



A Gendered analysis of Intimate Violence among the Egyptian Dutch- Community in the Netherlands

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Abstract

This thesis aims to contribute to the knowledge produced on intimate partner violence (IPV) against first-generation Egyptian Dutch women in the Netherlands. The study analyses how Egyptian Dutch women subject to violence navigate three interlocking social settings: immediate surroundings, extended family in Egypt and beyond, and the Dutch welfare state and its representatives, and it explores their agency in highly restrictive contexts. The study argues that Egyptian Dutch women who are subject to IPV find themselves facing transnational challenges between the constraints in the host country, the Dutch state, and other constraints in their home country, Egypt. The study analyses the power dynamics within these contexts that can often lead to diverse forms of violence and ill-treatment against Egyptian Dutch women by family and non-family members before, during, and after their IPV experiences. This study unpacks these overlapping experiences of violence and analyses how they shape Egyptian Dutch women's experience with IPV and influence how they respond to it. The study aims to highlight Egyptian Dutch women's experiences through their perceptions and voices. Therefore, the study is conducted through narrated life stories of ten Egyptian Dutch women participants and expert interviews with welfare service providers such as shelter workers and legal professionals and other care service providers such as NGOs' professionals and religious leaders. In addition, to be able to grasp the different challenges that Egyptian Dutch women face, the study will apply participant observation. To analyse the dynamic power relations in Egyptian Dutch women's experience with violence, the study mainly uses Bourdieu's theory of practice and Saba Mahmoud's conception of agency. Furthermore, Crenshaw's intersectionality concept is applied to analyse the influence of the diverse characteristics of the construction of identity on Egyptian Dutch women's experience with intimate violence.

Research Questions

R.Q: How do Egyptian Dutch women navigate three interlocking social settings: immediate surroundings, extended family in Egypt and beyond, and the Dutch welfare state and its representatives and how do they formulate their sense of agency in interlocking restrictive context?

S.Q.1 How do Egyptian Dutch women's experiences with diverse forms of violence, including structural and personal violence, by family and non-family members, in the past and present, interrelate with and impact their experiences with IPV by their husbands?



3rd Global Conference on Women's Studies

25-27 February 2022

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

S.Q.2 What are the specific goals that Egyptian Dutch women work towards when they experience IPV and how do their transnational ties and relationship in Egypt and the Netherlands influence these goals and their experience with IPV at large?

S.Q.3: What is the Dutch welfare state's role in shaping Egyptian Dutch women's experiences with violence? How does the welfare state support Egyptian Dutch women or increase their vulnerabilities when experiencing IPV at home?

Keywords: gender, violence, intimate, community, Netherlands, Egypt