

**EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACTS OF MIGRATION AND REVERSE
MIGRATION ON HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF
CONSERVATION: THE BAGHDAD EXAMPLE****RANĪAH KHALĪD FAĪSAL AL-DULĀĪMĪ**<https://orcid.org/0009-0002-2538-9801>

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ABSTRACT

The processes of migration and reverse movement significantly influence the physical, social, and cultural frameworks of historical contexts. Population displacements, particularly those induced by warfare, political turmoil, and economic challenges, result in consequences such as physical degradation, functional alterations, and social transformation in historical regions. This study analyses the impact of migration and reverse migration on historical contexts regarding preservation, using Baghdad as a case study. Baghdad is a significant historical city characterised by its ancient neighbourhoods, traditional marketplaces, and components of cultural heritage. Nonetheless, the substantial migration flows, particularly during the post-war era, have precipitated considerable alterations in the historical fabric of Al-Rasheed Street and its vicinity. The neglect, disuse, and alterations of certain historical edifices have compromised the authentic identity of historical settings. Conversely, it is significant that reverse migratory patterns have facilitated reuse and social mobility in certain historical regions. The study employed a qualitative research methodology grounded in a literature review. The data acquired throughout the investigation were assessed by document analysis and descriptive analysis techniques. Literature indicates that migratory patterns result in repercussions including physical deterioration, identity loss, and societal transformation within historical contexts. Conversely, it is evaluated that reverse migration patterns, when bolstered by strategic conservation strategies, can aid in the rejuvenation of historical settings. Thus, the analysis demonstrates that migration and reverse migration activities substantially influence the historical environmental framework of Baghdad. It is deemed essential that both physical restoration efforts and comprehensive conservation strategies promoting social and cultural sustainability are required for the safeguarding of historical landscapes. Moreover, it is evaluated that policies designed for the preservation of historical environments should not be confined exclusively to physical interventions. Addressing the requirements of local populations, fostering cultural continuity, and guaranteeing the sustainable utilisation of historical sites are crucial in the conservation process. This study emphasises the necessity for comprehensive and sustainable strategies in the protection of historical landscapes by elucidating the impacts of migration and reverse migration dynamics on conservation processes.

Keywords:

Migration, Reverse Migration, Historic Environment, Conservation, Baghdad

INTRODUCTION

Migration has been seen as a basic process throughout history that directly influences societal structures and induces changes on multiple levels. The movement of individuals for many reasons has a wider influence than merely being classified as population mobility. In the contemporary era, economic crises, wars, political uncertainty, and environmental issues have rendered the phenomena of migration increasingly complex and diverse. Consequently, migration must be regarded not merely as the physical relocation of individuals, but also as a process that alters social, cultural, and economic frameworks. The growing global influence of migration indicates that this phenomenon is a significant factor in forming the modern world (Castles et al., 2008, p. 25 et seq.). The impact of migrant movements is most visible in its consequences on cities and historical landscapes.

The concentration of population in certain places, unregulated construction, infrastructural deficiencies, and geographical disparities are immediate repercussions of migration on urban environments. Furthermore, significant migration in specific locations may result in the abandonment of certain places and their subsequent loss of utility. This predicament is experienced especially intensely in historical contexts, complicating their conservation. Harvey posits that space is not merely a physical expanse but also a dynamic framework that influences the formation of social relations (Harvey, 2010, p. 121 et seq.). In this sense, migration is regarded as a fundamental element reshaping spatial structure.

Reverse migration, the antithesis of the migration process, is characterised as persons returning to previously abandoned towns. In recent years, the escalation of living expenses and the deterioration of living conditions, particularly in major urban areas, have resulted in a rise in reverse migration trends. This procedure, although often viewed as beneficial for alleviating the adverse impacts of migration, does not consistently yield the same outcome. The return process might impose pressure on the current spatial structure by introducing new settlement requirements. This circumstance may result in additional challenges for preservation, particularly in historical regions. Nonetheless, with adequate planning, reverse migration presents a significant chance to revitalise neglected areas (Halfacree et al., 2004, p. 138 et al.).

Historical environments are distinguished as locales that include cultural and architectural significance, preserved from the past to the present, necessitating protection. These regions are significant sites that embody the identity and cultural continuity of societies through their physical constructions. Migration processes directly impact the physical and social structures of these regions. As the population declines, structures become abandoned and deteriorate; in regions facing significant migration, issues such as overutilization, functional alterations, and identity erosion may emerge. This circumstance presents considerable threats to the preservation of historical landscapes. It is asserted that both physical structures and the communities residing in these locations significantly contribute to the preservation of historical environments (Ashworth et al., 2011, p. 52 et seq.).

