era. Hagar Journal celebrated interdisciplinary thinking in the social fields. The journal was produced and published by the Humphrey Institute for Social and Cultural Research, founded by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Today, still, the Humphrey Institute is the flagship initiative of the faculty, constituting a think-tank and research laboratory for its fellows from among the faculty members and research students of the faculty. The resuming of the journal is under the banner of interdisciplinary social research from all fields of knowledge. The journal aims to be a written expression of the research laboratory held at the Humphrey Institute, and to offer its readers articles from diverse fields of knowledge which together suggest innovative contemporary thinking about society as a concept, as a structure, as an object, as a means, as an institution, and as a critical framework.

Although this issue is the first after a long break, it continues the legacy and spirit of the previous issues. As part of the journal's vision, articles from different disciplines and diverse perspectives have been brought together under one heading. This diversity, we hope, will stimulate interest, thought, and discussion, which is the duty of the academy and is at the core of society. While our ambition is to serve as a platform for diverse voices, we recognize that this alone is insufficient. To resonate in both the academic and public spheres, voices require an attentive, critical, and engaged audience. We believe that such listeners will be found in this issue's readership. Recognizing the importance of a critical and in-depth discussion of topics related to the social sciences and the humanities, and based on the belief that knowledge should be accessible, the journal is open and available for anyone who has been sparked by interest and curiosity.

This issue is being published at a difficult time in Israel. Almost two months after the events of October 7, which shook Israeli society and challenged the stability of the intra-Israeli social fabric. These events found the country already in a divided state, due to severe political disputes. Faced with external danger, Israeli society found itself faced with the eternal local question regarding conflict resolution: Are we to solve conflicts by force of arms or through dialogue? The academic world has always been a conversational space. Power struggles may not have been lacking in it, but the ideology was and still is one: wisdom, knowledge, and contribution to humanity will come from continuous thinking and from

respectful discourse and discussion. This is also the motivation behind publishing the Hagar Journal. We wish to promote an advanced platform of open, critical and innovative discourse about society and culture and about social and cultural processes. We hope that the inheritance of discourse as a growth strategy will permeate the reality of life and create a social impact in everyday life.

We want to thank from the bottom of our hearts the Ph.D. candidates who were the fellows of the Humphrey Institute in 2022, and who devoted their time and energy to preparing the volume. We are also grateful to the reviewers and obviously to the contributors to this issue. Thanks are also due to the outgoing Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. David Wettstein, and the incoming Dean, Prof. Nirit Ben-Aryeh Debby, for their unwaning support of the Humphrey Institute and in the resuming of publication of Hagar Journal. Special thanks go to Einat Perlman Rogel for the graphic design. After a strenuous period of much work, thought, and planning, we are delighted to present you with this issue.

Shamir Yona and Ayelet Klein Cohen, guest editors