

## **Abstract:**

*This dissertation is an attempt to study the collective memory among Palestinian refugees forced to leave Beit-Jibreen village in the year 1948 and live now in Al-Fawwar refugee camp near Hebron and in Al-Azza refugee camp near Beit Lehem. The main Purpose of this study is to investigate the collective memory of three generations of refugees, starting with the first or the Nakbah generation through the sons generation to the grandchildren generation. Interviewed 60 refugees distributed equally among the three generations. An interview plan was constructed which included several themes including economic and social life as they were in the village before the Catastrophe, and the experience of the eviction and the destruction of the village, which was occupied in 1948.*

*The study deats mainly with the basic hypothesis which states: That transmitting the collective memory from generation to generation during the past 58 years has not been very successful. So the storage of the collective memory decreased obviously in the generation which followed the Catastrophe generation to reach the minimum among the third generation.*

*In addition to the Basic aim of the study as mentioned, the study aimed to measure the effect of some other independent variables such as education, gender, place of residence and any other variables which may appear during the interviews. The study also aimed to discover the ways and channels for transmitting the collective memory.*

*The results support the hypothesis and confirm it. All the interviews with the refugees revealed essential differences among the three generations in all aspects of the collective memory which are found in chapters three and four of this study. The fathers' generation (Catastrophe generation) are distinguished by a huge storage of collective memory compared with the other two generations. This storage included a large amount of stories, images and general information.*

*The memory contents of the second generation has decreased both in quality and quantity.*

*The contents of the third generation's memory has been vastly and significantly reduced.*

*The results also showed a significant influence of such variables as gender and education on the collective memory storage for the refugees. The place of residence has no influence on collective memory. Another variable which was not originally taken into consideration namely, clan affiliation turned out to have a strong influence on memory.*

*Finally the results revealed that oral narration was the central channel among other channels for transferring memory among refugees. In addition to the oral narration the result revealed folklore, visiting the village with the children, media, owning documents related to land ownership, and reading books about the demolished villages, are also significant factors in the preservation of the refugees' collective memory.*