

ABSTRACT

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Israeli Philanthropists in the 21st Century

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Abstract:

The empirical literature about philanthropy has been focused mainly on the United States, and to a lesser extent, Western Europe. Lacking extensive international and comparative research, this empirical study is a step towards filling the gap by characterizing the profile of Israeli philanthropists in the 21st century. The empirical approach relies on a unique panel dataset of 152,731 tax itemizer philanthropists from 1999 to 2011, representing the entire population of all donors who claimed tax credit in Israel during these years. Using a longitudinal multivariate regression analysis of philanthropic activity, I uncover the characteristics of Israeli philanthropists and identify the characteristics that are linked to the amount donated, the generosity of the donors, and the persistence and likelihood to donate. Controlling for a multitude of relevant explanatory, economic, socio-demographic, and other unique factors in Israeli society, allows me to distinguish variations and to identify and quantify trends and patterns in giving.

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