The Arabs and the Muslims Between Diaspora and Transnationalism

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Mohammed Alrmizan

Both Arab and Muslim migrants have noticeable populations in all parts of the world. This article qualitatively investigates the Arabs, the Muslims, and mainly diaspora and transnationalism theories from historical and social understandings, based on primary and secondary sources. It engages conceptually in defining Arabs and Muslims through the lenses of diaspora and transnationalism theories, discusses theoretical issues and explores the status of the Arab and the Muslim diaspora(s) and transnational communities through primary data and the findings of the Global Muslim Diaspora Project, which surveyed 7,147 participants between 2018 and 2019. The report shows that the Arab experience abroad might be best described as diaspora, whereas Muslim migrants would be best referred to as transnational communities. Diaspora and transnationalism theories, among others, and particularly migration theories, must not be used interchangeably; each term should be used carefully to avoid confusion, especially when Arabs and Muslims are being studied.

More information

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About the author

Mohammed Alrmizan is currently a doctoral researcher at the City, University of London, and a non-resident research associate at the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He obtained his MA in Turkish journalism

from Istanbul University in Turkey and his BA in media studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the US. His research interests focus on Turkey's foreign policy, Turkish public diplomacy, transnationalism, and media and political communication in the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia.