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Queer Diaspora: Subjectivity, Space, and the Good Life

The research is focused on the spatial experience, and impact of migration on two aspects of social life, among persons identifying with or practicing non-conforming sexualities or gender identities, who have migrated to the United Kingdom from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Firstly, the impact on the subjectivity of queer migrants, which includes how they view themselves and others, how they relate to other individuals and groups, as well as a set of practices that are performed to maintain an intelligible existence in a given society. Secondly, on attachments towards, and the construction of, notions of good life, which refers to a set of competing discourses around queer and migrants' lives and how they should be lived, as well as a number of affective and emotional attachments and life aspirations that are shaped by migration. Those two aspects, subjectivity and good life, are understood as interconnected, with certain subject positions within society creating the subjective infrastructure that enable or prohibit different articulations of life aspirations in general, and a search for a good life in particular. In my research, I investigate this relationship across different times and geographies of a given migration journey through a spatial lens. This includes the ways spaces, borders, and migrant infrastructure are navigated by this particular group of migrants, the construction of new community spaces, and the use of existing or new spaces as means to negotiate encounters with difference.