



Marginalization and Mobilization of Youth In the Near East

May 30-31, 2009

West Hall, Auditorium A



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The Center for Behavioral Research (AUB)



Introduction

This is the first in a series of international and interdisciplinary conferences intended to bring together scholars, writers, members of advocacy groups, policy and opinion makers to explore some vital but largely overlooked problems which beset the region. Future such gatherings are expected to cover topics like mental health; transnational Islam; global media, popular culture and national identity, and the cultural heritage of contested urban spaces.

That we are launching our series by focusing on problems associated with the growing disaffection, exclusion and indignation of young adults is both timely and meaningful. The so-called “youthful demographic bulge” is so galling since we are dealing with a region characterized by a striking and persisting youthful population. This demographic anomaly is not only markedly higher than patterns observed elsewhere, it is occurring at an impressionable and vulnerable interlude in the lives of the young. It is also taking place in a setting marked by growing risk and uncertainty; a time when the young are grappling with other existential dilemmas, anguishing private angst and moral turpitude.

Such uncertainties are exacerbated not only by unresolved local, regional and global transformation but by the changing character of moral entrepreneurs and societal role models. Again, more than other groups, they have to face situations in which the cultural scripts, messages and codes of the various agencies of socialization are often inconsistent and irreconcilable. Just

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witness the disparate and conflicting messages they are being subjected to: religious authority, state, national or secular ideologies, family and kinship groups, peer sub-culture, popular and cyber culture and, as of late, all the seductive appeals of global commodified consumerism, virtual images and life styles.

Arab youth today are consequently caught between a poignant and unsettling predicament: traditional vectors of stability and loyalty (family and state) are being undermined, while the modern alternative sources of education, employment, security, public opinion have proved unable to fill the void. The young are also afflicted by another dissonant reality. They are often conceived and celebrated as the “hopes and builders of the future,” yet stigmatized and feared as disruptive and parasitic forces.

To facilitate discussion and open debate between participants and audience, the format of the conference departs slightly from other such comparable gatherings. The first session, by providing a general overview and perspective, will be devoted to a broad consideration of the conceptual and methodological issues associated with youth as a social category, the nature of social exclusion, the social rupture and other consequences generated by the skewed demographic bulge. Each of the substantive sessions will then be in three parts: A keynote speaker will first address some of the defining comparative elements relevant to the themes or concerns of the session. Second, authors will present succinctly the major themes, findings, and inferences of the contributions. Finally, a discussant will provide a critical review of the papers under his/her purview.

In addition to the first session where five noted colleagues will explore some of the broad perspectives, defining elements and trends, the themes and concerns of the conference converge on five distinct but related sessions. First, how are young adults forging meaningful collective identities in times of risk and uncertainty? How are they adapting to this state of ambivalence and fear? Issues of deferred adulthood, agency and resistance, becoming lost in transition, generational conflict and cognitive dissonance assume relevance here. Second, a special session is devoted to largely ethnographic and grounded exploration of youth militancy, neighborhood violence and youth gangs in distinct urban and suburban quarters in Lebanon. A third session is devoted to the surge of youthful activism in political movements, advocacy groups and welfare and civic associations. This will be followed (session four) by an exploration

of how disaffected youth are seeking expressive outlets through popular arts, street music and cyber culture. Finally, the fifth session considers how the representation and self-perception of the young are also in a liminal and contested state. Shifting moral politics at home and the unsettling forces of globalization has compounded the disjunctions between perceptions and lived realities. A two-hour session will conclude the conference by an open Round Table on defining issues and inferences, policy implications and future prospects.

As we noted in our correspondence the intention is not simply to end up with an amorphous conference proceedings. Rather, we are hoping to produce a coherent, peer-reviewed edited volume. Hence, an editorial committee will assume the responsibility of proposing the contributions which merit publication. Participants are thus urged to keep this in mind in preparing their final drafts. It is also our hope to produce such a volume without undue delay.

Co-ordinator

Samir Khalaf, Director

Center for Behavioral Research (AUB) - skhalaf@aub.edu.lb

Research Assistants

Youssef El Khoury - *yge03@aub.edu.lb*

Ghassan Moussawi - *gm28@aub.edu.lb*

Administrative Assistant

Leila Jbara - *cbr@aub.edu.lb*

Acknowledgment

The conference was made possible by a generous gift from Georges Khoury Co. Leila Khoury Tabet, Habib and Adib are all AUB graduates. The gift was made in memory of their younger brother, Albert Khoury (BA, 1970). Albert was a gifted philosophy major and a spirited student activist. He was barely 22 years of age when his untimely death occurred, while pursuing his PhD studies at Oxford.

