

# **Social Representations of the self and homeland among young Palestinian refugees**

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2012**



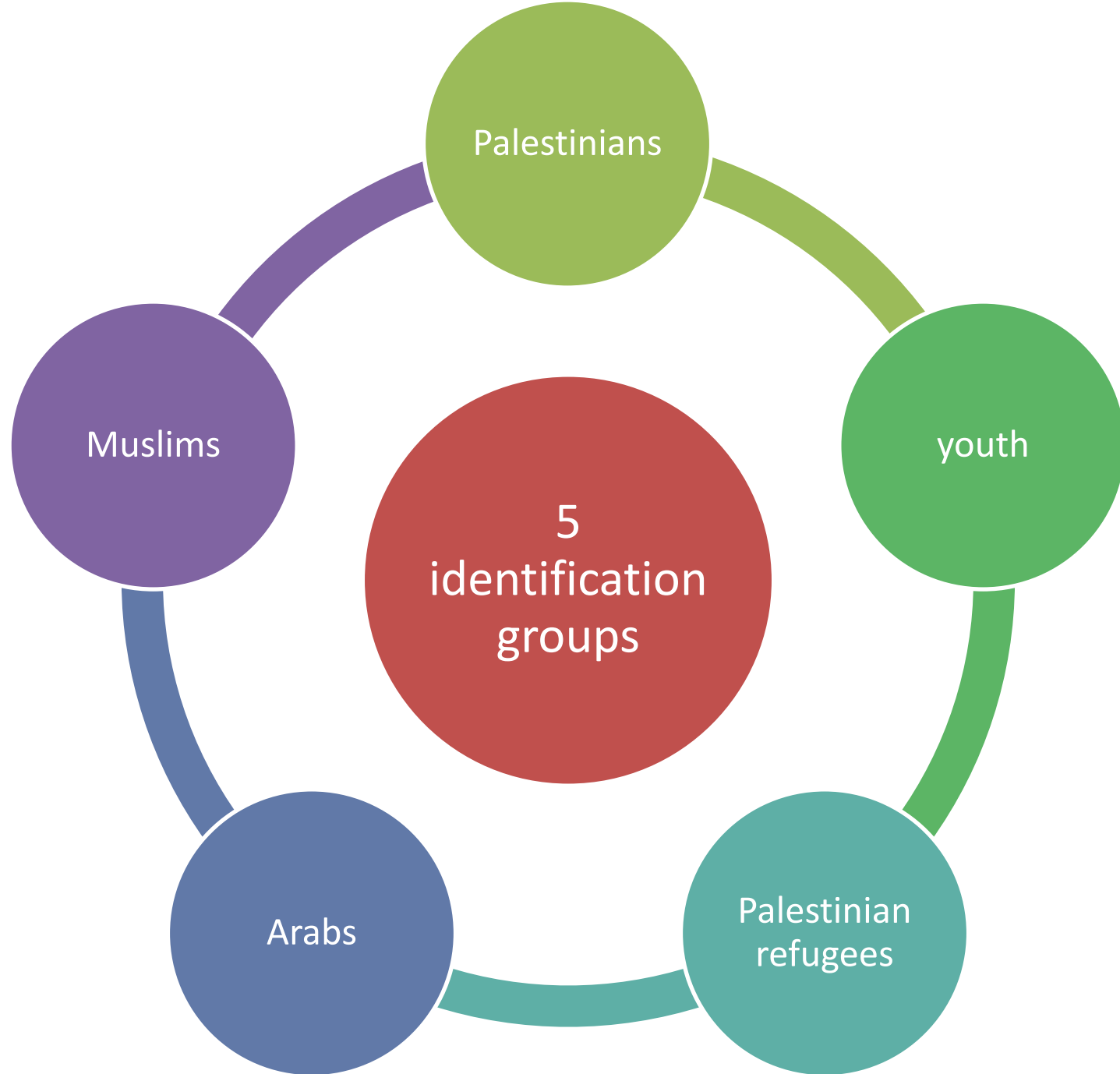
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Prof. Fabio Lorenzi Cioldi**



## Research statement and Question/s:

- Social Identity Complexity (Roccas & Brewer, 2002)
- A refugee's social identity is not merely being a refugee.





## This complexity leads to our Research Questions:

1. What are the social representations of a homeland for a young Palestinian refugee?
2. What is the most salient facet of their social identity? And what is the hierarchy of the 5 different social groups from the most salient to the least salient?
3. What are the emotions young refugees have in relation to each of the 5 social groups they may evoke as salient, when considering their social identity complexity?
4. Do the social representations of homeland among young Palestinian refugees change when the host community changes, whether it was Jordan or Lebanon?



