



**COMPETITIONS** Dr Shatha Abu-Khafajah is the Jordanian Principal Investigator, has been shortlisted for the Newton prize 2020

The Architecture department participation in the shortlisted Newton Khaldi project 2021 Learning from Multicultural Amman is presented in a conference that celebrates the Museum international day and the centennial of the Hashemite Kingdom, sponsored by the president of the Jordan University. In this conference Dr Shatha Abu Khafajah presents the work of the Hashemite university students as part of their partnership in the project, while fulfilling the requirements of the Architectural heritage conservation module. The presentation weighs the experience of the students and its role in introducing them to public and private sectors in Jordan and the UK that intersect with their discipline. It also demonstrates how the students turned the material prepared in fulfilment of the SPC into a tool to communicate heritage with school children. therefore, the project, and the Hashemite students' role in it, provided a bridge between the higher education in Jordan and that of basic education.

It strengthened the students' sense of belonging to a wider community in which they can be active participants. It also provided students with prospects regarding their future career that go beyond conventional jobs into creative approaches in using architecture to communicate.



**COMPETITIONS** Outstanding Paper in the 2020 Emerald Literati Awards

**Dr. Ahmad Al- Husban and Dr. Yamen Al-Betawi**  
 Outstanding Paper in the 2020 Emerald Literati Awards:

**Assessing the Impact of Urban Syrian Refugees on the Urban Fabric of Al Mafrq  
 " City Architecturally and Socially"**

A joint (mutual) research between Dr. Ahmed Al-Husban/ Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Architecture at the Hashemite University, Dr. Safaa Al-Husban/ Assistant Professor at Al-Bayt University, and Dr. Yamen Al-Betawi/ Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at the Hashemite University, which entitled:

**Assessing the Impact of Urban Syrian Refugees on the Urban Fabric of Al Mafrq"**

**City Architecturally and Socially"**

This research has been selected as an Outstanding Paper in the 2020 Emerald Literati Awards. The researchers received a certificate of distinction in addition to being listed as winners on the journal's home page. The winning research is also listed for free download for 12 months.



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**Assessing the impact of urban Syrian refugees on the urban fabric of Al Mafrq city architecturally and socially**

Urban Syrian refugees

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**Abstract**

**Purpose** – The purpose of this paper is to explore the direct and indirect impacts of urban Syrian refugees on the residential urban fabric of Al Mafrq city physically and socially. Theoretically assess regarding architectural style and socially assess regarding social cohesion and sense of community. Therefore, the research questions are: What are the main sources of tensions between the urban Syrian refugees and Al Mafrq host community that hinder the social cohesion? And what is the impact of the urban Syrian refugees on Al Mafrq city socially and architecturally?

**Design/methodology/approach** – Different research methods were used to explore and provide a rich description of the direct and indirect impacts of urban Syrian refugees on Al Mafrq city architecturally and socially. Desk reviews, focus group discussions and semi-structured individual in-depth interviews were used to explore the social impact of the Syrian refugees on Al Mafrq city. In addition, a qualitative comparative analysis was used to explore their impact on architectural style and urban sprawl.

**Findings** – The results show that changes have occurred on the character of the residential environment resulting in a conversion about the urban fabric of Al Mafrq city both physically, in regard to architectural style, and socially, regarding social cohesion and sense of community. Physically, the city suffers from a decline in the uniformity of the built environment, resulting in a partial loss of its identity as a homogeneous place with calm, cohesive residential neighborhoods. On the other hand, the social fabric of the city is losing its homogeneity and solidarity, causing a decline in the sense of community, social cohesion and levels of trust, and a rise in the social tension leading to severe conflicts among community members.

**Practical implications** – The different stakeholders should express high concerns for the different sources of tensions between the urban Syrian refugees and Al Mafrq host community. They should foster formalized informal communication and promote dialogues between the two communities to improve social relations and reduce the tensions between them. The consequences of Syrian asylum on hosting countries present an issue that has been widely studied by several scholars and international agencies. Research, reports and surveys all denote the negative impact of refugees, especially in cases where resources are scarce, as is the case with Jordan. As a part of such consequences, Al Mafrq city is moving in the wrong direction as a result of the increasing flow of refugees.

**Originality/value** – The current discourse about the influence of urban refugees on social and architectural style among host communities lacks versatility. Therefore, the significance of this research is offering an alternative academic view to enrich current knowledge and encourage further discourse research

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