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Uncertainty in Jerusalem:
A study on the effect of Israeli policies and state practices on the lives of Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Rosa Manoim

Abstract

This research report examines the everyday effects of Israeli policies and state practices (relating to rights to live in the city) on the lives of Palestinians in Jerusalem. It engages with state policy and practice across three main scales; the larger scale level of rights to the city itself, the closer-to-home scale of bureaucratic threats against the family home, as well as the micro-scale questions of the everyday. In this report I examine empirical evidence – a case study of a house demolition, and ethnographic material from a Palestinian neighbourhood targeted for settlement projects - alongside the policy data that relates to each of these instances- including policy on land-zoning, tenancy, residency and social security. I argue that the cumulative effect of these policies and practices create the unstable conditions, which I refer to as a 'coercive environment', which works to indirectly displace Palestinians from Jerusalem. This report shows that the daily uncertainties that Palestinians experience as a result of these policies intensify the precarious conditions of everyday life, and further finds uncertainty as one of the multiple forms of violence present in the coercive environment. Themes including everyday anxiety, security and fear, punishment and criminalization, procedural bare life and emotional violence, arise from the empirical data observed and collected, and are examined for how they create uncertainty and form part of this coercive environment.