



Arab American University
Faculty of Graduate Studies

**Cultural and social aspects as reflected in the
Palestinian Netflix films during 2012-2020**

By
Niveen Issa Khader Shamieh

Supervisor
Dr. Ayman Youssef

**This thesis was submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the Master's degree in
Intercultural Communication and Literature**

June/ 2024

©Arab American University - 2024. All rights reserved.

Thesis Approval

“Cultural and Social Aspects as Reflected in the Palestinian Netflix Films During 2012-2020”

By

Niveen Shamieh

This thesis was defended successfully on 8/6/2024 and approved by:

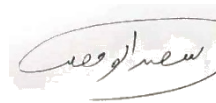
Committee members

Signature

1- Dr. Ayman Yousef :Supervisor



2- Dr. Said Abu Mualla: Internal Examiner



3- Dr. Montaser Jarrar: External Examiner



Declaration

The work provided in this thesis, unless otherwise referred to, is the researcher's own work and has not been submitted elsewhere for any other degree or qualification.

Name: Niveen Issa Khader Shamieh

ID No.: 202011956

Signature: 

Date: 10/10/2024

Dedication

I dedicate this achievement to My Beloved Family Mom, Vivian, Khader,
Fadi, Ramzi, Qais, and Tia

Acknowledgment

My thesis would not have been possible without the assistance of many people. Many thanks to Dr. Ayman Yousef, my supervisor, who read over all of my drafts and assisted me in navigating the difficulties of this paper. I would also like to thank the members of the committee Dr. Said Abu Mualla and Dr. Montaser Jarrar who provided direction and support.

A plethora of gratitude to the Arab American University and the Graduate College for providing me with the knowledge, the challenges and the tools to tackle said challenges. Lastly, I'd like to express my gratitude and appreciation to my family, for their support and love throughout this long process.

Abstract

This research studies the role of Palestinian cinema and its impact on the representation and establishment of cultural and social narratives. The study extensively analyses ten Palestinian films, aiming to explore the representation of several cultural and social aspects such as family and community bonds, heritage, language, the overarching narrative of struggle and resilience, as well as the complexities of identity under occupation, both in the 1948 and the 1967 occupied territories, and in the diaspora. The research draws on theoretical frameworks from cultural studies, film studies, and sociology aiming to provide an exhaustive analysis of the films' thematic content, and filmmakers' perspectives. The study dissects the films, aiming to highlight the role of the Palestinian cinema in influencing and representing cultural portrayals while providing a deeper understanding of the complex social and political scenes of Palestine.

The analysis unveils that Palestinian cinema plays a major role in maintaining and representing Palestinian culture and society, both locally and globally. The films not only offer a detailed depiction of Palestinian life but also challenge stereotypes and promote global understanding. They showcase the Palestinian people's resilience and rich cultural history, highlighting their challenges, and social realities' complexity.

Moreover, the study demonstrates how Palestinian cinema tackles various social issues, such as gender, class, and politics. By offering a glimpse into the daily lives of Palestinians, these films provide insight into their struggles, aspirations, and society.

The research findings underline the importance of Palestinian cinema as an influential tool for cultural presentation, preservation, and social analysis. These films not only

enhance our understanding of Palestinian culture but can also contribute to social change and cross-cultural dialogue.

The analysis revealed key findings, including, but not limited to Focusing and depicting family and community bonds, Significance of heritage and language in shaping identity, Overarching narrative of struggle and resilience, Complexity of identity amidst occupation and diaspora, and Evolution in the portrayal of gender roles.

Recommendations include enhancing international film festivals, supporting distribution of Palestinian films, encouraging collaborations with international filmmakers, promoting educational programs, and advocating for funding and resources for Palestinian filmmakers.

Table of Contents

Thesis Approval.....	I
Declaration.....	II
Dedication.....	III
Acknowledgment	IV
Abstract.....	V
Table of Contents	VII
Chapter One	1
Introduction and Theoretical Framework.....	1
1.1. Introduction.....	1
1.2. Research Problem.....	2
1.3. Aim and Objectives.....	4
1.4. Questions of the Study	4
1.5. Rationale and Significance.....	5
1.6. Limitations	6
1.7. Conceptual Definitions.....	7
1.8. Hypothesis.....	8
1.9. Final Remarks	8
Chapter Two.....	10
Literature Review.....	10
2.1. Introduction	10
2.2. Theoretical Background	10
2.3. Related Literature.....	29
2.4. Commentary on Literature	38
2.5. Identification of Research Gap.....	40
2.6. Summary	42
Chapter Three.....	45
Research Methodology	45
3.1. Introduction.....	45
3.2. Research Design.....	45
3.3. Population and Sample.....	46
3.4. Data Collection Methods.....	47
3.5. Data Analysis Procedures.....	48
3.6. Interviews.....	48
3.7. Ethical Considerations.....	51

3.8	Summary	52
	Chapter Four	52
	Social Aspects in Palestinian Netflix Films (2012-2020)	52
4.1.	Introduction, Overview and Objective	53
4.2.	Selection of Films.....	55
4.3.	Methodology for Analysis	60
4.4.	Individual Film Analysis	61
4.5.	Comparative Analysis	85
4.6.	Theoretical Integration and Discussion with Integration of Interview Insights	87
4.7.	Chapter Summary.....	88
	Chapter Five.....	90
	Cultural Aspects in Palestinian Netflix Films (2012-2020)	90
5.1	Introduction	90
5.2	Selection of Films.....	91
5.3	Methodology for Analysis	93
5.4	Individual Film Analysis	94
5.5	Comparative Analysis	120
5.6	Theoretical Integration and Discussion with Integration of Interview Insights	123
5.7	Chapter Summary.....	125
	Chapter Six.....	127
	Conclusion and Recommendations	127
6.1.	Introduction	127
6.2.	Discussion of the Results of the Study.....	127
6.3.	Research Questions	131
6.4.	Literature and Theories	132
6.5.	Recommendations	134
	References.....	137
	الملخص	146

Chapter One

Introduction and Theoretical Framework

1.1. Introduction

Cinema is a powerful instrument that influences societal values, human consciousness, and culture. It is considered one of the most influential arts, as it reflects people's identities and serves as a vital record of preserving and documenting nations' heritage (Shtewi, 2008). For Palestinians, cinema has been used to portray their complex reality, condemn and challenge the occupation, exile, and injustice, and capture, through its lenses, the spirit of resistance.

In the meantime, some social and cultural aspects of their lives were addressed, as the Palestinian cinema had two missions: commitment to the Palestinian revolution, its needs, and its current tasks and strategy, and conveying the experiences of other peoples to the Palestinian and Arab audiences¹.

The cinematic lens serves to highlight the instances of identity and the preservation of heritage, as owners of a just cause even in the face of a charged struggle and a protracted conflict over the very identity of the land.

The cinematic lens serves to highlight the instances of identity and the preservation of heritage, as owners of a just cause even in the face of a protracted struggle and conflict over the very identity of the land.

¹ Mustafa, Abu Ali, and Hassan Abu Ghanima (2006) "A Conversation with Mustafa Dukhan," in Walid Shmit, *Palestine in the Cinema*, Ramallah, Ministry of Culture, General Book Authority, 2nd Edition, 53.

The evolution and development of Palestinian cinema has aligned with the political developments in the Arab world and the various stages of the Palestinian struggle. The cinematic journey, from its inception, has been marked by situational requirements and complexities, unitary thought formation, and media influences. The first generation of Palestinian directors exercised a cinematic proposal, merging documentary and narrative methods, forming a cinematic resistance movement that echoed the Palestinian cause and the strategies of Palestinian resistance movements across international arenas. The subsequent emergence of immigrant cinema directors in the early eighties started a cinematic revolution—a popular and militant movement known as the new wave of Palestinian cinema (Abo Oyoon, 2021).

In the context of the cinema's integration with the Palestinian situation, it becomes critical to highlight the cultural and social features that define the Palestinian people. This integration is crucial for the preservation of Palestinian identity and heritage, whether produced by Palestinians or those that, despite depicting the Palestinian cause, are not of Palestinian origin.

This study seeks to explore the cultural and social aspects embedded in Palestinian films, particularly those available on the Netflix platform—a platform teeming with international films, movies, and documentaries, as well as several select films from Palestinian filmmakers in the diaspora.

1.2. Research Problem

Many well-produced Palestinian films primarily center around the overarching theme of occupation, offering a limited perspective on the versatile identity of the Palestinian people. While portraying the occupation is crucial, a critical need exists to widen the

cinematic lens to entail a more holistic view. This necessitates shedding light on essential social and cultural aspects linked to the occupation, providing global audiences with an insightful understanding of Palestinians. The vibrant landscape of Palestinian cultural and social backgrounds is key to unveiling the root of Palestinian identity.

Palestinian films explore various political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions that present a vibrant portrait of experiences. However, many well-produced Palestinian films primarily center around the overarching theme of occupation, offering a limited perspective on the versatile identity of the Palestinian people. There is a critical need, even though that portraying the occupation is crucial, to widen and expand the cinematic lens to provide a more holistic and complete view. Expanding the cinematic lens requires shedding light on essential social and cultural aspects linked to the occupation, which would offer the global audiences a deeper understanding of Palestinians.

This study aims to address the current gap by analyzing the varied and diverse dimensions of Palestinian identity as represented and reflected in films produced between 2012 and 2020 and are on Netflix platform. The chosen period is not only practical for accessing films through platforms like Netflix but also is the period that has witnessed significant development in Palestinian cinematic expression, influenced by advancements in media and technology. These modern films reflect a noticeable evolution in how Palestinians narrate and share their stories, away from ideological or organizational constraints, which allows a deeper exploration of cultural and social aspects.

This research seeks, based on the gap being the limited portrayal of the various aspects and dimensions of Palestinians' lives away from occupation, to understand how contemporary Palestinian films contribute to presenting a comprehensive and multifaceted view of Palestinian identity beyond the traditional focus on occupation.

1.3. Aim and Objectives

Aim: To explore the depiction of social and cultural aspects in Palestinian Netflix films between 2012 and 2020, focusing on how these films highlight various and different aspects of the Palestinian identity and society.

The **Primary Objective** of this study is to explore and investigate how the social and cultural aspects were portrayed in Palestinian Netflix films from 2012 to 2020. To achieve this overarching objective, the study will pursue the following sub-objectives:

1. Analyze the language of dialogue as an intellectual component of the elements of Palestinian culture as seen through Netflix films for the period under study.
2. Examine costumes as the physical component of the elements of Palestinian culture as it emerged through Netflix films for the period under study.
3. Define values, family solidarity, and gender roles as social components reflected in the films being studied.
4. Explore the social structure as a social component that is reflected through the surveyed films.

These sub-objectives are designed to unpack and unravel the diverse elements of social and cultural depiction and portrayal within Palestinian Netflix films, where the study, by exploring the language of dialogue, costumes, values, family solidarity, gender roles, and social structures, aims to offer a comprehensive analysis of how these aspects contribute to the cinematic depiction of Palestinian identity during the specified timeframe.

1.4. Questions of the Study

The primary question guiding this study is as follows:

Main Question:

- How were the social and cultural aspects reflected in the Palestinian Netflix films during the period (2012-2020)?

This overarching inquiry is further mapped out through the following sub-questions:

1. How was the Palestinian dialogue reflected in the surveyed films?
2. How were Palestinian family solidarity and gender roles reflected in the surveyed films?
3. How were Palestinian customs reflected in the surveyed films?
4. How are the social structures reflected in the surveyed films?
5. How are social relations reflected through the surveyed films?

These sub-questions aim to systematically dissect the versatile social and cultural aspects within Palestinian Netflix films. By addressing these specific aspects, the study attempts to offer a holistic understanding of the portrayal of Palestinian identity and society on the global cinematic stage during the specified timeframe.

The sub-questions inquire into specific portrayals of Palestinian dialogue, family solidarity, gender roles, customs, social structures, and social relations in these films.

1.5. Rationale and Significance

The selection is based on the varied representation of social aspects from 2012-2020. Each film offers insights into Palestinian life, ranging from individual and family struggles under occupation to the broader societal challenges within the territories and in the diaspora. Together, these films provide a broad understanding of the diverse social dynamics, cultural expressions, and resilience within Palestinian society. They collectively offer a bird's-eye view of the Palestinian experience, making them crucial for an in-depth analysis of social themes in contemporary Palestinian cinema.

The criteria for selecting these films encompass temporal diversity, variety in film length, diverse directorial perspectives, and gender representation in filmmaking, ensuring a comprehensive view of the Palestinian experience as depicted in contemporary cinema.

The significance and justification of this study are diverse, spanning various fields:

1. Academic Importance:

This study is positioned as an innovative exploration of Palestinian cinema, providing a unique angle that can serve as a contemporary reference for students, researchers, and scholars interested in the variation of Palestinian cinema. This research contributes to the academic discourse surrounding Palestinian cinema.

2. Practical Importance:

As a comprehensive reference, this study holds practical significance for professionals within the film industry, where filmmakers, producers, and other industry workers can gain valuable insights that inform their creative processes and narrative choices.

3. Objective Importance:

The study stands out as one of the few examinations of the cultural and social aspects within locally produced films. The scarcity of previous studies addressing these aspects underscores the uniqueness and importance of this research in broadening the understanding of Palestinian cinematic narratives.

1.6. Limitations

Limitations:

1. Restricted Film Selection: Focus solely on films available on Netflix may omit other significant Palestinian works not made available on this platform.

2. Time Frame Limitation: Concentration on the period 2012-2020 might not fully represent the historical evolution of Palestinian cinema.
3. Subjective Interpretation: Personal biases in interpreting films' cultural and social themes.
4. Language and Translation Issues: Potential note and detail loss or modification in the translation of dialogues from Arabic.
5. Lack of Comparative Analysis: Absence of comparison with non-Palestinian films might limit understanding of unique Palestinian cultural aspects.
6. Specific Time Period: Intentional focus on films between 2012 and 2020 to capture contemporary trends in Palestinian cinema.
7. Concentration on Netflix Films: Deliberate selection of Netflix as a source to access modern Palestinian films.
8. Cultural and Social Focus: Specifically examining elements like language, costumes, and family dynamics in Palestinian society.
9. Geographical and Cultural Specificity: Study confines itself to Palestinian cinema, offering a focused cultural perspective.
10. Scope of Content Analysis: Limiting the analysis to thematic and narrative aspects, excluding technical or production viewpoints.

1.7. Conceptual Definitions

1. Cultural Aspects: Elements representing Palestinian culture in the films, including language, family solidarity, gender roles, and customs.
2. Social Aspects: Depictions of social structures and relations in the films.

3. Palestinian Films: Films related to the Palestinian cause, focusing on social and cultural elements.
4. Netflix: A streaming service platform where selected films are available.
5. Palestinian Identity: The collective and individual identity of Palestinians, as shaped by historical, cultural, social, and political aspects.
6. Narrative: A representation of events or experiences, whether real or imagined. It can be delivered through various mediums, including Written or spoken words.
7. Struggle: A state of internal conflict or discomfort arising from competing desires, needs, values, or beliefs.
8. Occupation: A process of taking possession and control of a territory or area typically by a military force.

1.8. Hypothesis

Influence of Cultural and Social Contexts on Film Narrative: Palestinian Netflix films reflect and are influenced by the cultural and social contexts of Palestinian society, showcasing themes of resilience, identity, and community bonds amidst occupation and diaspora.

1.9. Final Remarks

Chapter one, "Introduction and Theoretical Framework," sets the stage for the study by exploring the powerful influence of cinema, especially Palestinian cinema, on societal values and culture. It examines the focus on occupation in Palestinian films and advocates

for a broader view around cultural and social aspects. The chapter outlines the aim and objectives of the study, focusing on various elements like language, costumes, and social structures in Palestinian Netflix films from 2012-2020. It discusses the research problem, highlighting the need for a more holistic portrayal of Palestinian society. The chapter concludes by addressing the study's limitations, delimitations, and providing operational definitions for key concepts.

Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1. Introduction

The purpose of the literature review in this study is to build a comprehensive understanding of the cultural and social aspects in Palestinian cinema, particularly the films available on Netflix from 2012-2020. It involves critically analyzing previous studies, articles, and theories relevant to Palestinian cinema. This review is essential for identifying gaps in existing research and setting a theoretical ground for the study, thereby enhancing the analysis of how these films reflect Palestinian societal norms, values, and identities. It serves as a key component in understanding the evolution and current state of Palestinian cinema within the broader context of cultural and social representation.

2.2. Theoretical Background

2.2.1. The Social Aspects:

The rich and diverse Palestinian social dynamics has evolved through a series of historical periods, marked by successive occupations that have left lasting imprints on the social fabric. From the Ottoman era to the Oslo Accords, Palestine has witnessed social transformations encompassing both structure and relationships. Under Ottoman rule, the impact of economic conditions, taxation policies, educational challenges, and compulsory recruitment reverberated within the social framework. Social relations manifested in the cohesion among farmers and rural inhabitants, striving to enhance educational and economic prospects, while, at the same time, witnessing discrepancy between wealthy and poor classes, highlighting the disparities in living standards.

The era of British occupation witnessed a rise in educational initiatives that were influenced by colonial biases. Unfortunately, this gave rise to discriminatory practices between Arabs and Jews, aggravating the societal landscape in Palestine. The aftermath was an expansion of emerging political groups and organizations, which also brought to light the clan-based nature of political action highlighting the roles of farmers, merchants, and politicians in society, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation by the occupying power.

The Israeli occupation, marked by evolutions in Palestinian political thought, affected social relations. Community resilience, however, helped narrow the gap between social classes, especially during the first and second intifadas. Different social classes emerged, defining boundaries between the poor and the wealthy, and societal and familial ties weakened. Women became more involved and active in various spheres such as political, economic, and social, reducing the burden of clan affiliations and leaning toward broader affiliations based on social class, including government employees, private sector workers, laborers in Israel, politicians, and influential figures (Idhir, 2020).

Palestinian Social Identity

To understand the Palestinian social identity, it is necessary to explore social psychology using the Social Identity Theory framework. This theory, developed by psychologists Henri Tajfel and John Turner in the 1970s, sheds light on how social identity affects intergroup behavior by analyzing the cognitive processes involved. The theory is based on three key cognitive components: social classification, social identification, and social comparison, which help explain how individuals navigate their social identity.

According to Social Identity Theory, people have an inherent desire to maintain a positive social identity, often achieved by promoting and advancing their group's preferred social

status above that of external groups.² To comprehend these processes, we explore the three mental mechanisms outlined by the theory.

Social Identity Theory identifies three mental processes that an individual undergoes to create in-group and out-group categorizations.

Social Classification

Social classification is the cognitive process by which individuals organize and categorize themselves and others into social groups. This is an essential step in understanding the complexities of the social world. This process involves identifying individuals, including oneself, based on the groups to which they belong. It is worth mentioning that social classification prioritizes the labelling of individuals based on their group affiliations and association to a certain group rather than individual characteristics and traits. This tendency highlights the perceived similarities among individuals within the same group and underlines the differences between individuals belonging to distinct groups³.

Social Identification and Social Comparison

The dynamics of Palestinian social identity unfold further as we enquire into the processes of social identification and social comparison, integral components within the framework of Social Identity Theory.

Social Identification

² Morris, D., & Webb, E. (2022). Social Identity Theories. In *Social Psychology in Forensic Practice* (pp. 47-68). Routledge.

³ Zayed, A. (2006). *The Psychology of Intergroup Relations*. Kuwait: Al-Maarif, World of Knowledge Series - National Council for Culture, Arts, and Literature, pp. 11, 15-17, 29.

The second cognitive process, social identification, entails the individual's recognition of themselves as a member of a particular group. This self-categorization prompts the individual to align their behavior with perceived norms and expectations of the group. The emotional investment in a group is a hallmark of this process, where individuals become connected to the behavioral patterns they attribute to their group. Therefore, the self-esteem of individuals becomes closely linked to the social standing of their group, establishing a deep connection between individual and collective identity.

Social Comparison

In social comparison, individuals engage in the process of evaluating their group in terms of social presence and status by comparing it with others⁴. The act of comparing one's group to others helps individuals understand their social identity and how their group is perceived by others. This is a way for individuals to determine their place in society and how much influence their group has. It also shapes their sense of belonging to their group. The relationship between social identity and the official and popular cultures is a complex phenomenon. Kanaana (2011)⁵ explores the formation of social identity within the context of official culture that originates from the ruling class. This culture lacks emotional resonance with the public. In contrast, popular culture, which is manifested in folklore, resonates deeply within the community and has a lasting impact on social identity. The interaction between official and popular cultures influences how social identity shapes within the Palestinian society.

2.2.2. The Cultural Aspects

⁴ Nazmi, F. (2009). Relative Deprivation and Social Identity and Their Relationship with Protest Behavior among the Unemployed (Doctoral dissertation, University of Baghdad), p. 110.

⁵ Kanaaneh, S. (2011). Studies in Culture, Heritage, and Identity. Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy. Retrieved from <https://fada.birzeit.edu/bitstream/20.500.11889/4799/1/ShareefKanaaneh.pdf>

The Palestinian culture is unique and different from other cultures, including similar cultures like Arab cultures, or different like the Western, and Israeli cultures. It is woven through space, time, and interactions with the environment. The national culture is closely linked to the national character, where it becomes the spirit and conscience of its own creation. The official culture, which entails education, media, and socialization, and the informal culture, such as folklore, oral traditions, and handmade creations, are disseminated across generations through schools, families, and various media forms. This process shapes individual personalities and colors the national personality with its unique characteristics.

Palestinian National Culture: Formation and Characteristics

The Palestinian national culture is unique and has developed distinct features that align with Arab culture but set it apart from Western cultures and the hybrid Israeli culture. This culture is deeply interconnected with the Palestinian national character at both the collective and individual levels, and it has its roots in specific times and places.

Israeli Occupation's Assault on Palestinian Culture

The Israeli occupation's primary agenda revolves around the deliberate destruction of Palestinian national culture—a manifestation of the soul and conscience of the Palestinian people. This destructive agenda is driven by the overarching goal of denying the actual and symbolic existence of the Palestinian people. The assault takes various forms, including demographic manipulation, land dispossession, and the distortion and destruction of national culture. Practices range from suppressing Palestinian dance,

plastic arts, journalism, folklore, and printing presses to undermining schools and publishing houses in complex and insidious ways⁶.

Palestinian Cinema: Resilience Amidst Occupation

Since its inception, Palestinian cinema has been a resilient force in the face of Israeli occupation practices aimed at erasing Palestinian identity and culture. While initial responses to these influences were confined to specific domains, they progressively expanded to encompass a broader spectrum of elements constituting Palestinian culture and its embedded social contexts. This cinematic resilience serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of the Palestinian people, utilizing film as a powerful tool for cultural preservation and storytelling amidst formidable challenges.