List of Participants

Speakers

ABI-SAMRA, Mohammad	<i>Annahar</i>
BRAY-COLLINS, Elinor	<i>University of Toronto</i>
CREMONESI, Lorenzo	<i>Corriere Della Sera</i>
DEEB, Lara	<i>Scripps College</i>
DUECK, Jennifer	<i>Oxford University</i>
GAHRE, Christian	
GAZZAH, Miriam	<i>University of Amsterdam</i>
GRAIOUID, Said	<i>University of Mohammad V</i>
HARB, Mona	<i>American University of Beirut</i>
KEGELS, Nicolien	<i>University of Amsterdam</i>
KHALAF, Roseanne	<i>American University of Beirut</i>
LANDAU, Carolyn	<i>City University, London (UK)</i>
LARKIN, Craig	<i>University of Exeter</i>
MAHDAVI, Pardis	<i>Pomona College</i>
MOUSSAWI, Ghassan	<i>American University of Beirut</i>
SBEITY, Fidel	
SCHEID, Kirsten	<i>American University of Beirut</i>
SCHULHOFER, Jonah	<i>Yale University</i>
SUCCARIE, Mayssun	<i>University of California- Berkeley</i>
YAMANI, Mai	

Discussants

BRACKE, Sarah	<i>Leuven University, Brussels</i>
HAYDAR, Bashshar	<i>American University of Beirut</i>
KHOURI, Rami	<i>American University of Beirut</i>
MEIJER, Roel	<i>Radboud University</i>
SEIDMAN, Steven	<i>SUNY- Albany</i>
TABBARAH, Riad	<i>MADMA</i>
TRABOULSI, Fawwaz	<i>American University of Beirut</i>

Keynotes

COURBAGE, Youssef

HAGE, Ghassan

KHALAF, Samir

NEYZI, Leyla

SILVER, Hilary

SINGERMAN, Diane

WYN, Johanna

INED

University of Melbourne

American University of Beirut

Sabañçi University

Brown University

American University, Washington DC

University of Melbourne

Program

Friday, May 29 2009

Reception and Dinner at Gefinor Rotana Hotel

| 7:00 pm

Opening Remarks: **Samir Khalaf** (CBR/AUB)

Saturday, May 30th 2009

Welcoming Remarks

| 9:00 am

President Peter Dorman (American University of Beirut)

Session I: General Overviews and Perspectives

| 9:10-12:30 am

Ghassan Hage (University of Melbourne)

“Stigma and Ambivalence: Lebanese Youth and Racial Processes in France, US, and Australia”

Johanna Wyn (University of Melbourne)

“Youth as a Social Category”

Coffee Break

| 10:00-10:30 am

Hilary Silver (Brown University)

“Social Exclusion of Youth: A Comparative View”

Diane Singerman (American University, Washington DC)

“Bringing Back Materiality to the Question of Youth, Marriage, and Sexuality”

Youssef Courbage (INED)

“The Demographic Youthful Bulge and Social Rupture”

Lunch Break

| 1:00- 2:30 pm

(West Hall Balcony)

Session II: Negotiating Identities in Times of Uncertainty and Risk

| 2:30-4:30 pm

Keynote : **Leyla Neyzi** (*Sabançi University*)

"Towards a New Anthropology of Youth and Childhood"

Mayssun Succarie (*University of California-Berkeley*)

"Discourse of Youth in the Arab World"

Mai Yamani

"Saudi Youth: Trapped Between the State and Transnational Freedom"

Lara Deeb and Mona Harb (*Scripps College/ AUB*)

"Piety and Pleasure: Youth Negotiations of Moral Authority in Al-Dahiya"

Craig Larkin (*University of Exeter*)

"Between Silence and Scream: the Lebanese Postmemory Experience"

Discussant: **Bashshar Haydar** (*American University of Beirut*)

Coffee Break

| 4:30-5:00 pm

Session III: Street Violence and Militancy

| 5:00-7:00 pm

Keynote : **TBA**

Mohammad Abi-Samra (*Annahar*)

"Comparison Between the Lifestyles of Two Youth Groups in Tripoli (Post 1975)"

Fidel Sbeity

"Street Violence among Youth Gangs in Chiah in 1975"

Program

Jonah Schulhofer (*Yale University*)

“The Experiences of Child Soldiers in Left- and ‘Right’-Wing Armed Groups during the Lebanese Civil War”

