

For Immediate Release



## Upcoming events at AUB

Beirut, Lebanon- 20/09/2013 - The American University of Beirut is organizing the following lectures, panel discussion and conference in the upcoming week:

- **Seminar on oil and gas exploration**

The Chemical Engineering Program is organizing a seminar entitled “Oil and Gas from Exploration to Production and Export,” Tuesday September 24th, at 12:30 PM Rizk Conference Room (RCR), Bechtel Building. The seminar will be given by Moussa Madi, PhD, general coordinator of the Drilling Committee of the Arabian Gulf National Oil Companies, Drilling Groups; and head of Training Unit in Kuwait Oil Company

In this talk the underlying principles of oil and gas from exploration to production and export will be highlighted. The technological, environmental and ecological challenges facing the oil and gas sector will also be discussed. The discovery of huge amounts of oil and gas in the Lebanese water poses some challenges to Lebanon and its economy. It will also have an effect on the infrastructure of the country that needs to cope with such wealth. It is envisaged that the economy of the country will be transformed from its current status to an industrial one. The education and training of petroleum engineers and the work force in the oil and gas industry will be a huge challenge. All these issues will be dealt with in the presentation and the questions and answers session that follows the talk.

- **Panel discussion on global and regional powers and the war in Syria**

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs is holding a panel discussion entitled, “Global Powers, Regional Powers, and the War in Syria,” Thursday, September 26, 2013 from 1 pm to 2pm. The panel will be held in the Regional External Programs (REP) Building, 1st Floor, Room 103 (Enter AUB's Medical Gate, first building to the right).

This panel will discuss the role of the global powers (US, Russia) in Middle Eastern regional politics and the Syria crisis, and explore the dynamics of diplomatic relations among regional and global powers. In particular it will discuss whether the US-Russia agreement on Syrian chemical weapons will change realities in Syria? It will also ask whether the threat of force pushed this diplomatic resolution or whether all this is merely a function of the retreat of the “American empire”?

**Moderator:** Karim Makdisi, Associate Professor of Political Studies

**Speakers:**

**Anthony Billingsley:** Senior Lecturer on Middle East and International Relations at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia and IFI Affiliated Scholar. He will examine

the impact of great power politics on international law in the Middle East, and what this deal tells us about the nature and practicality of international law today.

*Paul du Quenoy*: Associate Professor, Department of History and Archaeology at AUB and an expert on Russian Modern History. He will discuss the significant role Russia played in the diplomatic agreement that averted the threat of US military action against Syria.

*Alex Barder*: Assistant Professor of Political Studies at AUB. He will talk about the potential devolution of American hegemony, assessing whether American authority to influence and shape international politics is waning.

- **Lecture on emigration and revolt in Arab countries**

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Media Studies and the Institut français du Proche-Orient (IFPO) cordially invite you to a lecture entitled "Emigration and revolt in Arab countries: A theoretical framework," by Philippe Fargues, director of the Migration Policy Centre, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (EUI). The lecture will take place on Sept 26 at 5 pm in Building 37.

Philippe Fargues is the director of the EUI's Migration Policy Centre, part of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. He is also the founding director of the Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) and co-director of the Florence School on Euro-Mediterranean Migration and Development. From 1999 to 2004 he was a senior researcher and head of the International Migration and Minorities unit at the French National Institute for Democratic Studies (INED). Fargues was founding director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies Program at the American University in Cairo.

- **International conference on national identities in the modern Middle East and South Asia**

Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB) and the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) at AAUB are organizing a conference entitled "Whither the Nation? National identities in the modern Middle East and South Asia."

The conference will take place in College Hall, B1 all day on September 28 and 29, starting at 8:30 am.

The conference engages with the theme of national identity formation in the modern Middle East and South Asia, it raises the timely question of how are nationalisms produced and reproduced in different historical contexts of the twentieth century within a comparative regional perspective. The conference brings together a number of prominent scholars and academics who offer analysis that challenge received theories and paradigms for thinking of nationalism. It as well covers a large geographical terrain: Pakistan, India, Bahrain, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine.

A full program may be accessed here:

[http://www.aub.edu.lb/fas/comes/Documents/Conference%20program%20Whither%20the%20Nation\\_final.pdf](http://www.aub.edu.lb/fas/comes/Documents/Conference%20program%20Whither%20the%20Nation_final.pdf)

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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 8,000 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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