The Nature of Culture

Culture, a term with a myriad of interpretations, has been a subject of great discourse in both European literature and global journalism. In the mid-twentieth century, anthropologists Cooper and Glockhoen compiled over 150 definitions of culture, reflecting its complexity and multifaceted nature. It has evolved, grown, and taken on dimensions that continue to shape its understanding, with ongoing contributions from diverse fields.

To anchor our exploration, we turn to insightful definitions. Kroeber and Kluckhohn (1952) posit that culture consists of patterns, both explicit and implicit, shaping behavior through symbols. It embodies the distinctive achievements of human groups, encompassing traditional ideas and their associated values. Tyler (1870) defines culture

⁶ Taha, Motawakkil , Palestinian culture between self-affirmation and alienation, <https://www.wattan.net/ar/news/358591.html> Viewed on 10-3-2023.

as the complex whole of knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and acquired capabilities and habits within a society.

T.S. Elliott adds nuance by outlining three conditions for the realization of culture. First, organic construction aids the genetic transmission of culture within a society. Second, he emphasizes the geographical dimension, advocating the analysis of culture into local cultures. Third, he underscores the importance of a balance between unity and diversity in religion.

Edward Said, in his perspective, views culture as practices with relative autonomy from social, political, and economic realms. It often exists in aesthetic forms and encompasses communication, art, description, and representation. Said's concept of culture includes a refining and elevating element, representing a society's reservoir of the best in thought and knowledge.

Drawing from various definitions, Al-Khatimi (2007) notes that culture encompasses beliefs, traditions, artistic models, customs related to food and crafts, and is inherited from the past. Robert Lowe defines it as the sum of what an individual obtains from his community.

Analyzing these discussions, we identify the main elements of culture: values, knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, and their connection to social, political, and economic realms. These elements can be derived from the past history of nations or developed through recent actions, shaping future ventures.

In the culturally specific context of Palestine, marked by successive occupations, including the current Israeli occupation, cultural specificity emerges from the geographical locations of Palestinians. This specificity is evident in the contribution of cultures associated with the diaspora, influencing literature and cinema. The poetry and

literature of the diaspora, influenced by the geographical locations of Palestinians in exile or surrounding asylum countries, have played a crucial role in shaping cinema. Cinematic works have engaged with the Palestinian revolution and documented social life, contributing to the strengthening of national identity through the efforts of immigrant producers and directors in the mid-eighties of the last century⁷.

Cultural Theories

The exploration of culture represents a vast and elaborate subject, entangled in complexity and diversity. The multitude of theories addressing this subject underscores its complexity, with diverse approaches contributing to its understanding. This section aims to delineate prominent theories and the endeavors of influential scholars in comprehending culture. The classical theories, encompassing evolutionary, diffusionist, and functional perspectives, set the stage for subsequent modern theories—namely, the modern evolutionary theory, the theory of cultural selection, and the social and cultural viability of growth. Each theory provides distinct viewpoints on the multifaceted nature of culture, collectively contributing to a comprehensive understanding of its dynamics⁸.

2.2.2.1. Evolutionary Theory

The foundation of cultural evolution theory lies in the concept of cultural elements developing as part of the universal evolution of elements in the cosmos. The maturation

⁷ Habashneh, Khadija. (2015). Palestine Film Unit: A Mark in the History of Struggle Cinema. *Palestinian Affairs*, pp. 260, 182-193. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/727512>

⁸ Francisco, Brahm., Joaquín, Poblete. (2022). Cultural Evolution Theory and Organizations. *Organization theory*, doi: 10.1177/26317877211069141

of this theory gained momentum following Darwin's exploration of the origin of species and its subsequent application to humanity⁹.

Various theories within the broader scope of evolutionism emerged, offering a plethora of perspectives. Anne Robert Jacques (1717-1781) notably contributed to these theories by emphasizing the model of cultural gradation. This perspective posits that the human mind, universally capable of cultural innovation, thrives under specific natural conditions. Disparities in economic levels among different societies arise due to the diversity in these natural conditions¹⁰.

2.2.2.2. Diffusional Theory

The diffusional theory posits that the exchange of cultural features between distant and proximate cultures contributes to the conditions fostering cultural change and progression between different stages. This theory underscores the significance of cultural interactions among groups, leading to the transmission of cultural attributes from one society to another.

Within the framework of diffusional theory, three primary schools exist. The British school, represented by scholars like Elliott Smith, William Perry, and Rivers, contends that a major center of civilization existed in Egypt, marked by advancements in agriculture, pyramid construction, and sun worship. This culture purportedly diffused to various parts of the world. The Austrian school, led by Gruebner and Schmidt, challenges the idea of a single cultural center, proposing instead the existence of cultural circles or

⁹ Britannica, History of evolutionary theory.

<https://www.britannica.com/science/evolution-scientific-theory/History-of-evolutionary-theory>

¹⁰ Unesdoc.Culture and development: a response to the challenges of the future.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000187629>

foci with multiple civilized centers. These circles share common cultural features, with the intensity of these features increasing in proximity to the center. This school acknowledges the possibility of independent parallel development and asserts that people are inherently innovative.¹¹

2.2.2.3. Functional Theory

The functional school is recognized as a significant approach in the study of culture and stands out as a leading school in the field, particularly through the contributions of its pioneers and their students. Scholars such as Malinowski, Radcliffe Brown, and others devoted considerable attention to this subject. The proponents of this school emphasized that understanding the function of a system allows for its interpretation and comprehension.

In this context, the term "function" is employed to denote the fundamental needs or requirements essential for the continued existence of a social group. Through an examination of function, one can discern that systems are established as patterns of behavior aligned with specific standards and values. This perspective extends beyond the mere technical apparatus used in daily life, encompassing all spiritual ideas that shape the morality, religion, and laws of a society, thereby providing a framework to regulate its thought and behavior.¹²

¹¹ Mesoudi, A., Laland, K. N., Boyd, R., Buchanan, B., Flynn, E., McCauley, R. N., ... & Tennie, C. (2013). The cultural evolution of technology and science.

¹² Ulysses, Paulino, Albuquerque., Rômulo, Romeu, Nóbrega, Alves. (2016). Introduction to Ethnobiology. doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-28155-1

2.2.2.4. Modern Evolutionary Theory

Modern evolutionary theory introduces fresh perspectives to the evolutionary understanding of culture. While the inquiries of its proponents align closely with those of their nineteenth-century predecessors, they have incorporated modifications and ideas pertaining to the mechanisms of change and the general laws governing cultural transformation.

Leslie White, for instance, emphasized the significance of the stages of cultural development, portraying them as comprehensive, holistic phases distinguished by accumulated human experience. Julian Sittward highlighted the realistic aspect of multiple parallel evolutionary origins, discernible by comparing cultural changes across diverse societies. Sittward identified three key elements governing cultural development:

- Primary versus peripheral or peripheral systems.
- Style or cultural model.
- Levels of social and cultural integration.

This theory marks a paradigm shift for evolutionary thought, departing from a unilateral interpretation of cultural development to a multifactorial one. It also expands from a singular path of evolution to encompass parallel paths of development¹³.

¹³ Mayr, Ernst. (1996). The Modern Evolutionary Theory, *Journal of Mammalogy* Vol. 77, No. 1 (Feb., 1996), pp. 1-7 (7 pages).

2.2.2.5. Social and Cultural Viability of Growth¹⁴

This theory represents a modern attempt to consolidate the efforts of various theorists and formulate a unified perspective that transcends previous differences. Notable proponents of this approach include Michel Thompson, Richard Ellis, and Aaron Wildavsky. According to their conceptualization of culture, three fundamental concepts are identified (Michael Thompson, 2006):

Cultural Biases: This denotes the phenomenon wherein individuals interpret the behavior of others based on the cultural standards they uphold. Examples of cultural influences leading to bias encompass linguistic interpretation, notions of right and wrong, understanding facts or evidence, racial bias, and religious beliefs ¹⁵

Social Relations: The comprehensive processes of acquiring cultural characteristics and their dissemination hinge on social contact. This occurs through the direct or continuous interaction of a group of individuals with different cultures, resulting in subsequent alterations to the original cultural patterns of the involved groups¹⁶.

Patterns and Ways of Life: The way of life embraced by an individual or group, as well as the general tenor of the group's life, significantly contributes to the formation of their culture.

¹⁴ Soini, K., & Birkeland, I. (2014). Exploring the scientific discourse on cultural sustainability. *Geoforum*, 51, 213-223.

¹⁵ Understanding Cultural Bias: 3 Examples of Cultural Bias
<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/understanding-cultural-bias>

¹⁶ Yousef, A. M. (2016). The Real Formation of Cultural Communication between Incoming Groups and the Original Community in the Bahariya Oasis (Social Relations as a Model). Retrieved from https://aafu.journals.ekb.eg/article_14661.html

2.2.3. Cultural Industry

The term "cultural industry" was coined by renowned thinkers from the Frankfurt School, notably Adorno and Horkheimer. They used this term to describe how commercial interests have taken control of culture and expressed concern about the impact of mass culture on our perception of cultural value. Essentially, it involves transforming culture into a commodity subject to market conditions, including production, export, import, and consumption.

The modern cultural industry directs societies toward what is being produced rather than what they truly need, creating a **delusion** that the produced content fulfills their ambitions and purposes. This concept extends beyond electronic products, clothing, and ready-made foods to the smallest aspects of life, such as love, joy, sadness, health, freedom, and human evaluation standards. This phenomenon is often referred to as "engineering human behavior." The new culture industry establishes fixed standards for human behavior, aiming to create a homogenous, reproduced image where cultural and artistic material is packaged and sold like any other commodity. Consumers themselves become replaceable and marketable, shaping their opinions, formulating reality, and molding it in their minds.¹⁷

2.2.3.1. Cinemas in the Culture Industry

Cinema, as a part of the cultural industry, is dedicated to attracting audiences by incorporating various art forms into a single film. It integrates music, dance, acting, singing, dialogue, scenery, decorations, and costumes. However, commercial

¹⁷ Yuan, Yang. (2023). A Brief Discussion on the Status and Role of Cultural Industries in the Pattern of International Relations. *Journal of humanities, arts and social science*, doi: 10.26855/jhass.2023.07.037

considerations often take precedence over addressing the genuine needs of viewers. This approach involves monitoring audience preferences and rising through cultural and artistic education to produce films that contribute significantly to educating the masses. Cinema is not only a means of entertainment but also a powerful tool for presenting knowledge in an accessible and accurate manner. It enlightens audiences with the successive victories of science and art, such as showcasing the paintings of artists. Through cinematic techniques, these films bring paintings to life, reveal proportions, and depict light and color in ways that surpass the naked eye's perception. While such films may not always be profitable commodities, some countries promote their production as part of general education facilities, considering them crucial for deepening, clarifying, and embodying knowledge to foster a correct cultural understanding ¹⁸.

2.2.4. Components of Culture

There are three fundamental components of culture, namely:

A. Physical Components

These encompass tangible aspects such as tools, furniture, means of transportation, housing, and clothing. These material elements often exhibit similarities among cultural groups within a specific geographic area. Whether inherited, naturally evolved through interaction with other cultures, or influenced by regional laws, these physical components embody the historical processes of culture. For instance, the Palestinian dress, despite being widespread across cities and rural areas, exhibits variations in colors and features reflective of each city's unique interpretations, shaped by inherited ideas. Even elements like public transportation colors may be influenced by government laws, showcasing the

¹⁸ Mandor, Mhammad.(1958). Culture and its devices, <https://www.hindawi.org/books/25836460/>

transmission of cultures from previous civilizations in tools and practices related to daily life activities like eating, farming, and olive squeezing. This underscores that culture is an ongoing historical process, seamlessly interweaving the past, present, and future in a perpetual state of development.

B. Social Components

These include social systems and interactions between groups and society. This involves social classes, their associated characteristics, and the intricate relationships between them within a society. Laws and regulations play a pivotal role in defining these relationships. In Palestinian society, customs, traditions, and the legal framework significantly influence the dynamics among social components. The advent of technology acts as a catalyst, facilitating interactions beyond traditional boundaries, fostering connections among social groups within a society and between different societies.

C. Intellectual Components

The third component encompasses language, art, religion, magic, and science. These intellectual elements form the foundational framework supporting the intellectual, artistic, and scientific aspects of a society's culture. They are universal components shared by all societies, collectively shaping the intellectual landscape that defines cultural identity (Nasser, 1981).

2.2.5. The Palestinian Culture

The genesis of the cultural revival in Palestine dates back to the latter half of the nineteenth century, propelled by various factors. The influx of missionaries and the establishment of schools, the advent of printing presses, and the emergence of associations, clubs, and political movements, evolving in tandem with the political

landscape, all played pivotal roles. The introduction of electricity, the development of transportation infrastructure, and the establishment of modern ports collectively contributed to reshaping societal structures, fostering urban development, and crystallizing the identity and issues of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian cultural movement gained momentum and solidified during this period (Bashir, 2018).

Similar to cultures worldwide, Palestinian culture consists of interconnected elements that form the distinct identity of its people. The rich Palestinian heritage, with its hidden treasures and historical manifestations, stands as the primary and boundless source for various Palestinian arts and literature. Preserving this heritage and passing it down from generation to generation has become a sacred cultural mission, affirming Palestinian identity and unifying the people across religious and ethnic sects. Despite relentless attempts to erase its timeless identity, the culture of Palestine remains resilient, with the creations of its artists standing tall as an impervious barrier. The writings of Ghassan Kanafani, the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish and Simah al-Qassem, and the iconic character Handala by cartoonist Naji Al-Ali continue to inspire intellectuals across the Arab world and beyond. These cultural luminaries have played a crucial role in solidifying Palestinian heritage and reviving its aesthetics, contributing to the formation of a unified collective cultural consciousness among Palestinians. Additionally, Palestinian cinema, particularly since the 1970s, has provided a poignant portrayal of the daily life and struggles of the Palestinian people, shedding light on customs, traditions, values, dialects, clothing, spatial geography, and the transformations brought about by the interventions of the occupying power (Saeed, 1993).

2.2.5.1. Palestinian Cultural Heritage

The archaeological history of Palestine is exceptionally rich, boasting around 12,000 archaeological sites in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The land is dotted with holy shrines, adding a profound dimension to the cultural heritage of Palestine. As the birthplace of three major monotheistic religions, with Jerusalem holding particular reverence, Palestine has been a crucible for the emergence of numerous civilizations, cultures, and religions. The imprint of diverse cultures has persisted since prehistoric times, with cultural heritage stretching back to the Byzantine period (4th century AD). During this era, ancient churches, exemplified by those at Burqin and Aboud, were preserved in the West Bank. The Umayyad era (661-750) contributed to early Islamic architecture, leaving a lasting impact on the broader Levant region, characterized by a luxurious standard of living influenced by political and tribal forces (Madanat, 1982).

Despite the persistent efforts of the Israeli occupation to alter or claim archaeological monuments, such as the ongoing situation at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, these sacred archaeological sites continue to play a crucial role in reinforcing the national identity of the Palestinian people and enriching their cultural heritage. Significant archaeological landmarks like "Tal Tanak," "Sebastia," and "Jericho," among other Palestinian cities and towns, endure as guardians of their historical properties and archaeological sites.

2.2.5.2. Social Customs and Traditions

Palestinian traditions and social customs share similarities with those of other Arab countries, with roots tracing back to the historical period when Palestine was an agrarian society, and life revolved around villages and farming. In this setting, a few Palestinian

cities, including Jerusalem, Nablus, Hebron, and Gaza, specialized in the production of goods. The landscape began to shift with globalization and increased educational levels, leading to changes in social customs. The growth of cities and the professional class had a moderating impact on the traditional strength of clans or extended families that once lived and worked the village land collectively.

The profound impact on Palestinian social customs and traditions occurred with the Nakba in 1948—the final dispossession and displacement of the Palestinian people with the creation of the state of Israel. This event had significant consequences, including the loss of land, the establishment of refugee camps, and the subsequent search for wage labor in the Gulf States, Europe, and America. These challenges posed serious threats to the preservation of traditional values and customs (Farsoun, 2004).

Here, the researcher believes that the political conditions experienced by Palestine, from the Ottoman occupation, through the British and Israeli occupation, have had direct and indirect effects on the transformations in the Palestinian culture. These transformations, in turn, have had their repercussions through every era, on the role Palestinian cinema.

2.2.5.3. Values / Family Solidarity

Family holds a paramount status as the most crucial component or unit in Palestinian society, shaped by the challenges confronted during the Israeli occupation. These challenges have contributed significantly to the reinforcement of family ties. In the absence of a comprehensive government-sponsored social safety net and the lack of a robust economy, coupled with an insufficient number of independent government institutions and a scarcity of banks offering home or student loans, Palestinians have had to depend extensively on family bonds and communal support to bridge gaps.

The family functions as the primary source of identity, and extended families commonly reside together in compounds or villas, partitioned into apartments to accommodate all male sons and their respective families¹⁹.

Family solidarity emerges as one of the fundamental structures in Palestinian society, integral to surviving Al-Nakba. Even in situations of diaspora, within refugee camps, or among individuals residing far from their original homelands, villages, and towns, Palestinians persist in living, working, and socializing within the familial framework.

A notable phenomenon is the migration of many Palestinians to oil-rich Gulf States and other countries. Individuals often leave behind their homeland, children, wives, and extended families to seek employment opportunities, driven by the imperative to secure a decent living and provide financial support for their families (Anson, 2010).

2.2.5.4. Gender Roles

In common with many traditional societies, Palestinian society predominantly adheres to a patriarchal structure. Men are regarded as the fundamental component and heads of households, wielding decision-making authority, which encompasses the responsibility for the family's economic well-being and security. In contrast, women assume the primary responsibility for child-rearing and maintaining the household. However, women play a crucial role as the cohesive force binding the family bonds together more tightly. In villages, women are often tasked with working in the fields and gathering products for the market.

¹⁹ Al-Dameer Al-Jam'i Al-Filastini [The Palestinian collective conscience]. Journal of Al-Quds Open University for Research and Studies, 1(28)

Urban women, benefiting from educational advancements, enjoy broader opportunities. Through education, they find significant roles in the educational, economic, political, and cultural spheres of Palestinian society. Following World War I, the economic downturn spurred an increased number of women seeking employment outside their homes. This, in turn, led to the establishment of women's charitable organizations, many of which developed political agendas advocating for the advancement of women's rights and the self-determination of the Palestinian people²⁰.

2.3. Related Literature

The previous literature related to the current study will be explored from the most recent to the least recent:

Abu-Oyoun Study (2021)²¹

The Abu-Oyoun study (2021) provides valuable insights into the role of visual elements in establishing and preserving local identity in Palestinian cinema films. The study primarily focuses on the works of two prominent Palestinian film directors, Michel Khleifi and Elia Suleiman. Through a descriptive analysis, the directors' films are examined for their expression of Palestinian cause and identity.

The study underscores the directors' personal perspectives and their portrayal of the Palestinian identity, even in the face of forced emigration and physical distance from their homeland. The films capture the suffering of the Palestinian people, employing both

²⁰ Hammami, R., & Johnson, P. (1999). Equality with a difference: gender and citizenship in transitional Palestine. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 6(3), 314-343.

<https://academic.oup.com/sp/article-abstract/6/3/314/1620868>

²¹ Abo Oyoun.Sohair.(2021). "Issues of identity and heritage in Palestinian cinema", *Journal of Architecture, Arts and Human Sciences - Special Issue* (2).

dramatic and sarcastic approaches to convey intellectual visions, philosophical content, and unique artistic and cinematic methods.

A notable conclusion drawn from the study is that Palestinian directors effectively express Palestinian identity through cinematic imagery. Despite geographical separation, the commitment to the homeland is evident. The directors successfully raise issues of identity and human ideas by using connotations and symbols within the cinematic framework. The employment of visual elements serves the purpose of conveying the directors' ideas to the audience, effectively communicating their visions and the dramatic content of their films.

Moreover, the study emphasizes that Palestinian cinema plays a crucial role in preserving identity in the individual memory of Arab citizens, extending to the collective memory of all Arabs. The researcher underscores the importance of visual reflections in Palestinian films, such as the depiction of Palestinian dress, particularly in Michel Khleifi's films, and the language of dialogue. These visual elements, as highlighted by the study, contribute to the preservation of Palestinian culture within the context of resisting occupation.

This study's exploration of visual elements in Palestinian cinema provides a foundational understanding that can inform the current research, especially in the examination of cultural and social aspects in Palestinian Netflix films during the period 2012-2020.

Al-Baik Article (2022)²²

The article offers a comprehensive overview of the development of Palestinian cinema over the last two decades, aligning its evolution with the shifts in the Palestinian political landscape. The article examines the stages of cinematic development, particularly in relation to the Palestinian political process, capturing significant moments such as the armed struggle and the plight of Palestinian refugees in 1982.

A key highlight of the article is its exploration of interruptions, transitions, and the reshaping of identity within Palestinian cinema from the 1970s to the 2000s. It underscores the impact of fragmented nationalism on the disintegration of the Palestinian identity, as manifested in cinema. The article emphasizes the complicated relationship between Palestinian cinema and the prevailing political currents, revealing the cinema's immersion in a stream that reflected the political leadership before fully realizing a unified Palestinian identity. The narrative suggests that, rather than contributing to the disintegration of patriotism, the cinema becomes a component of identity, grounded in localities.

The article concludes by referencing Rashid al-Khalidi's insights from his book, "The Palestinian Identity," highlighting that the discourse extends beyond physical borders to encompass the spirituality associated with the idea of Palestine. It recognizes diverse localities and humanity sensitively captured in Palestinian films as crucial elements contributing to the broader understanding of Palestinian identity.

Akhirayn -Aqdiyyn Al-Filastiniya Fi Al-Hala Al-Sinema Bisaftiha Huwiya: Al-Baik, S. (2022). Al-Al²² [Cinema as Identity: The Palestinian Case in the Last Two Decades]. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 130, 110-115.

The researcher acknowledges the significance of this article, noting its importance in presenting not only the developmental trajectory of Palestinian cinema but also its substantial contribution to shaping the Palestinian identity. This perspective provides a valuable foundation for the current study, contributing to the contextual understanding of cultural and social aspects in Palestinian Netflix films during the period 2012-2020.

Ali (2019)²³

Review of the Palestinian Cinema Book in the Twentieth Century.

