

Abstract:

The Palestinian narrative of the Nakba is one of the longest stories of a society's dispossession, occupation and refuge. Since the Nakba, Palestinians have not been able to return to their lands, establish a sovereign state, and most importantly have not been able to put closure to their narrative. Because the weight of the Nakba is reflected in Palestinians daily lives whether from village demolitions, land grabbing, suppression, imprisonment and on-going Israeli onslaughts. The on-going nature of the Israeli occupation and encroachment of Palestine is leading to the on-going nature of the Nakba, which in turn leads to the continuation of the Palestinian narrative.

In my study I intend to analyze the oral testimonies of first, second and third generations of Palestinian refugees in order to examine why the Palestinian narrative of the Nakba does not have an end. In the process of storytelling I will explore the collective memory of the Nakba and the intergenerational transmission of the stories of the Nakba and subsequent traumas. This study is based on ethnographic fieldwork carried out from October 2011 to July 2012, in Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, Qalandia refugee camp, Ramallah and in areas near Ramallah.

The first chapter of this thesis discusses the official Palestinian narrative of the Nakba, with emphasis on the role of the PLO since the 1960s, in addition to the role of Palestinian intellectuals in the formation of this kind of narrative. I will also examine the commemorations of the Nakba and how within commemorative festivals PA tends to impose its semi-official narrative. Chapter two explores the narrative of first generation refugees, chapter three sheds light on the stories of their children, and finally chapter four discusses the narratives of their grandchildren-third generation refugees. The methodology of interviewing three generations refugees was to uncover the different phases of the Nakba and its impact on the Palestinian narrative itself which remains without an end. In my research I've concluded that there are many obstacles leading to the on-going of the Palestinian narrative such as the on-going Israeli invasions, not implementing the right of return, the division between Gaza and the West Bank, the on-going of the Palestinian refugee problem and other factors which will be revealed throughout this study.