

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-56495-3 - *Overlooking Nazareth: The Ethnography of Exclusion in Galilee*

Dan Rabinowitz

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A sophisticated and engaging ethnographic account of the Palestinian citizens of Israel, the first to be published since the 1970s, *Overlooking Nazareth* examines specific situations of friction, conflict and cooperation in Natzerat Illit. This Israeli new town is built on formerly Palestinian land, just outside the biblical town of Nazareth, and has a population of 25,000 (Jewish) Israelis and 3,500 Palestinians. Dr Rabinowitz, who has written widely on the current political situation in Israel and has conducted extensive fieldwork in the Galilee, describes his study as a guided walk along a border, a sketch of interfaces, 'where the complex, often paradoxical aspects of the border situation are negotiated and acted out most vividly'. He highlights the extent to which anti-Palestinian sentiments for which the town is known actually reflect widespread views of most Israelis. Selected case studies investigate the real-estate market in the town, the ways in which both Israelis and Palestinians view issues of territory and territorial control, segregated education, hospitality and more. There are detailed biographical accounts of three Palestinian residents – a medical doctor, a basketball coach and a local politician.

This is a major contribution to our understanding of the confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians, in which the grand causes and effects have been transposed to a more intimate as well as pragmatic level. On a wider theoretical level, *Overlooking Nazareth* offers a powerful, reflexive critique of liberalism, leading to fresh insights into notions of ethnicity, nationalism and anthropological traditions.

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The ethnography of exclusion in Galilee

DAN RABINOWITZ

Hebrew University, Jerusalem



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Preface

Research for this book depended on and benefited from the hospitality and cooperation of many Palestinian and Israeli residents of Natzerat Illit. It is a pleasant duty to thank Pnina and Gadi Liebreider, Salim and Odet Khūri, Benny and Ra'aya Halevi, Samiḥ and 'Alya Riziq, Edna and Eli Rodrig, Nasif and Nūha Bader, Lutfi and Vida Mash'ūr, 'Atallah Mansūr and many others who opened their hearts and homes to me and to my family during our sojourn in Natzerat Illit and after.

Most of the people mentioned and quoted in the book appear under pseudonyms. The two exceptions are Ra'id Riziq and Salim Khūri, who feature centrally in chapters 8 and 9 respectively. Both found the time to have me translate and read the relevant chapters to them in early 1995, then agreed to appear in the book under their real names. I am grateful to them for this, as well as for the insights and intuitions I gained through being with and talking to them since 1988.

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Note on transliteration

The Arabic words appearing in the text are transliterated according to the standards of the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.