

**The delicate business of identity.
Full transcripts including transliterated Arabic**

Notes

In transliterating the Arabic versions of the extracts, I have adopted the transliteration system outlined in the International Journal for Middle East Studies (IJMES), and have consulted Nikander (2008) concerning transcripts and translated data for use in CA studies.

In relation to this data specifically, many speakers used colloquial expressions and common words, such as *ya 'anī* and *shī'* which do not have a formal written form. Therefore the transliteration reproduces as far as possible the colloquial form or sound, using the native speaking transcribers' 'best guess' as to how the word might be written. For some words, speakers' pronunciation differs from the grammatically correct or form; for example, the 'th' in *ikthir* is pronounced 't' by the speaker in extract 2 and is therefore transliterated as *ikt(h)ir*. Similarly, the glottal stop, which replaces 'q' in some Syrian accents, is represented by (q).

(i) 'I'm a Muslim'

Extract (1) I 31:F 20: Mus (p1)

- 1 IR >wa halā'< mnsaja(l) .hh bas mumkin 'isāl- err
>and now< we recor(d) .hh just could I ask- err
- 2 mu'alūmā↑t: (.) 'awal shī' .hh 'an- err 'anik .hh mathalan err,
informati↑on: (.) first .hh about- err about you .hh for example err,
- 3 intī mutazawaj[a:
are you marrie[d:
- 4 IE [āy[h
[ye[ah
- 5 IR [fī: (.)
[is there: (.)
- 6 waladayn
two parents [trans. you have a father and mother?]
- 7 IE 'ayyawah
yes
- 8 IR .hh tch wa:: wūladat bi::- sūri↑yya
.hh tch and:: you were born in::- Syri↑a
- 9 (.)
- 10 IE āyh
yeah
- 11 IR wa: tarbayt hawn
and: you (m.) were brought up here
- 12 IE (.)'ayyaw=-
(.) ye=-
- 13 IR =tarbayti hawn
= you (f) were brought up here
- 14 IE 'ayyawah āyh
yes yeah
- 15 IR (.) .hh wa:: err 'inti musli↑ma
(.) .hh and:: err you are Musli↑m
- 16 IE (.) āyh
(.) yeah
- 17 (1.8)

Extract (2) I 39: M 30s: Mus (p1)

- 1 [tape turned on]
2 (1.4)
3 IR nabda hh (1.0) .hh bas bid̄di 'isāl mu'alūmāt basīṭa=
we begin hh (1.0) .hh just I want to ask simple information=
4 IE = 'isā[| ()
= as/k
5 IR ['awal shī' (w)ū- (w)ū ba'adayn bas .hhh (.) bid̄di (q)uṣuṣ min ḥayātik
[first and- and later just .hhh (.) I want stories from your life
6 IE āyh mā fī [mushkila
yeah no [problem
7 IR [m(i)n shān 'andī: ↑'s'ila mu'ayyina [bas
[because I have: ↑questions specific [but
8 IE [mm
[mm
9 IR maftūḥa
open
10 IE err: 'ihki 'anā 'asās ya'anī laḥālī
err: I talk I on the basis that is on my own [trans. shall I just talk]
11 >wa-lā 'inti< bid̄dik > ti'isalīnī (w)ū bajāwaba<
>or do you< want >to ask me and I answer<
12 IR (0.2) .hh (.) (w)ū
(0.2) .hh (.) and
13 (0.6)
14 IR ḥasab ra'ayuk- ma- ma- ma(th)alan [pronounced here masalan]
depends on your view- for- for- for example
15 bas bid̄di 'arif 'awal shī'- 'inti m- m- ghayr mutazawaj mū hayk
just I want to know first- you are m- m- not married isn't that right
16 IE āyh lā ghayr mutazawaj
yeah no not married
17 IR wa:: wūladuṭ bī sūriyya wa tarbayt hawn
and::: you were born in Syria and brought up here
18 IE (w)ū tarbayti fī- sūriyya
and I was brought up in- Syria
19 IR wa 'inti muslim
and are you Muslim
20 IE (ah) muslim
(ah) Muslim
21 IR wa::
and::

(ii) Muslim on paper but non-practising

Extract (3) I 49:M 40s: Mus (p26)

- 1 IR huh āyh
huh yeah
2 IE mm=
3 IR =wa >min 'ayy< err: tā'ifa 'inta
=and >from which< err: sect are you

- 4 IE .hh (.) err: 'aḥad- a-tā:- a-ṭawā'ifa ash-shī'iyya
.hh (.) err: one of the sec- the- (.) the sects Shiite [the Shiite sects]
- 5 (1.0)
- 6 IE is-smā'īlīn sama'ati is-smā'īlīn
the Ismayliis did you hear of the Ismayilis
- 7 IR mmhm=
mmhm=
- 8 IE =>'anā 'ismā'īlī< .hh (0.2) 'ismā'īlī 'intimā'
 =>*I am Ismayili*< .hh (0.2) *I belong to the Ismayili sect*
- 9 lakinanī ra'īyy .hh (.) 'il-khāṣ >lā 'intimā'i 'illā< 'ayy tā'ifa kānat
but in my opinion .hh (.) personal >I didn't belong to < any sect
- 10 .hhh ra'īyy 'ijdādī 'ismā'īlī
.hhh in my opinion my ancestors are Ismayili
- 11 IR mmhm=
mmhm=
- 12 IE ='intimī ka-'ab (0.4) .hhh
 ='my belonging is as my father (0.4) .hhh
- 13 ka:-↑'ab 'ismā'īlī lākin 'ismā'īlī laysa 'ilā 'intimā'i
 as ↑*father* is Ismayili but Ismayili is not my belonging
- 14 (.)
- 15 IR mmhm .hh wa mā fi[:
mmhm .hh and there is[n't
- 16 IE [bi-↑ra'īyy laysa 'ilā 'intimā'I dīnī
[in ↑my opinion not to me a belo- religious belonging
- 17 IR ahha: (0.4) .hhh w- mā fi ((next question))
ahha: (0.4) .hhh w- there isn't

Extract (4) I 37: F 20s: Mus (p1)

- 1 IR mmhm- wa 'inti: err muslima [walā masihiyya
mmhm- and you are: err Muslim [or Christian
- 2 IE [āyh
 [yeah
- 3 IE muṣ:lima
Mus:lim
- 4 IR muslima=
Muslim=
- 5 IE =mmhm huh ta(q)rīban HUH [HUH HUH] HUH
 =*mmhm huh almost HUH [HUH HUH] HUH*
- 6 IR [uh hah]
- 7 IE .hh huh huh .hh ya'anī .hh (.)
.hh huh huh .hh that is .hh (.)
- 8 bil-wara(q)a bas mū
on paper but not
- 9 (0.4)
- 10 IR mm[hm
- 11 IE [non practising bas [this is said in English]
 ["non practicing" but m- huh huh [huh
- 12 IR [ah hah .hh
- 13 IR āy:h (0.2) tch wa ((next question))
ye:ah (0.2) tch and

Extract (5) I 38: F 80s: Mus (p13)

- 1 IR āyh .hh tch .hh wa: 'inti: mutadayyina
eh (.) .hh tch .hh and: are you: religious
- 2 IE 'anā āyh .hh mutadayyina: .hh
me yeah .hh religious: .hh
- 3 (0.4)
- 4 IE bi:- bi-'a(q)ilī
in:- in my thinking
- 5 IR mmhm (.)
- 6 IE ha
- 7 IR [((clears throat))
- 8 IE bi-ṭarī(q)itī ya'anī
in my belief that is
- 9 IR ahha
- 10 IE bas: muqasira (0.2) m:utadayyina muquḍ- muslima muqasira
but: neglectful (0.2) re:ligious neglec- a neglectful Muslim
- 11 IR ahha
- 12 IE mm
- 13 IR āyh=
yeah=
- 14 IE ya'anī: il il- err aṭ-ṭaqaws um: mā bi-(q)ūm fī-hā
=that is: the the- err the rituals um: I don't do them
- 15 IR mmhm
- 16 IE? mm
- 17 IR āyh wa kif ... ((next question))
yeah and how ...

(iii) 'I am a human being'

Extract (6) I 2: F 40s: Mus (p33-34)

- 1 IR mm (1.2) .hhh (.) tch wa shū hala(q) .hh err taḥs- err
mm (1.2) .hhh (.) tch and what now .hh err you fe- err
- 2 taḥsaytī jinsiyyatak
do you feel is your nationality
- 3 (0.2)
- 4 IE kif ya'anī
how do you mean
- 5 (2.2)
- 6 IE jinsiyytī 'an[ā ka-suwri:yya=
my nationality I/ as a Syrian=
- 7 IR [mmhm
- 8 IR = āyh bas err biḥiṣ bi-'iḥsāsik .hh
=yeah but err you feel your feelings .hh
- 9 (1.8)
- 10 IE bi-'iḥsāsī
my feelings
- 11 IR āyh (.)
yeah (.)

- 12 IE mā- mā [fahimtū 'anā hadā as-suw'āl=
(mā*)- *I didn't [understand I this question]= [*ma is a negative participle]*
- 13 IR [uh hah
- 14 IE =kayfak [name] islāmūl iydayk ya'allah
=*how are you [name] bless your hands by God*
(*a few lines omitted as tea/coffee is brought in*)
- 23 IR shū hmm ((*clears throat*)) 'anā sa'alt .hh uh ahhm ((*clears throat*)) (.) tch
what hmm ((clears throat)) I asked .hh uh ahhm ((clears throat)) (.) tch
- 24 shū: err bthissī .hh jinsiyyatak
what: err do you feel .hh is your nationality
- 25 (1.0) ((*sound of cup placed in saucer*))
- 26 IE mm ((*sound of cup put down on table*))
- 27 (2.4)
- 28 IR mā laysh ((*more banging*))
no problem
- 29 (4.0)
- 30 IR 'anā >(wa(q)af) 'andik<) 'innu taḥissī akt(h)ir, 'inti: suwriyya
I >(stopped) do you have< it is do you feel more you are syrian
- 31 (.) .hh (w)ū: 'inti 'arabiyya=
(.) .hh *or: you are an arab=*
- 32 IE =lā ((*staccato*))
=no
- 33 (2.0)
- 34 IE 'anā 'arabiyya .hh mā bi-su- 'ilā mā bish'ur ḥālī 'innī 'anā suwriyya
I am an Arab .hh I don't (feel)- except I don't feel myself that I am Syrian
- 35 lāzim bi-kūn 'anā suwriyya mā () 'innū lāzim bi-kūn suwriyya ū bas
I must be I Syrian not () that I must be Syrian only
- 36 .hh bish'ur 'innū .hhh kull al-waṭan al-'arabī .hh
.hh I feel that .hhh all the Arab nations .hh
- 37 IR āyh
yeah
- 38 IE hunna waṭan 'ayya 'insān
they are the homeland of any person
- 39 (1.8)

Extract (7) I 66: M 30s: Mus (p2-3)

- 1 IR =(w)ū shū bthiss jinsiyyatak .hh
=and what do you feel is your nationality .hh
- 2 (0.8)
- 3 IE shū bthiss jinsiyyatī:
what do I feel is ↑my: nationality
- 4 IR ↑āyh
↑*yeah*
- 5 (1.4)
- 6 IE tch huwa l-mawḍū'a shū bthiss jinsiyyatū al-wāḥid
tch it is the subject what does one feel is his nationality
- 7 hay-l shughla hātha suw'āl sa'aba ikhtir ya'anī (.) .hh ma'aqada ji- jinsiyya
this business this question is very hard that is (.) .hh complicated na- nationality
- 8 ↑lā 'anā bi-l-nisbat 'ilī ya'anī
↑*no I in relation to me that is*

- 9 IR āyh=
yeah=
- 10 IE =.hh jinsiyyat-il-insān maḥal mā byikūn murtāh nafsiyyan
=.hh a person's nationality is a place where he is comfortable psychologically
- 11 (w)ū mā[diyyan (w)ū 'ijtimā' iyyan
or fin[ancially or socially
- 12 IR [āyh
[yeah
- 13 (0.6)
- 14 IE ya'anī
that is
- 15 IR .h[hh
[fahāy jinsiyytī mumkin lahāda al-'ān (.) mā la(q)ītha (.)
[so this is my nationality and perhaps until now (.) I haven't found it (.)
- 16 IE [so this is my nationality and perhaps until now (.) I haven't found it (.)
- 17 IR ahha
- 18 IE .hh [ya'anī
.hh [that is
- 19 IR [lā bḥiss- suwrīyy wa-lā[: ((croaky))
[you don't feel- Syrian or [: ((croaky))
- 20 IE [huwa 'akīd ya'anī 'izā- 'izā 'am mniḥkī
[it is [certain that is if- if we are talking
- 21 IR [(ʿuṣl (w)ū
[(origin or-)
- 22 IE bi-l-nisbat il-'awrāq thabūtiyyh
in relation to the identity papers
- 23 IR mmhm
- 24 IE lā [ʿanā ()]
no [I ()]
- 25 IR [lā lā 'am niḥkī 'an] mashā'ir
[no no we are talking feelings
- 26 IE li'anna (bi-dākh) mashā'ir↑ (.) mashā'ir mābḥiss 'ayya-
because (internal) feelings↑ (.) feelings I don't feel any-
- 27 >ya'anī< 'am bi(q)ilik 'anā bi-l-nisbat 'ilī il-'aḥsās il-jinsiyya .hhh
>that is< I am saying I in relation to me the basis of nationality .hhh
(definition above is repeated)

Extract (8) I 27 F 30s Mus (p18)

- 1 IE [āyh
[yeah
- 2 IR [mmhm .hh wa [shū: bḥissū-] bḥissī 'innhu
[mmhm .hh and [what: do you feel- (pl)] you feel (2nd person) that it is
- 3 IE [hhh .hhh]
- 4 IR jinsiyyatik
your nationality
- 5 (2.0)
- 6 IE 'innī 'insāna 'anā huh [huh huh] ↑āyh
that I am a human being I huh [huh huh] ↑yeah
- 7 IR [heh heh]
- 8 (0.2)

- 9 IE s- .hhh (a::ha) suwriyya ‘arabiyya mā mm iktīr [bidaqq
s- .hhh (a::ha) Syrian arab I don’t mm much [care ((not too fussy about that))
10 IR [ahha
11 IE mm
12 IR āyh wa ...
yeah and ... ((next question))

Extract (9) I 26: F 20s: Mus (p14)

[prior to this, the speaker had described his family as ‘not belonging to any society’ when asked about their class membership]

- 13 IR wa- kamān nafs-il- err il-jawāb il- err .hh tch
and- again the same err- the answer the- err .hh tch
14 min ’ayy ṭabaqa: bthiṣṣī ḥālik hallā
from which class do you feel yourself now
15 IE ḥāliyyan
currently
16 IR mmhm
17 IE ’anā min kull l-ṭabaqāt .hh ma’a kull-l-ṭabaqāt
I am from all the classes .hh with all the classes
18 (2.0)
19 IR mmhm=
20 IE =laykī ’anā mahiman kūn ghaniyya mā binsā-l-fa(q)īr
=look I no matter how rich I am I do not forget the poor
21 (2.2)
22 IE mā bi(q)- mā binsā:ha
I ca(n’t)- I wouldn’t forget him ((croaky))

(iv) Warranting non-membership

Extract (10) I 104: F 22: Ch (p25)

- 1 IR mmhm āyh āy:h (w)ū ’inti mutadayyina
mmhm yeah ye:ah and are you religious
2 (0.8)
3 IE .hhh (0.2) l- lā mū mutadayyina::-
.hhh (0.2) n- no not religious::-
4 dalīl ’innu ’anā ()
proof is that I ()
5 baḥib khulṭat- il- err: jamī’a ash-sha’ūb .hhh dirzī err: muslim
like a mixture of- err: all of the people .hhh Druze err: Muslim
6 su- ya’anī err: masīḥī .hh baḥib il-khulṭat- [(w)ū ’ilī:
su- that is err: Christians .hh I like the mixture- [and I have:
7 IR [()
8 IE zumalā’ (w)ū aṣḍiqā’ min jamī’a l-ad’iyān
colleagues and friends from all of the religions
9 IR ahha fī ‘andak ’aṣḍiqā’:=

- ahha there is you have friends=
 10 IE =‘andī [’aṣḍiqā’ min
 =I have [friends from
 11 IR [()
 12 IE jamī‘a l- ad’iyān mū mutadayyina .hh
 all of the religions not religious .hh
 13 IR āyh (w)ū
 yeah and

Extract (11) I 86: F50s: Ch (p16)

[prior to this, the speaker spoke about growing up in a village]

- 1 IR ahha [.hh °āyh°
 ahha [.hh °yeah°
 2 IE [mm
 3 IR fā t- t- ((swallow)) bthissī err:
 so t- t- ((swallow)) do you feel err:
 4 ’innaki bint ar-rīf
 that you are a villager [lit. daughter of the countryside]
 5 (0.4)
 6 IE mm- hmm
 7 (0.4)
 8 IE mū iktir- lā w-āllah mā baḥiss [mā:
 not a lot- no by God I don’t feel [I don’t:
 9 IR [uhha
 10 IE bimīl. lil-ḥayyā:::(t) .hhh il- il- err: il-mutaṭawra
 I like. the life::: .hhh the- the- err: the developing [trans. the developing life]
 11 ya‘anī ar-rīf err [taḥadūd
 that is the countryside err [is limited
 12 IR [mmhm
 13 IE taḥadūd āyh
 limited yeah
 14 IR āyh .hh hathā li’annaki:: err ‘aīshti err
 yeah .hh is this because you:: err lived- lived err
 15 bi-l-madīna
 in the city
 16 IE ↑lā. lā li’annhu ’anā bi-ṭab‘iya hā-l-shī’ (0.2)
 ↑no. no because it is in my nature this thing (0.2)
 17 IR mmhm
 18 (0.2)

Extract (12) I 80: M 3/40s:Mus

[the speaker is talking about how, not having been taught about religion, he and his siblings found they were being beaten at school by the teachers and children]

- 1 IE ba‘adāyn b’idir ’anā ’innuh al-ha(qq)i(q) () ’innu kunā, muslim err:
 later I realised the truth () that we were, muslim err:
 2 muslim- muslim al-‘alawī ((sniff))
 muslim- muslim alawite ((sniff))

- 3 [āyh
 [*yeah*
- 4 IR [ʾinti muslim ʿalawī
 [*you are alawite muslim*
- 5 IE āyh āyh [āyh]
 ↑*yeah yeah [yeah]*
- 6 IR [mmhm] āyh
 [*mmhm] yeah*
- 7 IE tabʿan ḥasab hinn bas ʾanā mā >ʾintimī ʾilā shīʾ <
 of course according to them but I don't >belong to anything<
- 8 wa-hathā mit(h)l shīʾ
 and this is like a thing
- 9 (3.0)
- 10 IE shakali: (bi-kulla difan)
 has caused me problems: (in many aspects)
- 11 (2.2)
- 12 IE tijāʾ il il- il- il- err (1.8) il-mujtamaʿa
 towards [with regard to] the- the- the- the- err (1.8) the society
- 13 (0.2)
- 14 IE tijāʾ ad-dīn ḥassatan tijāʾ ad-dīn
 towards religion especially towards religion
- 15 IR [mmhm]
- 16 IE [shū ad-diyānāt .hh hathah .hh (.)ʾillī () .hhh yaʿanī bi- err:
 [*what are these religions .hh (.) that () .hhh that is with- err:*
- 17 tismaḥa li-nafsahā (.) taʿathab ṭufufūla (w)ū-
 allow themselves (.) to cause suffering to childhood and-
- 18 er wa- t-tafāli
 er and ch- children

Reference

Nikander, P. (2008). Working with transcripts and translated data, *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 5:22-231.

Information about the transliteration system can be found at:

<http://ijmes.chass.ncsu.edu/authorresources.htm>