# Study Objective:

to explore the social representations of homeland and self identification in different social groups among young Palestinian refugees, as they are exposed to a **manipulation**.

moreover, we want to detect the differences of their social representations of homeland according to the produced emotions as members of different social groups.



## Participants:

- Age: 15-18
- Living in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon.
- attending the UNRWA schools (only for refugee children)
- Born to refugee families in Diaspora
- Never been to their homeland (Palestine)

200 young Palestinian refugees, distributed as:

- 50 males in Jordan
- 50 females in Jordan
- 50 males in Lebanon
- 50 females in Lebanon

15/5/2011 march to Palestine



# TOOLS:

## 1. 20 Statement Test (Cousins, 1989).

*In the twenty blanks below please make twenty different statements in response to the simple question (addressed to yourself), "Who Am I?" Answer as if you are giving the answers to yourself, not to somebody else. Write your answers in the order they occur to you. Don't worry about logic or importance. Go along fairly fast.*

## 2. Differential emotion scale (as an individual)- 12 items

(angry, satisfied, afraid, hopeful, proud, disgusted, un-easy, happy, grateful, guilty, respectful, and irritated)

## 3. Three Factor Test: In-group Affect/ In-group Ties/ Centrality (cameron, 2004)

4. Differential Emotion Scale (as a member of a group)

5. Tell us about yourself (McGuire)

6. Tell us what you are not

7. Free associations of the stimulus  
“homeland”



# Procedures

(The data was collected at the  
UNRWA's Schools in Jordan)

UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) provides assistance, protection and advocacy for some 5 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory, pending a solution to their plight.

Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees.

The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950.



## Meetings with the UNRWA's Head Quarters in Amman, Jordan

- The Deputy Chief, field education program of the unrwa.
- The Areas Education Officers in the camps.



# Pilot Study



50 questionnaires



Gender balanced



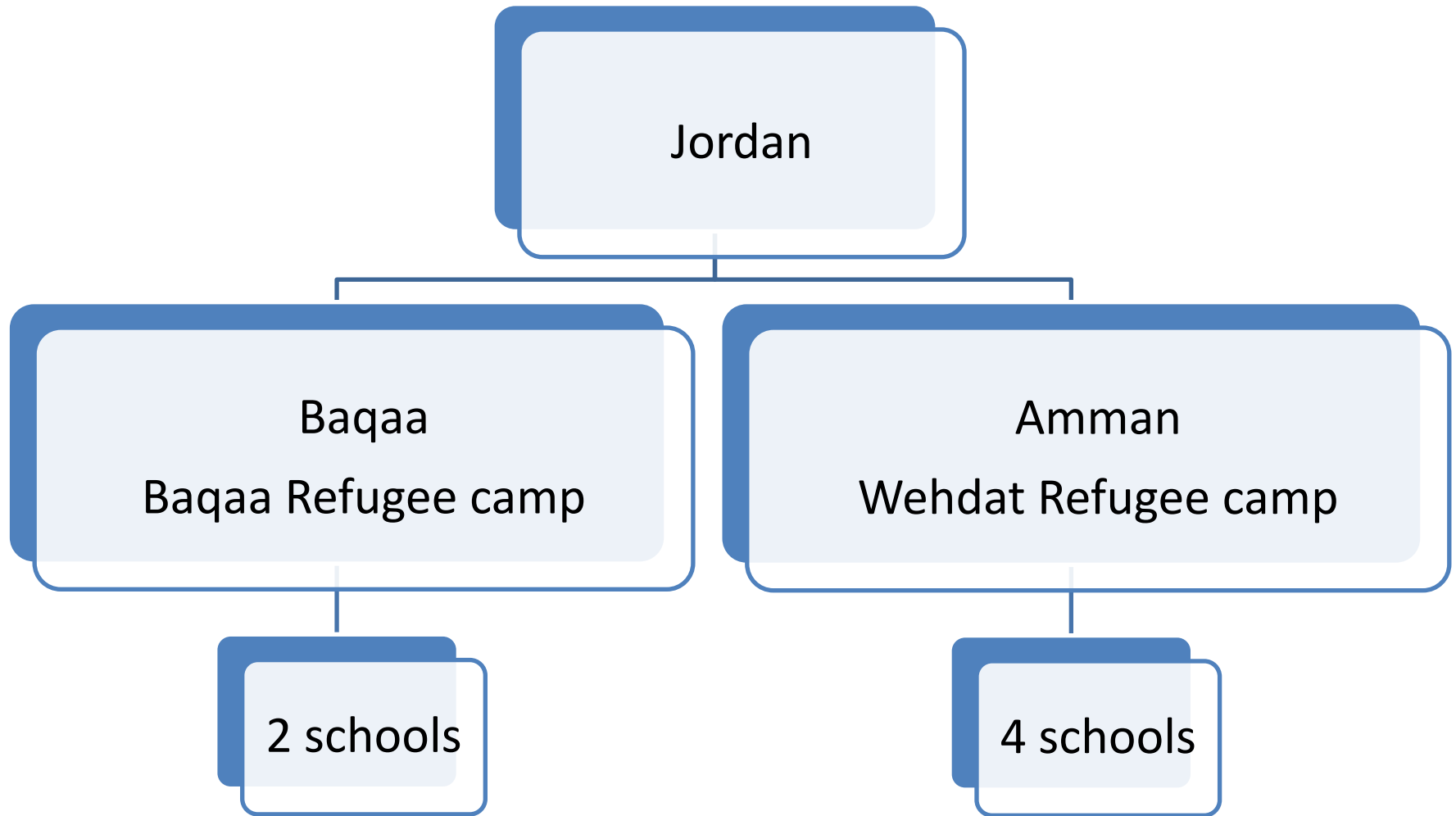
2 schools at  
Wehdat refugee  
camp in Amman



