

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 13:15
Department of Man in the Desert Seminar Room

ES Seminar

" Selection Strategies of Divorced Muslim Arab Women Seeking to Remarry"

Maysoon Raya
Ph.D Proposal presentation
supervised by Dr. Sarab Abu-Rabia-Queder



When divorced Arab women choose to remarry, they experience a paradox of double identity: In the public sphere, they are free to realize their development in terms of education and careers, but at the same time, they are relegated to an inferior status requiring social supervision that restricts their movements and their daily conduct. The idea of remarrying undermines the supervisory mechanisms that prohibit dating a man.

The [Arab] community looks upon a divorcee as a woman who does not know how to “keep her husband” and is also the cause of marriage dissolution and a “broken family.” Second marriages therefore present a challenge to social conventions. Divorced women therefore tend to avoid remarriage, instead pursuing values that society perceives more favorably.

This study will research the repressive mechanisms directed at divorced women, as well as their choice of strategies in life through the intersection of marginal positions.

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“Claiming citizenship rights: The meaning of activism among Bedouin women NGO leaders in the Naqab/Negev”

Gail Osman

*Ph.D Proposal presentation
supervised by Dr. Sarab Abu-Rabia-Queder and Prof. Pnina Motzafi-Haller*



Intersections of racialized and gendered processes have largely prevented the participation of Naqab (Negev) Bedouin women in the public sphere. As a result, they cannot fully access their (political, social, civil) citizenship rights. Leading a response to their marginalization, a small number of Naqab Bedouin women have established Bedouin women-led NGOs, or programs for Bedouin women housed in Jewish-Arab NGOs. The visible activism of these women NGO-leaders stands in contrast to their subaltern status. Yet, their multi-tiered experiences of citizenship (Yuval-Davis, 1998) have hardly been studied, even though their unique situation can help us understand how identity motivates political action among Middle Eastern women.

Through semi-structured interviews with 10-15 Bedouin women activist leaders, I seek to answer, “*How do Naqab Bedouin women claim their citizenship rights?*”. By unpacking intersections of identity as revealed in the activist leaders’ life stories, the study will provide knowledge about the activists’ strategies, motivations, challenges, and coping mechanisms as they attempt to rectify a range of injustices against Bedouin women, from deficient educational and economic opportunities, to polygamy and gender-based violence. Exploring their life stories will facilitate identification and categorization of activists into types, bringing to light how the claim to citizenship is bound by social and geo-political considerations.

