DISPLACEMENT AND IDENTITY: EXPLORING SYRIAN REFUGEES’ LIVED EXPERIENCES

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13.5 million Syrians, approximately 70% of the population, are now in need of humanitarian aid such as water, food, healthcare and shelter.

By the end of 2015, an estimated 11.5 percent of the 23 million population of Syria were killed or injured due to armed-conflict.

More than 4.8 million Syrians have fled the country, and rough estimates show that over 7.6 million Syrians are now internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the country.

Life expectancy has dropped by over 20 years since 2011.

More than 3 in 4 Syrians now live in poverty.

National ratio of enrolment in primary education fell from 98% in 2010 to 70% in 2013 and further to 61.5% in 2015.
HANNAH ARENDT (1973[1951], P. 294)  
THE ORIGINS OF TOTALITARIANISM

…the more the number of rightless people increased, the greater became the temptation to pay less attention to the deeds of the persecuting governments than to the status of the persecuted
THE UPRISING CHAPTER: THE “ARAB SPRING”
THE THIRD “PENDING” CHAPTER: STATELESSNESS & REFUGEEENESS
DAMASCUS BOMBING
18 JULY 2012
Syria: 13,000 secretly hanged in Saydnaya military prison - shocking new report

07 Feb 2017, 12:00am

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'Cold-blooded killing of thousands of defenceless prisoners' revealed

Hangings carried out in batches of 50 middle of night
Hungarian police arrest driver of lorry that had 71 dead migrants inside

Four detained after death toll in Austrian motorway tragedy is raised from initial estimate of about 50 victims

By Andrew Marszal, Justin Huggler in Berlin, and Richard Orange in Malmo, video source APTN
1:00 PM BST 28 Aug 2015
THE MODEL REFUGEE
HUSSEIN MUSTAFA (1981-SEP. 18. 2015)
KHALED AL-ASAAD (1932-AUGUST 18, 2015)
CHARLIE HEBDO: WHAT WOULD LITTLE AYLAN HAVE GROWN UP TO BE? (A) GROPER IN GERMANY. (13 JAN. 2016)
January 20, 1939

It has been proposed to bring to this country 10,000 refugee children from Germany—most of them Jewish—to be taken care of in American homes. Should the government permit these children to come in?

- Yes: 30%
- No: 61%
- No opinion: 9%

Source: American Institute of Public Opinion
Temple of Bel (32 AD - August 30, 2015)
A street in Homs, in 2011 (above) and 2014 (below).

Source: The Guardian
83% OF THE LIGHTS IN SYRIA HAVE GONE OUT SINCE THE WAR BEGAN
BEYOND NUMBERS

- Humiliation, dignity, fear, sense of loss, sense of betrayal, insecurity, alienation, dislocation and inability to mourn are crucial to the identity-formation and meaning-making processes of refugees, and they pose methodological challenges and can only be partially represented by quantified data.

- Such challenges must be reckoned with by researchers who seek to gain in-depth insights into processes of resettlement and integration in hosting countries on the one hand; and how to approach post-conflict reconstruction planning concerning Syrian social fabric on the other.
THANK YOU!