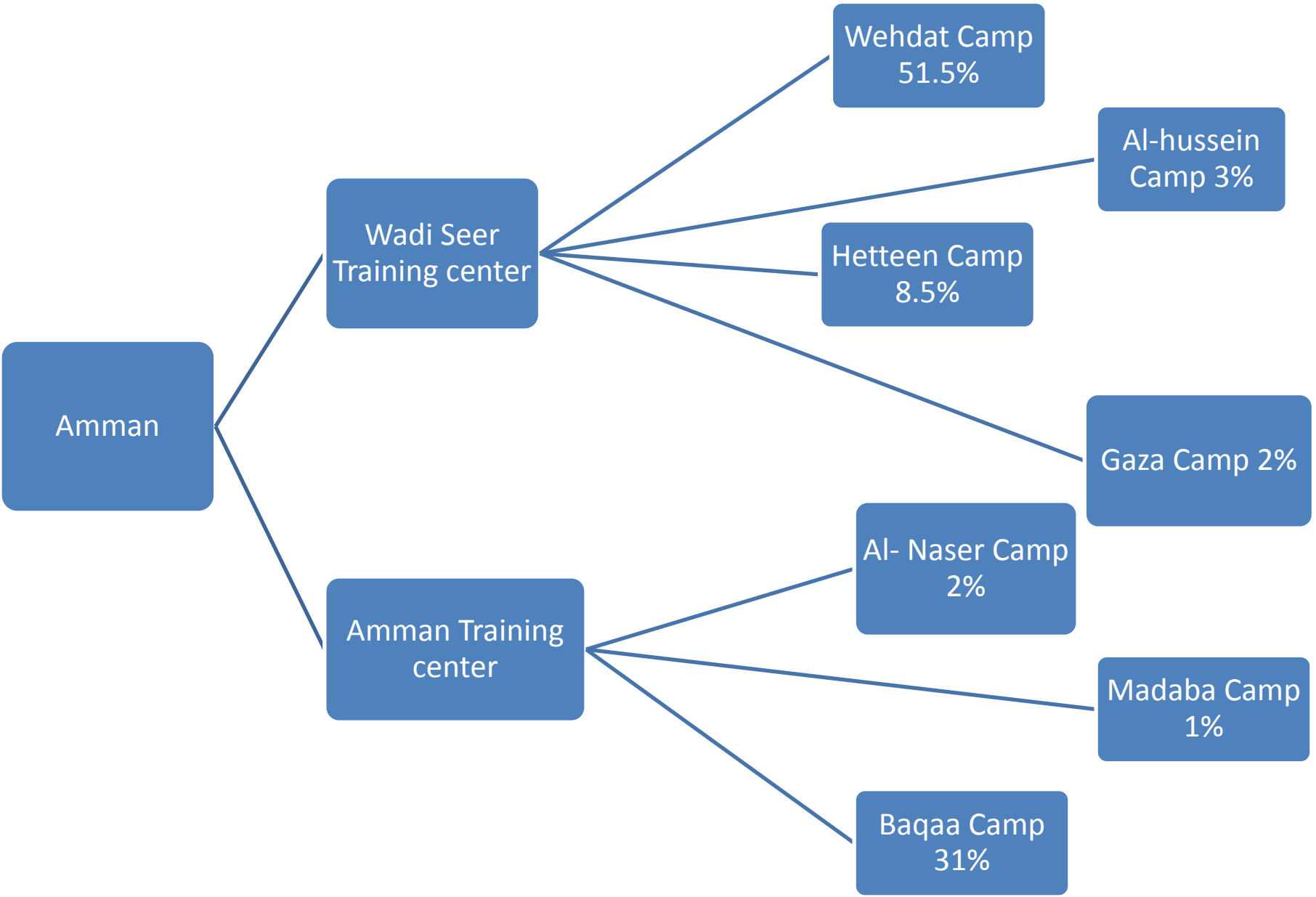
# The pilot study resulted in the following changes:

