

## **Abstract**

This study explores Israeli tech workers' unprecedented political engagement during the 2023 judicial overhaul protests. While reflecting a global trend of tech worker activism, it marks the first time in Israel's history that tech workers assumed a central role in a socio-political debate. Using a mixed-methods approach, we investigate how tech worker's values and professional identity explain the newfound political involvement. The study combines the results of a survey employing Schwartz's theory of basic human values with in-depth semi-structured interviews. Through social media recruitment, we surveyed 101 Israeli tech workers, with a subset of 15 participating in in-depth interviews.

Study results highlight the distinct roles of self-enhancement, self-transcendence, and conservation values in explaining political attitudes and participation. Ideological orientations, however, emerged as the most substantive predictor of engagement. Professional tenure further reinforced participation through socialization processes, while gender gaps were evident in political participation. These findings underscore the heterogeneity of Israeli tech workers, highlighting the complex interplay of values, professional identity, and ideology in explaining their political engagement. The timing of the research, conducted in the aftermath of the Israel-Hamas war, poses limitations due to the societal and political impacts of the war, which shifted political priorities and disrupted the protest movement's momentum.