



## Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire: Bedouin Women Negotiating Tribal and State Patriarchies<sup>1</sup>

Fatma Kassem

### Questions to the text:

What are the challenges / difficulties young Bedouin women face in case they pursue higher education?

Which roles do tribal patriarchies, social institutions, and Israeli politics play?

How do the women cope with the particular challenges? To what respect do they use conformity as a tactic for change?

How do the women signify "modernity" and "tradition," what does the article mean by locating the women in-between both, a dialectic that leads to mutual forms of reinvention?

### Further links:

The Center for Bedouin Studies and development, Newsletter:

<http://web.bgu.ac.il/NR/rdonlyres/24B57B4F-C2FE-4C6B-9596-74CAB74F5B9D/32056/Newsletter2008.pdf>

Survey of Female Bedouin Graduates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Beer-Sheva, Israel:

<http://web.bgu.ac.il/NR/rdonlyres/718C7DB8-8BD6-47CD-9C2A-16E824166341/94907/elsanaenglish.pdf>

### Bibliography

Abu-Lughod, L. 1986, *Veiled Sentiments, Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Abu-Rabia-Queder, S. 2008, Does Education Necessary Mean Enlightenment? The Case of Higher Education among Palestinians-Bedouin Women in Israel. *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, Vol, 39, Issue 4, pp. 381-400.

Abu-Rabia, S, Albadur, S. & Alatauna, F. 1996, Survey of the Bedouin Education in the Negev Area. *Information about Equality*. Tel Aviv, Adva Center [Hebrew].

Abu-Saad, I. 1991, "Toward an Understanding of Minority Education in Israel: The Case of Bedouin Arabs of the Negev," *Comparative Education* 27: 235-242.

Abu-Saad, I. 1995, "Bedouin Arab Education in the Context of Radical Social Change: What is the Future?" *Compare*, 1995, Vol. 25, pp. 149-160.

Abu-Saad, I. 1996. "Provision of Public Education Services and Access to Higher Education among the Negev Bedouin in Israel," *Journal of Education Policy* 11: 527-541.

Abu-Saad, I. 2002, The Bedouin Education Structure in a Changing Social Reality. *Yuval le-Maarechet Hachinuch Beisrael*, Vol. 3 [Hebrew].

Abu-Saad, I. 2005. "Education and Identity Formation among Indigenous: Palestinian Arab youth in Israel." *Indigenous and Minority Education: International Perspectives on Empowerment*. Champagne D. & Abu-Saad I., editors. Negev Center for Regional Development.

Abu-Saad, I. 2006, State Educational Policy and Curriculum: The Case of Palestinian Arabs in Israel. *International Education Journal* 7(5/): 709-720.

Al-Ali, N.S. 2007, *Iraqi Women: Untold Stories from 1948 to the Present*. Zed Books, London & New York.

Al-Haj, M. 1995, *Education, Empowerment and Control: The Case of Arabs in Israel*. State University of New York: Albany, NY.

Al-Haj, M. 2003, Higher Education among the Arabs in Israel: Formal Policy between Empowerment and Control. *Higher Education Policy* 16: 351-368.

Erdreich, L. & Rapoport, T. 2002, Elaborating Ethnonational Awareness via Academic Literacy: Palestinian Israeli Women at the University. *Anthropology & Education Quarterly* 33 (4): 1-24.

Glaser, B. & Strauss, A. 1967, *The Discovery of*



Grounded Theory: Strategies for Qualitative Research (New York), Aldine De Gruyter.

Georgi, A. 1975, An Application of Phenomenological Method in Psychology, *Duquesnes Studies in Phenomenological Psychology* 2:83-103.

Habermas, J. 1987, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*. The MIT Press Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Hundt, G. 1988, "Structure of Conflict between Bedouin Women," in *The Bedouin*, papers and articles, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev [Hebrew].

Kandiyoti, D. 1998, Bargaining with patriarchy, *Gender and Society*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 274-290.

Kassem, F. 2000, Leadership of Bedouin Women: Its Development in a Changing Reality, M.A thesis: Ben-Gurion University [Hebrew].

Katz, Y. 1998, Report of the Investigating Committee on the Bedouin Education System in the Negev. Jerusalem: Ministry of Education.

Kressel, G. 1976. Privacy vs. Tribalism: The Dynamics of Bedouin Communities in a Period of Urbanization, Tel Aviv, HaKibbutz Hame'uchad [Hebrew].

Maddrel, P. 1990. *The Bedouin of the Negev*, M.R.G. Report No. 81.

Meir A. & Barnea, D. 1985, *The Development of the Bedouin Educational System*, Dept. of Geography, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Ministry of Education, Southern Region [Hebrew].

Meir A., Barnea, D. 1988, "Regional aspects and structural returns in the Bedouin educational system in the Negev," in *Bedouin, Papers and Articles*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev [Hebrew].

Meir, A. 2005, Bedouin, the Israeli State and Insurgent Planning: Globalization, Localization or Globalization? *Cities*, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 201-215. Elsevier Ltd.

Mernissi, F. 1987, *Beyond the Veil – Female Dynamics in Modern Muslim Society*. Indiana University Press.

Mernissi, F. 1995. *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*. Addison-Wesley.

Mohanty, C.T. 1988, Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse. *Feminist Review* 30: 65-88.

Sharabi, H. 1988, *Neopatriarchy: A Theory of Distorted Change in Arab Society*. New York, Oxford University Press.

*Statistical Yearbook of the Negev Bedouin 2004*, Center for Bedouin Studies & Development, Negev Center for Regional Development, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Swirski, S. 1995, *Seeds of Inequality*. Tel Aviv, Breirot [Hebrew].

Swirski, S & Hasson, Y. 2006, *Invisible Citizens: Israel Government Policy Toward the Negev Bedouin*. Tel Aviv: Adva Center.

## December 2010 Short Bio

Kassem's Master's thesis, titled „Developing New Leadership Among Bedouin Women in a Changing World,“ 2000, explores how Bedouin women deal with the challenges facing them in the pursuit of higher education and how they mediate tribal and institutional patriarchy.

Fatma Kassem completed her PhD in the Department of Behavioral Science at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. In her research, which stemmed from her deep interest in gender studies, she uses women's life stories to analyze how ordinary urban Palestinian women remember historical events.

Based on this research, a book is forthcoming (February 2011) from Zed Publishers: *Palestinian Women: Narrative Histories and Gendered Memories*. Also, she conducted a study sponsored by the Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (School of Public Policy, The Hebrew University). This study analyzes women's images in history textbooks in Jordan to explore the ways in which the sacred triangle of *Allah*, *al-Mlik*, and *al-Watan* (God-Religion, the King-Regime and Nationa-



lism) reproduce the gender-power relations in society and keep women subordinated to men.

Kassem has both academic and practical training in conflict resolutions. Together with Professor Dan Bar On of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, she has been a co-facilitator and lecturer of a group of Jewish and Palestinian Israeli students at the University called "Co-existence Through Life Story Narrative." She has also served as facilitator and coordinator for the project "Two Conflicts, Four Countries" which involved university history teachers from Turkey, Greece, Palestine and Israel. Between the years 2005-2007 she co-directed and co-facilitated a group of Muslim, Christians and Jewish women in Jerusalem called "Jerusalem Women as Catalysts for Peace." Currently, she is writing a book based on the analysis of women's life stories who participated in two years project in Jerusalem.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, she was a fellow in the program "Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe" at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

Kassem herself is married and the mother of five children. She is the eldest of ten siblings and was the first woman in her Upper Galilee village to attend high school and college.