- The elimination of one of the identification groups (Refugee like the rest of the refugees in the world), and the addition of (Muslim) as a group which the participants highly identified with.
- The necessity of the researcher's presence and guidance through the filling of the questionnaire.
- The sittings of the participants.

# Data Collection at Schools



# Data collection at colleges



# The universe of the research

SEX		
	Frequency	Percent
Female	100	50.0
Male	100	50.0
Total	200	100%

AGE		
	frequency	Percent
15	45	22.5
16	55	27.5
17	50	25
18	50	25
total	200	100



## Participants Place of Birth

	Frequency	Percent
Jordan	187	93.5
Other	9	4.5
Missing	4	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	200	100%

**NONE of our participants was born in Palestine**

## Parent's Birth Place

	Frequency	Percent
Palestine	127	31.75
<b>Jordan</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>52.75</b>
Other	15	3.75
Missing/ don't know	47	11.75
Total	400	100%
	(200 mothers/ 200	

**56.5% of our participants parents' were born out of Palestine. And 31.75% were born in Palestine**

# Baqaa Palestinian Refugee camp



# Amman New camp (Wehdat)



# Amman

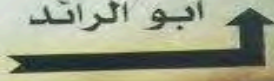








مخيمته ونوفوتيه  
أبو الرائد



أبو الرائد

مخيمته ونوفوتيه

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# Amman





مکتبہ اسلامیہ

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مکتبہ اسلامیہ







٧٩٥٧٦٦٢١  
مكتبة ابو حميد  
نسخ سريع قسطاسيه العباد

دواجن الرحمة













# Amman















# THE SCHOOLS















The logo of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is a light blue watermark in the background. It features a globe with a grid of latitude and longitude lines, surrounded by a wreath of olive branches. The word "UNRWA" is written in large, light blue capital letters at the bottom of the image.

# COLLEGES

Vocational colleges

Training centers

UNRWA



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND  
WORKS AGENCY FOR  
PALESTINE REFUGEES  
WADI SEER TRAINING CENTER



وكالة الأمم المتحدة  
لإغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين  
الفلسطينيين  
كلية وادي السير

5

لطفاً  
قف للتفتيش  
Please Stop  
Auto Inspection

من المؤسسة  
WADI SEER TRAINING CENTER





لطفًا  
الرجاء  
التوقف  
للمرجعة  
Person  
Stop  
For  
Inspection













# SYMBOLS

(iconic images)







# Palestinian refugee camps



## WHITE RIDGE REFUGEE CAMP PROFILE

Profile of the White Ridge refugee camp, including details on its location, population, and the challenges faced by its residents.

## JORDAN REFUGEE CAMP PROFILE

Profile of the Jordan refugee camp, detailing its history, current status, and the needs of the refugee community.

## WHERE ARE THE REFUGEE CENTS?

An informational section discussing the distribution and impact of refugee aid, with a focus on the challenges of reaching those in need.

## MEMORIES...

## REFUGEE

## WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES: MEMORIES

A section dedicated to the experiences and contributions of women in the refugee camps, featuring personal stories and photographs.



## AL-KHAYMA CAMP

Informational text block about the Al-Khayma refugee camp, including its location and the challenges faced by its residents.

