

## **People with Disabilities and the Israeli Welfare State: The Case of Relief Work**

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Disabled people and, more broadly, disability, have rarely been the foci of research examining the historical development of the Israeli welfare state. By analysing the case of relief work (*avodot d'hak*), this paper seeks to address this empirical and theoretical gap and to underscore that, similar to other categories such as gender and ethnicity, an understanding of the Israeli welfare state cannot be complete without a reference to the role of disabled people in it. More specifically, by implementing a social perspective of disability, the present study seeks to highlight ways in which the disability category has become an effective tool in allocating resources and protection under the relief work system.

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