Examining migration and reverse migration processes concurrently provides a more holistic view of the conservation of historical habitats. Specifically, reverse migration, when bolstered by effective planning and conservation strategies, is regarded as a crucial instrument for revitalising and enhancing the functionality of historical sites. Nonetheless, unregulated instances of this process may result in harm to the historical fabric and the erosion of original values. Consequently, it is imperative to not only recognise the impacts of migratory processes but also to analyse and assess these impacts. This study analyses the effects of migration and reverse migration on historical settings in the context of conservation, exemplified by Baghdad. Baghdad is a significant metropolis that has accommodated numerous civilisations throughout history, resulting in a profound cultural heritage. Recent conflicts, political turmoil, and substantial migration patterns have profoundly transformed the city's geographical configuration. Throughout this process, certain historical locations have been neglected, whereas others have sustained harm due to excessive utilisation. In this regard, Baghdad exemplifies the impact of migration and reverse movement on historical contexts. This study aims to elucidate the impacts of migration and reverse migration on historical habitats and to assess these impacts within the context of conservation. This analysis examines spatial, social, and cultural changes, with findings compared and interpreted alongside existing research. Moreover, current conservation strategies are rigorously assessed, and novel recommendations are formulated.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The primary aim of this study is to analyse the impacts of migration and reverse migration on historical settings and to assess these effects within the framework of conservation. Migration movements today engender not just demographic but also spatial, social, and cultural transformations. This study examines physical degradation, functional alterations, identity erosion, and shifts in social organisation within historical contexts.

Historical environments are regarded as regions that embody cultural continuity and social memory. Consequently, the impact of migration dynamics on these regions is significant for conservation initiatives. The literature indicates that migration induces substantial spatial transformations in urban and historical regions (Harvey, 2010, p. 121 et al.).

This study examines both the adverse impacts of migration and the opportunities for reuse and revitalisation that reverse migration may offer to historical places. This process requires the backing of strategically devised conservation strategies (Halfacree et al., 2004, p. 138 et al.).

This research seeks to provide a comprehensive perspective on the preservation of historical landscapes by concurrently assessing migration and reverse migration dynamics. Moreover, the findings are expected to enhance conservation policy and the current body of literature.

This study was conducted using a qualitative research approach to investigate the impacts of migration and reverse migration on historical ecosystems. The research methodology utilised was a document review grounded in a literature study; a theoretical framework was developed by analysing national and international academic publications on the topic. Document review is regarded as a significant technique for analysing and interpreting existing information (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2018, p. 189 et seq.).

Baghdad was selected as the research application area. The primary rationale for this selection is the city's historical exposure to significant migration patterns and its abundant cultural heritage. Wars and political upheaval have notably altered Baghdad's spatial layout.

The data acquired in the study were assessed by descriptive analysis; the impacts of migration and reverse migration processes on historical environments were examined in their spatial, social, and cultural dimensions. Additionally, research performed in Turkey were incorporated into the assessment process (Kaya & Doğan, 2020, p. 112 et seq.). This research seeks to assess the effects of migration and reverse migration processes on historical contexts through a comprehensive approach.

METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

This study was conducted using a qualitative research approach to investigate the impacts of migration and reverse migration on historical ecosystems. The research methodology utilised was a document review informed by a literature study; a theoretical framework was developed through the analysis of national and international academic publications on the topic. Document review is regarded as a significant approach for analysing and understanding existing information (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2018, p. 189 et seq.).

Baghdad was selected as the research application area. The primary rationale for this selection is the city's historical exposure to significant migration patterns and its abundant cultural heritage. Wars and political upheaval have notably altered Baghdad's spatial layout.

The data collected in the study were analysed descriptively; the impacts of migration and reverse migration processes on historical environments were examined in their spatial, social, and cultural dimensions. Additionally, research performed in Turkey were incorporated into the assessment process (Kaya & Doğan, 2020, p. 112 et seq.). This research seeks to assess the effects of migration and reverse migration on historical contexts through a comprehensive approach.

Significance of the Research

Migration and reverse migration are regarded not merely as population movements but also as significant dynamics influencing spatial, social, and cultural transformations. These dynamics generate both risks and opportunities, particularly for historical contexts. This study seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of migration and reverse migration on historical habitats through a conservation lens.

The themes of migration, reverse migration, and conservation are predominantly examined in isolation within the literature. This study, however, adopts a more holistic approach by assessing these notions collectively. Recent studies underscore the necessity of including migration dynamics into the conservation of historical ecosystems (Smith, 2006, p. 44 et seq.).

The Baghdad example serves as a significant case study owing to its historical accumulation and the migration patterns it has undergone. This enhances the findings by providing both theoretical and practical assessments.

Research in Turkey indicates that migration patterns induce substantial changes in historical and urban regions (Yılmaz & Çelik, 2019, p. 78 et seq.). This study aims to enhance the field of conservation and inform policy formulation processes pertaining to its implementation.

CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Migration and reverse migration are regarded not merely as population movements but also as significant phenomena influencing social, cultural, and spatial transformations. Population migrations, particularly in historical contexts, result in physical degradation, functional alterations, and social modifications. Historical surroundings, embodying cultural values and social memory, are vital sites that require preservation.

Recent years have witnessed substantial alterations in historical urban fabrics due to heightened migration driven by warfare, economic turmoil, and security issues. These consequences are reportedly more prominent in post-war cities (Castles et al., 2008, p. 25 et seq.).

The alterations in functionality and physical degradation observed along Al-Rasheed Street in Baghdad illustrate the evolution of historical surroundings. Furthermore, while reuse movements are evident in certain regions experiencing reverse migration, unanticipated activities may generate additional pressures.

In conservation strategies, safeguarding solely physical structures is deemed inadequate. Kiper asserts that the conservation of historical contexts is crucial for the persistence of cultural identity (Kiper, 2004, p. 58 et seq.). UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape approach underscores the integration of physical, social, and cultural components (UNESCO, 2011).

The Baghdad example illustrates the necessity for comprehensive conservation strategies in safeguarding historical areas.

The Concept of Migration and Reverse Migration

Migration is characterised as the relocation of humans prompted by economic, social, political, or security factors. Currently, migration is regarded as not merely a population movement but also a multifaceted phenomenon influencing social, cultural, and spatial alterations. Harvey asserts that migration dynamics immediately influence the social structure and geographical organisation of urban areas (Harvey, 2010, p. 121 et seq.).

In Baghdad, migration dynamics are predominantly influenced by warfare and political instability. Notably, following 2003, several historical neighbourhoods have experienced population decline, alterations in utilisation, and physical degradation.

Reverse migration denotes the return of individuals to regions they had departed. This process can facilitate reuse and economic mobility in historical places, but it may generate new pressures when it occurs uncontrollably. Demir asserts that reuse operations must be organised in alignment with conservation principles (Demir, 2020, p. 93 et seq.).

In this context, migration and reverse migration patterns are believed to influence the physical, social, and cultural continuity of historical contexts.

BAGHDAD'S HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENTAL STRUCTURE

Baghdad is a significant cultural city that has accommodated several civilisations throughout history. It is distinguished for its historical districts, marketplace areas, religious edifices, and traditional architecture. Nevertheless, warfare, political turmoil, and migration patterns have induced substantial alterations in the city's historical environmental framework.

The historical architecture of Baghdad include small alleyways, courtyard residences, and mediaeval market districts. Tunçer asserts that historical landscapes serve as significant vessels of social memory and cultural continuity (Tunçer, 2012, p. 74 et seq.).

Migration patterns result in population decline and functional alterations in certain historical neighbourhoods. The physical degradation and alterations in the user demographic along Al-Rasheed Street complicate the restoration endeavour. Consequently, it is believed that both restoration efforts and comprehensive strategies that promote social and cultural sustainability are essential for the preservation of Baghdad's historical environment.

Historical Development of Baghdad

Baghdad was established in 762 by the Abbasid Caliph Abu Ja'far al-Mansur and rapidly evolved into a significant cultural and commercial hub of the Islamic world. The city sustained its regional significance for numerous years by advancements in science, art, and architecture. Traditional neighbourhood structures, market places, and religious edifices are essential components of Baghdad's historical identity.

The historical evolution of Baghdad has been significantly influenced by warfare, occupations, and political transformations. The Mongol invasion in 1258 and recent conflicts inflicted considerable harm on the city's historical landscape. Furthermore, the migration trends following 2003 resulted in population decline and physical degradation in several historical neighbourhoods.

Kuban asserts that historical cities are significant spatial domains that embody the cultural heritage of the past (Kuban, 2000, p. 36 et seq.). The historical landscape of Baghdad constitutes a significant heritage, both physically and in terms of social and cultural dimensions. Nonetheless, warfare, unanticipated urbanisation, and migratory movements hinder the preservation of this historical fabric.

THE EFFECTS OF MIGRATION AND REVERSE MIGRATION PROCESSES ON BAGHDAD

The processes of migration and reverse migration are inducing physical and social modifications in Baghdad's historical environment. Population migrations, particularly those induced by warfare, security issues, and economic factors, have resulted in alterations in utilisation and physical degradation of historical districts. Post-war migration patterns have intensified the strain of unregulated utilisation in historical settings. The functional alterations and neglect of buildings along Al-Rasheed Street adversely impact the integrity of the historical environment. Tekeli asserts that migration processes induce substantial alterations in the social and spatial configuration of urban areas (Tekeli, 2008, p. 55 et seq.).

