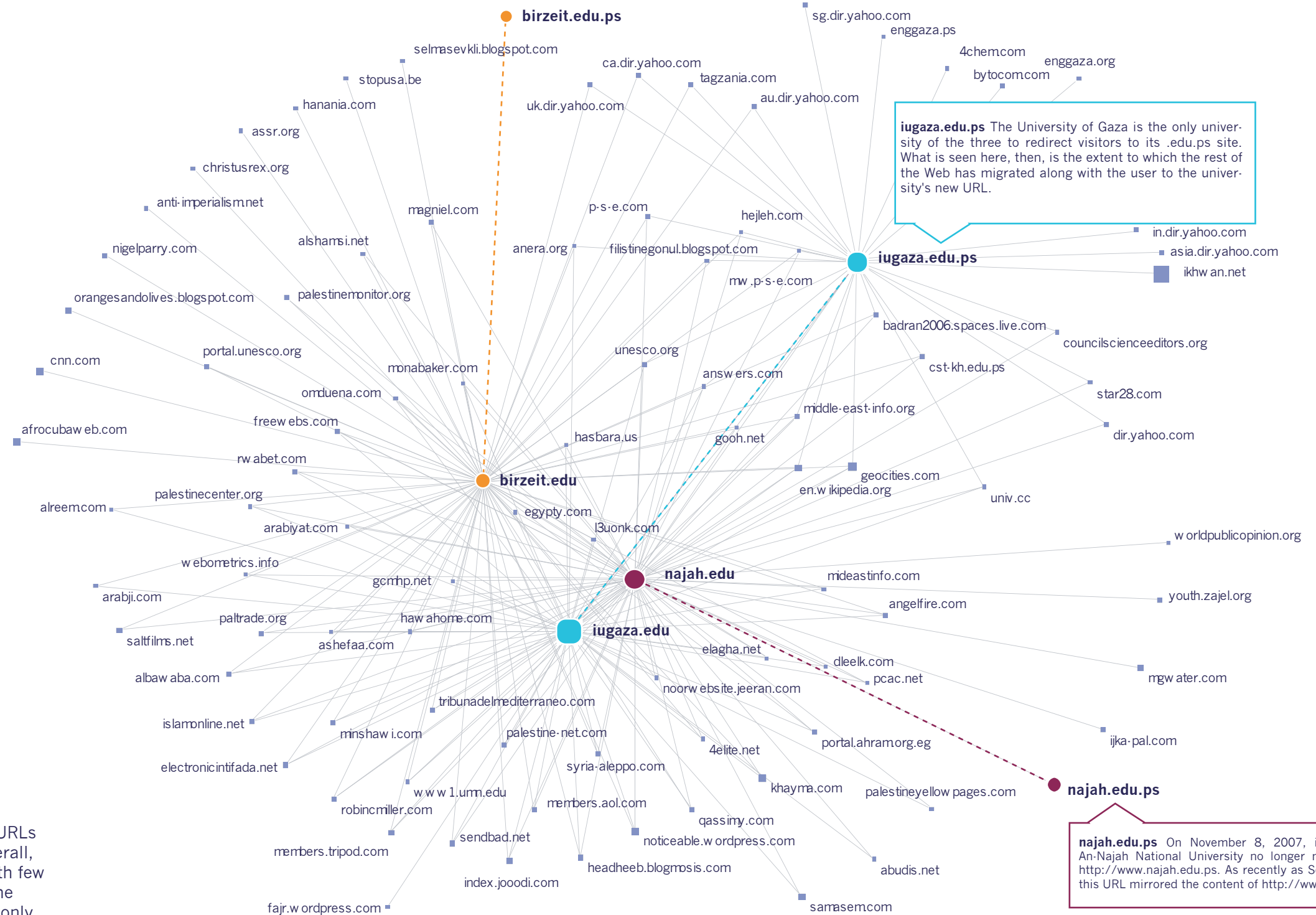# Migration of **.edu** to **.edu.ps**: Three universities compared

birzeit.edu.ps Birzeit University mirrors the content of http://www.birzeit.edu on its .ps site (but does not redirect to it). Attempting to account for the lack of recognition of the .ps version of the site, researchers pointed to two explanations. Locally, there is the problem of updating link lists. This resurfaces at an aggregate level as well, since the top search engine returns for the queries "Birzeit" and "Birzeit university" are .edu pages rather than .edu.ps.

The fate of http://www.birzeit.edu.ps looks uncertain. Whereas it was found that Yahoo indexed thirteen links to the URL in September 2007, two months later the same query produces zero results.

iugaza.edu.ps The University of Gaza is the only university of the three to redirect visitors to its .edu.ps site. What is seen here, then, is the extent to which the rest of the Web has migrated along with the user to the university's new URL.

najah.edu.ps On November 8, 2007, it was found that An-Najah National University no longer maintains the URL http://www.najah.edu.ps. As recently as September 7, 2007, this URL mirrored the content of http://www.najah.edu.

Question_ What happens when Palestinian institutions relocate to the .ps domain; at what point may they be said to have 'arrived', and relatedly, to what extent are they 'followed' by their networks?

Method_ Chart inlinks to both the .edu and .edu.ps sites for all universities, and zoom in on three major universities: the Islamic University of Gaza, Birzeit University and An-Najah National University.

Findings_ The three universities maintain both .edu and .edu.ps URLs for their respective websites. Overall, the .edu.ps sites are isolated, with few links pointed directly to them. The Islamic University of Gaza is the only university to automatically redirect traffic to its .ps mirror, suggesting both a dedication to the symbolic value of .ps and an explanation for the relatively strong endorsement of http://www.iugaza.edu.ps/. Concluding, we could say that the .ps domain is an unrecognized project for sites linking to Birzeit and Najah, and a work in progress for sites linking to the Islamic University of Gaza.