

Abstract

Groups influencing policy makers is nothing new. Interest groups have been lobbying and influencing governments for millennia. Therefore, grasping how lobbying groups influence the political agenda is imperative for understanding democracy and representation in general. The goal of this thesis is to discuss public interest lobbying in Israel—lobbying carried out by third sector organizations. This includes all non-profit organizations and NGOs—any organization claiming to represent the voice of the people. It may include think-tanks, social welfare organizations, educational institutions, etc. This paper aims to answer two questions:

- 1) What was the institutional logic that underlined Israel's regulation of lobbying?
- 2) What were the practical consequences of this institutional logic?

This research will address how Israeli legislators view lobbying and how that impacted the shift following the 2008 law. Not only are the results themselves impressive, but Israeli law's theoretical framework for lobbying will be used to explain the lack of legislative oversight on third sector lobbying and the significance of that lack of oversight.

This paper is not designed to limit or disregard any of the important work non-profits do in Israel nor does it aim to besmirch traditional lobbyists. Rather, it aims to shed light on an almost never-researched arena. It will be the first of its kind in Israel, and it aims to highlight that a new unregulated sub-industry has been created due to the 2008 law: third sector lobbying.