

The Women at the Table: A Case Study on Gender Roles and Women in Amman, Jordan

This ethnographic case study looks into the complicated gender roles of women in Jordan. With the intention of capturing the reality of everyday life for a woman in Jordan, five women living in the same apartment complex in Amman were observed for two months and then interviewed. After reviewing the literature available on this topic, the interviews were analyzed from a socio-cultural perspective. Initially, I had surmised that my participants would, contrary to many American misconceptions, defy most traditional gender roles. Upon completion of this research, I have concluded that my original hypothesis was proved only partially correct; these women do follow some patriarchal gender roles, but also defy them at the same time, always conscious of the relation to the public and private spheres of society.