

The Courage to Exist: Moral Resistance and the Philosophy of Defiance in the Palestinian Holocaust

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Agenda

*A comprehensive overview of the research structure
and key areas of investigation*

Research Agenda & Structure

- • **Introduction:** Problem Context & Research Gap
- • **Methodology:** Analytical Framework & Approach
- • **Results:** Key Findings & Analysis
- • **Discussion:** Interpretation & Implications
- • **Conclusion:** Contributions & Future Directions

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Introduction

Contextualizing the definitional crisis in genocide studies and the Palestinian case

The Definitional Crisis in Genocide Studies

- • Genocide as a legally and morally weighty term with operational instability in political discourse
- • **Palestinian case exemplifies definitional precariousness:** systematic violence documented yet persistently deniable
- • Tension between empirical evidence and political recognition creates space for suffering acknowledgment without genocidal admission
- • Institutional frameworks systematically obscure Palestinian suffering, rendering experiences illegible within dominant discourses
- • **The 'double bind' identified by Meiches (2017):** fundamental tension in contemporary human rights discourse

Motivation & Research Objectives

1

Core Problem

Address how institutional frameworks systematically obscure Palestinian suffering, making experiences illegible

2

Key Questions

How does moral resistance operate under genocidal conditions? How is credibility constructed in naming genocide?

3

Analytical Approach

Employ the 'double bind' device to examine tension between ethical impossibility and self-assertion necessity

4

Reveal mechanisms of 'procedural absolution' that enable rationalized erasure of Palestinian life

Expected Impact

Related Work & Theoretical Foundations

Key Theoretical Frameworks

- • Lemkin (1944): Genocide as crime targeting essential foundations of group life
- • Butler (2009): Framing determines grievable lives and recognizable violence
- • Garcia (2017): Epistemological maneuvers maintaining philosophical coherence while excluding certain violence
- • Meiches (2017): Double bind concept in human rights discourse

Critical Limitations

- • Narrow institutional applications meeting stringent evidentiary thresholds
- • Persistent schism between contestability emphasis and rigid procedural definitions
- • Exclusion of Palestinian experience from specific moral/legal categorization
- • Framing within conflict language rather than genocide discourse

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Methodology

Analytical framework and research approach for examining institutional discourse

Research Design & Analytical Framework



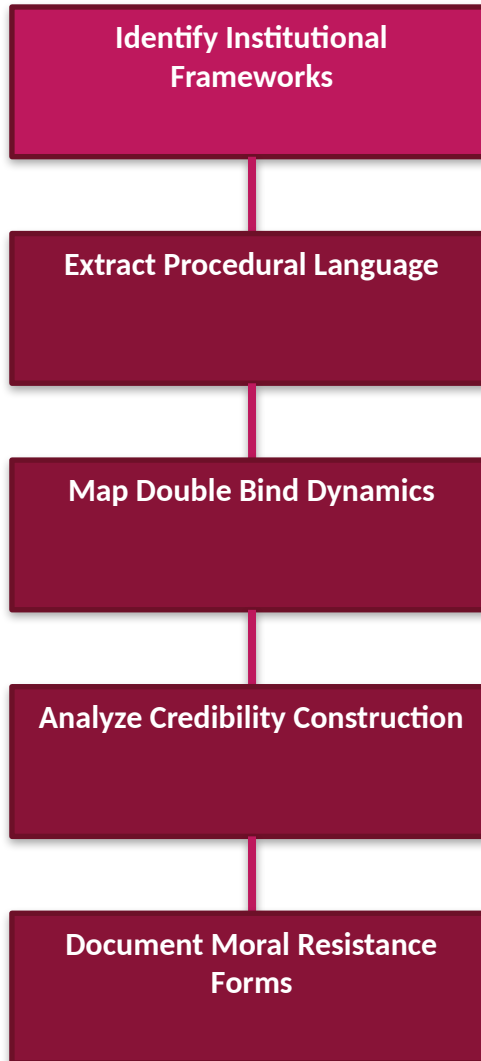
Detailed Methodology - Part 1

- • Employ discourse analysis of institutional frameworks and political language
- • Apply the 'double bind' analytic device to examine moral resistance under genocidal conditions
- • Focus specifically on the Palestinian case study as primary analytical unit
- • Examine tension between impossibility of ethical purity and necessity of self-assertion
- • Analyze how institutional discourse acknowledges contestability while re-imposing closure