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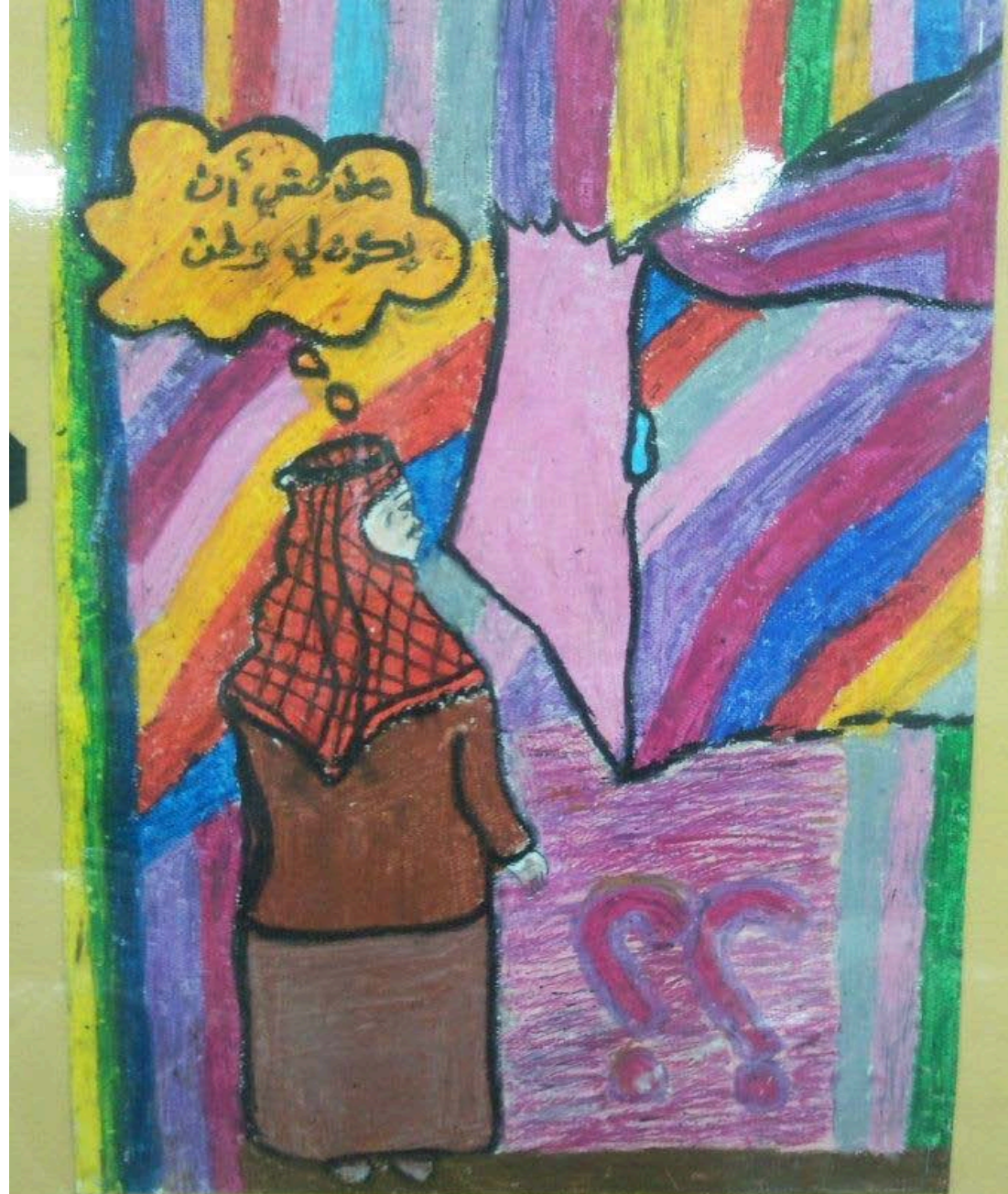




