FOREWORD

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Editor

Each term in the title of our new journal, *Israel Social Science Research*, is supposed to mean what it says. But perhaps, at least for the first issue, we should also say what we intend it to mean. First, the word "Israel," since this is the principal organizing idea. We are interested in articles written from a social science perspective, that provide an analysis of some aspect of Israeli society, either as a single case, or as part of a cross cultural study. Although there are some journals published in Hebrew that have this emphasis, no international journal published in English has provided this kind of forum.

One type of article that falls outside our guidelines is a report of research that happens to have taken place in Israel, but whose focus is on some general social or psychological principle. For example, if a study of some factors related to a subject's ability to learn a given type of material uses Israeli school children as subjects, and the author reports only that ethnic background is a variable, without indicating the relationship between the finding and these particular types of Israeli ethnic groups, we will then suggest that the author try another journal. The fact that the research was conducted in Israel or by an Israeli is not enough. To be relevant for our interests, the article must illuminate some aspect of Israeli society.

The second organizing idea for the journal does not appear as a term, but in the fact that all the term are written in English. We wish to present research about Israel to an international English-reading audience. Some of the authors of the articles, from Israel or from other countries, are accustomed to writing in English. Thus the preparation of articles in English will pose no language problem for them. However, for others, who are accustomed to writing in Hebrew or some language other than English, more editorial assistance may be necessary since a direct translation of the words may not make easy reading for English readers. The change from Hebrew to English, for example, is much more than a change from the right to the left side of the page. Persons writing initially in Hebrew are accustomed to a more compact style than those writing in English. In addition, some terms in common use in Israel have different meanings or sound awkward when rendered in English. Part of our function as a journal staff is to help authors with translations.

The third idea for the journal is found in the term "social science." We are open to articles from anyone writing from a social science perspective. The author need not be a member of a formal department of sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science, economics, or history or related fields in a university or research institute. Persons who share this perspective may be found in many applied fields, such as education, medicine, or social work or in areas of action such as government, industry, or the military. The ideal article applies some social science perspective to the analysis of historical material, case studies, or survey research data and concludes with an indication of the relationship between the author's findings and the body of knowledge in that area.

The fourth idea is expressed in the term "research." As already indicated, the article may be based on a variety of sources of data, in general the customary data base for the author's social science discipline. We would expect the author to follow the usual expectations of presenting enough information about the research design and the methods used so that another person with similar background could at least evaluate the reliability and validity of the findings, and perhaps even replicate the study should he or she desire to do so. Especially with regard to methodology and the presentation of statistical material, it is not easy to condense a longer work into article form. On the average it can require four revisions before a PhD thesis, or monograph of similar complexity, can be effectively presented as a journal article. The author is often so familiar with the material that he or she omits the description of important aspects of the research design. In addition this may be the first time that persons familiar with the area, other than the author's thesis committee or local colleagues, have had an opportunity to comment on the work. Problems in the use of statistical procedures or in inferences from the data may become apparent that were not previously recognized. With these types of revisions, as in the case of language translation, we are quite prepared to assist the author through several drafts of a paper when this proves desirable.

It was our hope, when we originally conceived the journal, that we might discover that there were a number of persons, either inside or outside of Israel, who were working in the same area but were apparently not aware of each other's work. By bringing these articles together in a special issue, we might help create an "implosion" in that area of research. These authors and other readers might discover that a body of knowledge was accumulating on a particular subject that might provide a basis for further research. The first part of our expectation has already been fulfilled. We have discovered, for example, that several persons have written about the relationship between Israel's military activity and different aspects of Israeli society, ranging from its impact on the society as a whole, through regional planning, and the resettlement of persons as a result of changes in "occupied" areas.

For the first few years of publication we expect to publish two issues of the journal each year, where at least one of these will be a general issue, open to articles on any subject that falls within our guidelines. At a later time we may increase the number of issues to four per year if the volume of research warrants it.

Specific guidelines for the format of articles are given on the inside of the back cover of each issue. If an author is not sure that the content of a paper falls within our area of interest, we are willing to give an opinion on a first draft before major revisions are undertaken. It is, of course, better if the paper is no more than the twenty typed pages or so that represent the usual limit for journal articles. In general, the closer the article is to its final form, the less time it will take for editorial decision. All manuscripts are read by at least two referees after the identification of the author has been removed from the manuscript. Since some of these referees are not in Israel, the process usually takes at least two months from the time the article is received.

Each issue of the journal will contain reviews of books that also deal with aspects of Israeli society. As the journal develops, other special features may be added. We will be pleased to hear from any readers who have suggestions for the journal, especially from those who would like to edit an issue on some special theme, review books, or help in the production of the journal in any way.