



# Urban Cairo in Contemporary African Literature: A Qualitative Study on Representation

Hoda Fathy<sup>1,2</sup>, Faten Soliman<sup>3,4</sup>, Maha Ismail<sup>3</sup>, Ahmed El-Gamal<sup>4,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Zagazig University

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Research Institute (ERI)

<sup>3</sup> American University in Cairo (AUC)

<sup>4</sup> Suez Canal University

<sup>5</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, American University in Cairo (AUC)

**Published:** 05 July 2009 | **Received:** 25 February 2009 | **Accepted:** 27 May 2009

**Correspondence:** [hfathy@hotmail.com](mailto:hfathy@hotmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18895315](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18895315)

## Author notes

*Hoda Fathy is affiliated with Zagazig University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Faten Soliman is affiliated with American University in Cairo (AUC) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Maha Ismail is affiliated with American University in Cairo (AUC) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Ahmed El-Gamal is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, American University in Cairo (AUC) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Urban Cairo in Contemporary African Literature explores how urban life is depicted in Egyptian contemporary literature, focusing on themes such as migration, identity, and cultural integration. A qualitative content analysis approach was employed, examining texts from various genres such as fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. Analysis focused on textual elements including language use, thematic focus, character development, and narrative structure to uncover patterns in representation. The study identified a predominant theme of migration within urban settings, with over 70% of analysed works featuring characters navigating or experiencing displacement from rural areas into Cairo. This finding highlights the significant impact of urbanization on Egyptian society. This qualitative study contributes to existing literature by providing a detailed analysis of how contemporary African writers represent urban Cairo and its inhabitants. It underscores the importance of these literary representations in shaping public perceptions of Egyptian urban culture. Further research could explore intertextual comparisons between works, analyse representation across different genres or time periods, and consider the socio-political contexts influencing these depictions.

**Keywords:** *Cairo (Egypt), African Studies, Urban Theory, Cultural Studies, Ethnography, Postcolonialism, Migration Studies*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge