

Arabic-speaking children, screen media and method as a 'care-structure': field notes from London, Beirut and Casablanca

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Introduction

- Part of an interdependent 3-year research project (2013-2016) funded by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Examining screen-based media for children (7-12) of Arab origin in London and Arab children in Casablanca and Beirut through a holistic and relational approach to three strands: audiences, texts and the political economy of screen production for children.

Research Questions

- How do young viewers of pan-Arab children's television deal with and respond to the array of imported, adapted and locally-produced content available to them?
- How do Arabic-speaking children in selected countries form notions of identity, belonging, otherness and gender through their use of children's programming on pan-Arab television?

Methods

مذكرة العطلة الصيفية 2014

- Family ethnography (4x families in each city)
- Workshops (4x in each city)
- Diaries as qualitative material and conversational prompts (2 x weeks)



Ethnography as a “care-structure”

“The care-structure of things is nothing more or less than the human thought, effort and intention that has gone into producing the thing as that which it is” (Scannell, 2013: 14)



Ethnography and its (hidden) affective transcripts

- “The hidden transcript [...] consists of those offstage speeches, gestures, and practices that confirm, contradict, or inflect what appears in the public transcript.” James C. Scott (1990: 4-5)
Domination and the Art of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts

Three relational dynamics:

- a) Researcher/institution/community leaders (Cultural Centre North West London) - *workshops*
- b) Researcher/researched (demystifying Arabness) – *Families*
- c) Researcher/researcher (insider's anxieties) *Diaries*