**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:**  **Impact and Needs Study**

**Research on Initial Impact and Needs of Encounter’s Israeli Leadership Network**

**The Research Question:**

Encounter seeks experienced researcher(s) to conduct an initial impact study on the nearly 300 Israeli civil society leaders who have participated in Encounter’s Intensive Leadership Seminars since 2019. The focus of the study is to understand how participation in Encounter’s programming has affected participants’ understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian reality and their leadership on these issues.

In particular, Encounter leadership seeks to learn and better understand the initial impact of our investment in and engagement with these Israelis: How has Encounter impacted participants’ behavior, affective beliefs, and knowledge-base on the Israeli Palestinian reality? How has engagement with the program affected participants’ motivation and willingness to exercise leadership within their own communities on this issue? What are the factors, within the program or within the participants’ own contexts, that have enabled the exercise of leadership, and what are the factors that have inhibited the exercise of leadership? How can Encounter better meet participants’ needs in order to cultivate and catalyze leadership?

**About Encounter**:

Encounter is an educational organization founded in 2005, that seeks to catalyze and cultivate informed, courageous, and responsible Jewish leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian reality. Encounter’s educational programming brings diverse cohorts of Jewish leaders into the West Bank and East Jerusalem to meet firsthand with Palestinian civil society leaders.

**About our work with Israeli Leaders:**

While originally focused on American Jewish leaders, in 2019, Encounter launched our first pilot program for Jewish Israelis and adapted our signature Leadership Intensive Seminar for this audience. To date, Encounter has reached nearly 300 high-level Jewish Israeli leaders from diverse political, religious, professional and geographic sectors of society.

**Proposal Guidelines**

As stated above, we seek a researcher(s) with relevant expertise to design and execute a mixed methods research study exploring the initial impact of Encounter’s programming on individuals’ understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and their leadership on these issues.

Study may include:

* **Surveys**: Design and implement pre- and post-Intensive surveys to gauge perceptions of and attitudes towards the Israeli-Palestinians reality, and towards participants’ own leadership on the issue;
* **Ethnographic research**: Joining one or more of Encounter’s programs for Israeli Jewish leaders in an observer role;
* **Focus Groups:** Identify sub-sectors of the Network and conduct focus groups;
* **Interviews:** Identify sample interviewee size, design an interview protocol, conduct interviews.

**Findings and recommendations** must be presented in both Hebrew and English.

**Our Initial Key Questions**

* How are participants' understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian reality initially impacted by their participation in Encounter’s signature Intensive leadership program?
* How are participants’ beliefs, knowledge, and behavior impacted by the program?
* What drew participants to this program? To what extent were their expectations met?
* What aspects of the program had an impact on members?
* What do participants “do”with their experience after the initial program has concluded?
* How have participants exercised leadership on the issue?
* What were the enabling factors for the exercise of leadership?
* What were the inhibiting factors for the exercise of leadership?
* What are participants’ needs, to catalyze and support the exercise of leadership?

 **Minimum Qualifications**

* Fluency in Hebrew and English, spoken and written.
* Demonstrated experience conducting research and evaluation of immersive learning experiences (including references from prior clients).
* Advanced degree in a relevant social scientific field (education, psychology, social psychology, etc.) and methodological expertise
* Familiarity with theory and applied research of people-to-people programs in regions of conflict; specific knowledge of the Israeli-Palestinian context preferred.
* Strong preference for bi-cultural researcher/s that are deeply familiar with American Jewish and Israeli Jewish society, and the core issues and current trends in each.

**Project Timeline:**

September 2023- January 15 2024.
\*Please note Encounter’s offices are closed on major Jewish and American holidays.

**Language:** Proposal should be submitted as two separate PDF documents, one in English and one in Hebrew.

**Proposal Submission Deadline:** Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis until June 12, 2023 at 4pm EST.

**Submit to:** research@encounterprograms.org

**Include:** Budget, breakdown of hours, proposed methodology, rationale for how your proposal fits the requirements, and the unique perspective you bring. Proposals must be submitted in PDF format; no more than 4 pages maximum.

***No phone calls please. Please submit via the email listed above. Only finalists selected will be contacted. Thank you for your interest.***