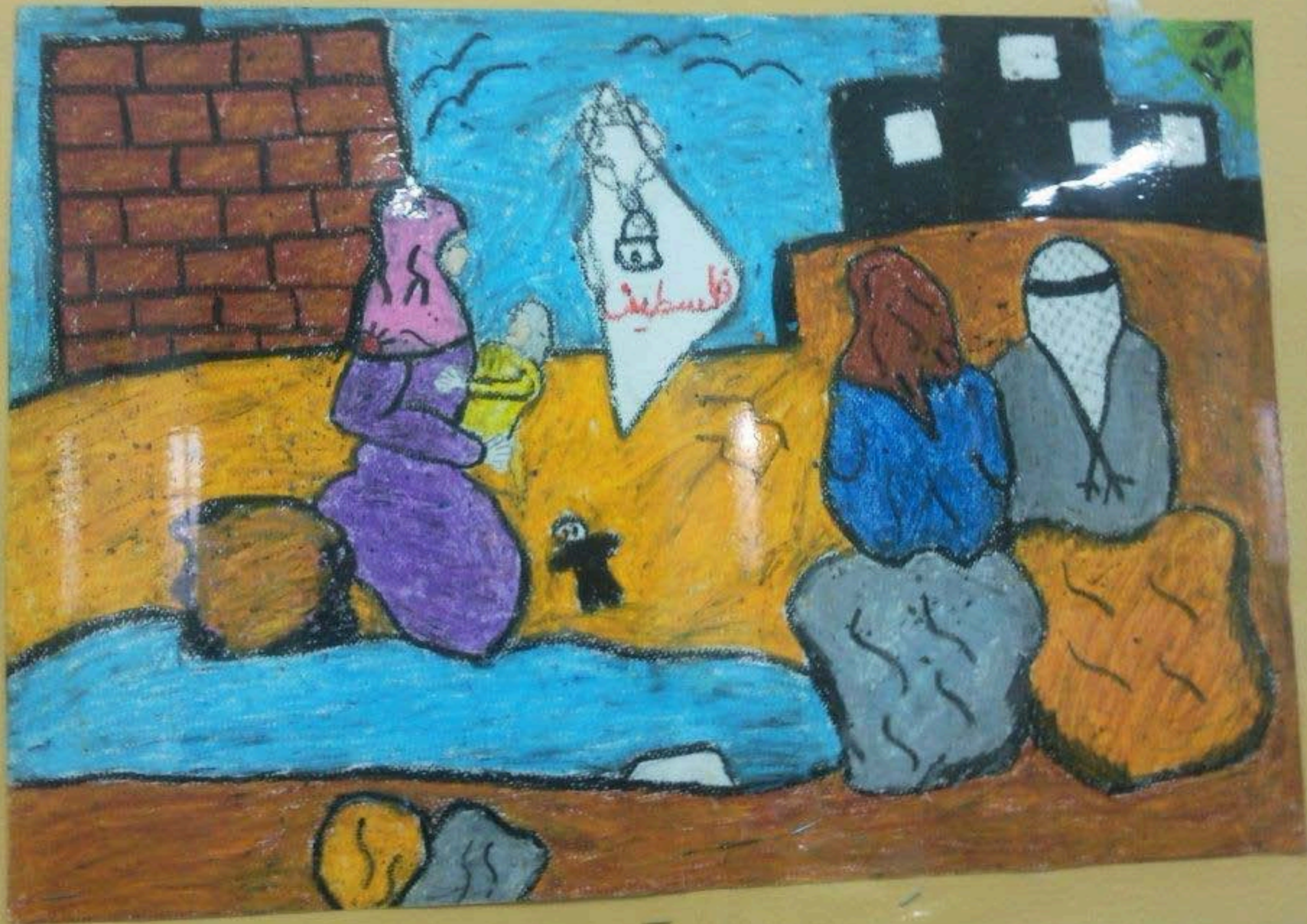


Drawing at one of the schools in wehdat camp, Amman.

“its my  
right to  
have a  
homeland”









# “60 years, 1948”

Drawing at the  
entrance of the  
school in Baqaa  
Refugee Camp,  
Jordan.



**Student's locker at  
wadi seer training  
center, Amman**

- “ we will NOT recognize the state of Israel”
- Handala: a symbol of a refugee child.





At The UNRWA's  
administrative  
compound, Wehdat  
camp, Amman

“ We  
Shall  
Return”



The Participants filling the  
questionnaires

# Pilot study at wehdat camp, Amman

























# Preliminary Results

## WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I Am From	Frequency	Percent
<b>Palestine</b>	69	34.5
<b>Name of the exact Place of origin (city/village) in Palestine</b>	93	46.5
Host Country (Jordan)	18	9
Name of the Refugee camp	16	8
missing	4	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	200	100%

**81% of the participants mentioned Palestine (or places in Palestine) as the place where they come from.**



## In Which year did your family move to Jordan?

year	Frequency	Percent
1948	73	36.5
1967	20	10
<b>I don't know</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>42</b>
Other	11	5.5
missing	12	6
Total	200	100%

46.5% of our participants mentioned the years of 1967 and 1948 which are the years of the 2 wars that resulted in the waves of refugees.

