

博士学位論文審査要旨

2021年6月27日

論文題目： Mobile Phone Use among Young Refugees in a Protracted Situation through the Lens of Social Capital
(社会関係資本の観点からみた長期化難民状況における若年層の携帯電話利用)

学位申請者： AHMAD MARWA

審査委員：

主査： グローバル・スタディーズ研究科 教授 Anne GONON

副査： グローバル・スタディーズ研究科 教授 内藤 正典

副査： グローバル・スタディーズ研究科 教授 Seifudein ADEM

要旨：

Marwa Ahmad's dissertation is focusing on young Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Her purpose is to understand how these young people are growing up and living in a foreign country as refugees and how they try to organize their lives dynamically, that is in using a mobile phone. This research is unique because most of the research on refugees is approaching the problem of victims, oppression. Moreover, Ms. Ahmad uses social capital, as Coleman developed it as an academic tool to analyze what families transmit to children as social capital. Therefore, the dissertation is composed of three parts.

The first part aims to understand what research has already done on refugees studies, especially on young refugees and mobile phones in the migration project.

Most of the research on migrants' use of mobile phones focuses on European cases, ICT tools used to arrive in the guest countries. Marwa Ahmad's research is bringing new accounts on the topic. The aim is to understand the impact of being a refugee on young people's lives who grow up in harsh conditions. The notion of social capital, as Coleman developed it, is pretty appropriate as it focuses on the family's role in transmitting not only education but also material resources. Marwa Ahmad has decided to do her survey in different parts of Lebanon.

The second part focuses on the young refugees and the relations they have with their families. After explaining the historical choice of Lebanon as a destination for Syrian refugees (chapter 4), Ms. Ahmad analyzes the forms of social capital that refugee families transmit to their children. All the refugees do not live in similar conditions. Those who had previous trade or economic business with Lebanese people are enjoying a better income. So she observed two different social categories that offer different forms of social capital to the children. The wealthy families can provide their children with a more normal life, that is, to go to school and be in good health. However, these families are keen on maintaining traditional values observed in their previous Syrian life (chapter 5). Non-wealthy families cannot give the children all the education they need, and the children must leave school to help their families (chapter 6). Per contra, these children are more prompt to get an agency that brings family role changes. The family's wealth has a strong influence on children's experience, not only in education, work, income, and values but also in their settlement experience, social network outreach, and future, as their own vulnerability as children is duplicating parents' vulnerability.

The third part focuses on how children use their mobile phone and create their social capital. First, Marwa Ahmad explains what matters in using a mobile phone, considering the philosophical debate on human-machine interaction and the technology facilitating communication between humans. Then she explores the use of the device, signaling the formation of stronger bonding ties among Young Syrian Refugees' family members and bridging ties about their social networks (chapter 7). Finally, she relies on her sample population to determine what type of ties are prioritized by wealthy families' children and non-wealthy families' children. The conclusion is that family is the first concern for both children's categories (chapter 8). However, in non-wealthy families, children are also inclined to use their mobile phones to increase what Granovetter calls "weak ties" and make them strong (chapter 9).

Through the analysis of Young Syrian Refugees' use of available technology, the study contributes to understanding refugees agency.

First, the jury recognized how the dissertation is more systematic and has improved since the Preliminary Exam. Then, after pointing out a slight contradiction in the evaluation of previous research, the jury concentrated on more substantive comments and questions. The first one was about the absolute specificity of Young Syrian refugees' use of mobile phones compared to the local Lebanese youth, who live in terrible social crises and poverty very similar to the refugees. The second aspect was related to the central concept used in the dissertation: social capital. Marwa Ahmad uses James Coleman's notion, but she mentions another author Robert Putman who proposes a different understanding of the relation between social capital and technologies, which contradicts her hypothesis. Therefore she was asked to explain the sense of that mention. Finally, she was asked to answer some questions on her methodological approach, especially related to young refugees' interviews and their family. To conclude, the jury asked a question on the future of these refugees as some return to Syria.

The jury appreciates Marwa Ahmad's dissertation's originality and innovative dimension and agrees that the dissertation fulfils the criteria of a doctoral dissertation.

