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# CONGRESS

Middle East and Muslim Worlds  
Studies

28 June - 2 July 2021



## Panel 3

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### Young people, Youths and Migrations

Time of youths and time of migration corresponds both to a set of passages in people's lives. The passage can be spatial, temporal, or of status (symbolical, juridical, or other). This panel will focus on young people who have experienced voluntary or forced migration (even though the line between both categories is extremely porous) or the condition of being migrants. More specifically, it will question what migration does to young people and what young people due to migration. Most often, the time of youth is correlated with a period of self-formation. It is also a time for future projections (related to individual and collective imaginaries) which are not necessarily based on concrete situations. How do the times of youth and the times of migrations intersect, entangle and intertwine?

Based on the experiences of Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese young women and men who currently live in Lebanon, Turkey, or the United Arab Emirates, we will focus on the way migration is perceived and lived by people. We will question their trajectories and their daily lives in their current places of residence. What kind of relationships do people forge during their migrations? How do such ties influence their opportunities, trajectories, aspirations and plans? How do these migrations transform young people's roles and bonds within their family?

Migration will be considered both as an escape route and a possibility of being young through/thanks to migration, but also as an obstacle to youth.

**People in charge : Abou Zaki Hala C. (CENDEP/Oxford Brookes University) & Gasparotto Mariangela (IRIS/IFEA)**

#### Program

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#### **Abou Zaki Hala C. (CENDEP/Oxford Brookes University) & Gasparotto Mariangela (IRIS/IFEA)**

*Reflecting on Young People and Youth through Migrations. Reflecting on Migrations through Young People and Youth.*

In this presentation, we will introduce the panel and discuss the existing research on the issue of young people and migrations in the Middle East.

#### **Abou Zaki Hala C. (CENDEP/Oxford Brookes University)**

*From Syria to Lebanon: Trajectories, Family Positions and Roles of Young Palestinians and Syrians*

This presentation deals with the trajectories of young women and men from Syria (Palestinians and Syrians) who have taken refuge in Lebanon in the past decade, alone or with their family. It explores how forced migration has changed representations of self, age and family. I will first question the effects of forced migration on the life course of young people. Then, I will focus on how their role and the power relations within their families have changed through migration: for example throughout the attribution

of new material or symbolic responsibilities; a shift of power relations in terms of generation or gender, or even a redefinition of ties and relations within their sibling group.

### **Assaf Laure (New York University Abu Dhabi)**

#### *Becoming a Migrant in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)*

In Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), foreign residents make up 88% of the population. While some are part of the second or third generation to have settled in the country, the absence of naturalization policies and permanent residency maintains these foreign residents in a temporary status. This paper explores the daily lives and aspirations of young adults of diverse Arab nationalities who grew up in Abu Dhabi in the 1980s and 1990s. These young Arabs grew up relatively close to their Emirati counterparts: they share a similar language, cultural references, and often went to the same schools where they were part of common friend groups. However, the current political and economic context, marked by the preparation of the post-oil era and the “Emiratisation” of the workforce, generates increasing divisions between citizens and non-citizens. These divisions are particularly enforced at crucial moments in these young adults’ trajectories - when pursuing higher education and, especially, upon entering the labor market. For the Arab youths of Abu Dhabi, coming of age is thus often accompanied by the brutal realization of one’s status as a temporary migrant, in a city they considered home.

### **Gasparotto Mariangela (IRIS/IFEA)**

#### *Aspirations and Dreams of Palestinians in Istanbul*

While Syrian, Egyptian and Iraqi migrations in Turkey have caught media and academic attention, Palestinian ones remain to be considered, despite the rapid increase of this population in the city: in 2000, Palestinians numbered 207; in 2018, they reached 15,749, and in 2019, 21,457. More generally, this topic is largely under-studied in Turkey so far, even though it constitutes nowadays one of the major destinations for Palestinians. Starting from young’s imaginaries linked to Istanbul, I will describe and analyze their daily lives, and especially their appropriations in the city as well as reactions that such migrations provoke to the Turkish population.

### **Puig Nicolas (URMIS/IRD)**

#### *Exile and Music in the Middle East*

This contribution will focus on the influence of exile on musical practice and creation, based on biographies of young Syrian and Palestinian artists whose careers have been characterized by one or more migrations. In particular, we will seek to understand how the careers of these musicians fit more or less specifically into the general history of refugees at the beginning of the 21st century.