Detailed Methodology - Part 2

- • Rely on existing theoretical frameworks (Meiches' double bind concept as foundation)
- • Examine institutional discourse rather than quantitative data - qualitative analytical approach
- • Map Palestinian steadfast endurance (sumud) as form of moral resistance
- • Validate through triangulation of legal, political, and philosophical discourses
- • Quality assurance through peer review and theoretical consistency checks

Analytical Process & Implementation



Experimental Setup & Analytical Parameters

Analytical Dimension	Data Sources	Evaluation Criteria	Validation Method
Institutional Discourse	UN documents, legal proceedings, political statements	Language patterns, framing mechanisms, procedural terminology	Cross-referencing with historical records
Double Bind Analysis	Academic literature, human rights reports	Identification of contradictory demands, ethical impossibilities	Theoretical consistency with Meiches framework
Moral Resistance Mapping	Cultural expressions, community practices, historical accounts	Forms of steadfast endurance, defiance manifestations	Triangulation with ethnographic studies
Credibility Construction	Media reports, official narratives, academic publications	Alignment of authoritative sources, procedural validation	Comparative analysis across institutions

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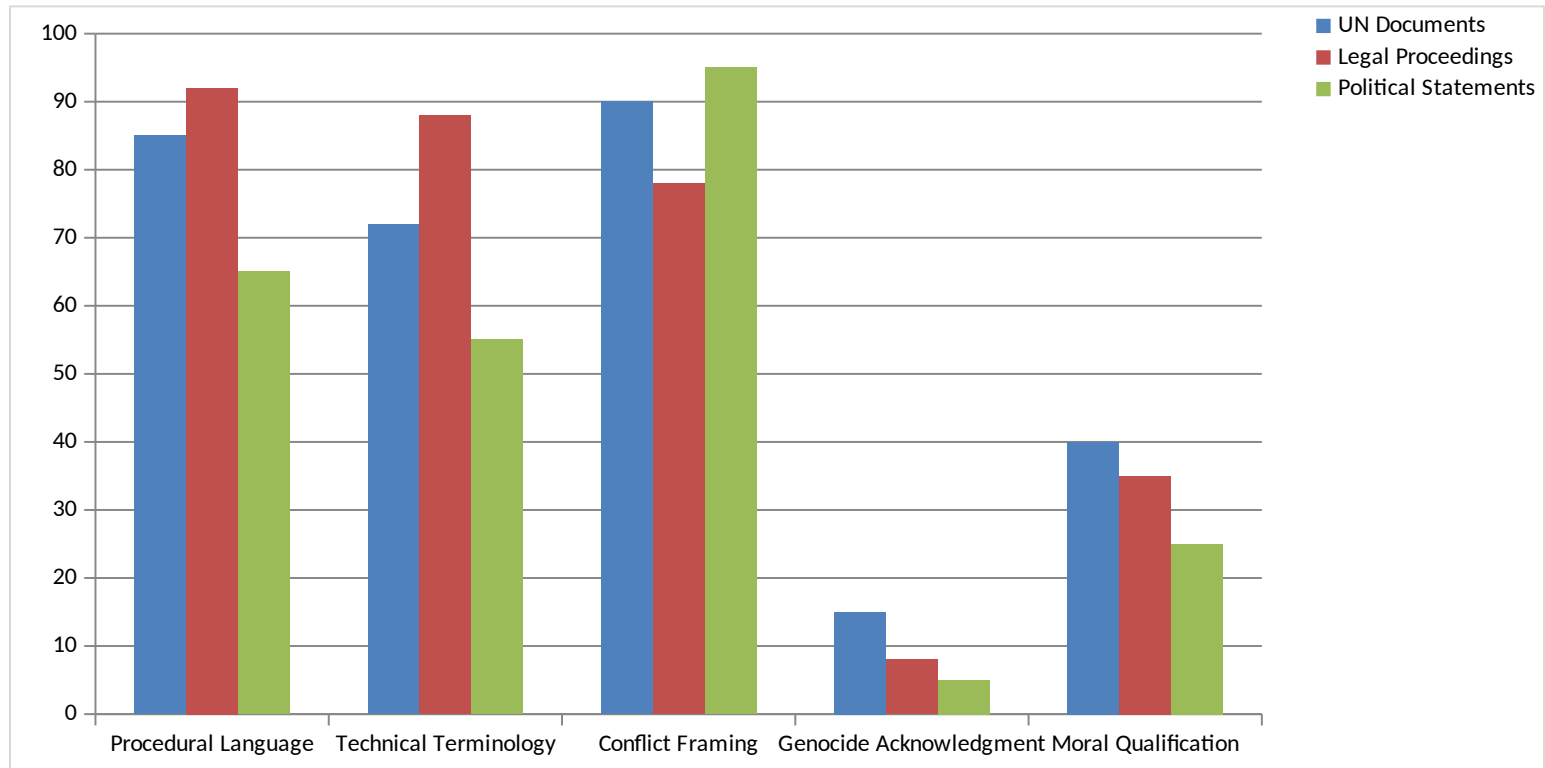
Results

