



Narratives of Border Crossing: Syrian Refugees in Germany

A free lecture presented by:

Dr. Isis Nusair, Associate Professor, Denison University

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

12:15 p.m., Student Center 311 A-B

This presentation, based on extensive ethnographic research conducted with Syrian refugees in Germany in the past year, will analyze the narratives of refugees on border crossing and the agency they employed as they made their way into Europe. Their narratives will be juxtaposed with more dominant public discourses that represent them as invisible and disposable others. We will examine the meaning and practice of border crossing and argue that as the refugees continued to move within Syria into Turkey, and across the Mediterranean into Europe, they were constantly negotiating and redefining the meaning of both “refugee” and “border”; they were actively contesting the rigidity of these increasingly militarized, technologized and exclusionary borders. I will discuss the challenges the refugees’ agency and narratives pose not only to our conceptions of what it means to be refugees especially Arab and Muslim refugee women, but to the simultaneous rigidity and malleability of borders.

Isis Nusair, Associate Professor of Women’s Studies and International Studies at Denison University. She has earned a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Tel-Aviv University, a Master’s degree in International Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, and a doctorate in Women’s and Gender Studies from Clark University. She teaches courses on transnational feminism; gendered migration, feminism in the Middle East and North Africa; and gender, war and conflict.