42% of our participants didn't know in which year their families moved to Jordan.

## Why did your family moved to Jordan?

Reason	Frequency	Percent
<b>Nakba/ Naksa</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>84</b>
Work	7	3.5
Study	1	0.5
Other	17	8.5
missing	7	3.5
TOTAL	200	100%

Here we find that 84% of our participants mentioned the Nakba in 1948, and the Naksa in 1967 as the reason behind their families moving to Jordan.



NATIONALITY		
	Frequency	Percent
Jordanian	147	73.5
<b>Palestinian</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>24.5</b>
missing	4	2
TOTAL	200	100%

ALL our participants are citizens in Jordan and granted the Jordanian nationality, yet we find that 24.5% of our participants chose “Palestinian” as their nationality.

# The codes generally used by Researchers to Code the TST:

- A. Physical. References to observable, physical attributes of self, which do not imply social interaction, such as the information one finds on a driver's license (e.g., "18 years old," "5'7" tall").
- B. Social. References to social role, institutional membership, or other socially defined status (e.g., "a college student," "a ballerina").
- C. Attributive. References to self as a situation-free agent characterized by personal styles of acting, feeling, and thinking (e.g. "friendly," "moody," "ambitious").
- D. Global. Self-references that are very comprehensive or vague as to transcend social role and social interaction, and which therefore do not convey individual characteristics of the respondent (e.g., "a human being," "an organic form").



# Some of our Coding Categories:

(in addition to the generally used categories)

- The 5 Identification Groups
- State of refugeeeness
- I am from Palestine or the exact place in Palestine.
- Return to Palestine
- Emotions related to Palestine, being Palestinian, and Palestinian people
- Living in Jordan/ holder of a Jordanian passport
- Palestine freedom
- Resistance (passive, constructive, armed)
- Human rights
- Occupation, and wrong doings by Israel.
- Negation.
- Counter factual
- Comparisons

# Examples of the participants statements

(3150 statements collected)

# State of Refugeeness

*“Every child is born in their homeland, except for a Palestinian; they are born with Palestine within them.”*

*“I am someone who doesn’t live in their homeland, but in a refuge country.”*

*“I was born in Amman, away from my dear homeland which I’ve never visited.”*

*“I am expelled from my land”*



# Return to Palestine

*“I want to see my land Palestine, I wish to smell the soil of my land.”*

*“I wish to play in the streets of Palestine before I grow up.”*

*“I wish I could pray at Al-Aqsa”*

*“I want to see my homeland for once before I die.”*

*“My only wish is to Return to Palestine”*

*“I want to die in Palestine”*

*“I want to drink the water of my country”*

# Resistance

➤ Passive resistance:

*“I wish I could do something to defend Palestine”*

➤ Constructive resistance:

*“I have to study to liberate Palestine”*

*“I want to produce a film about Palestine and my refugee camp”*

*“I want to be a successful person to help my homeland”*

➤ Armed resistance:

*“I would like to be involved in a revolution against the occupiers”*

## Narratives: (Family & Media)

*“My grandmother tells me about Palestine”*

*“I asked my mother why aren’t we living in Palestine?”*

*“I will tell my children in the future about Palestine and not to forget it.”*

*“I hear about Palestine from the TV news, and see pictures of it.”*



# Positive Emotions related to Palestine and being Palestinian

*“I love the soil of Palestine”*

*“I love Palestine”*

*“I am proud I am Palestinian”*

*“I couldn't be anything but  
Palestinian”*

Occupation and consequences related  
(martyrs, prisoners..etc)

*“I do not like to see my brothers in Palestine being killed on a daily basis.”*

*“I am from a country which has been stolen and destroyed.”*

*“I wish I could smell the air of Palestine without the smell of weapons.”*

*“They want to destroy al aqsa”*

# Remembering the wrong doings by Israel

*“Jews occupied my land”*

*“The Israelis caused a lot of suffering to my family, and forced them to leave.”*



## Comparison with the people of the world (peaceful zones)

*“I’m just like other people, I should be having a homeland.”*

*“I am not like the other children, I never had a country”*

*“I am deprived from the basic rights that people of the world have”*

*“I wish to be like other human beings in everything”*

## Host country Related

*“I am happy to be living in a stable secured country”*

*“I like Jordan because I have been living in it since I was born”*

*“I am not comfortable here, it is not my homeland”*

*“I do not have the right to study at the public universities. And my father cannot get a job at the public offices”*

