

Migration, Islam and Masculinities: Transforming Emigration and Immigration Societies

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Migrating Desires in „Discovering Desire“

In my paper I will discuss migration's role in asserting gender roles and heterosexual politics, thus adding to the marginalization of women both in the public and the private spheres. I concentrate on a novel written by an Algerian woman: Fadila Al-Farouk. The novel, which was first published in January 2006, is entitled *Discovering Desire*. In this paper, I want to trace the double effects of migration on women and men in the sexual domain. I argue that in terms of gender issues and sexual desires, women, more so than men, are deprived of their 'sexual freedom' in the Diaspora. The narrator of the novel tells of her tragic confrontation with her bodily desires after her marriage to an Algerian migrant man living in Paris. Instead of gaining more understanding of her desires, the narrator falls in a trap that makes her incapable of making any distinction between her Islamic background and her new life in a Western community. I compare and contrast the traumatic effect of migration on both men and women, specifically noting how migration gives vent to masculinities at the expense of increased suppression of femininities among migrant communities.