

**Between Privatization and Individualism:  
Political Transformations and their Tortious Counterparts**

**Yifat Bitton & Liron Kanety**

This article explores the process in which tort law has become a tool for advancing social change, using the political science perspective. The authors' contention is that this legal process resonated with another process that has taken place in political participation practices in democratic regimes, whereby civilians have abandoned traditional partisan activities and presented individualistic manners of political participation as a means of challenging existing social structures. The article portrays and analyzes these paradigmatic shifts using political science theories. A specific focus is assigned to Israel, where individualistic virtues have taken over the country's original organizing premises, which were collectivity-oriented. The "privatization of political participation" process reached beyond the political sphere into the legal sphere, where the authors claim to identify the transformation of tort law as reflecting it and better understood by means of it. Their claim is supported by an analysis of tort law's main developments in the last forty years, as reflected in Tel Aviv University's Law Review as well as in other canonic Israeli legal resources. The authors point to similarities – roughly put – between the political shift towards individualism and the tortious shift toward social change functionalism. The broad and interdisciplinary overview that this article provides exemplifies the importance of exploring the Law and Society relations from the perspective of political science, an undertaking barely attempted in both disciplines. Furthermore, understanding the political background in which the process of turning tort law into a tool for social change unfolded contributes not only to a better understanding of it, but also to better establishment of its normative foundations.