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|  |  | **Samar A. Kassis**  Researcher & Coordinator |
| Profile Samar Kassis is a professional who holds multiple roles as a researcher, coordinator, lecturer, and library supervisor at Birzeit University's Institute of Women Studies. Kassis earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature from Birzeit University in 2001 and subsequently completed a diploma in project management from EMIDEAST in Ramallah, Palestine. She furthered her academic journey by achieving a master's degree in Gender and Development from Birzeit University in 2014.  Throughout her career, Kassis has been actively involved in a wide range of research projects. Her research portfolio encompasses various themes, including the traumatic experiences of Palestinian youth, child abuse and violence in Palestine, the realities faced by political prisoners and ex-political prisoners, along with their families in Palestine, and an exploration of gender representation within visual culture in the context of settler colonialism in Palestine.  Currently, her primary focus is centered on the examination of Palestinian female ex-political prisoners who were released post the Oslo Accords. She is particularly interested in understanding their relationship with the concept of resistance. Kassis's dedication to diverse research areas and her multifaceted role at Birzeit University demonstrate her commitment to advancing knowledge and understanding in the field of gender and development. Contact *Women's Studies Institute*  *Birzeit University*  *P.O. Box: 14, Ramallah, West Bank*  *Occupied Palestinian territory*  *Email:*[*skassis@birzeit.edu*](mailto:skassis@birzeit.edu)  Tel: +00 970/2 22982013 | Ext:5052  Ext: 5060  Mobile: 00972599795992  Personal Details:  Date of Birth: 04th April 1979.  Nationality: Palestinian.  Address: Ramallah Occupied Palestine. |  | EDUCATION **Master Degree, Birzeit University**  2012 - 2014 Master in Gender and Development Studies **Diploma, EMIDEAST, Ramallah**  2005  Project management Bachelor Degree, Birzeit University 1997 - 2002  English literature  High School, Greek Catholic School  1997 WORK EXPERIENCEBirzeit University, Institute of Women studies (IWS), Researcher & coordinator 2012 / 2024- (currently)  Engaged in the following professional activities:   1. Compile literature reviews. 2. Provide support in the creation of research proposals and budgetary plans. 3. Contribute to the formulation of both the theoretical and practical framework for the research initiatives. 4. Actively participate in data collection and its subsequent analysis utilizing tools such as (SPSS). 5. Take part in Fieldwork, which includes conducting semi structured and structured interviews, facilitating focus group discussions, and developing training material. 6. Coordinate workshops, training sessions, and programs for training trainers. 7. Play an integral role in organizing of conferences. 8. Attend periodic meetings related to administrative aspects of the project.   **Trainer: Gender Planning, Gender audit, Project management, and Gender Strategic management.** Birzeit University, (IWS), Lecturer 2014 / 2024- (currently)  Instructing undergraduate courses in the field of Gender and Women Studies at the Institute of Women Studies for bachelor degree program. Birzeit University, (IWS), Library Supervisor 2013 / 2024- (currently)  Overseeing and advancing the library unit’s operations, including the supervision of library personnel directly engaged with patrons and material, such as librarians and library assistants.  Responsible for formulating initial budgets, preparing financial and activity reports, and presenting this information as necessary.  Planning and coordinating various activities related to library functioning. Ensuring adequate staffing coverage during operational hours and creating, as well as adjusting, employee schedules as needed.  Managing Books acquisitions in alignment with budgetary constraints and ongoing projects. Undertaking cataloging and classification duties using the library of congress system. Establishing communications with international publishers for e-journal subscription, and attending international book fairs. Monitoring and follow up acquisition and online journals subscriptions.  **Birzeit University,** I served as a **Trainer at Masari career path program from 2017 to 2019, where I was involved in training in (Personal competences path, vocational path, & Citizenship path)**  2017-2019  You can find more information about this program at <https://careerpath.birzeit.edu/> Birzeit University, Institute of community & Public Health, Research Assistant 2008 / 2012  Contributed to the “Youth As Strategy” project, conducted in collaboration with the North Community Based Rehabilitation program. This initiative aimed to supportPalestinian youth in coping positively with chronic and cumulative traumatic events, within a communal context, and helping young people in realizing their potential towards peacebuilding principles.  Participated in the project titled “Assessment of imprisonment and its effects on the family”, with a particular focus on the children of Palestinian political prisoners and the availability of support structures and networks. As part of this project, I conducted training sessions for youth in various West Bank villages and cities, covering topics such as communication skills, project management, training trainers. Saint George School English teacher 2008  English teacher 11+12 grades. Birzeit University, Institute if community & Public Health, Librarian, & Administrative Assistant2002 / 2008Publications **2024** Contributed a chapter in a book in (Arabic Language). The chapter entitled (The Oslo Accords: concept of Resistance and Freedom, Documenting the Narratives and Experiences of Palestinian women ex-political prisoners). The review process was finished; however, publishing is still in process.  **"اتفاقية أوسلو ومفهوم المقاومة والحرية: توثيق تجارب وروايات الأسيرات الفلسطينيات المحررات"**  **2022** Contributed a chapter in a book entitled “The Politics of Engaged Gender research in the Arab Region: Feminist fieldwork and the production of knowledge”. The Title of the chapter “Fieldwork in the Palestinian Colonial Context: Searching for the Voices of Palestinian Women”.  <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/politics-of-engaged-gender-research-in-the-arab-region-9780755645220/>  2021 Participated in an Arabic chapter in a report entitled “Statistical Studies from Gender Perspectives: Education, Information and Communication, Establishments, Higher Education and Labour Market”. The title of the chapter “Establishments in Palestine from Gender Perspectives”.  [book2582.pdf (pcbs.gov.ps)](https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2582.pdf)  **2019**  Participated in writing an article as a co-author that accepted by Child Abuse & Neglect Journal: “Fathers Detained, Contact Restrained: Experiences of Palestinian Children Visiting their Fathers in Israeli Detention”.  <http://icph.birzeit.edu/system/files/Fathers%20Detained%20Contact%20Restrained%20CAN.pdf>  **2019** Developed a factsheet related to Palestinian women and vocational education with MIFTAH institution.  <http://www.miftah.org/arabic/PublicationDetails2020.cfm?id=152>  **2018** Participated as a second author in an article entitled “Coping and Helping to Cope: Perspectives of Children of Palestinian Political Detainees”.  <http://icph.birzeit.edu/system/files/Children%20of%20Palestinian%20political%20detainees%20C&S%20publication%202018.pdf>  **2014** Participated in writing an article “space Screen” Published in Journal of Palestinian studies (Arabic version)  "شاشة المكان". 2014. *مجلة الدراسات الفلسطينية.* (98): 134-148  *."Space Screen”.* 2014. Journal of Palestinian Studies. (98): 134-148 (Arabic Version)  **2013** Participated in a report “"They came at midnight ...": a report on the impact of detention on the children of Palestinian political detainees in Israeli prisons”  *"They came at midnight...” a report on the impact of detention on the children of Palestinian political detainees in Israeli prisons*. Training COURSES & Mobilities **(2023)** Participated in Erasmus Teaching mobility to Polytechnic institute of Tomar, Portugal. I had the opportunity to deliver a presentation titled “Challenges and Inequalities faced by Palestinian Women living in Area C of the West Bank, Occupied Palestinian territories”. Besides Meeting with the Pro-President for Communication and External Relations, Prof. Rita Anastácio and the diversity inclusion-working group (Laurent Dominique Vincent Caron, Rosa Maria Ramos Nico.  **(2018)** Participated in ROMOR Staff Mobility Study School, Training and Advisory Services for Institutional Repositories and Research Outputs Management. Parma University, Italy, 25 June - 4 July 2018.  **(2017)** Participated in a training course “Research output management” conducted at Al-Quds Open University as part of ROMOR project.  **(2015-2016)** Participated in Engaged Transformative Gender Seminar (Winter 2015 - Fall 2016). Funded by Open Society Foundation. Project Director & PI, Suad Joseph.  **(2014)** Participated in a Training of facilitators conducted by ILO.  **(2009)** GIS training course / Geographic Information system  3 days training course.  **(2008)** Microsoft Office Access (ICDL)  **(2008)** Library of congress classification / Birzeit University  **(2006)** SPSS / Birzeit university, ICPH.  **(2005)** Project management / EMIDEAST. skills  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |   Good communication and social skills, and able to work in multicultural setting. Ability to work independently and within a team. Good oral and written language skills in English and Arabic, good analytical skills, and excellent computer skills. research experiences I previously worked as a research assistant within mental health unit team at the Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University in Palestine. One of the significant projects I contributed to involve conducting a comprehensive need assessment in North of West Bank. This assessment speed lights on various issues concerning the needs, challenges, and constrains faced by youth during the second Intifada, as well as the impact of Israeli checkpoints on this demographic. My responsibilities within this project included: conducting a thorough literature review, collaborating with the team to formulate survey questions, conducting field visits, collecting and analyzing data, and participating in the writing of the final report.  I also played a pivotal role in a project titled “Youth as a strategy”. Which was a collaborative effort with North community Based Rehabilitation program under the leader ship of Dr. Allam Jarrar. The primary objective of this project was to support Palestinian youth coping with traumatic experiences. In this capacity, I visited social workers in various regions across the North of West Bank, Qalqilya, Jenin, Salfit, Nablus, Tubas. We worked collectively to establish youth support groups conducted extensive workshops and training sessions covering topics related to disabilities, types of disabilities, and how to interact with individuals with disabilities to assist the social workers in the villages and enhance their skills. Additionally, we organized training courses and workshops on communication skills, conflict resolution, stress management, time management, project management, and writing proposals. Our aim was to empower these youth to initiate their projects in their respective communities, towns, and regions, given the noticeable unemployment rates among this demographic. I actively contributed to preparing the materials for all these workshops in collaboration with the team.  