Lorenzo Cremonesi (*Corriere della Sera*)

“Palestinian Youth and Israel: From the Desire of Equality to Estrangement”

Discussant: Fawwaz Traboulsi (*American University of Beirut*)

Dinner

| 8:00-10:00 pm

Sunday, May 31 2009

**Session IV: Youth, Voluntary Welfare Associations
and Civil Society**

| 9:00- 10:30 am

Keynote : TBA

Jennifer Dueck (*Oxford University*)

“Uniforms and Salutes: Fascism and Religion in the Youth Politics of Syria and Lebanon under French Rule”

Christian Gahre

“Youth Networks, Space and Political Mobilization: Lebanon’s Independence Intifada”

Elinor Bray-Collins (*University of Toronto*)

“Youth Politics and Communal Conflict in Lebanon: Confessionalism from Below”

Discussant: Roel Meijer (*Radboud University*)

Coffee Break

| 10:30–11:00 am

Session V: Music, Popular and Cyber Culture

| 11:00- 12:30 pm

Keynote: TBA**Kirsten Scheid** (*American University of Beirut*)*“Outrageous Performances: Rites of Passage among Elite Lebanese Pubescents”***Miriam Gazzah** (*University of Amsterdam*)*“Muslim Youth Culture in the Netherlands: a Mix of Islam, Ethnicity, and Politics”***Said Graioud** (*University of Mohammad V*)*“Moroccan Hip-Hop Music and its Reception among Moroccan Youth”***Carolyn Landau** (*City University, London*)*“Music Consumption and Identity: Exploring Cultural and Religious Transnational Connections amongst Moroccan Youth in Britain and Beyond”***Discussant: Sarah Bracke** (*Leuven University, Brussels*)*Lunch Break*

| 1:00-2:00 pm

Session VI: Representation and Self-perceptions of Young Adults

| 2:00-4:00 pm

Keynote : Samir Khalaf (*American University of Beirut*)*“Lebanese Youth Adrift”***Nicolien Kegels***“In Good Times or Bad? The Discourse of National Identity of the Lebanese Upper Class Youth”*

Program

Roseanne Khalaf (*American University of Beirut*)
“*Idealistic and Indignant Young Lebanese*”

Ghassan Moussawi (*American University of Beirut*)
“*Compulsory Heterosexuality and the Construction of Non-heterosexual Masculinities among Lebanese Youth in Beirut*”

Pardis Mahdavi (*Pomona College*)
“*Re-creating Recreation: The Politics of Fun in the Islamic Republic of Iran*”

Discussant: Steven Seidman (*SUNY-Albany*)

Coffee Break

| 4:00-4:30 pm

Roundtable Discussion and Future Prospects

| 4:30-6:00 pm

Rami Khouri (*American University of Beirut*)

Roel Meijer (*Radboud University*)

Diane Singerman (*American University, Washington, DC*)

Riad Tabbarah(*MADMA*)

Speaker's Biographical Sketches

Session I: General Overviews and Perspectives

Ghassan Hage is a Fellow of the Australian Humanities Association, and Future Generation Professor of Anthropology and Social Theory at The University of Melbourne. He has researched and published widely in the comparative anthropology of nationalism, multiculturalism, racism and migration. His work fuses approaches from political economy, phenomenology and psychoanalysis. His works include *White Nation: fantasies of White supremacy in a multicultural society* (2000), *Arab Australians today: citizenship and belonging* (2002), *Against Paranoid Nationalism* (2003).

Johanna Wyn is Director of the Australian Youth Research Centre at The University of Melbourne. Her research focuses on young people's experiences of education and work, their health and wellbeing. She leads the Life-Patterns research program, a comparative longitudinal panel cohort study of young people comparing two generations of young Australians. Her books include *Rethinking Youth* (with Rob White, 1997), a classic text within youth studies, *Youth, Education and Risk: Facing the Future* (with Peter Dwyer, 2001), *Youth and Society: exploring the social dynamics of youth* (with Rob White, 2004, 2008) and most recently, *Youth Health and Welfare: the cultural politics of education and wellbeing* (2009).

Hilary Silver is Associate Professor of Sociology at Brown University. She holds a PhD in Sociology from Columbia University. She studies urban poverty and inequality and housing, welfare, employment, development, and other social policies. She is currently finishing a book on grassroots initiatives to combat social exclusion and unemployment in France and Germany. She is an Affiliate of the Center for European Studies at Harvard University where she co-chairs a study group on "Social Exclusion and Inclusion in an Expanded Europe." Her publications include: "Social Exclusion and Social Capital" (with Mary Daly) and "Social Exclusion: Comparative Analysis of Europe and Middle East Youth."

