

# **Place Attachment of Different Influx Groups in West Amman, Jordan: The Case of Palestinians and Iraqis.**

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The political security of Jordan in its geographical context has induced several major waves of immigration flows into the country in the past few decades (Chatelard G. , 2009). Many of the influx groups initially intended Jordan to be a transit residence, but a considerable number of them are still residing there (Chatelard G. , 2010). This immigration trend has been occurring in Jordan for decades, and at the time of writing this paper, Jordan continues to welcome Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 2015). The majority of these influx groups settled in the capital, Amman causing quick and unnatural changes in the city's demography at a large scale and in social and community ties on a smaller scale. The assumption is that with each of these influx groups arriving at different points in time, holding different socioeconomic and emotional levels, and storing different sets of memories, they have developed different attachment levels with their host environment. Meanwhile, as Amman becomes more and more diverse, several critics claim that Amman's residents do not have a strong sense of belonging to their city, and accuse Amman of lacking an identity of its own (Daher, 2011). Kassay (2011) concluded that this is a result of the existing social pressure that expects Ammanis to identify themselves with their pre-Amman geographical origin, rendering Amman absent from the national identity and memory. With the previously noted tendency of the influx groups to stay permanently, and with the lack of evidence of this trend to stop any time soon, it seems therefore important to investigate the validity of the critics' claims through studying the relationship that these influx groups have attained with their new environment.

In the current research this relationship will be studied in terms of place attachment according to Scannell and Gifford's (2010a) tripartite framework. Their tripartite framework (PPP) aims to study attachment according to the person, process and place dimensions. The persons are the focus influx groups, who are: Jordanian nationals who were born in Palestine and moved to Amman after the 1948 Nakba, Jordanian nationals who were born in the West Bank and moved to Amman after the 1967 Naksa, and Iraqi nationals who moved to Amman after the invasion of Iraq between 2003 and 2007. The process under investigation is the emotional, cognitive and behavioural aspects of attachment as described by Scannell and Gifford (2010a). West Amman is the place of investigation according to Ababsa's (2011) boundaries.

The paper will first present the theoretical framework, link it to the case of Amman and then display the results of the quantitative and qualitative data collection methods and analyse

them. Finally, conclusions will be drawn to understand the relationship between the influx groups and the urban context that they found themselves in.

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