The research paper deals with a review of the Palestinian cinema book in the twentieth century. The paper undertakes a nuanced examination, balancing documentation and analysis, to understand the role of cinema in shaping perceptions and opinions. The central argument posits that visual representation, as facilitated by cinema, is a potent and efficient tool in shaping the consciousness of its audience, given its accessibility, speed, and persuasiveness.

The author commends the book for its unique approach in intertwining two significant subjects—the twists and turns of Palestine and its challenges, and the medium of cinema that addresses these challenges. The book's content is segmented into terminology, delineating the definitions of "Palestinian cinema" and the "cinema of the Palestinian cause." Notably, the review highlights the historic significance of "King Abdul Aziz's Visit," considered the first film in Palestinian cinema in 1935. Directed by Ibrahim Hassan Sarhan, the short documentary is positioned as a pioneering work in Palestinian cinematic history.

²³ Ali, Nabila. (2019). Review of the Palestinian cinema book in the twentieth century. Qalamoun: The Syrian Journal of Human Sciences, pp. 8, 401-408. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/1164330>

The review accentuates the author's effort to shed light on Qais Al-Zubaidi, an Iraqi director, recognizing his substantial cultural contribution to the Palestinian cause over an extended period. It notes that Palestinian cinema, primarily focused on recording collective memory, was bound to the documentary format until the Al-Aqsa Intifada.

The paper concludes by acknowledging the challenge of maintaining objectivity in presenting and defending specific viewpoints. The author underscores the importance of the writer's role in articulating their perspective while chronicling the production and cinematic journey within the book. This review contributes to the understanding of the relationship between cinema and the Palestinian narrative, offering insights into the historical trajectory and challenges faced by Palestinian cinema.

Kawakibi (2018) Study²⁴

The article, titled "Palestinian Cinema," provides a significant review of the origins and evolution of Palestinian cinema. Authored by Al-Kawakibi, the article delineates the developmental phases from the mid-1940s to the contemporary era. The cinematic journey is explored across various periods, highlighting key milestones and transitions.

The narrative unfolds with the emergence of the cinematic movement, characterized by the production of documentaries in non-professional ways. An interruption in production is noted, succeeded by a renewed cinematic vigor post-Nakba. This period witnesses the production of films that mirror the struggle and resilience of the Palestinian people, particularly during the establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The article underscores a pivotal turning point with the emergence of director Michel Khleifi in the 1970s. His contributions marked a significant chapter in Palestinian cinema,

²⁴ Kawakibi, Fadel. (2018). Palestinian Cinema. Arab Culture in the Twentieth Century, Volume 2, Beirut: Center for Arab Unity Studies, 1590-1591. Redux <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/1017028>

portraying the vivid struggles and realities of Palestinian life. Following Khleifi, director Elia Suleiman is credited with further transforming Palestinian cinema, presenting a vibrant and nuanced depiction of daily life.

The researcher regards this article as highly valuable, considering it an important resource for understanding the historical trajectory of Palestinian cinema. By delineating the developmental periods and key figures, the article contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the cinematic landscape, offering insights into the challenges, progress, and artistic contributions within the context of Palestinian cinema's history.

Saada (2016).²⁵

Saada's article (2016), "Palestinian Cinema: Honourable Beginnings, Stumbling Blocks, and Attempts to Rise Again," provides a historical overview of Palestinian cinema, tracing its origins, facing challenges, and exploring endeavours to revitalize the cinematic landscape.

The article commences with the honourable beginnings of Palestinian and Arab cinema, initiated by the arrival of brothers Ibrahim and Badr Lama in Alexandria in 1926. Descendants of Palestinian parents who had immigrated to Chile from Bethlehem, the Lama brothers played a foundational role in the early cinematic endeavours. The narrative highlights Sarhan as the first Palestinian attempting to establish a film industry on Palestinian land. Sarhan not only took on the challenge of filmmaking but also manufactured the necessary equipment himself. His inaugural film in 1935, a documentary about King Saud's visit to Palestine, marked a significant early contribution to Palestinian cinema.

²⁵ Saada, Tagreed. (2016). Palestinian cinema: honorable beginnings, stumbling blocks, and attempts to rise again. Afkar, pp. 326, 93-97. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/772955>

Further, the article introduces Ahmed Helmy Al-Kilani, the founder of the Arab Film Production Company, who sought refuge in Jordan and significantly contributed to the cinematic landscape in the region. The narrative navigates through the setbacks faced by Palestinian cinema, contextualizing them within the broader political and guerrilla movements that gave rise to the genre of resistance cinema. This cinema played a pivotal role in conveying the Palestinian cause to the global stage.

The article concludes by delving into the cultural aspect of cinema in Palestine. It notes the early presence of cinema theatres in Palestine since the beginning of the last century, citing historical sources that point to the "Oracle" cinema theatre in Jerusalem in 1908.

Saada's article provides a comprehensive narrative of the multifaceted journey of Palestinian cinema, acknowledging its honourable beginnings, navigating through stumbling blocks, and highlighting the resilient attempts to revive and contribute to the global cinematic landscape.

Karaja (2016)²⁶

Significances of the hero in the new Palestinian cinema

This thesis explores the significance of heroism in the new Palestinian cinema, examining the transformations in cinematic works and their reflection of Palestinian society. The research investigates how the image of the hero in this cinema has evolved, exploring its deep social and political connotations.

The study focuses on the new Palestinian cinema, considering cinematic products, production and distribution networks, and the impact of the Oslo Accord of 1993 on the

²⁶ Karajeh, Alaa Fareed Ahmed, and Fakhr El-Din, Mounir. (2016). Semantics of the image of the hero in the new Palestinian cinema (unpublished master's thesis). Birzeit University, Birzeit. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/1015476>

cinematic landscape. It analyzes the conditional financing policy, global participation of Palestinian films, and their integration into globalized production networks. The study's sample comprises films produced after the second intifada in 2000, which gained international acclaim, influencing public discourse on art and politics in Palestine.

Examining the cinematic production process, the study covers financing, distribution, reception, and technical aspects to understand the political implications of the artistic product. The aim is to elucidate the relationships between Palestinian cinema as an artistic field and the political arena without preconceived normative judgments.

The study places the new Palestinian cinema in its historical context, tracing its emergence and development alongside the Palestinian revolution and the establishment of the Liberation Organization in the 1960s. It notes the initial integration of cinema into the struggle and resistance and later tendencies toward independence, evident in the emergence of directors as independent cultural actors and the presentation of new images of Palestinians.

Karaja contends that the new wave in Palestinian cinema challenges stereotypes and preconceptions about Palestinian characters, moving away from conventional political symbols or reinterpreting them. The study suggests that the new Palestinian cinema possesses a cultural and societal vision, capable of presenting a nuanced image of the Palestinian experience, with its diversities, attitudes, concerns, dreams, and hopes.

The thesis is structured with an introductory chapter, followed by chapters discussing the origins of Palestinian cinema, the nature of cinema, its relation to the Palestinian cause, and the characteristics of the new wave. The third chapter critically analyzes a sample of five films, exploring the significance of the hero in each. The concluding chapter

discusses the Oslo Accord's impact on the cultural scene, the intersection of art and politics in Palestinian cinema, and presents the study's conclusions.

Habashneh (2015) ²⁷

Palestine Media Unit: A Landmark in the History of Struggle Cinema

Habashneh's study (2015), titled "Palestine Media Unit: A Landmark in the History of Struggle Cinema," aims to illuminate the history and significance of the Palestine Media Unit in the context of Palestinian struggle cinema.

The study is structured around several key elements:

- A. Transition from Palestine Film Unit to an Institution for Palestinian Cinema: This element explores the evolution of the Palestine Film Unit into an institutionalized entity for Palestinian cinema.
- B. Cinema of the Revolution and Cinema of the People: The study examines the distinctions between the cinema of the revolution and the cinema of the people, shedding light on their roles in the Palestinian struggle.
- C. Paradoxes in Cinema and Politics: The study highlights paradoxes in the intersection of cinema and politics. It provides a specific example related to the production of the film "Al Arqoub" after the Israeli invasion of the Arqoub region in southern Lebanon in 1972. The discussion around the film revealed differences in the concept of cinema and cinematography between media officials and filmmakers.
- D. Attempts to Produce Feature Films: This element discusses the efforts of Palestinian filmmakers to create their own cinematic language. After producing documentaries, event films, and illustrated newspapers, they recognized the need to produce feature

²⁷ Habashneh, Khadija. (2015). Palestine Film Unit: A Mark in the History of Struggle Cinema. Palestinian Affairs, pp. 260, 182-193. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/727512>

films to reach a wider audience that might not readily accept documentary presentations.

- E. The Story of the Film Archive: The study addresses the Film Archive associated with the Palestine Media Unit and explores the mystery of its disappearance. It raises questions about the archive's potential existence, suggesting that an archive of such magnitude may leave traces even if subjected to destruction.

The study concludes by emphasizing the likelihood that the cinematic archive still exists somewhere, as it seems implausible for an archive of this size to completely vanish without a trace. The researcher suggests that parts of the archive might be preserved in a way that prevents complete dissolution, leaving a potential trace for its discovery.

2.4. Commentary on Literature

My thesis portrays the Palestinian identity and society through the lens of contemporary cinema. This research builds upon a rich body of existing scholarship on Palestinian cinema, expanding its scope to encompass the cultural and social aspects depicted in accessible films on streaming platforms like Netflix.

Previous Research and Insights:

The existing literature on Palestinian cinema provides a valuable foundation for my research. Early studies, such as those by Shtewi (2008) and Saada (2016), highlight the vital role of cinema in shaping societal values, preserving cultural heritage, and documenting the complexities of the Palestinian experience. These studies emphasize the close relationship between cinema and politics, demonstrating how films have served as tools for expressing resistance narratives, showcasing cultural identity, and advocating for social justice.

Thematic Analyses and Methodology

Scholars like Abu-Oyoun (2021) and Karajeh (2016) studies and scrutinizes the thematic analyses of Palestinian films, exploring how directors utilize cinematic elements like dialogue, visual imagery, and narrative structures to convey cultural and social themes. Their findings reveal the frequent portrayal of family dynamics, gender roles, social structures, and traditions within the context of occupation and displacement.

Critical Perspectives and Contemporary Approaches

Researchers like Al-Baik (2022) and Habashneh (2015) employ critical approaches, examining the intersections of cinema, politics, and power dynamics within Palestinian society. Their analyses shed light on the challenges faced by Palestinian filmmakers and the diverse cinematic strategies employed to represent their experiences. These investigations contribute significantly to understanding the complexities of Palestinian cinema and its engagement with contemporary social and political realities.

Methodology and Rigor

Scholars have employed diverse methodologies in their research on Palestinian cinema, each tailored to their specific research focus. Common approaches include textual analysis, semiotics, discourse analysis, film theory, and ethnographic methods. These methodologies ensure rigorous investigation and allow for in-depth explorations of cultural and social representations within Palestinian films.

Key Findings and Contributions

Previous research on Palestinian cinema has yielded several key findings:

- Cinema plays a critical role in shaping and preserving Palestinian identity and cultural heritage.
- Films offer powerful platforms for documenting the complexities of the Palestinian struggle and expressing resistance narratives.
- Palestinian cinema engages with diverse themes, including family dynamics, social structures, gender roles, and the impact of occupation.
- Contemporary Palestinian filmmakers employ innovative cinematic strategies to represent their experiences and engage with current social and political realities.

Building upon Knowledge

My research builds upon existing research by:

- Expanding the scope of analysis to include contemporary films readily accessible on streaming platforms.
- Employing a comprehensive methodology that combines textual analysis with insights from previous scholarship.
- Focusing specifically on the cultural and social aspects depicted in Palestinian films.
- Offering a nuanced understanding of how these films contribute to the broader representation of Palestinian identity and society.

Through this exploration of the cultural and social dimensions in locally produced Palestinian Netflix films, my research seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of Palestinian identity and society, enrich the existing scholarship on Palestinian cinema, and offer a valuable lens through which to engage with the complexities of the Palestinian experience.

2.5. Identification of Research Gap

Despite the valuable contributions of existing scholarship on Palestinian cinema, a significant gap remains in the comprehensive analysis of the cultural and social aspects depicted in contemporary Palestinian films readily available on streaming platforms like Netflix. While previous studies have explored the historical development, thematic trends, and political dimensions of Palestinian cinema, few have dissected the complex ways these films portray the cultural and social realities of Palestinian life, particularly within the context of the 2012-2020 period.

This Gap Arises from Several Factors:

- **Limited Focus on Contemporary Films:** Much of the existing research focuses on older films or the broader historical trajectory of Palestinian cinema, neglecting the contemporary period and the unique features of films produced within the past decade.
- **Overemphasis on Historical and Political Frameworks:** While understanding the historical and political context is crucial, previous studies have often prioritized these aspects, leaving less space for examining the cultural and social dimensions that are equally important in shaping Palestinian identity and society.
- **Lack of Focus on Netflix Films:** The accessibility and global reach of Netflix offer a unique opportunity to explore Palestinian cinema from a new perspective. However, existing research has largely overlooked this readily available source of contemporary Palestinian films.

This research gap creates a critical need for a detailed exploration of the cultural and social dimensions in locally produced Palestinian Netflix films from 2012 to 2020. Such an examination is crucial for several reasons:

- Enriching our understanding of contemporary Palestinian life: By analyzing how cultural and social aspects are portrayed in these films, we gain valuable insights into the lived experiences, values, traditions, and challenges faced by Palestinians today.
- Expanding the representation of Palestinian cinema: Focusing on readily available online films allows for a broader audience to engage with Palestinian cinema and gain a deeper understanding of Palestinian culture and society.
- Identifying new trends and developments: Examining contemporary films reveals how Palestinian filmmakers are responding to current political, social, and cultural realities, offering valuable insights into the evolution of Palestinian cinema.
- Bridging the gap between history and present: By analyzing contemporary films alongside existing scholarship on historical and thematic trends, we can create a more comprehensive understanding of Palestinian cinema and its role in shaping cultural identity.

Addressing this research gap is essential for advancing our knowledge of Palestinian cinema and contributing to a more nuanced understanding of Palestinian culture and society in the contemporary world.

2.6. Summary

The literature review has provided a comprehensive overview of existing scholarship on Palestinian cinema, highlighting its historical development, thematic trends, and political dimensions. While these studies offer valuable insights, they leave a significant gap in the analysis of the cultural and social aspects depicted in contemporary Palestinian films, particularly those readily accessible on streaming platforms like Netflix.

This chapter has illuminated the need for a detailed exploration of how these films portray the cultural and social realities of Palestinian life under occupation. By focusing on readily available Netflix films from 2012 to 2020, this research aims to contribute valuable new knowledge to the existing scholarship in several ways:

- Offering a nuanced understanding of how these films contribute to the broader representation of Palestinian identity and society.
- Identifying and analyzing the diverse cultural and social aspects embedded within these films, including language, family dynamics, social structures, and traditions.
- Examining how cinematic elements, such as narrative structure, character development, and visual imagery, are employed to convey cultural and social messages.
- Highlighting the unique features and challenges faced by contemporary Palestinian cinema within the context of the digital age and global accessibility.

By addressing this critical gap in the existing research, this study aims to enrich our understanding of contemporary Palestinian life, expand the representation of Palestinian cinema on a global scale, and contribute to a more nuanced appreciation of the cultural and social dimensions shaping Palestinian identity and society. This chapter has laid the groundwork for the analysis presented in the following chapters, setting the stage for a

unique and insightful exploration of the cultural and social aspects depicted in locally produced Palestinian Netflix films.

Chapter Three

Research Methodology

3.1. Introduction

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed in this study, which investigates the portrayal of social and cultural aspects in locally produced Palestinian films available on Netflix from 2012 to 2020. A qualitative research approach, specifically content analysis, is adopted to examine the selected films and analyze the textual and visual elements that contribute to the representation of Palestinian identity and society.

3.2. Research Design

This study utilizes a descriptive and analytical research design. The descriptive aspect aims to provide a comprehensive and detailed account of the social and cultural aspects portrayed in the selected Palestinian films. The analytical lens is employed to interpret the meanings and implications embedded within these representations.

Justification for Qualitative Research

Several factors justify the use of a qualitative research approach in this study:

- Exploring complex social phenomena: The portrayal of social and cultural aspects in films involves elaborate representations that necessitate a qualitative approach for in-depth exploration. By delving beyond the surface level of the narratives, this approach allows for uncovering deeper meanings and understanding the sociocultural context embedded within the films.

- Analyzing textual and visual data: Palestinian films utilize a rich tapestry of textual and visual elements, such as dialogue, imagery, costumes, and social interactions, to convey social and cultural messages. Content analysis provides a comprehensive framework for systematically analyzing these diverse elements and uncovering the meanings they convey.
- Gaining insights into subjective experiences: Understanding the portrayal of social and cultural aspects in Palestinian films requires considering the subjective experiences and perspectives of the filmmakers and audience members. A qualitative approach allows for capturing these subjective experiences and incorporating them into the analysis, enriching our understanding of the meanings within the films.
- Complementing existing research: While previous studies on Palestinian cinema have primarily utilized quantitative methods, this study adds to the existing body of knowledge by employing a qualitative approach. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the social and cultural aspects depicted in contemporary Palestinian films, complementing the insights gained from previous research.

3.3. Population and Sample

Population: The study population encompasses all Palestinian films available on Netflix between the years 2012 and 2020.

Sample: An intentional sampling strategy is employed to carefully select a sample of 10 films that represent the diverse range of films produced and released on Netflix during the specified period. This sampling approach ensures that the selected films are relevant to the research focus and provide sufficient data for a thorough analysis.

Although modern Palestinian cinema has emerged singularly, reflecting the broader Palestinian context, this study mainly focuses on the years between 2012 and 2020. There are two main reasons for choosing this period. Firstly, it is much easier to access films from these years through Netflix, making it a practical approach to understanding the cinematic landscape. Secondly, the researcher believes that the Palestinian cinematic expression has developed and matured following the significant advancements in media and technology that have greatly influenced how Palestinians convey their stories on screen. This evolution of Palestinian cinema holds great significance since it has emerged as an independent entity since the 1980s²⁸ - tackling diverse issues relevant to its people without being bound by organizational management or ideological constraints. This departure allows for a more nuanced exploration of cultural and social aspects within our chosen window.

3.4. Data Collection Methods

Data collection involves meticulously watching each of the selected films and taking detailed notes on the textual and visual elements relevant to the research objectives. These elements include dialogue, character interactions, costumes, settings, social structures, and cultural practices. The data collected through film viewing is then systematically coded and analyzed manually, without the use of software.

²⁸ Gertz, N. (2008). *Palestinian cinema: Landscape, trauma and memory*. Edinburgh University Press.

3.5. Data Analysis Procedures

The data analysis process involves the following steps:

1. Coding: The data collected from each film is coded using a coding scheme developed specifically for this study. This coding scheme identifies key themes and categories related to social and cultural aspects, ensuring consistency and replicability of the analysis.
2. Theme identification: The coded data is then analyzed to identify recurring themes and patterns across the selected films. This process involves searching for commonalities and connections between different films, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of how social and cultural aspects are portrayed.
3. Filmmaker perspective integration: Insights and perspectives from interviews with filmmakers are analyzed using a similar thematic framework. These perspectives are then integrated with the film analysis, which aims to provide context to the identified themes as well as offer insights and perspectives into the certain portrayals and depictions of the social and cultural aspects in the selected films.
4. Interpretation: Finally, the identified themes are interpreted in relation to the study's objectives and theoretical frameworks. This involves drawing connections between the findings and existing scholarship on Palestinian cinema, social identity, and cultural representation.

3.6. Interviews

This study, in addition to the content analysis of the films, incorporates insights and perspectives from interviews that the researcher has conducted with key figures in Palestinian cinema. These interviews provide context and deeper understanding of the

filmmakers' perspectives, creative processes, and the cultural and social aspects they aim to portray in their work, it also seeks to take into account their perspectives on the questions of the study.

3.6.1 Selection of Interviewees

The study includes interviews with nine individuals with various and diverse roles in the Palestinian film industry, who were selected based on their significant contributions to Palestinian cinema and their involvement in films that address cultural and social aspects of Palestinian society. The interviewees represent a diverse range of roles within the film industry, including directors, producers, and scriptwriters. Two of the interviewees had direct involvements in the selected films, while seven others provided their perspectives and answers to the research questions without any direct involvement in the film making of the selected films, which was done to ensure that the majority of the insights and perspectives are not biased and are subjective.

3.6.2 Interview Methodology

Interviews were conducted using various methods to accommodate the interviewees' preferences and availability, including voice recordings, email correspondence, and phone calls. The interviews were semi-structured, focusing on the study's main research question and sub-questions:

Main Question:

- How were the social and cultural aspects reflected in the Palestinian Netflix films during the period (2012-2020)?

Sub-questions:

1. How was the Palestinian dialogue reflected in the surveyed films?
2. How were Palestinian family solidarity and gender roles reflected in the surveyed films?
3. How were Palestinian customs reflected in the surveyed films?
4. How are the social structures reflected in the surveyed films?
5. How are social relations reflected through the surveyed films?

This approach provided flexibility to explore topics in depth while ensuring that key areas of interest were covered consistently across all interviews. Yet, it is worth mentioning that not all interviewees provided their perspectives and ideas on all of the selected films, as some have expressed that they were not familiar with some of the movies selected.

3.6.3 Interview Details

The interviews were conducted between March and June 2023. Here is a list of the interviewees, their roles, and the interview methods:

- Alkhtib, B. (Director). (2023, March 3). Voice recording.
- Khleife, G. (Producer). (2023, April 12). Voice recording.
- Almasri, M. (Director). (2023, April 20). Email correspondence.
- Khalil, B. (Director). (2023, May 5). Phone call.
- Habash, I. (Scriptwriter). (2023, May 10). Voice recording.
- Abujabal, S. (Director). (2023, May 22). Email correspondence.
- Abu Al-Reesh, D. (Director). (2023, May 30). Voice recording.
- Mubarake, N. (Producer). (2023, June 2). Voice recording.
- Al-Bukhari, L. (General Manager of Palestinian Cinema, Ministry of Culture). (2023,). Voice recording.

3.6.4 Integration of Interview Data

The insights and perspectives gained from these interviews are integrated throughout the analysis chapters, providing context and depth to the film analysis. They offer a behind-the-scenes perspective on the intentions and considerations of the filmmakers, enriching and expanding on our understanding of how cultural and social aspects are portrayed in Palestinian cinema.

