

An-Nakba¹ and the Middle East conflict:

The collective memory, influential discourses and transgenerational consequences

The aim of this research study is to analyze the familial and life-historical consequences of An-Nakba and the other following collective historical occurrences of the cruel Middle East conflict (until the second intifada² in 2000) for Palestinians actual situation in the West Bank, by consideration of the formation and modification in the familial and collective memory at the level of its interaction with the influential discourses in this geographical area. Therefore, the empirical data should be the familial and life historical case-studies.

The study focus will be the family- and life- histories of the refugees and established (non refugees), which will be collected by biographical and narrative interviews (cf. Rosenthal 1995). The sample interviews selection will take in consideration the transgenerational aspects. The first generation should be born no later then 1938 and the grandchildren generation should be at least 18 years old at the interview´s time.

According to the proposed plan a contrastive comparison of tow groups will be conducted: on one hand, the Palestinian refugees community (Muslims and Christians) and on the other hand, the community of those who lived already in the West Bank at the time of 1948 (established Muslims and Christians).

The question of the unequal balance of power between those two groups should be followed up to figure out if that involves, in terms of Norbert Elias (1993), an established and outsider grouping or not, and if yes, what are the characteristics of that established-outsider figuration.

The focus will be on clarifying the dynamics of the established-outsider relationship as well as the variations of this relationship type. In addition to that the discourses about historical events or precise historical narratives and their meaning for both communities or generally for the Palestinian society, should be reconstructed.

¹ An-Nakba means literally disaster, catastrophe, or ctaclysm. In the Arabic discourses known An-Nakba as the Palestinian exodus between the years 1947-1948. Through the war of 1948 turned approximately 725.00 Palestinians to refugees without land, property and status.

² Intifada: literally 'shaking off'