

Waed Hasan – 3MT® Presentation

Hello, my name is Waed Hasan, and I am a third generation Palestinian refugee. In 1948, during the Palestinian Nakba, my grandparents were forcibly removed from their land and, today, exactly 12 days from the 75th Nakba anniversary, I am excited to present my dissertation on Palestinian refugee poetics after the Arab spring in 2010. My research, informed by my personal narrative, is deeply personal. I am not an outsider looking in; I am at the center.

Refugee literature is a unique and uncategorized genre where coloniality, post coloniality, and trauma studies intersect. We cannot simply read it as postcolonial or trauma literature. How do we then read and classify refugee literature? Well, the answer to this question and the main contribution of my research is introducing refugee poetics as a subgenre of critical refugee studies where refugees engage with collective, individual, and generational trauma. I want to challenge the tradition of reading refugee poetics as that of traumatized victims. I will do that in two ways: taking into consideration colonial, cultural and social conditions when analyzing Palestinian hip-hop, novels, spoken and written poetry and using collective and pluralistic models of trauma to unpack the experience of Palestinian refugeehood.

In brief, establishing refugee poetics is necessary for us to gain a comprehensive understating of the refugee experience, from the refugees perspective, and how it shapes our contemporary society.