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'SHARED VALUES': HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN ISRAEL AND THE U.S.



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A201, Collins CenterUCLA Anderson School of Management

In the wake of the global financial crisis, and the related historically-low interest rates, the Israeli housing market moved from a long period of malaise to a period of boom. During the last ten years, home values in Israel rose by over 120% while income only increased by about 45%. Housing became less affordable. Although concern about housing affordability has long been on the agendas of governments and policymakers around the world, in Israel it became particularly acute following the social protests that flooded the streets of Tel Aviv in the summer of 2011. The protests demanded that the Israeli government make available a supply of housing at affordable prices.

Unlike Israel, the American housing market experienced a boom prior to 2007 and a bust following the crisis. Nevertheless, since 2011 the U.S. shares the upward trend of home values with Israel. Consequentially, the attention on housing affordability is growing, especially in coastal cities such as Los Angeles.

My research at UCLA focuses on housing affordability in these two countries. In this presentation we will explore housing affordability issues in major cities in the U.S. and in Israel. We will confront questions such as; how housing affordability should be measured, how current housing affordability compares to prior time periods, which social groups struggle the most with increasing home values, and discuss the similarities of these two countries from the housing affordability point of view.









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