Becoming Refugees

Centering the Experiences of Women from Iraq and Syria in Jordan, Germany and the USA with Dr. Isis Nusair



Dr. Isis Nusair, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies & International Studies at Denison University.

This presentation is based on over two decades of research with women refugees from Iraq and Syria in Jordan, Germany, and the USA. It emphasizes the need for critical perspectives that challenge refugee objectification and marginalization. Through employing a feminist, decolonial and intersectional analysis that centers refugee stories, I analyze the context in which these experiences emerge and their everyday acts of resistance and survival. I trace different refugee experiences, the way they depict forms of gendered violence enacted on their bodies, and the personal and political connections they make between narrating and resisting, telling, and acting. The focus is on narratives as a mode of centering refugee agency, criticality, and survival, and how they challenge local, regional, and international systems that see refugees only through a lens of precarity and gratitude. I map how refugees continued to move between these borders and across these continuums of violence and forced displacement, how they were constantly negotiating and redefining the meaning of both "refuge" and "border", and how their gendered and racialized bodies constitute the site for this negotiation.

Date and Time

Thurs Nov 5, 12:45-2:05

Location

Journalism Building, Room 251

242 W. 18th Ave

This talk is part of the Multi-Ethnic Cultural Reproductions in the Middle East (MCRME) Project

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