

For Immediate Release



AUB conference to focus on global connections and transformations in the context of the Arab rebellions and U.S. Occupy Movements

Beirut, Lebanon- 05/01/2012 - The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) at the American University of Beirut will hold its fourth international conference on the theme "Shifting Borders: America and the Middle East/ North Africa."

The conference will take place January 11-14 at the AUB campus. Participants will examine a wide range of topics related to the historical, cultural, economic, and political relationships between the United States and the Middle East/North Africa. The conference theme is intended to provide some context to the profound and evolving changes taking place across the Arab world and in the West.

The conference will open with an address featuring Rami Khouri, director of the AUB Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs. In the two full days of sessions that follow, over 90 scholars from 18 countries in the Americas, Europe and the Middle East/North Africa will examine topics related to "shifting borders" in the light of global transformations in the Arab world and the West. Two plenary sessions will take place on January 12. The first, entitled "Contesting the Foreign/Domestic Divide: Arab Revolutions and American Studies," will feature U.S. scholars Rabab Abdulhadi, Monami Maulik, Melissa Garcia, James Veve and Ruth Gilmore. The second, a non-traditional hip hop performance entitled "Brooklyn Beats to Beirut Streets," will feature Mark Gonzales, Nizar Wattad, Omar Chakaki and H. Samy Alim from the Humanwrites project. On Jan. 13, another plenary session entitled "Academic and Culture Boycott of Israel" will feature J. Kehaulani Kaunanui, Malin Johar Schueller, and Magid Shihade. Professor Vijay Prashad from Trinity College will close the conference with an address entitled "It's just Night After All: Reflections on a post-American World."

Apart from the opening session, which takes place at Golden Tulip Serenada Hotel, all paper sessions will be held in West Hall on the AUB campus and will be open to students and the public free of charge.

Further information, including the full conference program and registration procedures, is available on the CASAR website (www.aub.edu.lb/fas/casar). You can also contact CASAR by phone at 961 1 350000 ext. 4195.

A full program of the conference is available at:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/fas/casar/Conferences/IV/Pages/Program.aspx>

The Center for American Studies and Research was launched in 2003 with a major gift from Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. It is an independent academic center that seeks to promote better understanding between the people of United States and those of the Arab world through teaching, research and outreach efforts.

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For more information please contact:

Maha Al-Azar, Assistant Director for Media Relations, ma110@aub.edu.lb, 01-353 228

Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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