Furthermore, I conducted research on two distinct topics: child abused and violence, and evaluation for governmental health system / children immunization in Palestine. My collaboration with Dr. Samia Helilah (a Pediatrician), involved:   * Conducting literature reviews * Preparing interview questions * Traveling to field sites to collect and record data in line with the study’s objectives. * Collected and analyzed data * Analyzing the gathered data. * I analyzed all charts and documents related to Palestinian children immunization system in governmental clinics (North, Central, South West Bank) clinics.     I also participated in a project centered on political prisoners, ex-political prisoners and their families in Palestine. My responsibilities included designing, administrating, monitoring, and writing reports and an article in collaboration with the team. I conducted in-depth semi structure interviews with children of political prisoners, thoroughly analyzed and evaluated the data collected during the research, and visited various institutions and organizations that worked with prisoners, ex-political prisoners and their families[[1]](#footnote-1).  As a member of the IWS Visual Research Group at Birzeit University, I actively contributed to the writing of an article “Space Screen” ([BIM-372205.pdf](file:///C:\Users\syasser\Downloads\BIM-372205.pdf) ). IWS Visual Research Group Members: Dr. Adania Shibli (editor), Dina Khalil, Asmaa Kilani, Sahar Qawasmi, Lama Samad, Nawal Shaaban, Federica Marri, Samar Kassis Yasser, Huda Abu Zeid. The article published in Journal of Palestine Studies.  I was part of SHEMERA project team (SHEMERA -Euro--Mediterranean research cooperation on gender and science: SHE Euro--Mediterranean Research area). SHEMERA is an enhancing research cooperation on gender and science between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries. The focus of this cooperation was to better understanding the root causes of gender inequality in science within the region, considering cultural diversities and traditions, and to analyze how the Mediterranean countries were addressing this issue.  shemera.eu/sites/shemera/files/NR%20Palestine%20AR.pdf  I participated in a “gender audit” project in collaboration with the Institute of Women Studies team at Birzeit University, under the leadership of Dr. Eleen Khutab. My role encompassed designing and evaluating questionnaires intended for both (academics & administrative) personnel. Additionally, I facilitated focus groups discussions involving female students at Birzeit University, and women employed in the university’s cleaning services. Furthermore, I was responsible for compiling and delivering a presentation on the discoveries related to women in administrative roles at BZU during a seminar, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO).  I contributed to a project about masculinity with IWS\BZU. My role encompassed conducting literature review, and participating in focus groups.  [Formations of masculinities and gender dynamics.pdf (birzeit.edu)](http://iws.birzeit.edu/sites/default/files/2021-02/Formations%20of%20masculinities%20and%20gender%20dynamics.pdf)  I was involved in a research project related to “Area C” with IWS\BZU. Dr. Reema Hammami was the main researcher. In this capacity, I analyzed specific sections using (SPSS), focusing on various aspects, including: *women challenges in agriculture and herding activities*, *human insecurity scale*, *distress scale*, and ex*posure to violence (domestic & settler violence)*.  [Area C Complete Report web\_FINAL.pdf](file:///C:\Users\syasser\Downloads\Area%20C%20Complete%20Report%20web_FINAL.pdf)  I had the opportunity to present a research paper at AUB (American University of Beirut), Feminism in Crisis? Gender and the Arab Public Sphere Conference 2018, which took place on January 19th and 20th AUB. Where I discussed the League of Women Who Were Detained for Freedom: Reality possibilities & challenges? رابطة نساء أسرن من اجل الحرية: الواقع، الإمكانيات والتحديات.  *I Participated* as a research assistant in a project entitled “**Neoliberal Visions: Exploring Gendered Adverts and Identities in the Palestinian West Bank”.**  [Neoliberal Visions: Exploring Gendered Adverts and Identities in the Palestinian West Bank | Middle East Centre (lse.ac.uk)](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/06/01/neoliberal-visions-exploring-gendered-adverts-and-identities-in-the-palestinian-west-bank/)  Currently: I am member of a research team at IWS, working on gender audit within the Al-Haq human rights organization. community work  * A Secretary at Ramallah Federation, 2021- end of 2023. * Board member at Al-Nahda Woman Association, 2021 - 2025 * Support board member at Ramallah Federation, 2019-2020 * Head of Woman committee at employee union, Birzeit University, 2019-2021 |

1. Rabaia, Yoke, Samar Kassis, Zeina Amro, Rita Giacaman, and Ria Reis. 2018. "Coping and Helping to Cope: Perspectives of Children of Palestinian Political Detainees". Children & Society. 32 (5): 345-356.

   Jāmiʻat Bīr Zayt. 2013. "They came at midnight...” a report on the impact of detention on the children of Palestinian political detainees in Israeli prisons. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)