3.6.5 Relevance to the Study

The inclusion of filmmaker interviews addresses a crucial dimension of the study by:

1. Offering context for the cultural and social elements portrayed in the films
2. Illuminating the challenges and considerations in representing Palestinian society through cinema

3.6.6 Challenges and Limitations:

Due to geographical constraints, some interviews were conducted remotely, which may have limited non-verbal communication cues.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Copyright laws are respected by adhering to fair use principles and providing proper citation of all film sources. Fair use allows for the use of copyrighted material for purposes such as criticism, commentary, and research, without obtaining permission from the copyright holder. This study falls within these fair use principles, as it uses the films for educational and research purposes and provides appropriate credit to the filmmakers.

3.8 Summary

This chapter has outlined the research methodology employed in this study, emphasizing the rationale for using a qualitative approach and content analysis. The chapter has also detailed the selection of the study population and sample, data collection procedures, and data analysis processes. Finally, ethical considerations have been addressed, ensuring responsible use of copyrighted material and adherence to fair use principles. This methodology, while not relying on content analysis software, provides a rigorous and systematic approach to investigating the portrayal of social and cultural aspects in Palestinian films on Netflix from 2012 to 2020, contributing valuable insights to the understanding of Palestinian cinema and society.

Chapter Four

Social Aspects in Palestinian Netflix Films (2012-2020)

4.1. Introduction, Overview and Objective

In this Chapter, the researcher discusses the social aspects as mentioned in the procedural definition for the purposes of this study, which included social structures and social relations, which in turn pass through the definition of personal and social identity as one of the elements that contribute to the formation of this identity.

Chapter four embarks on an in-depth examination of social aspects in Palestinian Netflix films from 2012 to 2020, exploring how these films reflect and engage with Palestinian society's complexities, including its struggles, resilience, and cultural vibrancy. Building upon the theoretical groundwork laid in Chapter Two, this chapter will look into family dynamics, gender roles, social stratification, and social relationships within Palestinian society. By integrating a content analysis approach with insights from interviews with filmmakers, directors and producers, this chapter aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how these films portray and interpret key social aspects. The objective is to explore the interconnectedness of these social dynamics across the selected films and to address specific research questions regarding their portrayal of Palestinian society. This analysis will not only illuminate individual social elements in these films but also interpret their collective narrative of the Palestinian social experience.

Overview

Chapter IV is a comprehensive exploration of the social dynamics depicted in Palestinian Netflix films from 2012 to 2020. This chapter will research the fabric of social life as represented in these films, analyzing how they reflect and engage with the complex realities of Palestinian society. The analysis will not only identify social elements in the films but also interpret how these elements collectively narrate the Palestinian social experience.

Objective

The objective of this chapter is to examine and interpret the portrayal of key social aspects in these films. This includes the depiction of family dynamics, gender roles, social stratification, and the nature of social relationships within the Palestinian context. To achieve a multi-dimensional analysis, the chapter will draw upon a range of perspectives and insights from interviews with Palestinian filmmakers and industry professionals, as well as adopting a rigorous content analysis approach.

The chapter seeks to answer the following research questions in relation to the social aspects of the study:

1. How are family solidarity and gender roles portrayed in the films?
2. What insights do the films offer into the social structure and class dynamics within Palestinian society?
3. How do the films reflect on social relationships and interactions?

The analysis will incorporate insights from prominent figures in Palestinian cinema, including filmmakers like Bilal Al-Khatib, George Khleifi, and Mai Masri. Their perspectives, along with a systematic content analysis, will provide an in-depth understanding of the social landscape in these films. This approach will enable an exploration of how dialogue, family dynamics, social stratification, and the representation of women and other social elements in these films contribute to a nuanced portrayal of Palestinian society.

The primary objective of this chapter is to analyze the portrayal of social aspects in 10 selected Palestinian films available on Netflix. The analysis will focus on identifying and interpreting how these films portray various social dynamics, including family relationships, gender roles, and social identity. Moreover, it will explore how these

aspects interconnect across different films and contribute to answering the study's overarching research questions regarding the depiction of Palestinian society in contemporary cinema.

4.2. Selection of Films

List of Movies

The films chosen for analysis, each providing unique insights into Palestinian social life, are:

1. "Ava Maria" (2015) by Basil Khalil

A short film directed by Basil Khalil and written by him, about a family of religious Israeli settlers has their car break down in the rural area of the West Bank and they must seek the help of five nuns to get back home, the movie was nominated for the Academy Award in 2016. The film gives a darkly comedic look at the complexities of life within highly conservative Palestinian convent, when a group of nuns accidentally break a statue of the virgin Marie as it reveals the underlying tensions between the nuns and their human weakness. In addition the film challenges rigid beliefs with sarcasm, portraying diverse social identities, interfaith relationships, and cultural celebrations.

2. "The Present" (2020) by Farah Nabulsi

The present is a short film directed by Farah Nabulsi about a father and daughter in the Palestinian Territories of the Israeli –occupied West Bank trying to buy a wedding anniversary gift, examines the impact of occupation on Palestinian identity, family dynamics and societal structures, tell a story of a father Yusef (Saleh Bakri) and his young daughter Yasmine, going to buy a new fridge as an anniversary gift for his wife, however

their journey becomes an emotionally charged ordeal as they navigate the harsh realities of life under Israeli occupation.

3. "Bonboné" (2017) by Rakan Mayasi

A story of a young couple Amjad and Amal who are forced to find creative ways to conceive a child while Amjad is imprisoned in an Israeli prison, the film offers a powerful and moving exploration of the challenges faced by Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. Explores life under occupation, emphasizing resilience, creativity, and the importance of family and community support.

4. "A World Not Ours" (2012) by Mahdi Fleifel:

Is a deeply personal film exploring the lives of Palestinian refugees living in Ein alhilweh refugee camp in Lebanon, Fleifel himself born in the camp, as the film explores the complex nations of identity belonging for people born and raised in a refugee camp. One of the film's central narratives is Fleifel's friendship with Abu Eyad, their conversations highlight t diverging paths ,Fleifel has the opportunities outside the camp, while Abu Eyad remains trapped, his frustration growing. Moreover it focuses on the identity and daily life of Palestinian refugees, showcasing the strong sense of community in a refugee camp.

5. "3000 Nights" (2015) by Mai Masri

Layal, a young educator, resides in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, Palestine, with her spouse Farid. When Layal is detained and wrongly accused of assisting a juvenile

kid who is suspected of storming a military checkpoint, they are about to depart for Canada in quest of a new beginning. Despite the tenacious defense offered by her human rights defense attorney, Layal is accused of being an accomplice and given an eight-year prison sentence after she declines to testify against the kid in court.

The film centers on Layal a newly pregnant Palestinian teacher who was wrongly accused of helping a young Palestinian man ,so she was prisoned due to this, inside she has to tolerate the harsh conditions of prison life, give birth to her child in such harsh conditions, and find strength and meaning within the walls that confine her. Highlights the challenges Palestinian women face under occupation and their collective coping mechanisms.

6. "It Must Be Heaven" (2019) by Elia Suleiman

is a film that explores identity, displacement and the search of belonging, the main theme is the experience of displacement and longing for home. Suliman in his film plays the character named Elia, a Palestinian filmmaker living in exile, searching for the sense of belonging, as the theme in the film is reflected in his encounters with different cultures.

7. "Maradona's Legs" (2019) by Firas Khoury

The film portrays two young Palestinian boys during the 1990 World Cup, and how they are obsessed with completing their world cup sticker album, their final missing piece is Maradonna`s leg, the film reveals the universal joy of childhood a passionate obsession with a hobby of completing the album. In addition the film Centres on the aspirations of Palestinian youth, highlighting themes of dreams and resilience.

8. "The Crossing" (2017) by Ameen Nayfeh

The film shows how a Palestinian family tries to cross the Israeli checkpoint in the West Bank to visit their Grandfather in the hospital, despite that they have a valid permit, they were humiliated and delayed by the Israeli soldiers at the checkpoint, moreover the film highlights the daily struggle and restrictions faced by Palestinians even for the most basic necessities as the film Portrays the journey of young brothers, reflecting on family bonds and the impact of political barriers.

9."Eyes of a Thief" (2014) by Najwa Najjar

It is realistic to watch a drama about a water engineer with a troubled past that depicts life in the occupied regions. Famous actor Khaled Abol Naga, an Egyptian, with. Najwa Najjar is a member of the new wave of Arab women filmmakers, as it navigates the tense political landscape. The film explores themes of resilience, loss, political conflict, and the enduring power of family bonds amidst a harsh reality.

10. "When I Saw You" (2012) by Annemarie Jacir

The film was set in 1967 tells a story of an 11 year old boy called Tarek, a Palestinian kid that was separated from his father during the chaos of the six-day war in 1967, forced him to live in a refugee camp in Jordan and insists to find a way back home, but encounters a group of Palestinian called “Fedayeen” who offer him another way. Set in a refugee camp, it focuses on themes of freedom, identity, and longing for a return to the homeland.

Rationale for Selection

The selection is based on the varied representation of social aspects from 2012-2020. Each film offers insights into Palestinian life, ranging from individual and family struggles under occupation to the broader societal challenges faced by Palestinians within the territories and in the diaspora. Together, these films provide a comprehensive understanding of the diverse social dynamics, cultural expressions, and resilience within Palestinian society. They collectively offer a panoramic view of the Palestinian experience, making them crucial for an in-depth analysis of social themes in contemporary Palestinian cinema.

The selection process ensured that there is thematic diversity with an aim to represent a range of social and cultural themes including family dynamics, gender roles, life under occupation, diaspora experiences, and cultural traditions. Both lengthy and short films were included in order to make sure that the films selected have different narrative approaches and storytelling techniques. Moreover, to ensure a range of perspectives and styles as well as diverse and gender inclusive perspectives, films from various directors i.e., both established/ well-known and emerging filmmakers, as well as female and male filmmakers, were chosen.

The selection also aimed to include films that depict and reflect various Palestinian experiences, including life in the 1967 occupied territories, within the 1948 territories, and in the diaspora. The number of films (10) was seen to be sufficient for a comprehensive analysis within the scope of this study, and this number balances the need for depth with the practical constraints and limitations of qualitative research, and also this sample size aligns with the recommendations in qualitative cinema studies, where 8-12 films are usually considered adequate and fit for in-depth thematic analysis.

4.3. Methodology for Analysis

Approach

Content Analysis, chosen as the method for this chapter, involves a systematic approach to coding and interpreting film content. This methodology, aligning with the theoretical frameworks established in earlier chapters, allows for an objective examination of dialogue, family dynamics, gender roles, social customs, and other social elements. The analysis will focus on identifying and interpreting these aspects in the context of the established social theories, providing a delicate understanding of their portrayal in Palestinian cinema.

Criteria

In analyzing the selected Palestinian films, the study will employ a detailed content analysis approach, focusing on the following common social aspects:

1. Social Identity, Interactions, and Structures:
2. Cultural Elements:
3. Religious Elements:
4. Customs and Traditions:
5. Social Relations and Interactions:
6. Gender Roles:
7. Family and Society Dynamics:

The analysis will integrate insights from filmmaker interviews to enhance understanding of these portrayals and will be aligned with the theoretical frameworks presented in earlier chapters for a comprehensive understanding of the social fabric as portrayed in Palestinian cinema.

4.4. Individual Film Analysis

1. "Ava Maria" (2015) by Basil Khalil

"Ava Maria" explores the cultural and religious components in Palestinian society. The movie tells the story of a family of Israeli settlers and a convent of silent nuns who confront their cultural and religious differences, leading to comical yet intense and reflective interactions. The film's unique narrative approach addresses the topics of coexistence and tolerance in a charged environment where identities are conflicting.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Cultural Elements:** The film depicts cultural misunderstandings and stereotypes, particularly in scenes like the nuns' interaction with the Jewish family, challenging conventional perceptions.
2. **Religious Elements:** It showcases the contrast of Christian and Jewish beliefs, particularly in scenes involving the nuns' vow of silence and the Jewish family's need for help on the Sabbath.
3. **Customs and Traditions:** The film touches on the adherence to religious customs, such as the nuns' strict observance of silence, which conflicts with the practical needs of the situation.
4. **Social Relations and Interactions:** The film shows how unexpected situations can bridge cultural and religious gaps.
5. **Gender Roles:** "Ava Maria" subtly comments on gender roles, especially in the portrayal of the nuns and their interactions with the Jewish family.

Insights from Interviews

In interviews, Basil Khalil has discussed his intent to use humor as a tool to bridge cultural and religious divides. He emphasizes the importance of seeing the humanity in ‘the other’ and breaking down barriers through shared experiences and understanding.

Theoretical Frameworks

The narrative of "Ava Maria" aligns with theories of cultural identity and intergroup relations discussed in Chapter Two and the literature review. The film exemplifies how cultural and religious elements can both divide and unite individuals, reflecting the complex nature of identity formation in a multi-religious context.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Cultural Elements	Nuns and Jewish family interaction	Challenges to stereotypes and cultural perceptions
Religious Elements	Nuns' vow of silence	Religious coexistence and conflict
Customs and Traditions	Adherence to religious customs	The humor in conflicting religious practices
Social Relations	Bridge-building between communities	Human connection across cultural divides
Gender Roles	Nuns interacting with Jewish family	Gender dynamics in a religious setting

This analysis of "Ava Maria" illustrates the film's portrayal of social, cultural, and religious aspects, offering a unique lens into a part of Palestinian society, although not an everyday interaction.

2. "The Present" (2020) by Farah Nabulsi

This film captures the daily struggles of Palestinians living under occupation, focusing on the journey of Yusef and his daughter Yasmine. The film illustrates the dehumanizing experience at Checkpoint 300, a crowded Israeli crossing point, and its impact on Palestinian family life and social identity.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Social Identity, Interactions and Structures:** The film portrays the challenges Yusef faces, including enduring search and humiliation at the checkpoint, emphasizing the impact of occupation on individual dignity and social identity. In the first two minutes, the film displays the segregation wall, the checkpoints, and how the Palestinian workers are waiting on the checkpoints as well as the humiliation they endure.
2. **Cultural Elements:** The film reflects the resilience and adaptability of Palestinian culture under occupation, as seen in Yusef's determination to maintain normality for his family, and to get the refrigerator through.
3. **Family and Society Dynamics:** In the second minute of the film, we see the social relationship between the members of the family we see the strong relations and the strong bond.
4. **Social Relations and Interactions:** Yusef's interactions with Israeli soldiers at the checkpoint highlight the tense and often hostile relations shaped by the political context. One can say that the family is a working to middle class family as evident by their residence, furniture, and the broken fridge. The relation between the members of the family as shown in the minute 12.40 where it demonstrates the father technique of addressing his daughter's incident with a gentle and affectionate manner.

5. **Gender Roles:** The film subtly touches on gender roles, particularly through Yasmine's perspective, offering a glimpse into the experiences of women and young girls in occupied territories.

Insights from Interviews

Salim Abu Jabal has commented on the film's expressive depiction of the Palestinian struggle under occupation. He notes how "The Present" humanizes this struggle, showcasing the daily realities and challenges faced by Palestinians, which are often overlooked or misunderstood by the wider world.

Theoretical Frameworks

The narrative aligns with discussions in Chapter Two and the literature review, particularly regarding the construction of social identity under occupation and the impact of external structures on family dynamics and gender roles.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Social Identity and Structures	Yusef's experience at Checkpoint 300. Portrayal of segregation wall.	Reflection on individual dignity under occupation	
Cultural Elements	Yusef's efforts to maintain family life	Resilience of Palestinian culture	
Family and Society Dynamics	Interaction between Yusef and Yasmine	Impact of external pressures on family dynamics	
Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Social Relations	Yusef's interaction with Israeli soldiers. Father and daughter's interaction.	Tense relations in a political context. Strong family bonds.	

Gender Roles	Yasmine's perspective and experiences	Experiences of women in occupied territories
---------------------	---------------------------------------	--

This analysis highlights the impact of occupation on Palestinian social identity, family dynamics, and cultural resilience. The film's narrative and characters provide a powerful reflection on the everyday reality faced by Palestinians, aligning closely with the theoretical frameworks and insights from filmmaker interviews.

3. "Bonboné" (2017) by Rakan Mayasi

"Bonboné" explores the resilience and resourcefulness of Palestinians under occupation. The film, set against the backdrop of an Israeli jail, explores a Palestinian couple's determination to conceive a child despite the constraints of their situation, shedding light on a lesser known, yet occasional aspect of Palestinian life.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Social Identity, Interactions and Structures:** The film challenges traditional perceptions of Palestinians, emphasizing their ingenuity and out of the box thinking in the face of difficult conditions, particularly in the couple's unconventional approach to conception. One can notice the clothing differences on the bus scene, highlighting the diverse Palestinian society.
2. **Gender Roles:** "Bonboné" challenges traditional gender norms by portraying the female protagonist as the driving force behind the plan, reflecting evolving gender roles within Palestinian society.
3. **Family and Society Dynamics:** The film underscores the importance of family, highlighting the couple's bond and the support they receive from their community, yet it discusses a topic that is considered a taboo within the society.

4. **Cultural Elements:** Cultural resilience is showcased in the couple's insistence on traditional customs and their ability to find joy amidst challenges.
5. **Religious Elements:** The film portrays respect for religious traditions, even as the couple adapts them to their unique circumstances, reflecting deep-rooted faith.

Insights from Interviews

As per the commentary provided by Lina Al-Bukhari, the film has been subject to critique, especially from conservative perspectives, for its bold handling of the subject matter. The film is seen as a representation of the human desire to sustain familial bonds and life itself under difficult circumstances, reflecting the human aspect of the Palestinian struggle.

The film openly addresses intimate and private matters of conception and fertility, which are typically considered private subjects in Palestinian society, where it portrays female agency and role in reproduction, with the wife driving the plan to conceive. This is seen as challenging the conventional gender roles in family planning. Furthermore, by the depiction of non-traditional methods of conception, and focusing on the personal, intimate aspects of a prisoner's life, the film humanizes the prisoners' figures, which are often idealized and highly respected in Palestinian society, where that humanized aspect is usually ignored. Lastly, by looking and highlighting conception as an act of resistance, the film expands the conventional understanding of political action in Palestinian society. It's important to consider and take into account that the film's approach does not necessarily align with the mainstream Palestinian social norms, where, instead, it challenges these norms, inviting viewers to face the uncomfortable realities and question the boundaries of acceptable discourse and depiction in cinema.

Theoretical Frameworks

"Bonboné" aligns with the theoretical discussions on social identity under occupation, gender roles, and cultural resilience as discussed in Chapter Two and the literature review. The film's narrative exemplifies how Palestinians navigate restrictive structures while maintaining their cultural identity and familial bonds.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Social Identity and Structures	Couple's plan to conceive under occupation. Out-of-box, alternative, approaches. Different clothing styles.	Resilience and defiance against occupation. Diversion from traditional clothing and more accurate display of the evolving and modernized Palestinian clothing styles.
Gender Roles	Female protagonist's initiative	Breaking down stereotypical gender representations
Family and Society Dynamics	Community support for the couple. Film's display of a conservative topic.	Importance of family ties and community solidarity. Conservative topics discussed defy societal norms.
Cultural Elements	Adherence to customs amid adversity	Resilience of Palestinian culture.
Religious Elements	Respect for traditions in unique context	Deep-rooted faith and adaptation of religious practices

Through its compelling narrative and characters, "Bonboné" provides an insight into the everyday struggles and resilience of Palestinians living under occupation, putting together various social aspects and theoretical concepts.

4. "A World Not Ours" (2012) by Mahdi Fleifel

"A World Not Ours" is a deeply personal documentary by Mahdi Fleifel, depicting life in the Ain el-Helweh refugee camp in Lebanon. The film combines Fleifel's own footage,

family archives, and historical recordings to provide an intimate portrayal of three generations of his family in the camp.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Social Identity, Interactions, and Structures:** The film explores the complex social identities of Palestinian refugees, shaped by their displacement, nationality, and experiences living in the camp. Fleifel's interaction with his grandfather and the influence of his grandfather's experiences on his understanding of their identity and heritage is a notable aspect of the film.
2. **Social Relations and Interactions:** The daily interactions and dynamics within the refugee camp, including the strong sense of community and mutual support among its inhabitants, are prominently featured. The movie displays the social life of the Palestinian refugee in 1967, as well as their poor living conditions.

The fighting/ resistance groups social life is also portrayed.

Absence of the father's role in the film and how Tareq was embraced and treated like a son by the fighting/ resistance group, as they trained him to fight, to defend himself, and they carried shared activities.
3. **Cultural Elements:** The film showcases the preservation of Palestinian culture within the camp, highlighting elements such as traditional celebrations and the communal sharing of stories and memories. A Palestinian wedding that demonstrated the Palestinian traditions, as well as the bridal Henna.
4. **Family and Society Dynamics:** The intergenerational connections and relationships within Fleifel's family, including the challenges and joys of life in exile, are central themes. Woman role - In the first 3 minutes in the film we can see Um Tarek as a

working woman - a tailor, she also takes care of her child Tarek, demonstrating the resilient and strong Palestinian woman.

5. **Cross-Cultural Understanding:** Fleifel's interactions with international filmmakers and volunteers in the camp highlight the shared humanity that transcends cultural differences.

Insights from Interviews

Commentators like Salim Abu Jabal have discussed "A World Not Ours" in terms of its deep exploration of the Palestinian refugee experience. The film is noted for its authentic portrayal of life in the camp, capturing the nuances of daily routines, communal bonds, and the persistent dream of return.

Theoretical Frameworks

The film aligns with discussions in Chapter Two and the literature review on themes such as identity formation in exile, the role of memory and storytelling in cultural preservation, and the impact of displacement on family dynamics and social structures.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Social Identity and Structures	Fleifel's relationship with his grandfather.	Exploration of identity in exile
Social Relations	Community interactions in the camp. The fighting/ resistance groups social life is also portrayed. Absence of the father's role.	Strong sense of community and support.
Cultural Elements	Traditional celebrations and storytelling. Palestinian wedding that demonstrated the Palestinian traditions, as well as the bridal Henna.	Preservation of culture in refugee settings
Family and Society Dynamics	Fleifel's interactions with his family.	Intergenerational connections in exile
Cross-Cultural Understanding	Interaction with international visitors	Fostering empathy and shared humanity

"A World Not Ours" provides a personal look at the Palestinian refugee experience, blending individual stories with broader themes of identity, culture, and community. Through its intimate narrative and documentary style, the film offers a perspective on the complexities of life in asylum.

