

Majid Ibrahim Al-Haj

Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Haifa

Brief Curriculum Vitae

Academic work

Majid Al-Haj received his doctorate in Sociology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1984) and pursued postdoctoral studies in Demography at Brown University (USA, 1985).

Al-Haj has been a Visiting Professor at the following universities:

- Carleton University (1989-90, Canada)
- Duke University (1999-2000, USA)
- Rutgers University, Distinguished Visiting Professor (2011-2012, USA)

Al-Haj has also been a visiting research fellow in a number of universities and research institutes, including ; the Research Resource Division for Refugees, Carleton University; the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan; Truman Institute, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; the Institute of Integration, Bar-Ilan University ; the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University; the Louis Guttman Israel Institute of Applied Social Research, Jerusalem; and the School of Social Work, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill.

Professor Al-Haj has served in a number of leading scholarly and administrative positions. Among them are;

- Vice President for Research at the University of Haifa (2005-2011)
- Founding Director of Center for Multiculturalism and Educational Research, University of Haifa (1993 - present).
- Chair of the Forum of Vice Presidents for R&D in Israeli Universities (2008-2009).
- Member of the Council for Higher Education in Israel (1995-2001)
- Chair, the Committee for the Promotion of Higher Education among the Arabs in Israel (the Council for Higher Education and the Planning and Budgeting Committee) (1999-2001).
- A Founding Member and Chair of the Steering Committee of Ma'of Foundation for the Inclusion of Outstanding Arab Lecturers in Israeli Universities (1995-2015).
- Member of the Central Committee of the Israel Sociological Association (1988-1991)
- Member of the National Council for Research and Development–Ministry of Science (1995-1998).
- Member of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies (2006-2014).

In his academic work, Prof. Al-Haj has focused on Israel Studies, Sociology of Education, Political Sociology, Inequalities , Immigration and Comparative Ethnic Relations.

Al-Haj is the author of 14 books , and over 100 articles in refereed journals and book chapters in various languages. Among the books he has published are :

- *Social Change and Family Processes* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1987)
- *Arab Local Government in Israel*, co-authored with Henry Rosenfeld (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1990)
- *Education, Empowerment and Control: The Case of the Arabs in Israel* (NY: SUNY Press, 1995)
- *Arab Education in Israel: Control Vs. Social Change* (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Magnes Press (Hebrew, 1996). A revised version was published in Arabic, entitled: *Education of the Palestinian in Israel: Between Control and the Culture of Silence*. Beirut: The Center for the Research of Arab Unity (Arabic, 2006).
- *In the Name of Security: The Sociology of War and Peace in Israel in Changing Times* (co-editor with Uri Ben Elezer –Haifa University Press, 2003, Hebrew)
- *Immigration and Ethnic Formation in a Deeply Divided Society: The Case of the 1990s Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in Israel* (Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2004)
- *Social Critique and Commitment: Essays in Honor of Henry Rosenfeld*. New York: University Press of America, (Majid Al-Haj, Michael Saltman and Zvi Sobel, editors, 2005).
- *Cultural Diversity and Empowerment of Minorities: Perspectives from Israel and Germany* (co-editor with Rosemarie Mielke; NY: Berghahn Books, 2007) .
- *The Russians in Israel: A New Ethnic Group in a Tribal Society*. London: Routledge (in Press).

Public activity

Alongside his academic pursuits, Prof. Al-Haj has led a number of pioneering nationwide initiatives aimed at promoting social justice, equality and diversity, and enhancing dialogue and peace among Palestinians and Israelis.

- In 1984, Al-Haj was the driving force behind the establishing of the Follow-Up Committee of Arab Education in Israel, the main lobbying body promoting equality in education for Palestinian Arab citizens . Al-Haj was elected as the first head of the Follow-Up Committee and served in this position from 1984 through 1991.
- In 1991 Prof. Al-Haj established the Insann Society for Educational Initiatives, the first nationwide Arab NGO in Israel aiming at the empowerment of the Palestinian citizens through the promotion of equality and equity in the field of education . Since its foundation, Insann has launched a variety of reach out educational projects in many Arab communities in the Galilee, the Little Triangle, the Negev and the mixed Jewish-Arab cities, with the participation of about two hundred thousand students over nearly three decades.
- In 1998 Al-Haj initiated the Center for Multiculturalism at the University of Haifa, which has been the first of its kind in Israel. This Center deals with theoretical as well as practical aspects of multiculturalism, in particular the development of models for multicultural education, dialogue and peace education. These activities entail two main circles: the National- Israeli circle, which concentrates on divisions in Israel and strategies for promoting co-existence, diversity, and shared civility among the various groups in Israel, including Jews and Palestinians; and the International circle, where the experience of different countries in the field of multiculturalism and civil education is explored through the exchange of knowledge in joint conferences, seminars and research projects.
- In 1995 Prof. Al-Haj was appointed a member of the Council for Higher Education, (CHE), becoming the first Arab scholar to serve on this council. Al-Haj has been one of the main founders of the Ma'of Foundation that aims at promoting the inclusion of outstanding Arab lecturers in Israeli universities and academic colleges. Al-Haj served as a member and then a chair of Ma'of from 1995-2015. Today the vast majority of Arab faculty members at all Israeli universities were absorbed through this foundation, including Arab women who had never before been represented among faculty members in higher education in Israel.

- Between 1996-1999 Al-Haj served as a chair of the Peace Forum at the University of Haifa. In this capacity, Al-Haj initiated a number of activities aimed at promoting "people-to- people" cooperation with the purpose of fostering peace in the region. These activities included joint workshops and conferences with the participation of Israeli and Palestinian scholars, a project between Haifa and Bethlehem Universities on the issue of " Multiculturalism and Nation-State building", and a project in cooperation with Jenin governor that, for the first time, has enabled a number of outstanding university students from the Palestinian Authority to continue their graduate studies at the University of Haifa.
- In 1999, Prof. Al-Haj submitted a policy paper to the Council for Higher Education (CHE) regarding the access of the Arab citizens in Israel to academic institutes. Based on this document, a special committee was established, chaired by Prof. Al-Haj, and known as ' Al-Haj Committee'. The committee submitted its report on December 2001, including practical recommendations to increasing the number and percentage of Arab students, facilitating their academic, social and cultural integration during their studies, and enhancing their employment opportunities at the various levels after graduation. Al-Haj Committee's conclusions were supported by all representative Arab forums in Israel and were unanimously adopted by the CHE. They were also later adopted by the Knesset Committee on Education on 2 July, 2002. Subsequently the Committee's recommendations became the basis for the CHE's formal policy and funding of programs that aim at promoting access and equal opportunities in higher education for the Palestinian Arab population in Israel. It is worth noting that while the percentage of Arab students in the institutes of higher education in Israel was 8.3% in 1999, it has almost doubled since then, reaching as high as 15.2% in 2018.

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