

Hinrichsen, Hendrik (2020): The Generation Oslo in the West Bank. Historical generations in a process-sociological perspective. Göttingen: Göttingen University Press (Göttingen Series in Sociological Biographical Research). <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2020-1328>

Contents

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Research topic and questions
- 1.2. Context and structure of the study

2. Historical generations from the perspective of figurational sociology and and biographical research

- 2.1. Overview
- 2.2. Mannheim's concept of generations and its reception in (reconstructive) social research
- 2.3. Mannheim's concept of generations in the context of his sociology of knowledge programme
- 2.4. Figurational sociology following Norbert Elias
- 2.5. Elias' studies of generational conflicts
- 2.6. Social-constructivist biographical research
- 2.7. Historical generations from the perspective of biographical research
- 2.8. Gradual phenomena in the formation of historical generations: 'in-between generations', 'silent generations', 'lost generations'
- 2.9. Combined approaches: historical generations from a figurational and biographical perspective

3. Methods and sample

- 3.1. Overview
- 3.2. Case structures – typology – theoretical sampling
- 3.3. Sample development in the West Bank
- 3.4. Instruments used for data collection and analysis

4. Social transformation processes in the collective history of the West Bank from 1948

- 4.1. Overview
- 4.2. The first Arab-Israeli war in 1948/49 and the Nakba
- 4.3. The West Bank under Jordanian rule
- 4.4. The occupation of Gaza and the West Bank by Israel in 1967
- 4.5. The First Intifada 1987–1993
- 4.6. The early Oslo years: the 'peace process' and the development of quasi-state institutions
- 4.7. The Second Intifada 2000–2005
- 4.8. After the Second Intifada

5. Research on historical generations in Palestine

6. The "sons of the camp" and the Intifada Generation in a refugee camp area: we- and they-images, interaction dynamics and life courses

- 6.1. Introduction
- 6.2. **The "sons of the camp"**: a clique of militant young men

6.3. The case of the Sasour family: “Our experience is different from your experience”

6.4. The case of Muna: “This thinking has changed dramatically in the Intifada”

7. Returnees in Ramallah: we- and they-images, interaction dynamics and life courses

7.1. Introduction

7.2. The returnees: a clique of militant young men in Ramallah

7.3. The case of the Haziin family: “Everyone left after a few years here”

8. Long-time residents in Ramallah: we- and they-images, interaction dynamics and life courses

8.1. Introduction

8.2. ‘Prosperous town-dwellers’: the urban middle class of long-time residents and the Intifada Generation in Ramallah

8.3. The case of Haitham: “I always avoid to talk to someone who belongs to a party about my own views”

9. Generational figuration and biographical types in the Oslo generation

9.1. The Oslo generation

9.2. Generational figuration and typical biography in refugee camp areas

9.3. Generational figuration and typical biography among returnees in Ramallah

9.4. Generational figuration and typical biography among long-time residents in Ramallah

9.5. Figuration of people in refugee camp areas and the urban middle class

9.6. The Oslo generation as a gradual phenomenon in the formation of historical generations: outsider generation and in-between generation

9.7. Integrated biographical and figurational approach in research on historical generations

10. Conclusion and outlook

10.1. Conclusion

10.2. Limitations of the study and outlook

Summary

The past fifty years have seen far-reaching changes in Palestinian society in the West Bank. The Israeli occupation which began in 1967, the political mobilization of the 1970s and 1980s, and the so-called peace process in the 1990s went together with deep social transformations, which not only changed the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but also altered the figurations and conflict lines between different social groups within Palestinian society. This book is a sociological study of these transformation processes, based on a combination of Norbert Elias' figurational sociology, social-constructivist biographical research, and Karl Mannheim's sociology of knowledge and generational sociology.

In addition to conflicts and tensions between inhabitants of the refugee camp areas and the (new) urban middle class in the West Bank, the author focuses in particular on a latent Palestinian generational conflict: it is clear that members of the 'Oslo Generation' – meaning those who grew up during the Oslo peace process in the 1990s – have fewer power and life chances, and in particular fewer opportunities for meaning, than their predecessors in the generation of fighters and activists of the 1970s and 1980s. The empirical studies show that the generation-creating experiences and the shared position of the Oslo Generation are constituted by the fact that it *follows* the armed struggle generation, the so-called Intifada Generation. The authors reveals the latent mechanisms that have created and deepened a hierarchy and an asymmetrical power balance between the generations in the West Bank.

Going beyond the Palestinian context, the empirical results are used for a consideration of theoretical aspects of research on historical generations, culminating in a call for further studies based on biographical and figurational research that will contribute to a sharpening of Karl Mannheim's concept of generations. The analyses are based on a combination of methods, including participant observation during a total of eleven months of field research, group discussions, biographical-narrative interviews and biographical case reconstructions.