5. "3000 Nights" (2015) by Mai Masri

"3000 Nights" is a powerful narrative that dives into the life of a Palestinian woman, Layal, imprisoned in an Israeli jail. The film portrays her journey from her arrest during

pregnancy to giving birth and raising her son in prison, highlighting the resilience of Palestinian women under occupation.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

- 1. Social Identity, Interactions, and Structures:** The film explores the complex social identities of Palestinian women, shaped by the challenges of occupation and imprisonment. Layal's journey symbolizes the struggle for autonomy and dignity in a repressive environment.
- 2. Gender Roles:** "3000 Nights" challenges traditional gender norms by showcasing Layal's strength and resilience in a male-dominated prison setting. The role of the woman in this film how brave the Palestinian woman and how she was pregnant, and she gave birth to her child and she raised him up as a single mom,
- 3. Family and Society Dynamics:** The film emphasizes the significance of family bonds, particularly through Layal's relationship with her son and fellow female prisoners, underlining the shared struggles and solidarity among them.
- 4. Cultural Elements:** The preservation of Palestinian culture is subtly depicted through Layal's interactions and the sharing of stories and traditions among the women in prison.
- 5. Social Relations and Interactions:** Layal's interactions with other prisoners and Israeli guards illustrate the complexities of social relations under occupation, marked by tension, conflict, and moments of empathy. Relation between the prisoner and the prison cards and how they treat the prisoners in a violent way, and how they torture them. We see the strong relationship between female prisoners, where they help each other and care for each other.

Insights from Interviews

In her interviews, Mai Masri discusses her approach to portraying the resilience of Palestinian women and their experiences in Israeli prisons. She emphasizes the importance of humanizing their struggles and highlighting their strength in the face of adversity.

Theoretical Frameworks

The narrative aligns with discussions in Chapter Two and the literature review, particularly regarding the social identity of Palestinian women under occupation, gender roles, and the impact of incarceration on family dynamics and social structures.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Social Identity and Structures	Layal's experiences in prison	Struggle for autonomy and dignity, challenges of occupation and how that forms the national identity.	
Gender Roles	Layal navigating a male-dominated prison, and	Representation of women's strength and resilience	
Family and Society Dynamics	Layal's bond with her son and fellow prisoners	Solidarity and shared struggles among women	
Cultural Elements	Sharing of Palestinian stories and traditions	Cultural preservation in adverse conditions	
Social Relations	Interactions with prisoners and guards	Complexities of relations under occupation	

"3000 Nights" provides an expressive portrayal of a Palestinian woman's experience under occupation, offering a lens into the resilience, solidarity, and cultural preservation within a challenging environment. The film's narrative and characters offer a rich exploration of social aspects, aligning closely with the theoretical frameworks and insights from filmmaker interviews.

Contrary to typical representations of Palestinian males, Layal's husband chooses to leave the family and live elsewhere, which adds a complexity to the narrative, where it challenges the stereotypical portrayals of Palestinian family structures, and it highlights the personal struggles and difficult choices individuals face under occupation, where the societal expectations may contradict and clash with personal decisions.

6. "It Must Be Heaven" (2019) by Elia Suleiman

"It Must Be Heaven" is a whimsical exploration of identity, belonging, and the concept of 'home,' as director Elia Suleiman traverses from Palestine to global cities, finding echoes of his homeland everywhere he goes. The film uses humor and satire to reflect on the Palestinian experience, both within and outside their land.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Social Identity, Interactions, and Structures:** Suleiman's silent observations in various cities reflect on the universality of the Palestinian identity amidst different cultures. Film Elia Suliman begin with a hymn [المسيح قام من بين الاموات]
2. **Cultural Elements:** The film portrays cultural preservation, especially through Suleiman's connection to Palestinian traditions and language, despite being in diaspora.

3. **Cross-Cultural Understanding:** The comparison of life in Palestine with life in Paris and New York underscores similarities and differences across cultures.
4. **Social Relations and Interactions:** The film depicts a range of social relations, from camaraderie in Paris to the alienation Suleiman feels in New York, portraying the spectrum of experiences as a Palestinian abroad. Social life of Elia Suliman the first section of the film was in Nazareth. We can see how Elia Suliman spend his day in Nazareth; how he waters the plants at home, drink his coffee and goes to visit the graveyard to visit his mother and father.
5. **Sense of Place:** "It Must Be Heaven" captures the essence of various cities, contrasting them with Palestine, yet showing how Suleiman's identity remains tied to his homeland.

Insights from Commentary

Critics and commentators on Suleiman's work emphasize the film's effectiveness in using humor to deal with serious issues like identity and belonging. The film is noted for its unique approach to storytelling, offering a global perspective on the Palestinian experience. (An Interview with Saleem Abu Jabal, E-mail, 2023, May 22nd)

Theoretical Frameworks

The narrative aligns with discussions in Chapter Two and the literature review on diaspora and identity. The film illustrates the concept of global identity and the search for belonging, reflecting on the universality of the Palestinian experience in a global context.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Social Identity and Structures	Suleiman's silent observations Film starts with a hymn.	Reflection on Palestinian identity The society's religious essence and its embrace of spirituality, despite a global trend towards secularism, highlights a distinct societal adherence and value system, as well as perseverance of social identity.
Cultural Elements	Connection to Palestinian traditions	Cultural preservation in diaspora
Cross-Cultural Understanding	Life comparisons in Paris, New York, and Palestine.	Similarities and differences across cultures, and societies.
Social Relations	Varied interactions in different cities. Early in the film, Elia Suliman's life experiences and rituals in Nazareth are shown.	Spectrum of experiences as a Palestinian abroad
Sense of Place	Depiction of cities contrasted with Palestine.	The persistent connection to homeland

"It Must Be Heaven" offers a reflective, humorous, and insightful lens into the Palestinian diaspora experience. Through its unique narrative style, the film provides a commentary

on identity, culture, and the concept of home, transcending geographical boundaries while maintaining a connection to Palestinian roots.

7. "Maradona's Legs" (2019) by Firas Houry

Narrative Analysis

"Maradona's Legs," set during the 1990 World Cup in a Palestinian village, is a charming story about two young boys on a mission to find Maradona's sticker. The film captures the innocence of childhood and the universal language of football, offering a poignant look into the dreams and aspirations of Palestinian youth.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Social Identity, Interactions, and Structures:** The boys' adventure reflects their lives within the occupied Palestinian territories, highlighting their simple yet profound desires.
2. **Family and Society Dynamics:** The film portrays the strong bonds within the boys' family and their village, emphasizing the importance of community in Palestinian society. The solidarity, the relation between the kids. In the minute 11.45 we can see the relationship between the kids how helpful they are. Moreover, the relation between the two brothers shows how close they are and the strong bond they have.
3. **Cultural Elements:** Football serves as a metaphor for global cultural influence, showing its impact even in remote Palestinian villages.
4. **Gender Roles:** The film subtly explores gender dynamics within the village, particularly in the depiction of women and their roles.

5. Youth Aspirations and Challenges: The quest for Maradona's sticker symbolizes the larger hopes and challenges faced by Palestinian children growing up under occupation.

Insights from Commentary

While specific commentary by Salim Abu Jabal on "Maradona's Legs" was not detailed in the provided document, he mentioned that the dialogue was pivotal in that movie.

Theoretical Frameworks

The narrative aligns with discussions on the impact of occupation on youth, social identity formation, and cultural influences, as explored in earlier chapters of the thesis.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Social Identity and Structures	Boys' adventure and interactions	Life and dreams under occupation	
Family and Society Dynamics	Family and village scenes. Connection to the neighborhood. The two brothers' closeness.	Importance of community in Palestinian society. Familial relations are strong.	
Cultural Elements	Involvement with football	Global cultural impact, and the Palestinian society is not distinct or independent from the international influences.	
Gender Roles	Depictions of women in the village	Perspectives on gender in Palestinian society	
Youth Aspirations and Challenges	Search for the sticker	Hopes and realities of Palestinian youth	

"Maradona's Legs" offers a heartwarming and insightful look at the experiences of Palestinian children, weaving a story of hope, community, and resilience against the backdrop of political conflict. The film's simple yet effective narrative adds depth to the understanding of Palestinian society and the enduring spirit of its youth.

8. "The Crossing" (2017) by Ameen Nayfeh

Narrative Analysis

"The Crossing" poignantly portrays the journey of two young Palestinian brothers attempting to cross a checkpoint to visit their sick grandmother. This narrative illustrates the impact of the Israeli occupation on familial bonds and the resilience of the Palestinian spirit.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Social Identity, Interactions, and Structures:** The film captures the challenges faced by Palestinians at checkpoints, reflecting the broader societal impact of the occupation.
2. **Family and Society Dynamics:** The brothers' endeavor to visit their grandmother underlines the importance of family solidarity in Palestinian society.
3. **Social Relations and Interactions:** Their interactions with Israeli soldiers and others at the checkpoint offer insights into the complex social dynamics under occupation.
4. **Youth Aspirations and Challenges:** The determination of the young brothers to overcome barriers illustrates the aspirations and resilience of Palestinian youth.
5. **Cultural Elements:** The film subtly incorporates aspects of Palestinian culture, especially in its portrayal of family values and intergenerational connections.

Insights from Commentary

Lina Al-Bukhari commented on "The Crossing" as a good example of familial and social bonding, highlighting the brothers' attempts to overcome barriers to reunite with their grandmother.

Theoretical Frameworks

The film aligns with discussions in Chapter Two and the literature review on themes such as the social impact of occupation, family dynamics in challenging environments, and the resilience of youth.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Social Identity and Structures	Brothers navigating the checkpoint	Impact of occupation on daily life
Family and Society Dynamics	Attempt to visit grandmother	Importance of family in Palestinian society
Social Relations	Interactions at the checkpoint	Complex social dynamics under occupation
Youth Aspirations and Challenges	Brothers' determination to cross the checkpoint	Resilience and hope of Palestinian youth
Cultural Elements	Depiction of family values	Preservation of cultural and family ties

"The Crossing" provides a moving depiction of the challenges faced by Palestinians, particularly highlighting the strength and solidarity within families. The film's narrative

offers a significant perspective on Palestinian society, emphasizing the importance of family bonds and the resilience required to navigate life under occupation.

9. "Eyes of a Thief" (2014) by Najwa Najjar

Narrative Analysis

"Eyes of a Thief" portrays the social life of Palestinian communities. It follows Tarek's search for his daughter during conflict. The movie emphasizes the importance of family bonds and how being together can strengthen them. Characters like Leila challenge old social norms, while the story highlights the significance of land in people's identity and their fight against losing it. Overall, the film points to several social aspects of Palestinian life.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Social Identity and Religion and Interfaith Relations:** Opening scene - Priest and nuns assist Tareq, showcasing interfaith support. Tarek's extended family provides him with shelter, emotional support, and resources after his release from prison, showcasing the strong sense of kinship and obligation within Palestinian society. Tareq seeks refuge with Salwa. Tareq shares a meal with Salwa and other family members, highlighting a sense of community and shared space.
2. **Family and Society Dynamics:** The film portrays the deep emotional bond between Tareq and his family, especially his daughter Malak. Despite his absence, their connection remains strong, highlighting the enduring power of family ties. While the film focuses on Tareq's immediate family, it hints at the broader impact of conflict on Palestinian families. The loss of homes, displacement, and separation from loved ones are alluded to, creating a sense of shared suffering and collective loss.

3. **Cultural Elements:** The film portrays various aspects of Palestinian culture and how they intertwine with everyday life and survival in a conflicted setting. Food scenes showcase traditional Palestinian cuisine, highlighting its importance in social connection and community.
4. **Social Relations and Interactions:** Checkpoints portray interactions with Israeli soldiers, highlighting power dynamics and tensions. Characters engage in lively debates about resistance approaches, reflecting diversity of opinions and the search for solutions. Tareq's interactions with Adel and his family showcase complex social hierarchies and individual choices within the community.

Insights from Commentary

While there is no specific commentary from the interviewed filmmakers or directors about "Eyes of a Thief," the film generally reflects themes consistent with Palestinian cinema's exploration of social, cultural, and political aspects of Palestinian life.

Theoretical Frameworks

The film aligns with discussions in Chapter Two and the literature review, particularly on themes such as the impact of socio-political factors, the formation of social identity, and the interplay of cultural elements within Palestinian society.

Table 9 : Eyes of a Thief Insight into Social Aspects

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Social Identity and Structures	Priest and nuns assist Tareq.	Interfaith support.	Strong kinship and societal relations.
	Tarek's family provides support.		Development of identity in a conflicted context
	Tarek-Salwa's relation.		

Family and Society Dynamics	Tareq and his family's, esp. Malak, bond.	Enduring power of family ties.
	Loss of homes, displacement, and separation.	Broader impact of conflict on Palestinian families. Sense of shared suffering and collective loss.
Cultural Elements	Depictions of Palestinian cultural aspects, as in food and meals scenes.	Traditional Palestinian cuisine, and its role in societal and familial relations.
Social Relations		Diversity of opinions and the search for solutions.
	Debates about resistance approaches.	complex social hierarchies and individual choices within the community
	Tareq's interactions with Adel.	

"Eyes of a Thief" offers a compelling exploration of the experiences and challenges of Palestinian youth, set against the broader context of societal and cultural dynamics. The film's portrayal adds depth to the understanding of Palestinian society and the resilience of its youth in the face of adversity.

10. "When I Saw You" (2012) by Annemarie Jacir

Narrative Analysis

"When I Saw You" is set in 1967 and follows the story of a young Palestinian boy and his mother in a refugee camp. The film beautifully captures the spirit of hope and resilience amidst the challenges of displacement and the struggle for identity and belonging.

Key Social Aspects and Examples

1. **Social Identity, Interactions, and Structures:** The film explores the theme of identity and belonging, particularly in the context of Palestinian refugees, and the longing for a homeland. Social life the Palestinian refugee people are living in 1967 how they live in bad conditions living in tents.
2. **Family and Society Dynamics:** It highlights the dynamics between the young boy and his mother, representing the struggles and strengths of Palestinian families in exile. The relationship between people in the refugee camp shows how close they are and demonstrates strong relationships. Tareq the little kid how he was treated from the Fedayeen as their kid. They eat together, play together.
3. **Cultural Elements:** The film showcases Palestinian culture, traditions, and the diversity of dialects within the refugee community. In the minute 57.41 cultural aspect we see Alfedayeen were singing a popular song.
4. **Gender Roles:** The narrative emphasizes the role of strong women, depicting the mother as a central figure of resilience and strength. In the first 3 minutes in the film we can see om Tarek as a working woman she worked as a tailor, she also take care of her child Tarek.
5. **Historical Context and Revolution:** The film explores the historical period of the Palestinian revolution, reflecting the aspirations and challenges of that era.

Insights from Commentary

Ismail Al Habash comments on the film's portrayal of pain, hope, and the complexities of Palestinian social aspects and traditions in a humorous yet unclear manner. Lina Al-Bukhari notes the film's focus on a specific historical period, the revolution, and the

representation of strong women, contrasting the typical role of fathers, while also highlighting the diversity of dialects within the film.

Theoretical Frameworks

The narrative aligns with discussions in Chapter Two and the literature review on themes of displacement, identity, family dynamics, and the role of women in Palestinian society.

Summary Table

Social Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Social Identity and Structures	The refugee camp setting.	Exploration of identity and belonging.
	Terrible living conditions.	Social and living conditions of refugees.
Family and Society Dynamics	Relationship between the boy and his mother.	Strength and resilience of families in exile. Strong community relations, and shared activities.
	Refugees' relations within the camp. Feda'yeen [freedom fighters] relation with the kid, and how they embraced him.	
Cultural Elements	Depiction of traditions and dialects Use of colloquial language, and various dialects.	Richness of Palestinian culture
Gender Roles	In the first 3 minutes in the film, we see Umm Tarek as a working woman, a tailor	Strong female figures in Palestinian society Fleifel's interactions with his family. Gender roles, Umm Tarek as a working woman
Historical Context and Revolution	Backdrop of the Palestinian revolution	Aspirations and challenges of the era

"When I Saw You" offers a poignant and heartfelt portrayal of the Palestinian experience during a significant historical period. The film's narrative skillfully intertwines personal

stories with broader socio-political themes, adding depth to the understanding of Palestinian identity, culture, and history.

4.5.Comparative Analysis

Comparative Tables

Table: Comparative Analysis of Key Social Aspects Across Films

Film Title	Social Identity	Family Dynamics	Cultural Elements	Gender Roles	Youth Aspirations
Ava Maria	Cultural and religious interfaces	-	Sarcasm and cultural stereotypes and cultural perception.	-	-
The Present	Impact of occupation on identity	Family under occupation	Resilience of Palestinian culture	-	-
Bonboné	Life under occupation	Determination in adversity	Community support and addressing a conservative topic.	Challenging traditional norms	-
A World Not Ours	Refugee life and identity	Intergenerational relationships, strong sense of community and support.	Preservation of culture in exile	-	-
3000 Nights	Women under occupation	Collective coping mechanisms	Cultural preservation.	Female resilience	-

Film Title	Social Identity	Family Dynamics	Cultural Elements	Gender Roles	Youth Aspirations
It Must Be Heaven	Palestinian identity in exile	-	Cultural preservation	-	-
Maradona's Legs	-	Strong familial relations.	-	-	Aspirations and dreams of youth
The Crossing	Daily challenges under occupation	Family bonds and political barriers	Cultural and family ties	-	Youth determination.
Eyes of a Thief	Moral complexities in turbulent settings	Interfaith support. Strong kinship and societal relations. Development of identity in a conflicted context complex social hierarchies and individual choices within the community	Traditional Palestinian cuisine, and its role in societal and familial relations.	-	Challenges faced by youth
When I Saw You	Refugee camp life and longing for homeland	Mother-son relationship.	Richness of Palestinian culture	Strong female figures	Embracing of youth and community shared responsibility.

(Note: The '-' indicates aspects not prominently featured or applicable in the specific film)

Narrative Synthesis

This section will synthesize the findings from the comparative tables, discussing common themes and variations in the portrayal of social aspects across the films.

- **Diversity in Social Identity:** Films like "The Present" and "A World Not Ours" offer contrasting perspectives on Palestinian identity, highlighting the effects of occupation and life in exile.
- **Family Dynamics:** "Bonboné" and "The Crossing" portray the resilience of families under challenging circumstances, emphasizing the importance of family bonds.

- **Cultural Resilience:** Films like "When I Saw You" and "3000 Nights" showcase the preservation and adaptation of Palestinian culture, particularly in contexts of displacement and occupation.
- **Gender Roles:** The portrayal of women and gender dynamics varies across films, with some like "When I Saw You" depicting strong female figures.
- **Youth Aspirations:** "Maradona's Legs" and "Eyes of a Thief" focus on the hopes and challenges faced by Palestinian youth, reflecting their aspirations and resilience.

4.6. Theoretical Integration and Discussion with Integration of Interview Insights

Integration of Interview Insights

- **Bilal Al-Khateeb on Dialogue and Social Identity:** Al-Khateeb's insights on the use of dialogue in Palestinian films, as it relates to regional and geographic diversity, offer a nuanced understanding of social identity formation. This aligns with the theoretical discussions in Chapter Two, where the complexity of Palestinian social identity, especially under occupation, is explored in depth.
- **Mai Al-Masri on Women's Resilience in "3000 Nights":** Al-Masri discusses the inspiration behind "3000 Nights" and the portrayal of a female prisoner's resilience. This perspective enhances the theoretical discussions on gender roles and women's representation in Palestinian society.
- **Lina Al-Bukhari on Historical Context in "When I Saw You":** Al-Bukhari's comments on "When I Saw You" provide insights into the film's historical context and the portrayal of strong female characters, complementing the theoretical framework on social and cultural dynamics in Palestinian cinema.

Theoretical Alignment with Film Analysis

- **Social Identity and Occupation:** "The Present" and "3000 Nights" offer profound insights into the construction of Palestinian social identity under occupation. The films align with the theoretical discussions on the impact of external socio-political factors on individual and collective identity formation.
- **Family Dynamics and Resilience:** "Bonboné" and "The Crossing" demonstrate the resilience of Palestinian families under challenging circumstances. This echoes the theoretical concepts of familial bonds and collective coping mechanisms.

4.7. Chapter Summary

Addressing Chapter Four's Questions

- **Palestinian Dialogue:** The films offer a rich tapestry of Palestinian dialogue, capturing linguistic diversity through various languages, dialects, and the use of colloquial speech, including swear words. For example, in "Maradona's Legs," the dialogue is pivotal, reflecting the lives and dreams of Palestinian youth under occupation.
- **Family Solidarity and Gender Roles:** The films challenge traditional norms, depicting evolving roles of women and complex family relations. "3000 Nights" showcases female resilience in a male-dominated prison setting, while "Bonboné" portrays a woman as the driving force in her family's struggle to conceive under occupation.
- **Palestinian Customs:** The customs are shown as evolving yet preserving cultural identity. "Ava Maria" humorously contrasts different religious practices, highlighting the adaptability of customs in unique circumstances.

Linking to the Study's Overall Questions

- **Overall Reflection:** The films collectively highlight a dynamic portrayal of social and cultural aspects, emphasizing the complexities of Palestinian identity and society in diverse contexts, such as life under occupation, in refugee camps, and in the diaspora.
- **Sub-Question Insights:**
 - **Dialogue:** "Maradona's Legs" and "The Present" showcase diverse aspects of Palestinian dialogue, reflecting regional and societal nuances.
 - **Family and Gender:** "Bonboné" and "3000 Nights" explore evolving family dynamics and gender roles under occupation.
 - **Customs:** "Ava Maria" depicts the evolving nature of customs in the face of religious and cultural differences.
 - **Social Structures and Relations:** "The Crossing" and "When I Saw You" provide insights into the impact of occupation on social structures and relationships.

Integration into the Overall Study

- **Contribution to Study's Objective:** The analysis in Chapter IV contributes significantly to the overall study, providing a nuanced understanding of the portrayal of Palestinian society in contemporary cinema.
- **Broader Implications:** These findings offer insights into Palestinian cinema's role in global cinema, showcasing its capability to convey complex social realities and cultural narratives.
- **Contextualization within the Study:** The insights from this chapter add depth to the understanding of Palestinian cinema, complementing the theoretical and contextual frameworks established in other chapters.

Chapter Five

Cultural Aspects in Palestinian Netflix Films (2012-2020)

5.1 Introduction

Overview: This chapter embarks on an in-depth exploration of cultural aspects in Palestinian Netflix films from 2012 to 2020. It will analyze how these films portray and engage with the rich and diverse cultural fabric of Palestinian society. The chapter aims to examine the representation of traditional customs, artistic expressions, religious practices, and language as elements of Palestinian culture in these films.

This chapter aims to dissect and understand how these films portray the rich Palestinian culture, including its traditions, customs, and identity nuances.

Objective: The objective of this chapter is to examine and interpret the portrayal of key cultural aspects in the selected films. This includes the depiction of language as a cultural element, the role of art and artistic expressions, the representation of religious practices, and the portrayal of customs and traditions within the Palestinian context. The chapter will utilize a content analysis approach, enriched by insights from interviews with filmmakers and industry professionals, as well as the literature review to provide a well-founded understanding of how these films present and interpret key cultural aspects.

