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"Metropolitanization, globalization and governance – new regionalism, old regionalism or no regionalism in Israel"

The aim of this paper is to assess the link between metropolitanization processes in Israel and shifts in metropolitan governance in the context of globalization and erosion of the Israeli welfare state. I show that boundaries and structures are of prime importance – religious and ethno-national divides add to their significance. There is a move from government to governance, but as the central state weakens, the major attributes of this move are the emergence of the courts as an arena for societal conflicts, and the act of a weaker central state as several stakeholders, rather than exiting spheres of local and metropolitan decision making. The experience of inter-municipal cooperation in Israel indicates that practically imposed from above mechanisms and networks of cooperation can serve also as tools of control, and do not exactly conform with new regionalism ideals.