"Does Ethnic Bias Persist? Evidence from the Courts"

15:00, יום ראשון, 16 בפברואר 2014, בניין ארזי-עופר
חדר ישיבות תקשורת (C228)

Abstract

Recent scholarship has begun to uncover a remarkable persistence of biases, norms and preferences. A second line of research concerns the institutional and cultural legacy of conflict. We contribute to these literatures by examining ethnic bias in the legal system during and after an intense period of conflict. Our measure of ethnic bias is derived from judicial decisions in Israeli civil cases involving Jewish and Arab litigants and judges. During the conflict period (2000-04), ethnic bias is strongly associated with local exposure to ethnic violence. As violence subsides in 2007-10, past exposure to violence is no longer significantly associated with ethnic bias. However, the overall level of bias shows little evidence of decline.