Research Questions: The chapter seeks to answer the following research questions in relation to the cultural aspects of the study:

- How is the language of dialogue as a cultural element reflected in the films?
- What insights do the films offer into Palestinian artistic expressions and religious practices?
- How are customs and traditions portrayed in the films?

- How do these cultural elements collectively narrate the Palestinian cultural experience?

Methodology: The analysis will draw upon a range of perspectives and insights from interviews with Palestinian filmmakers, as well as adopting a rigorous content analysis approach. This will enable an exploration of how the selected films portray various cultural dynamics, contributing to a comprehensive portrayal of Palestinian culture in contemporary cinema.

Theoretical Framework: The analysis will be grounded in the theoretical discussions presented in earlier chapters, particularly focusing on how culture serves as a medium for expressing identity, resilience, and community solidarity in Palestinian society.

Structure of Analysis: The chapter will systematically explore each selected film, identifying and discussing the cultural themes and elements they portray. This will include an examination of language, art, traditions, religious practices, and other cultural aspects that are integral to Palestinian identity. The analysis will be enriched by comparative tables and narrative synthesis, similar to Chapter IV, to draw connections and contrasts between the films.

5.2 Selection of Films

In order to comprehensively examine the cultural themes within Palestinian cinema, the following films have been selected for analysis:

1. **"Ava Maria" (2015) by Basil Khalil:** This film humorously confronts cultural and religious differences, making it a prime example of how Palestinian cinema explores the intersection of diverse cultural identities and interfaith relationships.

2. **"The Present" (2020) by Farah Nabulsi:** This film offers an insightful look at Palestinian family life and societal structures under occupation, providing a lens into how occupation influences cultural expression.
3. **"Bonboné" (2017) by Rakan Mayasi:** Set against the backdrop of an Israeli jail, this film explores the resilience of Palestinian culture under trying circumstances, particularly focusing on family bonds and community support.
4. **"A World Not Ours" (2012) by Mahdi Fleifel:** This documentary offers a unique perspective on the identity and daily life of Palestinian refugees, providing insights into the cultural resilience within refugee communities.
5. **"3000 Nights" (2015) by Mai Masri:** This film explores the experiences of Palestinian women under occupation, highlighting the collective coping mechanisms that emerge within this cultural context.
6. **"It Must Be Heaven" (2019) by Elia Suleiman:** The film's exploration of Palestinian identity in exile, and the cultural preservation outside their homeland, offers a unique perspective on diaspora experiences.
7. **"Maradona's Legs" (2019) by Firas Khoury:** This film centers on the aspirations and dreams of Palestinian youth, shedding light on how global cultural influences, like football, impact Palestinian villages.
8. **"The Crossing" (2017) by Ameen Nayfeh:** This film focuses on the journey of young brothers through a checkpoint, reflecting on family bonds and the impact of political barriers on cultural practices.
9. **"Eyes of a Thief" (2014) by Najwa Najjar:** The film's portrayal of Tarek's quest for his daughter. Shared meals anchor family unity, showcasing the potent role of food

in familial and cultural bonding. The film also portrays characters like Leila, challenging traditional gender roles and hinting at evolving societal norms.

10. **"When I Saw You" (2012) by Annemarie Jacir:** Set in a refugee camp, this film focuses on themes of freedom, identity, and longing, providing a vivid portrayal of Palestinian culture and traditions in a time of displacement.

Rationale for Selection: The selection of these films is based on their varied representation of cultural aspects from 2012-2020. Each film offers insights into different facets of Palestinian culture, ranging from individual and family experiences under occupation to broader societal challenges faced by Palestinians. Together, these films provide a comprehensive view of the diverse cultural dynamics and expressions within Palestinian society, making them crucial for an in-depth analysis of cultural themes in contemporary Palestinian cinema.

5.3 Methodology for Analysis

Approach: The methodology for this chapter involves a systematic content analysis of the selected films. This approach will allow for an objective examination of how cultural themes are represented and portrayed in these films.

Criteria: The analysis will focus on the following key cultural aspects:

- **Hospitality and Generosity:** Explore the depiction of these traditional values in the films.
- **Sense of Community and Belonging:** Analyze how films portray the Palestinian sense of community and belonging.
- **Family:** Examine the representation of family dynamics and its significance in Palestinian culture.

- **Art and Literature:** Look at how Palestinian art and literature are depicted in these films.
- **Old Traditions:** Study the portrayal of ancient Palestinian traditions.
- **Cuisine:** Investigate how Palestinian cuisine is featured as a cultural element.
- **Embroidery (Traditional Dresses):** Analyze the depiction of traditional Palestinian embroidery and attire.
- **Customs and Rituals:** Examine the customs and rituals unique to Palestinian culture as shown in the films.
- **Heritage:** Explore how Palestinian heritage is represented and preserved in these films.
- **Language:** Analyze the use of language as a cultural element in the films.

5.4 Individual Film Analysis

1. "Ava Maria" (2015) by Basil Khalil

Narrative Analysis: "Ava Maria" presents an engaging narrative that explores the interaction between Palestinian Carmelite nuns and a Jewish settler family, providing a unique perspective on cultural and religious dynamics within Palestinian society. The film navigates themes of coexistence, tolerance, and understanding in a conflict-ridden environment.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Hospitality and Generosity:** Exhibited through the reluctant but necessary assistance between the nuns and the Jewish family, offering a nuanced portrayal of hospitality under strained circumstances.

2. **Sense of Community and Belonging:** The film portrays a strong bond within the family of Jewish settlers and the group of Palestinian Carmelite nuns, reflecting their sense of belonging within their respective communities.
3. **Family:** Centers around a Jewish settler family, depicting their interactions and dynamics, highlighting the family structure within the context of the conflict.
4. **Art and Literature:** The film itself serves as an artistic portrayal of lesser-known aspects of Palestinian life, contributing to the cultural narrative.
5. **Customs and Rituals:** Showcases the unique custom of the nuns living in silence, talking only for one hour a day, representing a specific religious practice. Clothes of the nuns the customs. The settlers Kippah.
6. **Heritage:** Illuminates the Palestinian narrative and the community's struggles, contributing to the understanding of Palestinian heritage.
7. **Language:** Incorporates Arabic, English, and Hebrew, reflecting the linguistic diversity of the Palestinian community and Israeli settlers, and highlighting the cultural and communication complexities in the region.
8. **Religious Practices:** Features the religious practice of the nuns, emphasizing the role of religious customs in Palestinian society. The settlers told his mom don't drink it is not kosher. The sign of the cross.

Basil Khalil, the film's director, describes "Ava Maria" as a comedic exploration of cultural and religious diversity, drawing inspiration from his personal experiences as a Palestinian Christian raised in Nazareth. The film tells the story of five nuns from the Sisters of Mercy convent, whose routine is disrupted when a family of settlers crashes into a statue of the Virgin Mary. The ensuing interactions and conflicts highlight themes of cultural clash, religious satire, and the absurdity of the political situation in Palestine.

Khalil aimed to challenge stereotypes and showcase the shared humanity of people from different backgrounds. Balancing humor with cultural commentary was a key challenge, with Khalil focusing on creating well-rounded characters embodying their flaws and strengths. The film seeks to offer laughter while encouraging viewers to look beyond the surface and recognize our common humanity.

The film's depiction of these cultural aspects offers insights into the resilience and ingenuity of the Palestinian people. It challenges typical stereotypes often seen in Arab region films, adding a layer of depth to the portrayal of Palestinian culture. The narrative aligns with discussions from earlier chapters on the complexities of cultural and religious identities and the importance of understanding and tolerance in conflict scenarios.

Summary Table for "Ava Maria":

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Hospitality & Generosity	Nuns and Jewish family helping each other	Reluctant hospitality in strained circumstances	
Community & Belonging	Bond within Jewish family and nuns.	Sense of belonging within respective groups	
Family	Jewish settler family dynamics	Family structure and interactions in conflict context	
Art & Literature	The film as a medium	Artistic portrayal of Palestinian life	
Customs & Rituals	Nuns observing silence. Nuns' clothing, and the settlers' Kippah.	Unique religious practice, and costumes highlighting cultural diversity	

Heritage	Narrative of community struggles	Contribution to understanding of Palestinian heritage
Language	Use of multiple languages The settler: "Don't drink it, it is not Kosher." The sign of the cross.	Linguistic diversity in verbal and non-verbal communication and its impact on cultural communication.

"Ava Maria" offers a distinct and insightful portrayal of cultural and religious aspects in Palestinian society, enriching the understanding of Palestinian identity, heritage, and the complexities of coexistence.

2. "The Present" (2020) by Farah Nabulsi

Narrative Analysis: "The Present" provides a powerful glimpse into the daily life of a Palestinian family living under occupation. The film portrays the impact of occupation on family life, traditions, and social identity.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Sense of Community and Belonging:** The film emphasizes the strong bond within the Palestinian family, reflecting their sense of belonging and unity in the face of adversity imposed by the checkpoints.
2. **Family:** Central to the film is the journey of a father and daughter to buy a wedding anniversary gift, underscoring the importance of family in Palestinian culture.
3. **Art and Literature:** As a cinematic work, "The Present" itself is an artistic expression that brings to light aspects of Palestinian life under occupation.

4. **Customs and Rituals:** The custom of buying a gift for a wedding anniversary is depicted, showcasing the preservation of familial traditions even under challenging circumstances. Elderly woman is wearing the Palestinian Thobe.
5. **Heritage:** The film sheds light on the Palestinian narrative and the resilience of the community amidst struggles.
6. **Language:** Arabic is used throughout the film, reflecting the linguistic identity of the Palestinian community. In the fifth minute in the film we see the everyday language used by the family, Such as “yalla walleh”.
7. **Hospitality and Generosity:** Though not directly depicted, the underlying theme of the film resonates with the values of resilience and familial commitment, which are integral to Palestinian hospitality.

Nabulsi, along with other filmmakers like Mai Masri and Mehdi Fleifel, emphasizes family solidarity as a central theme in their films. This solidarity is portrayed as a fundamental aspect of Palestinian life, enabling characters to face various challenges. The films illustrate the enduring nature of familial bonds within the Palestinian community, serving as a crucial support system in times of adversity.

The narrative of "The Present" aligns with the theoretical discussions in Chapter 2 on themes of displacement, identity, and family dynamics in Palestinian society. The film's portrayal of daily challenges under occupation and the resilience of the Palestinian family offers a profound insight into the cultural and social fabric of Palestinian life.

Summary Table for "The Present":

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Community & Belonging	Bond between the family	Unity, belonging and resilience under occupation
Family	Father-daughter journey for a gift	Importance of family traditions
Art & Literature	Film as a medium	Artistic portrayal of life under occupation
Customs & Rituals	Anniversary gift tradition The Palestinian Thobe.	Preservation of customs under challenging conditions
Heritage	Overall narrative	Resilience and persistence of the Palestinian narrative
Language	Use of Arabic Portrayal of everyday language instance.	Linguistic representation of Palestinian identity.
Hospitality & Generosity	Underlying themes	Familial commitment and resilience as cultural values

"The Present" offers an intimate and impactful portrayal of the Palestinian experience under occupation, exploring themes of family, tradition, and resilience. The film's narrative enriches the understanding of cultural dynamics within Palestinian society.

3. "Bonboné" (2017) by Rakan Mayasi

Narrative Analysis: "Bonboné" is a poignant film that addresses a sensitive subject with both realism and empathy. The story revolves around a Palestinian woman visiting her husband in an Israeli jail, showcasing their struggle to conceive a child within the

restrictive environment. This narrative highlights the resilience and ingenuity of the Palestinian people in the face of adversity.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Hospitality and Generosity:** While not depicted directly, the film's underlying themes of love and sacrifice represent a form of emotional generosity.
2. **Sense of Community and Belonging:** The film portrays the strong bond between the Palestinian couple, emphasizing their sense of belonging to each other despite physical separation.
3. **Family:** Central to the film's narrative is the couple's desire to start a family under challenging circumstances, underscoring the importance of family in Palestinian culture.
4. **Art and Literature:** The film itself serves as an artistic representation of a lesser-known aspect of Palestinian life.
5. **Customs and Rituals:** Highlights the custom of prison visits and the ritual journey the wife undertakes to visit her husband, reflecting the strength of familial bonds.
6. **Heritage and Costumes:** Sheds light on the broader Palestinian narrative, including the struggles and resilience of the community. prisoners customs, We can see the difference in the clothes as for the wife she is wearing modern clothes unlike the other women in the bus they were wearing Hijab and another woman was wearing the Palestinian thobe, so we can see the diversity in the Palestinian culture.
7. **Language:** Arabic is predominantly used in the film, showcasing the linguistic aspect of Palestinian culture.

"Bonboné" focuses on the unique theme of sperm smuggling, reflecting on the deep human desire of a couple to have a child despite imprisonment and adversity. The film

was noted for addressing this sensitive topic, particularly receiving attention in conservative circles for its bold subject matter. This narrative underscores the strength of human connections and the resilience of familial bonds under trying circumstances.

"Bonboné" provides a unique perspective on Palestinian culture, particularly in how it navigates complex emotional landscapes. The film's approach subverts expectations common in Arab region films, steering clear of stereotypes and presenting an authentic narrative. Its thematic focus aligns with the discussions in Chapter 2 on the resilience and creativity of Palestinian culture in the face of difficult circumstances.

Summary Table for "Bonboné":

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Hospitality & Generosity	Underlying themes of love and sacrifice	Emotional generosity amidst adversity
Community & Belonging	Bond between the couple	Strength of relationships despite separation
Family	Couple's effort to conceive	Importance of family in challenging environments
Art & Literature	The film as a medium	Artistic expression of Palestinian narratives
Customs & Rituals	Prison visits and wife's journey	Deep-rooted familial customs under occupation
Heritage	Overall narrative of the film. Prisoners' customs. Diverse clothing selection.	Reflection of Palestinian struggles and resilience. Diversity and evolvement of the Palestinian culture.
Language	Use of Arabic	Linguistic representation of Palestinian identity

"Bonboné" thus stands out as a film that not only tells a unique story but also deeply resonates with the cultural fabric of Palestinian society, offering a window into the less-visible aspects of their lives and struggles.

4. "A World Not Ours" (2012) by Mahdi Fleifel

"A World Not Ours" is a documentary that dives deeply into the life in the Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. It presents a compelling narrative of three generations of a Palestinian family, portraying the resilience and solidarity of the refugee community.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Sense of Community and Belonging:** The film portrays the strong community bonds within the refugee camp.
2. **Family Dynamics:** Focuses on the experiences of multiple generations within a family living in exile.
3. **Heritage:** Highlights the Palestinian narrative of displacement and longing for a homeland.
4. **Language:** Arabic is used throughout the film, reinforcing a sense of identity and cultural unity.
5. **Customs and Rituals:** Showcases the maintenance of cultural practices within the refugee camp. In the middle of the film, we see the Palestinian wedding the traditions and customs.
6. **Art and Literature:** The documentary itself is an artistic representation of Palestinian life.

7. **Old Traditions:** The wedding traditions of popular dance, and ululation implies the preservation of traditions in the refugee camp environment.

While there are no direct interviews with Mahdi Fleifel or specific commentary on "A World Not Ours" in the interviews, the film's portrayal of life in the Ain el-Helweh refugee camp in Lebanon provides an intimate look at the complex social identities of Palestinian refugees. The film's depiction of displacement, nationality, and the camp's living experiences contributes to the broader understanding of Palestinian identity in the diaspora. Three different cultures in this film A world not ours; gulf, Danish, and the refugee camp. It also shows the difference between these three cultures in terms of lifestyle, clothes, traditions, customs, rituals, even the food.

This film aligns with diaspora and identity formation theories, illustrating the impact of displacement on cultural identity.

Summary Table:

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Sense of Community and Belonging	Life within the refugee camp.	Highlights resilience in a communal setting
	Community bonds.	
Family Dynamics	Multi-generational family interactions	Showcases the importance of family in maintaining cultural continuity and shared experiences.
Heritage	Narratives of displacement	Emphasizes the struggles and longing for homeland
Language	Use of Arabic throughout the film	Serves as a unifying and expressive element of culture

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Customs and Rituals	Daily customs and practices in the refugee camp. Traditions such as Dabkeh, and Zaghareed [ululation]	Maintaining traditions in challenging circumstances
Art and Literature	Documentary as a medium	Artistic expression of Palestinian experiences
Old Traditions	Wedding traditions of dance and ululation.	Preservation of traditions in refugee life

"A World Not Ours" offers an insightful look into the Palestinian refugee experience, capturing the essence of identity, heritage, and community spirit. Through its vivid portrayal of life in a refugee camp, the film serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience and endurance of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

5. "3000 Nights" (2015) by Mai Masri

"3000 Nights" is a powerful narrative film by Mai Masri. It provides an intimate look at the life of Layal, a Palestinian woman falsely accused and imprisoned in an Israeli jail. The film is a profound exploration of resilience, motherhood, and the human spirit under the most challenging conditions.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

- Sense of Community and Belonging:** The film highlights the solidarity among Palestinian women prisoners, forming a strong community bond.
- Family:** Central to the narrative is Layal's struggle to raise her son within the prison walls, underlining the importance of family ties even in harsh conditions.

3. **Art and Literature:** As a cinematic work, the film brings attention to lesser-known aspects of Palestinian life, especially the experiences of women in prison.
4. **Gender Roles:** Layal's character challenges traditional gender norms, showcasing the strength and resilience of Palestinian women.
5. **Religious Elements:** While not explicitly covered, the film implies the presence of deep-rooted faith among the characters.
6. **Language:** The use of Arabic in the film reinforces cultural identity and serves as a medium for Layal's expression of her experiences. **use the Arabic English and Hebrew**
7. **Heritage:** Through Layal's story, the film reflects the broader Palestinian narrative of struggle and resilience.

Mai Al-Masri, in her discussions about "3000 Nights," focuses on the inspiration behind the film and the portrayal of a female prisoner's resilience. This perspective sheds light on the film's thematic focus on women's strength in the face of adversity and occupation. The narrative of "3000 Nights" aligns with theories on gender roles and the resilience of women, particularly in the context of conflict and oppression. The film's portrayal of Layal and her journey resonates with broader discussions on Palestinian social identity under occupation.

Summary Table:

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Sense of Community and Belonging	Solidarity among Palestinian women prisoners	Strong community bonds.
Family	Layal's struggle to raise her son within walls.	Family ties and formation.
Art and Literature	Film as a medium	Highlighting less known aspects of Palestinian life, especially women experiences in prisons.
Gender Roles	Layal challenging traditional norms	Strength and resilience of Palestinian women.
Religious Elements	Not explicit, but observed in characters.	Implies a deep-rooted faith
Language	Arabic, English and Hebrew were used.	Use of Arabic in the film reinforces cultural identity and serves as a medium for Layal's expression of her experiences. While English and Hebrew are used to express power dynamics and cross-cultural communication.
Heritage	The film as a medium	Reflecting the broader narrative of struggle and continuity.

"3000 Nights" is a compelling portrayal of the resilience and strength of Palestinian women under occupation. Through Layal's story, the film presents a poignant narrative

that not only highlights individual perseverance but also underscores the collective struggle of Palestinian women against systemic oppression.

6. "It Must Be Heaven" (2019) by Elia Suleiman

"It Must Be Heaven" by Elia Suleiman is a whimsical and reflective exploration of identity, belonging, and the concept of 'home.' The film follows Suleiman's journey from Palestine to various global cities, humorously and satirically commenting on the Palestinian experience both within Palestine and in the diaspora.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Sense of Community and Belonging:** Despite the physical separation imposed by occupation, the film portrays a strong bond within the Palestinian community.
2. **Cultural Elements:** Suleiman's connection to Palestinian traditions and language is emphasized, showing cultural preservation in diaspora.
3. **Cross-Cultural Understanding:** The juxtaposition of life in Palestine with that in Paris and New York highlights the universality of certain experiences. we can see three different cultures.
4. Palestinian French and American culture.
5. In the second section of the film in Paris we can see the French culture the life and the social life in Paris,
6. **Social Relations and Interactions:** A spectrum of social relations is depicted, from camaraderie in Paris to alienation in New York.
7. **Art and Literature:** The film itself serves as a form of artistic expression that brings Palestinian narratives to a global audience. Elia Suliman used a Sabah Fakhry song.

8. **Language:** The use of multiple languages in the film reflects the linguistic diversity of the Palestinian experience.
9. **Heritage:** The film sheds light on the broader Palestinian narrative, including the struggles faced by the community. a woman wearing the Palestinian thobe.

Insights from Interviews:

1. George Khaliefi observed that "It Must Be Heaven" is a film primarily driven by visuals rather than dialogue, addressing the diversity and variation in dialects across Palestine. He noted the film's critical and satirical approach to portraying social customs, suggesting they have become outdated and stereotypical.
2. Ismail Al-Habash commented on the minimal and satirical dialogue in "It Must Be Heaven," emphasizing how the film relies on moments of silence and visual storytelling. He pointed out that the dialogue, where present, is concise yet intellectually engaging.
3. Salim Abu Jabal remarked on the limited dialogue in Suleiman's film, highlighting its reliance on visual language.
4. Darwish Abu AlReesh emphasized Palestinian filmmakers' focus on humanizing their narratives, a technique prominently used by Suleiman in his films.
5. Najwa Mubarakli likened Suleiman's unique cinematic language to the iconic character Handala, reflecting a distinct perspective in his films.
6. Lina Al-Bukhari discussed the diverse dialogue languages in Palestinian cinema, noting Suleiman's reliance on visual storytelling in "It Must Be Heaven." She also mentioned the geographic diversity in the film, from Nazareth to New York to Paris, while maintaining a unified Palestinian identity.

"It Must Be Heaven" by Elia Suleiman, the theoretical framework primarily revolves around the themes of cultural identity, diaspora, and cross-cultural interaction. The film explores the complexities of Palestinian identity amidst different cultures, particularly focusing on diaspora experiences and cultural preservation. It aligns with cultural theories that emphasize the dynamic evolution of culture through interactions and adaptations, reflecting the resilience and distinctiveness of Palestinian culture in various global settings. Additionally, the film subtly touches on family solidarity and gender roles, contributing to the broader discourse on these aspects within Palestinian society. As a cinematic work, it not only entertains but also educates and enlightens global audiences about the Palestinian narrative, exemplifying the role of cultural industry in shaping cultural understanding.

