

Schizophrenia

A proposal for a Thesis in creative writing

Department of English

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סכיזופרניה

הצעת מחקר לתיזה בכתיבה יוצרת

המחלקה לאנגלית

אוניברסיטת בר-אילן

רשא מנסור

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מנחה : מרסלה שולק

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Aims and General Description

The project will comprise a series of poems that draw on my problematic identity as an Arab woman who lives in Israel, a lifelong "dis-ease" that can't be cured. Most Israeli-Arabs consider themselves Arab citizens of Israel. There is a paradox in linking these two terms. As Israelis they learn to accept their status as a minority in a state whose purpose is to transform the country into a Jewish homeland. Yet, as individuals, they could feel at one with pan-Arab or nationalistic Palestinian ideologies.

In addition to the minority status of Arab citizens of Israel, there is the gender inequality of being a woman in the Arab world. A woman has to respect the values, the traditions of God and men. I have no socially voice in a voiceless Arab Israeli society. I am doubly silenced.

Conceptual Background

I was born here, in a double land. Some told me that I was born in Israel. Others said that I was born in Palestine. The most important thing that I was born. Thirty-four years had passed and I still have no definitely answer where I was born. This thesis will be the place where I can discover myself.

In this project, I am drawing on the vocabulary of psychology, both as a metaphor, and as a general description of the actual state of existence among the population I will depict through poetry. We, as Arabs, a national minority, belong to the Arab world and identify with it emotionally. We are citizens whose loyalty to the State in doubt. Most of the Israeli- Arabs are closely related to the greaten Arab world, through family relations, culture, language, history, religion and nationality.

Our identity has been a source of ongoing academic argument. One group maintains that the Arab minority is undergoing a process of Israelization. They believe the Arabs in Israel are moving in the direction of integration into Israel society and perceive themselves as Israelis.

The other group maintains that the Arab in Israel identifies with the Palestinians of the territories, both politically and culturally. Arabs are divided into three groups: The first group identifies itself as Israeli Arabs. The second group identifies itself as Palestinian Arab. The third group identifies itself as Palestinian in Israel.

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<http://andreabaker.us/poetry/>

Andrea Baker

Marjane Satrapi



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Dear Chana,

it's true that the thesis proposal for Rasha has typographical errors, but neither of us have an electronic copy of Rasha's thesis proposal.

I know that she's submitted two copies and is ready to go as soon as we sign off on it.

I've signed off on mine. Could you sign off and send, please?

They need to be out, and Rasha was in Mecca last time I talked to her.

She's applying for an extension so that she can turn in her thesis in November.

Thank you!

Marcela

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