

# **Migration, Islam and Masculinities: Transforming Emigration and Immigration Societies**

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## **„Forced Migration and Masculinity: The Impact of the Summer War 2006 on Lebanese Male Identity at Home and Abroad**

The impact of war and post-war crises on the role of women and men has seldom been studied in real time, i.e. as the events are unfolding on the ground. This paper will deal with the role that gender plays in the lives of men who are forced to leave their country of origin or prevented from returning there on their own terms.

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) completed two studies during the half-year period between August 2006 and January 2007. In the first project, which was carried out under quite improvised conditions, women and men were surveyed in order to discover their gendered experiences during the evacuation of Diaspora Lebanese and dual nationals at the time of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

In the second project, which was commissioned by the EuroMed Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM: [http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/e-texts/CARIM-RR2007\\_01\\_Hourani&Sensenig.pdf](http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/e-texts/CARIM-RR2007_01_Hourani&Sensenig.pdf)) LERC studied both the Lebanese diaspora and the resident domestic population in order to determine to which extent the Summer 2006 War and the ensuing post-war crisis had influenced their intentions to emigrate or return to Lebanon respectively.

Traditional male concerns, such as the need to provide for both the immediate nuclear family in the host country and the extended family back home, as well as less conventional issues, including negotiating the split identities of their children raised abroad, or coping with the impact of being displaced as a result of war and confessional fighting,

will be highlighted in this paper. All results will be gleaned from the two studies carried out „under fire“ by the LERC research team in Lebanon, in the European Union and via the internet.’

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