Summary Table:

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Sense of Community and Belonging	Portrayal of Palestinian community	Reflects sense of belonging amidst separation.	
Cultural Elements	Suleiman's connection to traditions	Highlights cultural preservation in diaspora	
Cross-Cultural Understanding	Comparisons of life in different cities	Universal similarities and cultural absurdities	
Social Relations	Varied interactions across cities	Spectrum of social experiences as a Palestinian	
Art and Literature	The film as a global cultural medium	Artistic representation of Palestinian stories	

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Language	Use of multiple languages in the film		Linguistic diversity and identity
Heritage	Overall narrative of the film	Broader Palestinian narrative and struggles	

"It Must Be Heaven" offers a unique and humorous perspective on the Palestinian experience. Through Elia Suleiman's journey, the film provides insightful commentary on identity, culture, and the concept of home, transcending geographical boundaries while maintaining a connection to Palestinian roots.

7. "Maradona's Legs" (2019) by Firas Khoury

"Maradona's Legs" by Firas Khoury presents a poignant narrative set against the backdrop of the 1990 World Cup, exploring themes of youth aspirations, cultural influences, and the impact of occupation on Palestinian society.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Youth Aspirations and Challenges:** Focuses on the hopes and dreams of Palestinian youth, framed within the context of the World Cup.
2. **Cultural Elements:** Reflects the global cultural impact of football and its resonance with Palestinian youth. Children in the film the kids they support the Brazilian team
3. **Art and Literature:** Highlights lesser-known aspects of Palestinian life through cinematic storytelling.
4. **Social Identity and Structures:** Explores the complex identities of Palestinian youth under occupation.

5. **Language:** Uses Arabic to emphasize the linguistic aspect of Palestinian culture. In the minute 6.45 cultural aspect the language they used the street language they use they use bad words.
6. **Heritage:** Sheds light on the broader Palestinian narrative and community challenges.
7. **Family and Society Dynamics:** Implies the importance of community support in Palestinian society.

Salim Abu Jabal notes the pivotal role of dialogue in Palestinian cinema, underscoring the importance of narrative in conveying the experiences and aspirations of Palestinian youth.

Based on Chapter Two, the film illustrates the intersection of youth identity and global cultural influences, reflecting the adaptability and resilience of Palestinian culture, and showcasing cinema's role in reflecting Palestinian cultural narratives.

Summary Table

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Youth Aspirations and Challenges	Search for the Maradona sticker	Highlights the dreams and realities of Palestinian youth	
Cultural Elements	Involvement with football	Global cultural impact and its resonance with youth	
Art and Literature	Film as a storytelling medium	Showcases Palestinian life and youth experiences	
Social Identity and Structures	Boys' interactions and adventure	Life under occupation shaping youth identity	

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Language	Use of Arabic in dialogue		Reinforces cultural identity and heritage
Heritage	Depiction of community struggles		Reflects broader Palestinian narrative
Family and Society Dynamics	Community support in village scenes		Importance of community in Palestinian society

"Maradona's Legs" skillfully combines the passions of football with the realities of Palestinian life under occupation. The film provides a unique lens into the aspirations, challenges, and resilience of Palestinian youth, capturing their spirit and determination in the face of adversity. It stands as a testament to the power of dreams and the importance of community support in shaping the identities and experiences of young Palestinians.

8. "The Crossing" (2017) by Ameen Nayfeh

"The Crossing" is a compelling film by Ameen Nayfeh that portrays the journey of three Palestinian siblings attempting to visit their bedridden grandfather, who resides on the other side of the separation wall. This narrative insightfully illustrates the impact of the Israeli occupation on family dynamics and the challenges faced by Palestinians in their daily lives.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Family and Society Dynamics:** The siblings' efforts to visit their grandfather underscore the importance of family solidarity and the struggles to maintain familial bonds across physical barriers.
2. **Social Identity and Structures:** The film vividly captures the barriers and challenges faced by Palestinians due to the separation wall, reflecting broader societal impacts.
3. **Heritage:** The narrative sheds light on the ongoing Palestinian narrative of resistance and resilience amidst occupation.
4. **Sense of Community and Belonging:** Despite the separation imposed by the wall, the film highlights the strong sense of community and solidarity among Palestinians.
5. **Language:** The use of Arabic, English, and Hebrew in the film reflects the complex linguistic landscape of the region and the interactions between Palestinians and Israeli authorities. Language they use in the film the three siblings , Le the everyday spoken language,even they use the street language at the beginning of the film,
6. And when they arrive to the checkpoint in the middle of the film they use three languages at the checkpoint Hebrew English and Arabic.in the 4.30 minute in the film.
7. **Art and Literature:** As a cinematic work, the film brings to light lesser-known aspects of Palestinian life under occupation.
8. **Customs and Rituals:** The film subtly portrays various cultural customs and practices, reflecting the resilience of traditional Palestinian life despite restrictions.

While specific commentary on "The Crossing" is not detailed in the interviews, the themes of family dynamics, resilience, and the impact of occupation align with the broader discussions in Palestinian cinema about maintaining cultural and familial identity under challenging circumstances.

Drawing from Chapter Two, "The Crossing" aligns with cultural theories addressing the impact of political conflict on family and social structures. The film exemplifies the resilience of Palestinian society and the challenges of preserving cultural and familial bonds in the face of adversity.

Summary Table

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Family and Society Dynamics	Siblings' journey to visit grandfather	Importance of family bonds in Palestinian society
Social Identity and Structures	Interaction with the separation wall	Societal impact of occupation
Heritage	Overall narrative of resilience	Reflects broader Palestinian struggle
Sense of Community and Belonging	Community support for siblings	Emphasizes solidarity amidst separation
Language	Use of Arabic, English, and Hebrew.	Represents the linguistic diversity and interaction, and reflects the powerlessness of having to use the other party's language.
Art and Literature	Film as a cultural expression	Highlights Palestinian life under occupation
Customs and Rituals	Depiction of cultural practices	Resilience of traditional life under restrictions

"The Crossing" poignantly captures the trials and tribulations faced by Palestinian families separated by the Israeli occupation. Through the story of three siblings and their determination to see their grandfather, the film highlights the unyielding spirit of Palestinian society and the importance of maintaining familial and cultural connections despite daunting physical and political barriers.

9. "Eyes of a Thief" (2014) by Najwa Najjar

"Eyes of a Thief" by Najwa Najjar is an evocative film that examines the complex and morally rich life in Palestinian society, focusing on a young boy's experiences. The film navigates through various social, ethical, and cultural challenges, depicting the resilience of its characters.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Art and Literature:** Malak's drawing of their lost home: This reflects the use of art to preserve personal and collective memory, highlighting the impact of displacement on individuals and families. Characters reference proverbs and folktales: This showcases the importance of oral traditions in transmitting cultural values and wisdom across generations.
2. **Heritage:** Characters discussing Palestinian history and struggles, which reference historical events and express awareness of ongoing struggles. Tareq's refusal to sell his land where Tareq explicitly mentions refusing to sell his land even when facing financial pressure, highlighting its symbolic value.
3. **Language:** Features Arabic, English, and Hebrew, reflecting the multifaceted linguistic context, power dynamics in the occupied territories, where Palestinians are often forced to communicate with authorities in the occupier's language.
4. **Customs and Rituals:** Scenes of communal meals and gatherings: These highlight the importance of social connection, hospitality, and shared celebrations within Palestinian culture. Visiting the cemetery and reciting prayers: This showcases respect for ancestors and rituals associated with death and mourning.
5. **Hospitality and Generosity:** Sharing food and resources with neighbors: This showcases the spirit of communal support and generosity within Palestinian

communities. Offering tea or coffee to visitors: This simple act signifies respect, warmth, and the importance of building relationships.

6. **Social Identity and Structures:** When Tareq returns home, his sister-in-law Salwa initially holds most of the power and information, reflecting a male absence traditionally leading to women assuming responsibilities. Tareq initially hesitates to reveal his past actions and identity to Adel, possibly fearing damaging his family's reputation or bringing shame upon them. Salwa's concern about rumors and whispers surrounding Tareq's absence highlights the social pressure to maintain a good family image within the community.
7. **Sense of Community and Belonging:** Depicts the strong community bonds and mutual support within Palestinian society.

The specific commentary on "Eyes of a Thief" in the interviews is not detailed, but the film aligns with broader themes discussed in Palestinian cinema, focusing on the resilience, ethical challenges, and complex social dynamics under occupation.

Based on Chapter Two, "Eyes of a Thief" correlates with cultural theories regarding the formation of social identity and the preservation of cultural and family ties in challenging contexts. The film illustrates the resilience and adaptability of Palestinian culture and society in the face of adversity.

Summary Table

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Insight/Literature Connection
Art and Literature	Film as artistic storytelling. Referencing proverbs and folktales	Highlights aspects of Palestinian life. Showcases the importance of oral traditions in transmitting cultural values and wisdom across generations.
Heritage	Overall narrative References to historical events Refusal to sell land.	Reflects the Palestinian community's struggles Reflects awareness of ongoing struggles. Highlighting the symbolic value of the land.
Language	Use of Arabic, English, and Hebrew	Represents linguistic diversity in Palestine as well as the power dynamics.
Customs and Rituals	Communal meals and gatherings. Visiting the cemetery and reciting prayers.	the importance of social connection, hospitality, and shared celebrations within Palestinian culture. Respect for ancestors and rituals associated with death and mourning
Hospitality and Generosity	Sharing food and resources	The spirit of communal support and generosity.
Social Identity and Structures	Tareq initially hesitates to reveal his past actions. Salwa's concern about rumors and whispers surrounding Tareq's absence	Family reputation, the identity of the groups and social pressures.
Sense of Community and Belonging	Community support shown	Emphasizes strong bonds in Palestinian society

"Eyes of a Thief" is a compelling film that vividly portrays the complexities and resilience of Palestinian society. Through the eyes of a young protagonist, it explores the convoluted web of social, ethical, and cultural challenges, while highlighting the strong sense of community, heritage, and identity that defines Palestinian life.

10. "When I Saw You" (2012) by Annemarie Jacir

"When I Saw You," set in 1967, is a heartwarming film by Annemarie Jacir that follows the story of a young Palestinian boy and his mother in a refugee camp. The film beautifully captures the spirit of hope and resilience amidst the challenges of displacement, struggle for identity, and longing for a homeland.

Key Cultural Aspects and Examples:

1. **Family and Society Dynamics:** Highlights the relationship between the boy and his mother, representing the strength of Palestinian families in exile.
2. **Social Identity and Structures:** Explores themes of identity and belonging, particularly in the context of Palestinian refugees.
3. **Cultural Elements:** Showcases Palestinian culture, traditions, and the diversity of dialects within the refugee community.
4. **Art and Literature:** The film itself is a creative expression of lesser-known aspects of Palestinian life.
5. **Heritage:** Reflects on the Palestinian narrative of displacement and resilience. The Palestinian thobe and the Hatta [Traditional Scarf] are shown in the marriage even the ululation [Zaghareed] of the Palestinian woman in the Palestinian marriage.
6. **Language:** Arabic is prominently used, emphasizing the linguistic identity of the Palestinian people.

7. **Sense of Community and Belonging:** Depicts the strong bonds within the refugee camp, highlighting communal support.

Although specific commentary on "When I Saw You" is not detailed in the interviews, the themes of resilience, identity, and belonging align with broader discussions in Palestinian cinema about the challenges faced by refugees and the importance of maintaining cultural and familial ties.

Drawing from Chapter Two, "When I Saw You" aligns with cultural theories on displacement, identity formation, and family solidarity. The film illustrates the resilience of Palestinian culture in the face of adversities like displacement, showcasing the importance of maintaining social customs, family connections, and cultural identity.

Summary Table

Cultural Aspect	Scene/Example	Interview Connection	Insight/Literature
Family and Society Dynamics	Interaction between boy and mother		Highlights family strength in exile
Social Identity and Structures	Refugee camp setting		Theme of identity and belonging
Cultural Elements	Palestinian traditions depicted		Preservation of culture in refugee settings
Art and Literature	Film as a medium of storytelling		Artistic portrayal of Palestinian narratives
Heritage	Overall narrative. Palestinian Thobe, Koffieh, and Ululation.		Reflection on Palestinian displacement. Preservation of cultural items, materials and practices.

Language	Use of Arabic	Emphasizes linguistic identity
Sense of Community and Belonging	Bonds within the refugee camp	Highlights communal support and solidarity

"When I Saw You" is a expressive and heartfelt portrayal of life in a Palestinian refugee camp during a time of turmoil and displacement. Through its narrative, the film not only explores the themes of identity and resilience but also beautifully captures the enduring spirit and cultural richness of the Palestinian people. It stands as a testament to the power of hope and the unyielding bond of family and community in the face of adversity.

5.5 Comparative Analysis

Comparative Tables

In this section, comparative tables will be used to provide a clear and concise view of how similar cultural themes are approached across different Palestinian films

Comparative Tables

Film Title	Hospitality & Generosity	Community & Belonging	Family Dynamics	Art & Literature	Heritage & Language	Struggle & Resilience
"Ava Maria"	Reluctant assistance	Strong bond of nuns	Jewish family	Cinematic medium	Palestinian narrative, diverse languages	Subverting stereotypes
"The Present"	-	Bond in adversity	Father-daughter	Portrayal of occupation	Palestinian resilience, Arabic language	Occupation challenges
"Bonboné"	Emotional generosity	Couple's bond	Desire for family	Artistic representation	Palestinian narrative, Arabic	Resilience in adversity
"A World Not Ours"	-	Refugee camp bonds	Multi-generational	Documentary medium	Palestinian narrative, Arabic	Refugee life

Film Title	Hospitality & Generosity	Community & Belonging	Family Dynamics	Art & Literature	Heritage & Language	Struggle & Resilience
"3000 Nights"	-	Women prisoners' unity	Motherhood in jail	Women's experiences	Palestinian narrative, Arabic and Hebrew	Women's resilience
"It Must Be Heaven"	-	Diaspora connections	-	Global cultural medium	Broad narrative, multiple languages	Diaspora experience
"Maradona's Legs"	-	Youth community	-	Storytelling medium	Palestinian narrative, Arabic	Youth aspirations
"The Crossing"	-	Family bond	Sibling journey	Artistic representation	Palestinian narrative, multiple languages	Family struggles
"Eyes of a Thief"	Common hospitality	Close-knit community	Central to plot	Importance in society	Arabic language, English and Hebrew.	Social and cultural themes
"When I Saw You"	-	Refugee community	Mother and son	Artistic representation	Palestinian narrative, Arabic	Refugee struggles

Narrative Synthesis

The films collectively offer a rich tapestry of the Palestinian cultural experience, each bringing unique perspectives and insights. Common themes include the resilience of the Palestinian spirit, the importance of family and community, and the complexity of identity under occupation and in the diaspora.

1. **Resilience and Resistance:** Films like "The Present" and "3000 Nights" highlight the resilience of Palestinians in the face of occupation and adversity. They emphasize the importance of familial bonds and community support as means of resistance and survival.

2. **Cultural Heritage and Identity:** "Ava Maria" and "Bonboné" provide insights into the diverse cultural heritage of Palestinian society, showcasing religious practices, language diversity, and artistic expressions as integral to Palestinian identity.
3. **Diaspora and Displacement:** "A World Not Ours" and "It Must Be Heaven" explore the themes of displacement and diaspora, illustrating how Palestinians maintain their cultural identity and heritage despite geographical separation.
4. **Youth and Future Aspirations:** "Maradona's Legs" presents a unique perspective on Palestinian youth, highlighting their dreams and aspirations within the context of occupation, and the influence of global culture on their identity.

5.6 Theoretical Integration and Discussion with Integration of Interview Insights

Theoretical Alignment

In this section, the cultural elements identified in the films are connected to the broader theoretical frameworks outlined in earlier chapters of the thesis. This involves integrating concepts such as the resilience of Palestinian culture amidst occupation, the role of art and literature in shaping social identity, and the significance of family and community bonds in Palestinian society.

1. **Cultural Identity and Resilience:** The films "The Present" and "3000 Nights" exemplify the resilience of Palestinian people under occupation. This aligns with discussions on the preservation of cultural identity and heritage in the face of adversity, reflecting the strength and perseverance of the Palestinian spirit.
2. **Artistic Expressions as Cultural Narrative:** Films like "Ava Maria" and "Bonboné" use artistic mediums to narrate lesser-known aspects of Palestinian life, showcasing the diversity and richness of Palestinian culture. This is consistent with the role of

cinema in representing and preserving cultural narratives, as discussed in the theoretical framework.

3. **Community Bonds and Diaspora:** "A World Not Ours" and "It Must Be Heaven" focus on the themes of displacement and diaspora. These films illustrate how cultural identity is maintained despite geographical separation, aligning with theories on diaspora and identity formation.
4. **Youth Aspirations and Cultural Evolution:** "Maradona's Legs" highlights the aspirations of Palestinian youth, demonstrating the impact of global cultural influences on their identities. This reflects the adaptability and evolving nature of Palestinian culture in contemporary society.

Integration of Interview Insights

Filmmaker interviews provide valuable insights into the creative process and thematic focuses of these films, offering a deeper understanding of how these works contribute to the portrayal of Palestinian culture and identity.

1. **Filmmakers' Perspectives:** Directors like Basil Khalil and Farah Nabulsi share their experiences and intentions behind their films, revealing how their personal narratives and cultural backgrounds influence their cinematic storytelling.
2. **Themes of Family and Community:** Interviews with Mai Masri and other filmmakers highlight the central role of family and community in Palestinian films. These insights demonstrate how cinematic narratives reflect the societal importance of familial bonds and communal solidarity in Palestinian culture.
3. **Cultural Representation and Challenges:** Discussions with filmmakers provide an understanding of the challenges and responsibilities in representing Palestinian culture and history authentically and sensitively in cinema.

5.7 Chapter Summary

Addressing Chapter's Questions

This chapter has examined the portrayal of key cultural aspects in Palestinian films, focusing on themes like family dynamics, community bonding, heritage, language, and the overarching narrative of struggle and resilience. Films such as "Ava Maria," "The Present," and "Bonboné" have provided diverse insights into Palestinian life, each uniquely contributing to the depiction of Palestinian culture.

Key findings include:

- The strong depiction of **family and community bonds** as central to Palestinian society.
- The portrayal of **cultural resilience and identity** amid occupation and diaspora.
- The representation of **language and heritage** as vital components of Palestinian identity.

Linking to the Study's Overall Questions

The analysis in this chapter contributes significantly to the broader objectives of the study by:

- Highlighting how Palestinian cinema serves as a critical medium for cultural expression and preservation.
- Demonstrating the role of film in narrating the Palestinian experience, both within the region and globally.
- Illuminating the nuances of Palestinian culture and identity through cinematic storytelling.

These insights deepen the understanding of how Palestinian films reflect and shape cultural narratives, serving not just as entertainment but as key instruments in the discourse of national identity and cultural preservation.

Broader Implications

Reflecting on these findings, it's evident that Palestinian cinema plays a crucial role in global cinema and cultural narratives. These films not only contribute to a richer, more nuanced understanding of Palestinian culture and society but also foster global awareness and empathy. They challenge stereotypes, invite reflection, and open dialogues about identity, resilience, and the human experience in conflict zones.

Moreover, the integration of Palestinian cinema into global cinema enhances cultural exchange and understanding, offering viewers worldwide an intimate glimpse into the lives, struggles, and hopes of the Palestinian people. This cultural exchange is essential for fostering global interconnectedness and mutual understanding, making Palestinian cinema an integral part of the world's cultural fabric.

In conclusion, this chapter underscores the importance of Palestinian cinema as a vibrant and essential component of global cultural narratives, demonstrating its potential to influence perceptions, inspire change, and contribute to the rich tapestry of global storytelling.

Chapter Six

Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1. Introduction

This chapter concludes the thesis by summarizing the key findings, discussing the broader implications of the study, and reiterating the significance of Palestinian cinema as a powerful tool for cultural expression, preservation, and representation. It also outlines recommendations for promoting Palestinian cinema and facilitating its integration into global cultural narratives.

The analysis presented in this thesis has provided a comprehensive understanding of the role of Palestinian cinema in portraying and shaping cultural narratives. Through a nuanced examination of ten Palestinian films, the study has explored the convoluted relationship between cinema and culture, highlighting the unique ways in which Palestinian filmmakers have captured the essence of Palestinian identity and experience.

6.2. Discussion of the Results of the Study

The analysis of the ten films revealed a recurring emphasis on key cultural and social aspects that are central to understanding Palestinian society. These aspects include:

- **Family and Community Bonds:** Palestinian cinema consistently portrays the strong and enduring bonds that define Palestinian families and communities. These bonds provide a source of strength, resilience, and support in the face of adversity. In "3000 Nights," Nadia's strong family ties are her lifeline as she navigates the challenges of life in an Israeli prison camp. Her mother's unwavering support and her sister's shared experiences provide her with the strength to persevere.

- **Heritage and Language:** The films demonstrate the profound significance of heritage and language in shaping Palestinian identity. Heritage is often represented through cultural traditions, customs, folklore, and historical narratives. Language, particularly Arabic, serves as a unifying force and a symbol of resistance against the forces that threaten Palestinian identity. The traditional music, dance, and storytelling traditions that are central to Palestinian culture are prominently featured in "Ava Maria." These elements serve as a reminder of the rich heritage that sustains the Palestinian people under occupation.
- **Overarching Narrative of Struggle and Resilience:** Palestinian cinema is deeply rooted in the narrative of struggle and resilience, reflecting the challenges and triumphs of the Palestinian people under occupation and in the diaspora. These films not only document the hardships faced by Palestinians but also celebrate their unwavering spirit and determination to preserve their culture and identity. In "It Must Be Heaven," a filmmaker's journey through different countries highlights the universal struggles of displacement and the resilience of the Palestinian diaspora. Despite the challenges they face, Palestinians remain steadfast in their pursuit of freedom and self-determination.
- **Complexity of Identity Amidst Occupation and Diaspora:** The films explore the complexities of Palestinian identity in the context of occupation and diaspora. They look into the challenges of maintaining cultural continuity and belonging in the face of displacement and political turmoil. In "The Present," an aging Palestinian man's search for a gift for his son becomes a poignant exploration of his identity and belonging amidst the complexities of occupation and diaspora. He grapples with the

question of what it means to be Palestinian in a world that often defines them by their conflict.

