

The Practice of “*Paralleljustiz*” among Arab “Clans” in Germany:

Economic Resources, Family Networks and Social Capital

Mahmoud Jaraba

In my presentation, which is based on the findings of my ethnographic fieldwork in Germany over the course of two non-consecutive years (2015 and 2019), the impact of family, social, economic and religious networks on the practice of “*Paralleljustiz*” (parallel justice) among the “Mhallamiyye” (Kusawiya) community located in several conurbations in Germany will be addressed. After their migration in 1980s, the group in focus, well known in the public discussion as Arab “clans” or big families, settled in Berlin, North Rhine-Westphalia and Bremen. Some of the family members emerged as “organized criminal groups”. Recently, they have been subjected to a high level of government and media scrutiny and accused of establishing a “parallel legal system” apparently opposing the rule of law, specifically, and the German legal system in general. By using participant observation and in-depth interview data, my primary objective is to explain how, and under what conditions customary settlement mechanisms have been reinstated, revitalised or reconstructed in Germany.