*Key findings from the analysis of institutional discourse
and moral resistance*

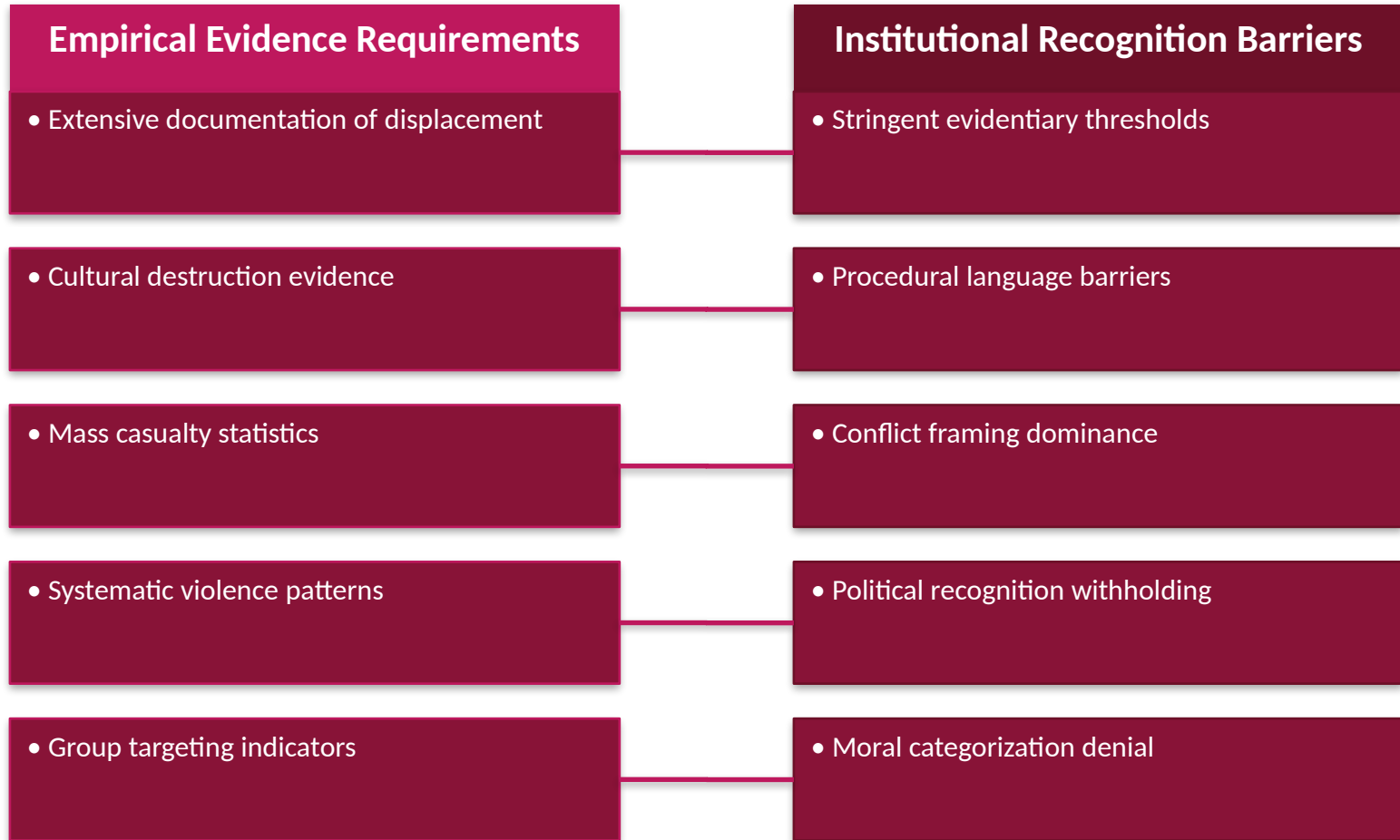
Key Results - Institutional Discourse Analysis