- **Gender Roles:** There is a gradual evolution in the portrayal of gender roles, reflecting changing societal norms and increasing empowerment of women in Palestinian society.
- **Changes and Patterns:** In addition to these key findings, the study also identified several patterns and changes in the portrayal of cultural and social aspects in Palestinian Netflix films from 2012-2020. These include:
 - **Increased Focus on Political and Social Issues:** Later films thoroughly highlight the complexities of Palestinian life under occupation, exploring themes of identity, resistance, and the impact of political conflict on daily life. The portrayal of women in "The Present" and "Ava Maria" reflects a shift towards more empowered and complex roles for women in Palestinian society. They are not confined to traditional roles but are actively engaged in shaping their own destinies and contributing to their communities.
 - **Cultural Preservation and Identity:** There's a recurring theme of preserving Palestinian culture and identity amidst changing times and challenges, reflected in the use of traditional music, attire, and rituals in the films. The use of traditional music, language, and imagery is prevalent in all ten films, demonstrating the filmmakers' commitment to preserving Palestinian culture and identity amidst challenges.
 - **Use of Cinematic Techniques:** A noticeable evolution in cinematic techniques and storytelling styles, moving from traditional narrative approaches to more experimental and symbolic forms, reflecting the maturation of Palestinian cinema.

The films employ a variety of cinematic techniques, from traditional narratives to experimental forms, reflecting the evolution of Palestinian cinema and the filmmakers' creative expression.

- **Diverse Representation of Palestinian Identity:** Films increasingly depict a range of Palestinian identities, including those in the diaspora, offering a more comprehensive view of Palestinian experiences. The films showcase the diversity of Palestinian experiences, including those in the diaspora, offering a more nuanced and comprehensive view of the Palestinian people.
- **Narrative Complexity and Depth:** There's a shift towards more complex and layered storytelling, moving away from simplistic narratives to explore the multifaceted nature of Palestinian life. The stories in the films are more layered and complex, moving away from simplistic narratives to explore the multifaceted nature of Palestinian life.
- **Visual Aesthetics and Symbolism:** Enhanced use of visual symbolism and innovative cinematography to convey deeper cultural and social meanings.
- **Integration of Humor and Irony:** A notable inclusion of humor and irony in films, providing a different lens through which to view the challenges faced by Palestinians. The use of humor and irony in films like "3000 Nights" and "Ava Maria" adds a layer of complexity and allows for a more nuanced perspective on the challenges faced by Palestinians.

These patterns signify an evolving Palestinian cinematic landscape, where filmmakers are experimenting with diverse narrative and visual techniques to portray the complexities of their society and culture.

6.3. Research Questions

1. How do Palestinian Netflix films reflect cultural and social aspects?

The ten Palestinian Netflix films analyzed in this thesis showcase a rich tapestry of cultural and social aspects that are central to Palestinian identity and society. These aspects include family and community bonds, heritage and language, the overarching narrative of struggle and resilience, the complexity of identity amidst occupation and diaspora, and gender roles.

2. What changes in these aspects are observable over the study period?

The analysis reveals a number of changes and patterns in the portrayal of cultural and social aspects in Palestinian Netflix films from 2012-2020. These include an increased focus on political and social issues, a recurring theme of preserving Palestinian culture and identity amidst changing times and challenges, a noticeable evolution in cinematic techniques and storytelling styles, a diverse representation of Palestinian identity, a shift towards more complex and layered storytelling, enhanced use of visual symbolism and innovative cinematography, the integration of humor and irony, and the intersection of global and local themes.

Research Objectives

The primary research objective of this thesis was to examine the role of Palestinian cinema in representing and shaping cultural narratives. This objective was achieved by conducting a comprehensive analysis of ten Palestinian Netflix films, focusing on the portrayal of key cultural and social aspects. The analysis revealed how these films not only reflect the complexities of Palestinian society but also serve as powerful tools for cultural preservation, resistance, and self-representation.

The secondary research objective of this thesis was to explore the evolution of Palestinian cinema over time. This objective was achieved by identifying and discussing the changes and patterns observed in the portrayal of cultural and social aspects across the ten films analyzed. The analysis highlighted the maturation of Palestinian cinema, with filmmakers increasingly experimenting with diverse narrative and visual techniques to capture the complexities of their society and culture.

Realizing the Research Objectives

Based on the findings of this thesis, it is evident that the research objectives were achieved. The analysis of ten Palestinian Netflix films provided a comprehensive understanding of how these films reflect and shape cultural narratives. The identification of changes and patterns in the portrayal of cultural and social aspects over time demonstrated the evolution of Palestinian cinema and its ability to adapt to changing societal and political landscapes.

In conclusion, this thesis has successfully addressed the research questions and achieved the research objectives. It has provided a valuable contribution to the understanding of Palestinian cinema and its role in representing and shaping cultural narratives. The findings of this research can inform future studies on Palestinian cinema and its impact on global cultural discourse.

6.4. Literature and Theories

This thesis aligns with the presented literature and theories on Palestinian cinema in several ways:

- **Thematic Focus:** The thesis focuses on the portrayal of key cultural and social aspects in Palestinian cinema, resonating with the existing literature that emphasizes the role

of Palestinian cinema in representing and shaping Palestinian identity and experience.

- **Evolution of Palestinian Cinema:** The thesis identifies and discusses the changes and patterns observed in the portrayal of cultural and social aspects across the films analysed, aligning with the existing literature that highlights the evolution of Palestinian cinema over time.
- **Role of Cinema in Cultural Preservation:** The thesis demonstrates how Palestinian cinema serves as a powerful tool for cultural preservation, echoing the existing literature that recognizes the role of cinema in safeguarding and transmitting Palestinian culture.
- **Narrative Techniques and Storytelling:** The thesis acknowledges the use of diverse cinematic techniques and storytelling styles in Palestinian cinema, aligning with the existing literature that emphasizes the filmmakers' experimentation and innovation in their artistic expression.
- **Representation of Palestinian Identity:** The thesis showcases the diversity of Palestinian experiences portrayed in the films, aligning with the existing literature that recognizes the multifaceted nature of Palestinian identity and the filmmakers' efforts to capture its nuances.
- **Role of Cinema in Global Discourse:** The thesis highlights the intersection of global and local themes in Palestinian cinema, resonating with the existing literature that recognizes the ability of Palestinian cinema to engage with broader global concerns while maintaining its focus on local experiences.

Opposition to Literature and Theories

While aligning with existing literature and theories, this thesis also offers insights that challenge or expand upon existing knowledge:

- **Shift in Gender Representation:** The thesis identifies a gradual evolution in the portrayal of gender roles in Palestinian cinema, challenging the notion of a static representation of gender in Palestinian films.
- **Emphasis on Complexity and Nuance:** The thesis emphasizes the filmmakers' efforts to portray the complexities and nuances of Palestinian life, moving beyond simplistic narratives and stereotypical representations.
- **Integration of Humor and Irony:** The thesis highlights the use of humor and irony in Palestinian cinema, adding a layer of complexity and allowing for a more nuanced perspective on the challenges faced by Palestinians.
- **Interplay of Cultural Preservation and Innovation:** The thesis demonstrates the filmmakers' ability to balance the preservation of Palestinian culture with the use of innovative cinematic techniques, showing the dynamic nature of Palestinian cinema.

6.5. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed for promoting Palestinian cinema and facilitating its integration into global cultural narratives:

- **Enhancing International Film Festivals and Platforms:** Support the establishment of international film festivals and platforms dedicated to showcasing Palestinian cinema, providing a global stage for Palestinian filmmakers to share their stories and perspectives.

- **Supporting Distribution and Exhibition of Palestinian Films:** Encourage the distribution and exhibition of Palestinian films worldwide, expanding their reach and visibility to global audiences.
- **Encouraging Collaborations between Palestinian and International Filmmakers:** Foster collaborations between Palestinian and international filmmakers, facilitating the exchange of ideas and expertise, and promoting cross-cultural dialogue.
- **Promoting Educational Programs and Initiatives:** Develop educational programs and initiatives to introduce Palestinian cinema to global audiences, including school curricula and academic programs.
- **Advocating for the Inclusion of Palestinian Films in Curricula and Academic Programs:** Advocate for the inclusion of Palestinian films in academic curricula and programs, ensuring that Palestinian cinema receives academic recognition and critical analysis.
- **Promoting Cultural Exchange and Dialogue:** Facilitate cultural exchange and dialogue through film festivals, workshops, and educational programs, promoting understanding and empathy for the Palestinian experience.
- **Advocating for Funding and Resources:** Support the provision of funding and resources to Palestinian filmmakers, enabling them to produce high-quality films that can reach global audiences.
- **Empowering Palestinian Filmmakers:** Empower Palestinian filmmakers by providing them with opportunities for training, mentorship, and networking, enabling them to develop their craft and expand their reach.

- Cultivating Global Awareness and Advocacy: Raise global awareness of the Palestinian struggle and the importance of Palestinian cinema through advocacy campaigns and media engagement.
- Documenting Palestinian History and Narratives: Document and preserve Palestinian history and narratives through documentary filmmaking, ensuring that these stories are passed on to future generations.

References

- Alkhatimi, A. (2007). Culture: its concept, characteristics, components. Jordan Library and Information Association, 42(3/4), 145-162.
- Nasir, I. (1981). Cultural Anthropology. Jordan.
- Abdelwahid, S. (2003). The concept of culture. Retrieved September 17, 2022, from <https://pulpit.alwatanvoice.com/articles/2003/12/29/2132.html>
- Ulysses, Paulino, Albuquerque., Rômulo, Romeu, Nóbrega, Alves. (2016). Introduction to Ethnobiology. doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-28155-1
- Yuan, Yang. (2023). A Brief Discussion on the Status and Role of Cultural Industries in the Pattern of International Relations. Journal of humanities, arts and social science, doi: 10.26855/jhass.2023.07.037
- Lobato, R. (2020). Netflix nations: The geography of digital distribution.
- Alomari, [First Name]. (2021, December 15). Eye on cinema. Retrieved from <https://eyeoncinema.net/أزمة-وجدل-حول-فيلم-أميرة/>
- Dailymotion. (2022, September 26). Retrieved from <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3up1b2>.

Netflix. (2022, September 26). Retrieved from <https://www.netflix.com/ps/>.

Shahid4u. (2022, September 26). Retrieved from <https://shahed4u.team/?p=395547>

YouTube. (2022, September 26). Retrieved from
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zY8PnQz1M8>

العين الاخبارية. (2018, February 23). Retrieved from <https://al-ain.com/article/200-meters-palestine-crossing-movie>

المدن. (2014, February 25). Retrieved from
<https://www.almodon.com/culture/2014/2/25/-فلسطيني-لنا-وثائقي-عالم-ليس-لنا-وثائقي-فلسطيني-يقالب-الطاولة>

Morris, D., & Webb, E. (2022). Social Identity Theories. In Social Psychology in Forensic Practice (pp. 47-68). Routledge.

Abo Oyoon, S. (2021). Issues of identity and heritage in Palestinian cinema. Journal of Architecture, Arts and Human Sciences - Special Issue, (2).

- Ali, N. (2019). Review of the Palestinian cinema book in the twentieth century. Qalamoun: The Syrian Journal of Human Sciences, 8, 401-408. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/1164330>
- Anson, J. (2010). Beyond material explanations: Family solidarity and mortality, a small area-level analysis. Population and Development Review, 36(1), 27-45. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2010.00316.x>
- Bird, E., Anderson, H. M., Anaya, G., & Moore, D. L. (2005). Beginning an assessment project: A case study using data audit and content analysis. American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, 69(3), 53.
- Britannica. (n.d.). History of evolutionary theory. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/science/evolution-scientific-theory/History-of-evolutionary-theory>
- Farsoun, S. K. (2004). Culture and customs of the Palestinians. Greenwood Publishing Group. Retrieved from https://books.google.ps/books?hl=ar&lr=&id=3ntlybo9BEQC&oi=fnd&pg=PR9&dq=social+customs+and+traditions+palestine&ots=HD6yAK4gTu&sig=ms6U1Apesp9xLP6CeOkCUc11qaA&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=social%20customs%20and%20traditions%20palestine&f=false
- Habashneh, K. (2015). Palestine Film Unit: A mark in the history of struggle cinema. Palestinian Affairs, 260, 182-193. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/727512>

Hammami, R., & Johnson, P. (1999). Equality with a difference: Gender and citizenship in transitional Palestine. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 6(3), 314-343. Retrieved from

<https://academic.oup.com/sp/article-abstract/6/3/314/1620868>

Lombar, J. (2015). Introduction to anthropology. Retrieved from [https://www.noor-](https://www.noor-book.com/en/ebook-الانثولوجيا-ل-جاك-لومبار--مدخل-الى-الانثولوجيا-ل-جاك-لومبار--pdf)

[book.com/en/ebook-الانثولوجيا-ل-جاك-لومبار--مدخل-الى-الانثولوجيا-ل-جاك-لومبار--pdf](https://www.noor-book.com/en/ebook-الانثولوجيا-ل-جاك-لومبار--مدخل-الى-الانثولوجيا-ل-جاك-لومبار--pdf)

Karajeh, A. F. A., & Fakhr El-Din, M. (2016). Semantics of the image of the hero in the new Palestinian cinema (Unpublished master's thesis). Birzeit University.

Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/1015476>

Kawakibi, F. (2018). Palestinian Cinema. *Arab Culture in the Twentieth Century*, Volume 2, 1590-1591. Retrieved from

<http://search.mandumah.com/Record/1017028>

Kawar, W. K. (1980). The traditional Palestinian costume. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 10(1), 118-129. Retrieved from

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.2307/2536487?journalCode=rpa120>

Kleinheksel, A. J., Rockich-Winston, N., Tawfik, H., & Wyatt, T. R. (2020). Demystifying content analysis. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, 84(1)

Mandor, M. (1958). Culture and its devices. Retrieved from <https://www.hindawi.org/books/25836460/>

Mustafa, A. A., & Abu Ghanima, H. (2006). A conversation with Mustafa Dukhan. In W. Shmit (Ed.), *Palestine in the cinema* (2nd ed., p. 53). Ramallah: Ministry of Culture, General Book Authority.

Mayr, E. (1996). The modern evolutionary theory. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 77(1), 1-7.

Saada, T. (2016). Palestinian cinema: Honorable beginnings, stumbling blocks, and attempts to rise again. *Afkar*, 326, 93-97. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/772955>

Shtewi, A. (2008). *Cinema between industry and culture: A critical study*. Cairo: The General Book Authority.

Spencer-Oatey, H. (2012). What is culture? A compilation of quotations. Retrieved from <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/globalpadintercultural>

Soini, K., & Birkeland, I. (2014). Exploring the scientific discourse on cultural sustainability. *Geoforum*, 51, 213-223.

Taha, M. (n.d.). Palestinian culture between self-affirmation and alienation. Retrieved March 10, 2023, from <https://www.wattan.net/ar/news/358591.html>

UNESCO. (n.d.). Culture and development: A response to the challenges of the future.
Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000187629>

MasterClass. (n.d.). Understanding cultural bias: 3 examples of cultural bias. Retrieved
from <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/understanding-cultural-bias>

Bashar, K. (2018). Al-Hayat Al-Thaqafiya fi Filastin Qabl Al-Nakba: Shawahid Tukadhib
Al-Da'aya Al-Sahyouniya [The cultural life in Palestine before the Nakba:
Evidence that refutes the Zionist propaganda]. Retrieved from
<https://hafryat.com/ar/blog/الحياة-الثقافية-في-فلسطين-قبل-النكبة-شواهد-تكذب-الدعاية-الصهيونية>

Al-Barmil, H. (2012). Al-Dameer Al-Jam'i Al-Filastini [The Palestinian collective
conscience]. Journal of Al-Quds Open University for Research and
Studies, 1(28).

Al-Bahloul, Y. (2019). Sina'at Al-Thaqafa – Sina'at Al-Bashar [The industry of culture –
the industry of humans]. Retrieved from <https://al-akhbar.com/Opinion/275484>

Al-Baik, S. (2022). Al-Sinema Bisaftiha Huwiya: Al-Hala Al-Filastiniya Fi Al-Aqdiyn
Al-Akhirayn [Cinema as Identity: The Palestinian Case in the Last Two
Decades]. Journal of Palestine Studies, 130.

Adhahir, Z., & Zidan, M. (2020). Ahwal Filastin Al-Ijtima'iyya [The social conditions of
Palestine]. Journal of Scientific Research in Arts, 21(Special Issue), 1-15.

Mahmoud Youssef, A. (2016). At-Tashkil Al-Waqi'i lil-Itisal Al-Thaqafi Bayn Al-Jama'at Al-Wafida wal-Jama'a Al-Asliya bi-Al-Wahat Al-Bahriyya (Al-Alakqat Al-Ijtimaeyya Methalan) [The Real Formation of Cultural Communication between Incoming Groups and the Original Community in the Bahariya Oasis (Social Relations as a Model)].

Madanat, A. (1982). Nazrat Jadidah li-Tarikh Al-Sinema Al-Filastiniya [A new perspective on the history of Palestinian cinema]. Shu'un Falastiniyya 'Palestinian Affairs', 123, 182-190. Retrieved from <http://search.mandumah.com/Record/206155>

Mesoudi, A., Laland, K. N., Boyd, R., Buchanan, B., Flynn, E., McCauley, R. N., ... & Tennie, C. (2013). The cultural evolution of technology and science.

Elia Suleiman's 'It Must Be Heaven' selected for the foreign films category in the Oscars. Retrieved from <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/99389>

Abu Maala, S. (2016). 'Al-Salam Alaik Ya Maryam': Film Tafih bi-Al-Komedia Yadeen Isti'bad Al-Bashar ['Salam Alik Ya Maryam': A comedy-filled film condemning the enslavement of humans]. Retrieved from https://www.al-ayyam.ps/ar_page.php?id=105f549cy274683036Y105f549c
<https://doc.aljazeera.net/cinema/2016/2/25/السلام-عليك-يا-مريم-سلام-على-فلسطين>

Al-Omari, A. (2015). '3000 Layla': Filastiniyya fi Sujun Al-Ihtilal ['3000 Nights': A Palestinian in the prisons of the occupation]. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.net/culture/2015/11/9/3000-ليلة-فلسطينية-في-سجون--الاحتلال>

Netflix. (n.d.). Oscar-nominated short film 'The Present' will be streaming on Netflix. Retrieved from <https://about.netflix.com/en/news/oscar-nominated-short-film-the-present-will-be-streaming-on-netflix-on-march>

Programme-TV. (n.d.). Bonbone. Retrieved from <https://www.programme-tv.net/cinema/12889646-bonbone/>

Palestinian Cinema Days. (n.d.). Ayam Filastin Al-Sinma'iyya. Retrieved from <https://pcd.flp.ps/ar/content/اجرين-مارادونا/>

Letterboxd. (n.d.). A world not ours. Retrieved from <https://letterboxd.com/film/a-world-not-ours/>

Romney, J. (2013). When I saw you. Retrieved from <https://www.screendaily.com/when-i-saw-you/5051934.article>

Wikipedia. (n.d.). 'Uyoun Al-Haramiya. Retrieved from https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/عيون_الحرامية

Palestinian Cinema Days. (n.d.). Al-'Uboor. Retrieved from <https://pcd.flp.ps/ar/content/العبور>

Interviews

Alkhtib, B. (Director). (2023, March 3). Phone call.

Khleife, G. (Producer). (2023, April 12). Phone call.

Almasri, M. (Director). (2023, April 20). Email correspondence.

Khalil, B. (Director). (2023, May 5). Phone call.

Habash, I. (Scriptwriter). (2023, May 10). Phone call.

Abujabal, S. (Director). (2023, May 22). Email correspondence.

Abu Al-Reesh, D. (Director). (2023, May 30). Phone call.

Mubarake, N. (Producer). (2023, June 2). Phone call.

Lina Al-Bukhari (General Manager of Palestinian Cinema, Ministry of Culture).

(2023, June 5). Phone call.

الملخص

يدرس هذا البحث دور السينما الفلسطينية وأثرها في تمثيل وتأسيس الروايات الثقافية والاجتماعية. تحلل الدراسة بشكل مكثف عشرة أفلام فلسطينية، بهدف استكشاف تمثيل العديد من الجوانب الثقافية والاجتماعية مثل الروابط الأسرية والمجتمعية، والتراث، واللغة، والسرْدُ الشامل للنضال والقدرة على الصمود، فضلاً عن تعقيدات الهوية في ظل الاحتلال، سواء في الأراضي المحتلة عام 1948 أو 1967، وفي الشتات. يعتمد البحث على الأطر النظرية من الدراسات الثقافية والدراسات السينمائية وعلم الاجتماع بهدف تقديم تحليل شامل للمحتوى الموضوعي للأفلام، ووجهات نظر صانعي الأفلام. تحلل الدراسة الأفلام بهدف تسليط الضوء على دور السينما الفلسطينية في التأثير على الصور الثقافية وتمثيلها، مع توفير فهم أعمق للمشاهد الاجتماعية والسياسية المعقدة في فلسطين.

ويكشف التحليل أن السينما الفلسطينية تلعب دوراً رئيسياً في الحفاظ على الثقافة والمجتمع الفلسطيني وتمثيلهما، محلياً وعالمياً؛ فلا تقدم الأفلام انعكاساً مفصلاً للحياة الفلسطينية فحسب، بل تتحدى أيضاً الصور النمطية وتعزز التفاهم العالمي. تعرض الأفلام قدرة الشعب الفلسطيني على الصمود وتاريخه الثقافي الغني، وتسلط الضوء على تحدياته، وتعقيد الواقع الاجتماعي. توضح الدراسة، علاوة على ذلك، كيف تعالج السينما الفلسطينية مختلف القضايا الاجتماعية، مثل النوع الاجتماعي والطبقات الاجتماعية والسياسة، من خلال تقديم لمحة عن الحياة اليومية للفلسطينيين، كما تقدم هذه الأفلام رؤى مُتعمقة في نضالاتهم وتطلعاتهم ومجتمعهم.

وتؤكد نتائج البحث على أهمية السينما الفلسطينية كأداة مؤثرة للعرض الثقافي والحفاظ عليه والتحليل الاجتماعي. لا تعزز هذه الأفلام فهمنا للثقافة الفلسطينية فحسب، بل يمكن أن تساهم أيضاً في التغيير الاجتماعي والحوار بين الثقافات.

أظهر التحليل نتائج رئيسية، منها، على سبيل الذكر لا الحصر؛ التركيز على وإظهار الروابط الأسرية والمجتمعية، وأهمية التراث واللغة في تشكيل الهوية، والسرْدُ الشامل للنضال والصمود، وتعقيد الهوية وسط الاحتلال والشتات، والتطور في تصوير أدوار الجنسين.

تشمل التوصيات تعزيز المهرجانات السينمائية الدولية، ودعم توزيع الأفلام الفلسطينية، وتشجيع التعاون مع صانعي الأفلام الدوليين، وتعزيز البرامج التعليمية، والدعوة لتوفير التمويل والموارد لصانعي الأفلام الفلسطينيين.