

Learning from the East **Mizrahi Culture, Education, and Tikun Olam**

Nissim Avissar

What is Mizrahi identity? Is the current Mizrahi discourse beneficial to Israeli society, or is it unnecessary and harmful? How do Mizrahi teachers and students experience educational processes? What can we learn from their experiences? Is there any value to formulating principles of "Mizrahi education"? These are some of the questions with which *Learning from the East: Mizrahi Culture, Education, and Tikun Olam* seeks to grapple.

The book deals with a charged, controversial, public sphere, set in the overlapping spaces between the educational and social realms. It sets out to change the current situation in which there are considerable disparities between ethnic groups, and are seen in education and higher education, salaries, and health. The book offers an updated educational concept, in line with Israeli zeitgeist, and characterized by a variety of ties to the Mizrahi perspectives in Israel. This educational concept aims at narrowing educational gaps, enhancing the Israeli education system, and contributing to all students. In doing so, it can also contribute to creating a just, equal society, and be part of a greater social reform.

Nissim Avissar, PhD, is a clinical-social psychologist and a qualitative researcher. His writings and studies focus on the interplay between human development and politics – broadly defined – as power relationships between individuals and groups. Avissar trains educators and therapists, and is a lecturer at the Kibbutzim College of Education and at the School of Psychology at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya.