TRANSFORMATIONAL QUALITIES OF CARE: A STUDY OF FAITH-BASED HEALTH CARE FOR PALESTINIANS
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BACKGROUND
- Israel and Palestine are religiously significant for the three Abrahamic faiths.
- An analysis of health care in the region, therefore, requires a close examination of its relationship to religion.

OBJECTIVES
1. To examine faith-based health care services for Palestinians in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and the surrounding villages;
2. To study the religious convictions and motivations that stand behind faith-based health care services;
3. To analyze the impact of faith-based services on both providers and patients;
4. To identify the transformational qualities of care (i.e., justice, peace, conflict transformation) provided by faith-based organizations to vulnerable populations.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME
- January - April 2009: Establish project goals, solidify project partners, and develop proposal
- May - June 2009: Meet with partners in the West Bank and begin to implement project goals
- June - July 2009: Continue work in Jerusalem with the Lutheran World Federation and Augusta Victoria Hospital

METHODS
- Observe health care providers, congregational supporters of health care, and those who receive faith-based care.
- Collect data through formal interviews which focus on experiences in the region, religious motivations and convictions, and hopes surrounding the transformational qualities of care.

DISCUSSION
- By developing ways to navigate geopolitical obstacles, faith-based providers offer care that would otherwise be unavailable to Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.
- While providers cite religious convictions regarding the sacred nature of all people, their work is predominately motivated by stable employment in organizations that exhibit religious toleration.
- Patients benefit from the work of faith-based health care organizations like the Lutheran World Federation and Augusta Victoria Hospital.
- Those who receive care, particularly those in West Bank villages, state that faith-based organizations provide their sole access to quality care.
- Providers and patients identify justice as a transformational quality of health care.
- By engaging physical, emotional, and spiritual health, the care made possible by faith-based organizations promotes a more peaceful region.

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