

On-site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies

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Graduate School of Asian and African Areas Studies

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On My Research Topic

My research topic is about relations between Jordan and the Palestinian Question and focusing on two aspects. The first aspect is the legal status which is granted by the Jordanian government to the Palestinians in both the East and the West Banks, The second aspect is the recent nationalistic trend in Jordan related with the recognition of Palestinian-Jordanians. Jordan and Palestine have historical, demographic, and social continuity, and they have affected the dynamics of Jordan. My research aims to examine the reality of the situation and to show the new perspective to observe the region around Jordan.

Palestinians in Jordan can obtain the Jordanian nationality by means of the Law of Nationality enacted in 1949 and 1954. Now it is estimated that more than half the Jordanian nationals is originated from Palestine. In addition to them the Jordanian government grants passports to the residents of the West Bank. Generally, the previous studies have been discussed the topic of the Jordanian nationality and passport in the context of the Palestinian Question. Studies that deal with this topic discuss the extent which Palestinians obtain their rights in each place of residence. In particular, studies on state-building in Palestine ought to examine who will be a member of the future Palestinian state. Instead, they only recognize the significance of such legal identification for Palestinians and overlook the complex reality between Jordan and Palestine as mentioned above. To fill this critical gap, my study examines the elastic nature of Jordanian nationality and passport issuance as well as its implications for the Palestinians who have lived on both banks of the Jordan River.

In terms of the nationalistic trend, I observe the competition to transform national identity in Jordan during the last 20 years, by analyzing the nationalistic trend toward recognition of Palestinian-Jordanians in a changing regional situation brought about by the Middle East Peace Process. Jordanian people have the complexity of identity and it generated two opposite nationalist discourses. Further, the change in the political environment in the 1990s has served to deepen the differences in the discourses. The most significant difference lies in how one recognizes a Palestinian-Jordanian or whether to consider a Palestinian-Jordanian as a foreigner or not.