

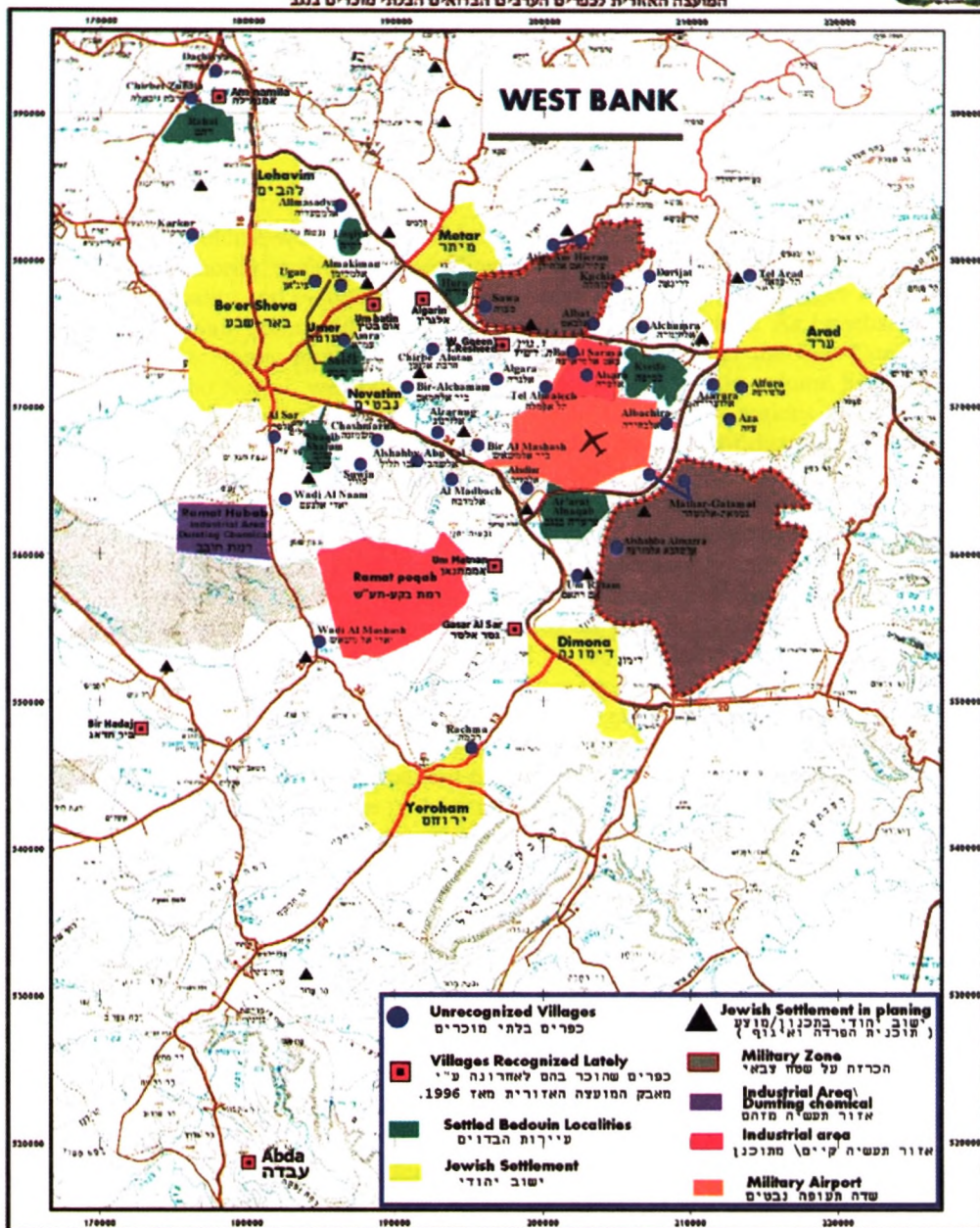


خارطة القرى العربية البدوية غير المعترف بها في النقب
Map of Unrecognized Negev Arab Bedouin Villages-in Israel.

מפת חפרושת הכפרים הערביים הבדואים הבלתי מוכרים בנגב

The Regional Council for Unrecognized Negev Arab Bedouin Villages-in Israel

המועצה האזורית לכפרים הערבים הבדואים הבלתי מוכרים בנגב



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Editors' Introduction

PNINA MOTZAFI-HALLER and MICHAEL FEIGE

In this special volume we focus our sights close to home, and examine how issues that plague minority populations residing in the periphery—acute deprivation, cultural marginality and systematic exclusion—play out in the Israeli Negev region among the Bedouin community. This is literally our own backyard. As Israelis, as residents of the Negev and as editors of a journal published at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, we and many of the contributors to this volume live our lives, teach, work and raise our families in one of the poorest regions of Israel, where impoverished Bedouin towns are established in the midst of dispersed shanty towns (referred to in Israeli formal speech as unrecognized villages).

The essays included in this volume develop, from a range of disciplines and perspectives (including a photographic essay), a critical understanding of the different paths of resistance adopted by this subaltern community and of the manner in which memory, identity and gender relations are played out in the daily lives of people remote from power. The introductory chapter written by Prof. Ismael Abu-Saad provides a necessary updated background for the detailed examination offered by the individual essays. The closing essay written by Prof. Oren Yiftachel lays out the theoretical concepts for a critical and politically engaged analysis of such study.

This volume of scholarly articles is therefore intended as a contribution to the general growing knowledge of subaltern people, their plight, their difficulties in the global world and their resistance in the face of state oppression; it also serves as an example of engaged critical research aimed at highlighting troubling social issues of exclusion and inequality. Taken together, the essays included in this volume explore new ways of thinking about the issues of human rights and social justice.

As editors of *Hagar*, we are pleased to invite you to read this thought-provoking, well researched and theoretically informed work. We see it as the best example of the kind of scholarship we in *Hagar* hope to encourage.