

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 13:15
Department of Man in the Desert Seminar Room

ES Seminar

"The Desert Experience: Using Walking-Focusing Interviews to Assess the Cultural Ecosystem Services of Drylands"

Dr. Yael Teff-Seker



The assessment of the cultural ecosystem services (CES) is inherently difficult. Monetary assessments and other quantitative methods provide some information as to the value of these services, but they lack the ability to represent services that are difficult and maybe even impossible to quantify. Qualitative methodologies have attempted to add another dimension to CES assessments, focusing on stakeholder attitudes, perceptions and preferences. The current methodology, walking interviews and *focusing*, attempts to give further insight into the holistic experiences of nature. We walked with participants in the Negev desert and asked them to focus on the various aspects of their experience. Findings indicate that a broader definition of CES, including abiotic landscape features, is recommended for dryland CES valuation.



Yael Teff-Seker is a post-doctoral fellow at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion, Haifa. Her research is hosted by Prof. Daniel Orenstein.