**Roundtable**

# The role of planners in coping with income disparities

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**In honor of our new book: Justice in Urban Development**

**AESOP-ACSP Joint Congress, Dublin July 2013**

*Theme*
**Planning for Resilient Cities**

# The role of planners in coping with income disparities

## Participants in the roundtable:

| | |
|---|---|
| Naomi Carmon | Susan S. Fainstein |
| Bish Sanyal | Heather Campbell |
| Rachel Bratt | Tridib Banerjee |
| Karen Chapple | George Galster |
| June Thomas | Ivan Tosics |

**Dublin, July 2013**

# The role of planners in coping with income disparities

## Susan Fainstein

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*University of Sheffield, UK*

Dublin, July 2013

# The role of planners in coping with income disparities

## June Thomas
### *University Of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

## George Galster
### *Wayne State University, Detroit*

## Rachel Bratt
### *Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts*
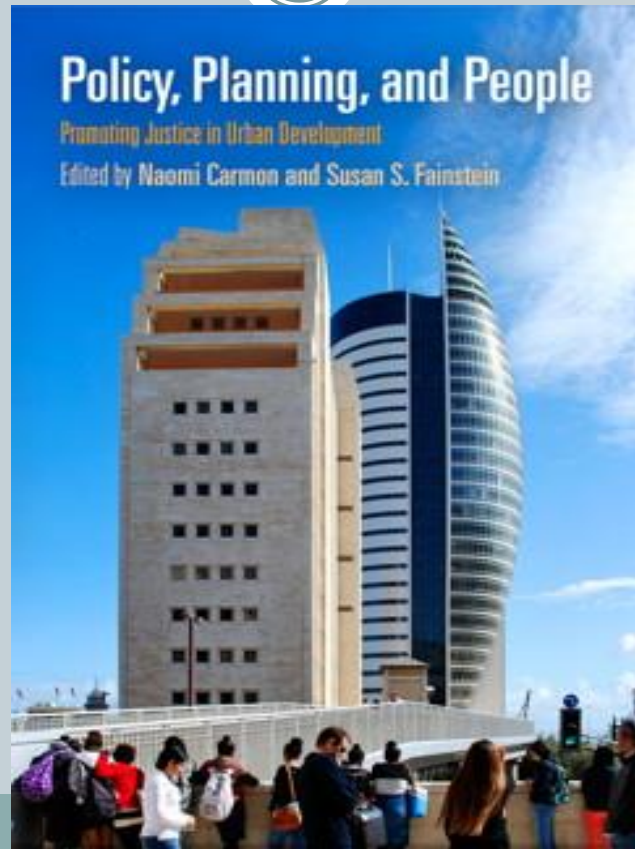
# Policy, Planning and People:

## Promoting Justice in Urban Development

*Naomi Carmon & Susan S. Fainstein (eds.)*
*2013*

# What can planners do to reduce inequality?

## (A)

## Set the Goal

### Increasing social justice in cities

### Always ask "Who Participates and who Benefits?"

# What can planners do to reduce inequality?

## (B)

## Identify the less advantageous

- We have always known that the "have-nots" are **poor minorities and immigrants**

- Following the protests of 2011, we also know that they include, **in addition** to the above, also **frustrated young urban adults** who, in spite of having partial or full high education, do not reach steady jobs and affordable housing

# What can planners do to reduce inequality?

## (C)

Respect our professional commitment by

**applying research-based/**

**evidence-based practices**

that were found by empirical research to

have a positive impact on

the quality of life of the have-nots

# Example 1: Transportation Policy
## (Jonathan Levine, 2013)

- The conventional goal is improved mobility; research has found that even when investments go to public transportation, more benefits go to affluent users

- Hence, **improved accessibility instead of improved mobility** is suggested by planners as the goal of transportation policy and plans

- Improved accessibility can be achieved by appropriate land-use planning and other means

# Example 2: Affordable Housing Policy
## (Naomi Carmon, 1999, 2002)

- Empirical research found that the social, economic and environmental costs of demolition and redevelopment are frequently higher than its benefits

- Hence, as far as possible, **avoid demolition and prefer renovation** of existing housing projects

- **Prefer user-controlled renovation processes,** possibly with add-ons of rooms and dwelling units, sometimes with infill of new buildings

# User-controlled add-ons (additional rooms) in a low-income Jewish-Arab neighborhood in Acre



**4 stories**
**16 families**
**Built 1976**
**Updated 1996**
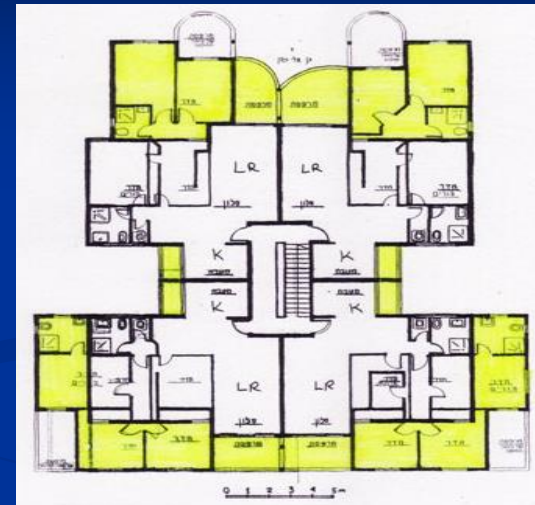
**Before: 520 f$^2$ per unit**

**After: 860  f$^2$ + balcony**

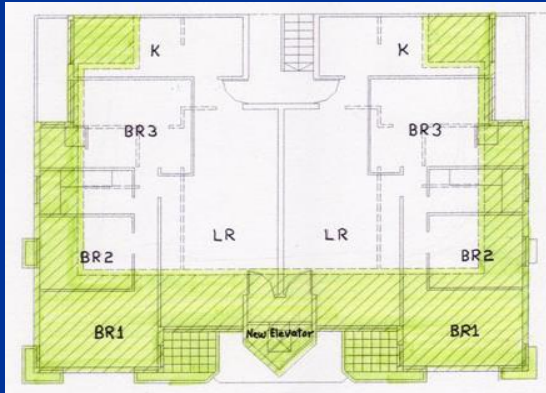# User-controlled add-ons (additional rooms) in a low-income neighborhood in Hadera



**Families continued living in the building while the construction took place**

# User-controlled add-ons in a middle-class neighborhood in Tel Aviv



**Before: 650 f²**
3 rooms + 1 bathroom

**After: 1000 f²**
4 rooms + 2 bathrooms + elevator

# Add-Ons plan in Kiryat Bialik, Israel

*Before*

Add-Ons Plan in Kiryat Bialik, Israel
Image of *After* Construction

**A variety of many small-scale solutions**

are frequently preferable for making the city

**more equitable and more resilient**

in comparison to a few big solutions

# Thanks

Wishes for success in promoting a variety of planned solutions to problems of socio-economic disparities, which will make our cities more equitable and more resilient
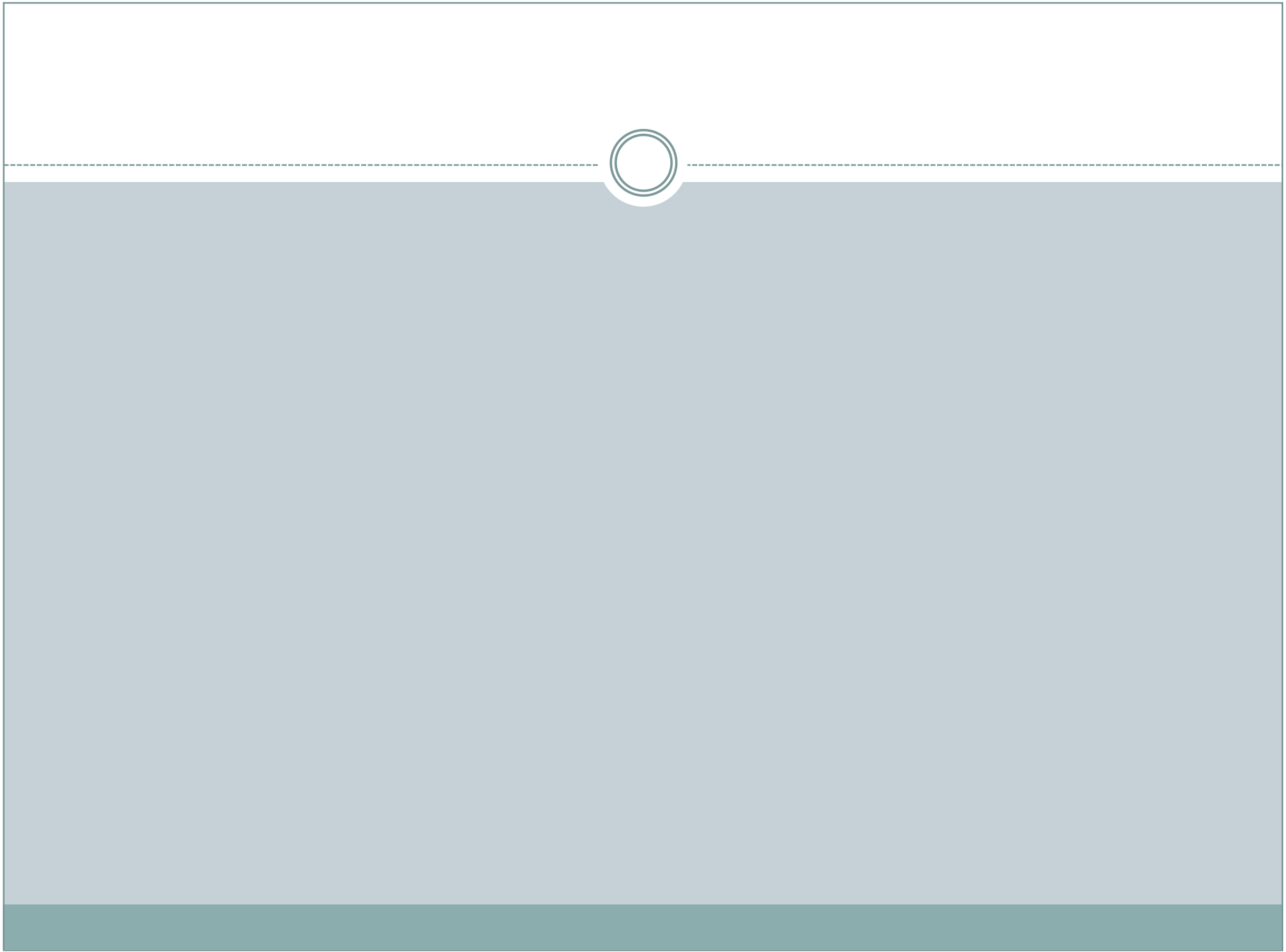
# What can planners do to reduce inequality?

Good planning action should be

**evidence based / research based**

i.e., based on practice that was

carefully researched / reflected upon

# הסיכום שלי

אוניברסיטאות העילית עשויות להיות המרוויחות העיקריות מהתפשטות קאפ"ה (MOOCs)

יואדר תפקידן כיוצרות עיקריות של הידע הדרוש למליוני הלומדים החדשים

אם הטכניון מתכוון להימנות עליהן, מוטב שיעלה בהקדם על הרכבת הדוהרת