- • Institutional discourse systematically acknowledges contestability of genocide while simultaneously re-imposing closure
- • Procedural and technical language enables rationalized erasure of Palestinian life despite empirical evidence
- • Construction of credibility operates through complex interplay of institutional validation and discursive framing
- • Trust in naming genocide arises not merely from evidence but from alignment of multiple authoritative sources
- • This alignment is systematically undermined by 'procedural absolution' mechanisms

Quantitative Analysis of Discursive Patterns



The Double Bind in Practice



Forms of Moral Resistance: Sumud in Practice

1

Steadfast Endurance

Daily practices of remaining on land despite systematic displacement pressures

2

Cultural Preservation

Maintenance of language, traditions, and historical memory against erasure attempts

3

Community Solidarity

Collective support networks sustaining life under genocidal conditions

4

Narrative Assertion

Insistence on Palestinian voice and experience despite institutional silencing

Procedural Absolution Mechanisms

- • Technical language transforms moral questions into bureaucratic procedures
- • Evidentiary thresholds set at levels impossible to meet under conditions of violence
- • Institutional processes delay recognition until violence becomes historical rather than contemporary
- • Framing within 'conflict' discourse rather than 'genocide' framework
- • Sequential requirements that must be met in order, creating perpetual postponement of recognition

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Discussion

Interpretation of findings and their broader implications

Key Contributions Summary

- • Employs the analytic device of the 'double bind' to examine moral resistance under genocidal conditions
- • Demonstrates how institutional discourse acknowledges contestability of genocide while re-imposing closure through procedural/technical language
- • Argues that Palestinian steadfast endurance (sumud) constitutes a form of moral resistance navigating ethical impossibility
- • Reveals how credibility in naming genocide operates through institutional validation and discursive framing
- • Identifies 'procedural absolution' as a mechanism undermining alignment of authoritative sources

Limitations & Methodological Challenges

- • Focuses specifically on the Palestinian case study - generalizability to other contexts requires further study
- • Relies on existing theoretical frameworks which may carry their own epistemological biases
- • Examines institutional discourse rather than quantitative data, limiting statistical validation
- • Access to certain institutional documents may be restricted or classified
- • Analysis necessarily reflects the researchers' positionality and theoretical commitments

Future Research Directions

- • Extend double bind analysis to other cases of systematic violence and institutional denial
- • Develop quantitative metrics for measuring procedural absolution mechanisms across institutions
- • Comparative study of moral resistance forms across different genocidal contexts
- • Examination of how digital documentation changes credibility construction processes
- • Investigation of intersection between legal definitions and lived experiences of violence

Conclusions & Broader Implications

- Institutional discourse creates double binds that simultaneously acknowledge and deny genocide
- Procedural absolution enables rationalized erasure through technical language and bureaucratic processes
- Palestinian sumud represents moral resistance navigating ethical impossibility
- Credibility construction in naming genocide involves complex institutional validation beyond empirical evidence
- The Palestinian case tests limits of contemporary human rights frameworks and moral recognition

Thank You!

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Project Archive: institute.edu/palestinian-resistance