

A Middle Way: Women and Marriage in Jordan

The purpose of this study was to look into current trends in marriage among young, educated Jordanian women, including their thoughts on dating, arranged marriage, and children. Through in-depth interviews this study looked at the ways in which the subjects balance increased globalization and tradition, local culture, and family history. Despite the expectation that many women would be open to Western-style dating and not in favor of arranged, or traditional, marriages, the study found a wide variety of views on the subject. The primary point of view presented was one in-between dating and arranged marriages, and for many of the women seemed to represent a choice that respects cultural and religious expectations while allowing increased agency to the women involved.