よって、本論文は、博士（グローバル社会研究）（同志社大学）の学位を授与するにふさわしいものであると認められる。

総合試験結果の要旨

2021年6月27日

論文題目： Mobile Phone Use among Young Refugees in a Protracted Situation through the Lens of Social Capital
(社会関係資本の観点からみた長期化難民状況における若年層の携帯電話利用)

学位申請者： AHMAD MARWA

審査委員：

主査： グローバル・スタディーズ研究科 教授 Anne GONON

副査： グローバル・スタディーズ研究科 教授 内藤 正典

副査： グローバル・スタディーズ研究科 教授 Seifudein ADEM

要 旨：

2021年6月23日(水)16:45から18:15まで、論文内容についてオンラインで多角的に質問し、申請者の学力総合試験を行った。本学位論文は主として文化人類学、社会学、難民研究の分野で評価されるべきものであるが、申請者がそれぞれの学問分野の方法論を深く身につけており、レバノンで難民の生活を送っている若者とその家族のインタビューを行い、その分析についても理論と実行力を十分に備えていることが、40分のプレゼンテーションで遺憾なく発揮された。また、それらの学力が十分な応用力に裏打ちされていることが、プレゼンテーションの後の50分の質疑応答で明らかになった。申請者はレバノン出身であり、同志社大学大学院のグローバル・スタディーズ研究科に入ってGRMプログラムに参加し、修士号を取得した後、博士課程での研究を進めた。出身国の公用語やフランス語以外に英語のコミュニケーション能力と文献読解能力には全く問題がない。今回の総合試験も質疑応答は全て英語で実施されたが、論文内容に関連する学術分野に関する申請者の知見を証明する完全な応答がなされた。

よって、総合試験の結果は合格であると認める。

博士學位論文要旨

論文題目： Mobile Phone Use among Young Refugees in a Protracted Situation through the Lens of Social Capital

(社会関係資本の観点からみた長期化難民状況における若年層の携帯電話利用)

氏名： AHMAD MARWA

要旨：

The decade-long war in Syria has been termed the worst human crisis since World War II, one massive outcome of which is that it has produced a “lost generation” of young Syrian civilians. The dispersal of the Syrian people scattered around the world, with Turkey and Lebanon hosting the largest exodus of the Syrian population, has caused numerous stressors to the very core of the Syrian family, which once played a central role in the strength of the country’s social fabric. With minimal resources, the compromised social support system among displaced Syrian families has left 2.5 million Syrian children struggling to understand the scenario of their refugeehood while having to adapt to their new roles and responsibilities.

Although the existing literature on the war has thoroughly examined the plight of its victims, however, deliberations have been limited to the pathological aspect of their displacement. While describing their vulnerabilities, focusing on their physical and psychological health conditions and the challenges they have faced in terms of economic, financial, and educational matters, as well as health, housing, employment, and legal status, among numerous others, scholarly work has not adequately addressed elements of positivity linked to the effect of mobile phone use among refugees as detected in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) research, and certainly not in relation to the youth refugee population living in Lebanon.

From the standpoint of Coleman’s view of social capital as a theoretical tool, leading our investigation, this has triggered our attempt to answer the research question: Does the use of ICTs contribute to developing agency among young Syrian refugees? Hence, in our research endeavor, we examine the use of mobile phones and social networking sites among 64 young Syrian refugees (YSRs) aged between 14 and 25 years old by means of a qualitative questionnaire administered to 91 respondents living in four distinct geographic areas in Lebanon: Beirut (the capital city), Tripoli (a city in the North, second largest after Beirut), the Bekaa valley (a mixed urban–rural

region to the east, between the coast and Syria) and Sidon (a city in the South). The choice of the collection of the random sample we adopted was motivated by our attempt to capture specific nuances in the Lebanese sociopolitical system relevant to the distinct social, sectarian, educational, housing, and employment experiences that the young refugees may face in each area residence. We also aimed to detect how those different experiences in their daily lives as refugees may have influenced their mobile phone use accordingly. This allowed us to detect both a generic and a specific use of the device, coupled with a family-centric use in contrast to a personal use of their mobile for their own self-interest. Hence, prompting Granovetter's work on the importance of weak ties evidenced by YSRs' pursuit of friendships and civil engagement away from family.

At the micro-level, we also explored family ties and how social capital is transmitted from parents to their children through their work, education, and social networks, and then how families' capital is reflected in children's lives as refugees and influences prospects for their futures. We identified a significant weight to a family's economic status on the experience of their children in being able to replicate their traditional way of life and in influencing the youth's agency in seeking social capital beyond the family. Hence, reporting chances of openness and change to traditional structures among the young population vis-à-vis their parents.

Thus, we showed at the end of our analysis the new potentials rooted in this seemingly vulnerable community. Where we showed that despite their hardships, the YSRs were able to contribute effectively to the wellbeing of their families, therefore enforcing role-changes within the traditional patriarchal Syrian family model. In conclusion, by closely examining mobile phone use among YSRs in Lebanon, our empirical investigation sheds new light on a neglected topic of research on mobile phone use among the youth population of refugees that can be leveraged to help us understand how vulnerable youth can maximize the use of available resources in an active attempt to reduce the distresses of their refugeehood and in an initial effort to overwrite a better future for themselves and their families. Hence, this refugee crisis is believed to have given rise to a more active youth community, compared to previous cases of refugeehood.