Conversely, reverse migration can facilitate reuse and enhance economic mobility in some historical regions. Nonetheless, unanticipated usage and societal changes may impose new demands on historical settings.

In conclusion, the Baghdad case illustrates that migration and reverse migration movements exert substantial influence on historical contexts. Consequently, the preservation of historical environments necessitates not just physical restoration but also conservation strategies that promote social and cultural sustainability. Migration patterns induce substantial alterations in the physical composition and social framework of historic places. Specifically, post-war forced migration has resulted in population decline, alterations in land use, and the neglect of certain structures in historic districts.

The functional alterations and issues of neglect observed particularly along Al-Rasheed Street adversely impact the authentic identity of ancient locales in Baghdad. Physical degradation is escalating in abandoned structures. Tekeli asserts that migration movements induce substantial alterations in the physical and social frameworks of urban areas (Tekeli, 1998, p. 41 et al.).

Migration movements influence both the physical environment and social ties, as well as cultural continuity. Consequently, the conservation of historic sites necessitates strategies that promote social sustainability alongside physical restoration. Reverse migration denotes the phenomenon of individuals returning to residential locales they had previously vacated. During the post-war era, reuse initiatives emerged in certain historical districts of Baghdad, facilitating the restoration of many structures to their original purposes. The reuse efforts, especially in the vicinity of Al-Rasheed Street, are commendable. Unanticipated renovations and functional modifications can adversely affect the integrity of historical structures. Keleş asserts that migration movements induce changes in the social and spatial structure of urban areas (Keleş, 2017, p. 96 et seq.).

Although reverse migration can rejuvenate social dynamics, alterations in user demographics may impact conventional neighbourhood culture. Consequently, it is asserted that reuse processes ought to be structured in alignment with conservation principles.

ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CONSERVATION

The processes of migration and reverse migration significantly influence the physical composition of historical settings and their social and cultural continuity. Population displacements, particularly those resulting from conflicts and security issues, have induced physical degradation, functional alterations, and social transformations within Baghdad's historical context.

The neglect of several historical structures in Baghdad and their repurposing for various tasks adversely impacts the authentic identity of historical settings. Unanticipated interventions and alterations in usage, particularly along Al-Rasheed Street, complicate conservation efforts. Ahunbay asserts that cultural continuity must be regarded in conjunction with the physical structure when conserving historical environments (Ahunbay, 2019, p. 118 et seq.). Migration movements may result in the neglect of historical structures, heightened physical decay, and the erosion of communal memory. Consequently, conservation strategies must emphasise both physical restoration and social and cultural sustainability.

Reverse migration, conversely, can facilitate reuse and enhance economic mobility in some historical regions. Nevertheless, unanticipated interventions may impose further strains on the foundational integrity of historical ecosystems. Orbaşlı asserts that to sustainably save historical environments, reuse techniques must be devised in alignment with conservation principles (Orbaşlı, 2000, p. 105 et al.).

In conclusion, the Baghdad case illustrates that migration and reverse movement patterns generate both risks and opportunities for historical contexts. Thus, strategic, sustainable, and comprehensive conservation methods are essential for safeguarding historical sites.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The processes of migration and reverse movement significantly influence the physical and social frameworks of historical surroundings. Specifically, population migrations resulting from warfare, security issues, and

economic factors have induced impacts such as physical degradation, functional alteration, and social transformation within Baghdad's historical context. This study assessed these consequences within the framework of preservation, utilising Baghdad as a case study. The research indicated that migration dynamics led to population decline in historical neighbourhoods and that physical degradation intensified due to the neglect of some historical structures. Unplanned interventions and functional alterations along Al-Rasheed Street adversely impact the authentic identity of historical environments. Kuban asserts that maintaining cultural continuity is essential for the preservation of historical environments (Kuban, 2000, p. 52 et seq.).

Conversely, reverse migratory patterns have been noted to foster reuse and economic mobility in certain historical regions. The re-functionalization of long-unused structures can enhance the revitalisation of historical landscapes. Nonetheless, unanticipated usage and unregulated interventions may impose fresh strains on the foundational integrity of historical settings. Dinçer asserts that reuse strategies in historical environments must be developed in alignment with conservation principles (Dinçer, 2015, p. 97 et al.).

The research indicated that current conservation policies frequently focus solely on physical treatments. The preservation of historical contexts pertains not only to the conservation of architecture but also to the sustenance of social and cultural continuity. The preservation of neighbourhood culture, the maintenance of local users' connections to historical locations, and the regulation of unplanned interventions are of significant importance. The Baghdad example illustrates that migration and reverse movement patterns generate both threats and opportunities for historical contexts. It is posited that sustainable preservation of historical landscapes necessitates holistic conservation strategies that incorporate social and cultural components alongside physical restoration initiatives.

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