Examples from (tell us what you are NOT)

*“I didn’t sell my land”*

*“I am not Jordanian”*

*“I will never forget Palestine.”*

*“I don’t like to be but Palestinian.”*

*“I am not a citizen”*



*“I don’t have homeland”*

*“I don’t have the right to return to my homeland”*

*“I cannot go back to Palestine”*

*“I don’t want to be without homeland”*

## COUNTER FACTUAL

*“I have Jordanian passport but I am Palestinian”*

*“I am Palestinian but I do not have Palestinian passport”*

*“I live in Jordan but I would’ve liked to live in Palestine”*

*“I am Palestinian but I don’t live in my homeland”*

*“I am not Jordanian but I live in Jordan”*

*“I love Palestine but I cannot go there”*

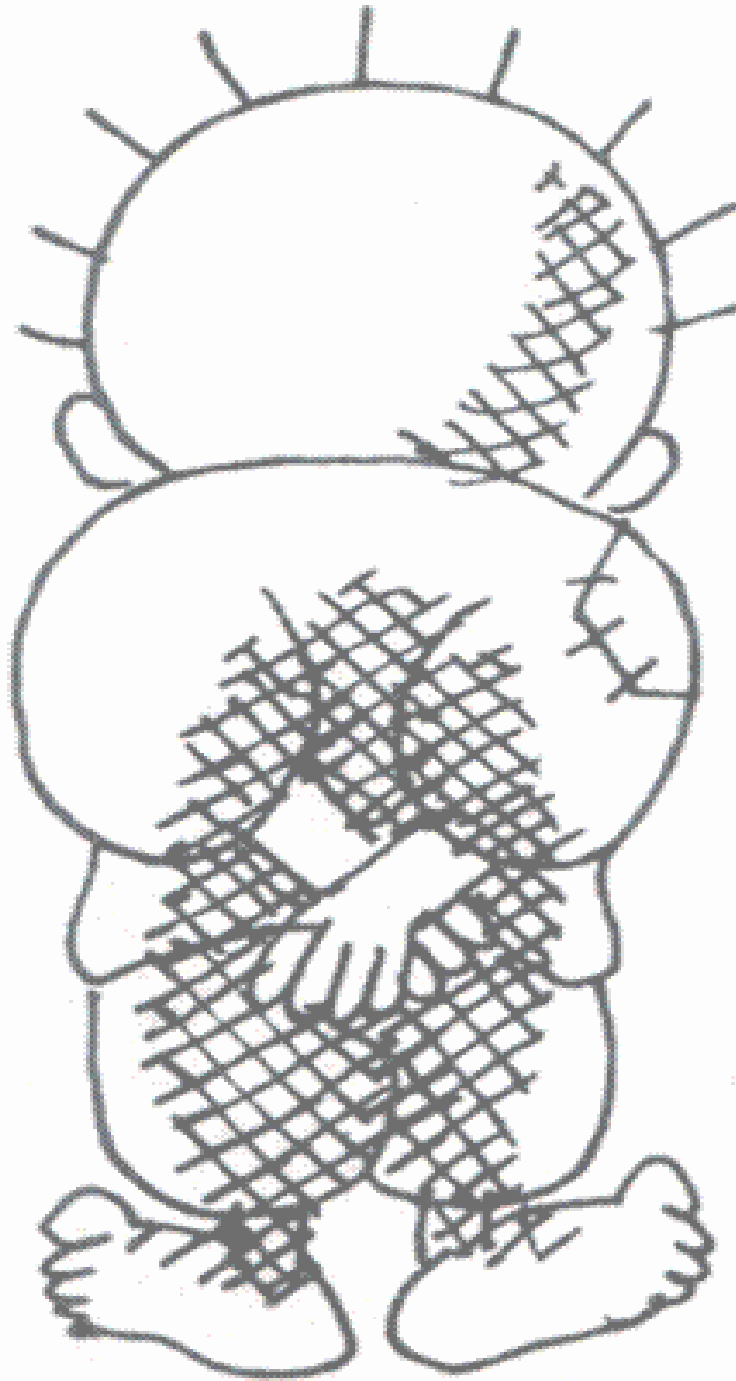
*“I am safe in Jordan but I am worried about the children in Palestine”*

*“I live in a country which is not my homeland, but I will never forget my homeland”*



Thank

You



NEXT STEPS  
& FUTURE  
PLANS