

For Immediate Release



Upcoming events at AUB

Beirut, Lebanon- 05/03/2014 - The following events will be taking place at AUB over the coming days:

- **Fourth Education Robotics Contest**

Under the auspices of Minister of Education and Higher Education Elias Bou Saab, the Education and Technology Center and The American University of Beirut are organizing the Fourth Education Robotics Contest on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 9am. The contest will take place at Charles Hostler Student Center Auditorium, AUB.

- **Lecture and Seminar on education and women and gender**

The Center for Arab and Middle East Studies (CAMES) is organizing a lecture entitled "Education and Community Mandate Lebanon," by Nadya Sbaiti, assistant professor of Middle East History, Smith College.

The lecture will take place on March 10 from 3pm to 5pm in West Hall, Auditorium A.

Professor Sbaiti will also hold a seminar for graduates students on the topic of "Women and Gender in Middle East Studies" in West Hall, Auditorium C, March 10 at 10:00-11:00 am. All are welcome to attend.

- **Lecture on estrangement, exile and transformation in Shanfara, Barakat and Kafka's works**

The Center for Arab and Middle East Studies (CAMES) is holding a lecture entitled "Ghurba's Assassins: Shanfara, Kafka, and Hoda Barakat," by Tarek El-Ariss, Associate Professor, Arabic and Comparative Literature, University of Texas at Austin.

The lecture will take place on March 10, 2014 at 5pm in West Hall Auditorium A.

Drawing on notions of ghurba (diaspora, estrangement) and gharāba (uncanny) in Ibn Manzur, Kilito, and Freud, El-Ariss will analyze the moments of transformation, awareness, and unrecognizability in Shanfara's and Barakat's texts. Bringing them in dialogue with Kafka's Metamorphosis and the notions of collapse and departure staged in that work as well, he will address the following questions: How do estrangement, distance, betrayal, and the severing of communal ties bring about monstrosity? What processes of mourning of the self and of the

other are involved in this transformation? What characterizes the writing of the exile, his/her kitaba ghariba (strange writing)?

- **Psychology colloquium: 'Thinking through Metaphor in Science,' by Tamer Amin**

AUB Professor Tamer Amin is giving a lecture entitled “Thinking through Metaphor in Science,” on March 11 at 12.30pm, in West Hall, Auditorium C.

Scientists frequently use metaphors and analogies when developing novel theories. Writers and teachers also use them to communicate particularly abstract ideas to learners. These uses of metaphors and analogies are explicit and deliberate and have been widely studied. Implicit uses of metaphor and analogy by scientists, writers and teachers have not been so widely studied. This presentation reports on research on the implicit use of metaphor in scientific texts and scientific problem-solving. The cognitive linguistic theory of “conceptual metaphor” is used to uncover pervasive and systematic use of implicit metaphors in writing and problem-solving in the abstract domain of thermodynamics. These findings motivate questions about how scientific concepts might be mentally represented; how concept learning happens; and how we might support learning more effectively.

- **Lecture: Syria’s Foreign Policy: Black box or open secret?**

The Department of Political Studies and Public Administration is organizing a lecture entitled, “Syria’s Foreign Policy: Black box or open secret?” by Bente Scheller, director of the Middle East Office of Heinrich Boell Foundation in Beirut.

The lecture will take place on March 12 at 12 noon in West Hall, Auditorium A.

Moderator: Dr. Talal Nizameddin, Dean of Student Affairs at AUB and author of “Putin’s New Order in the Middle East”

Abstract:

The death knell has been rung many times for the Syrian regime - prematurely, as it seems. Three years after the beginning of the Syrian revolution, President Bashar al-Assad is still in power and there have been considerations of Western states to re-engage with him. A pattern in Syrian foreign policy - under Hafez al-Assad as well as under Bashar - is that in times of crises, the regime will lie low and wait for the others to change their position. How does this work out for the Syrian regime since in 2011 it came under significant pressure from both inside and outside? Which role do external powers play for the conflict in Syria and what are Bashar al-Assad’s most important strategies? What are the prospects for a solution of the crisis that is more and more affecting neighboring states and poses a threat to regional stability?

Bente Scheller holds a PhD from Free University Berlin and specializes in foreign and security policy. Before coming to Beirut in 2012, Scheller was director of the foundation’s Afghanistan office in Kabul. Between 2002 and 2004, she worked at the German embassy in Damascus. In

November 2013, her book “The Wisdom of Syria’s Waiting Game. Foreign Policy under the Assads” was published.

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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 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 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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