

## **Muddling toward Sustainability: The Israeli Way**

Eran Feitelson, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Strategies that come to advance sustainability are usually viewed as a top-down process, whereby people are encouraged to think globally and act locally. Indeed sustainability concepts are largely developed in a global context. Yet, the potential for action is often at the local level. Hence, the adage noted above.

Yet, in practice the adoption and implementation of strategies intended to advance sustainability concepts may have more to do with local actors and politics than with global concepts. Indeed, it is possible that global concepts are utilized by local actors in order to advance policies of their interest.

This presentation will follow the twists and turns of Israeli environmental policies. It will be argued that planners and environmentalists have utilized sustainability concepts in order to advance their agendas. The result is a somewhat biased concept of sustainability, which does not really conform to the Bruntland idea. In essence, social (intra generational equity) measures are largely absent from the policies advanced under the sustainability banner. The attempts to address this bias in the formation of sustainability indicators in Israel will be described.

Overall, this presentation will discuss the implications of sustainability politics for sustainability strategies, as they are played out in the Israeli scene. This will, hopefully stimulate a comparative discussion.