Diane Singerman is Associate Professor in the Department of Government, School of Public Affairs at American University (in Washington, DC). She received her BA, MA, and PhD from Princeton University and did graduate work at the American University in Cairo, living in Egypt for several years throughout her career. Among her publications

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are: *Cairo Cosmopolitan: Politics, Culture, and Urban Space in the New Globalized Middle East* (with Paul Amar, 2006), *Avenues of Participation: Family, Politics, and Networks in Urban Quarters of Cairo* (1995) and *Development, Change, and Gender in Cairo: A View from the Household* (with Homa Hoodfar, 1996). She is interested in comparative politics, gender and politics in Egypt and the Middle East, informal politics, political participation, urban studies, globalization, and social movements. Her recent research interests include Personal Status Law reform, the cost of marriage, poverty, and the problems which young people face in the Middle East, and urban politics in the era of globalization.

Youssef Courbage was born in Aleppo, has lived his childhood in Beirut. After studying Economics and Sociology at St-Joseph and Lebanese Universities, he graduated in Demography and Urban Planning at the Sorbonne and Dauphine Universities. Since then his career was mainly devoted to demographic research and training, namely with the United Nations in Beirut, Cairo, Yaoundé (Cameroon), Port-au-Prince (Haiti) and Rabat (Morocco). In 1990 he was appointed as researcher and director at the National Institute of Demographic Studies in Paris. He has been a member of this Institute, except in 2003-05 where he headed the department of contemporary studies at French Institute of the Near East in Beirut (IFPO). His numerous publications include: *Christians and Jews under Islam* (with Philippe Fargues, 1997), *New Demographic Scenarios in the Mediterranean Region* (1998), *The Demographic Characteristics of Immigrant Populations in Europe* (edited with P. Compton and W. Haug, 2002) and *Le Rendez-Vous des Civilizations* (with Emmanuel Todd, 2007).

Session II: Negotiating Identities in Times of Uncertainty and Risk

Leyla Neyzi is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabancı University in Istanbul, Turkey. She holds a PhD in Development Sociology from Cornell University. Her research interests include: cultural identity, oral history, memory studies, nationalism and minorities, Middle Eastern and Southeast European Ethnography, Urban Anthropology, Subjectivity, Youth Culture. Among her recent publications are: "Remembering Smyrna/Izmir: Shared history, shared trauma", "Strong as steel, fragile as a rose: a Turkish Jewish witness to the twentieth century", "Object or subject? the paradox of 'youth' in Turkey." She is a member of

the American Anthropology Association, International Oral History and Association, European Association for Social Anthropology, Association for Cultural Studies and Middle East Studies Association.

Mayssun Succarie recently earned her PhD in Anthropology of Education from the University of California at Berkeley. Between 1998-2002, Succarie was a researcher for the Arab Education Forum. She has also held several research positions with UNESCO, UNICEF, the Lebanese Association for Educational Studies, and the Center for Behavioral Research, at AUB. Her research focuses on reworking of Globalization in the Arab World. Succarie's articles have appeared in the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, the *Middle East Report*, *International Journal of Labour Studies* and the *Journal of Youth Studies*. Her publications include: "In the Best Interests of Youth or Neoliberalism?" (with S. Tannock), "Hope Crusades: Culturalism, Harmony Ideology and Reform in the Arab world" (forthcoming).

Mai Yamani is an independent academic. She has been a visiting scholar at Carnegie Middle East Center in 2008 and a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institute Washington DC in 2008. She worked as a research fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) in London from 1997 to 2007. From 1992 to 2000 she was a research fellow at the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Law at London University. She received her PhD in Social Anthropology from Oxford University. From 1990 to 2000, she held the position of academic adviser at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University and was a lecturer in anthropology and sociology at King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, from 1981 to 1984. Her publications include *Cradle of Islam: The Hijaz and the Quest for an Arabian Identity* (2004), *Changed Identities: The Challenge of the New Generation in Saudi Arabia* (2000) and *Feminism and Islam: Legal and Literary Perspectives* (1996).

Lara Deeb is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Scripps College. She is the author of *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon* (2006) as well as numerous articles and chapters on gender, public spheres, ritual, temporality, and Hizbullah. She is currently working on a co-authored book project with Mona Harb on new moralities and spatialities related to leisure in the southern suburb of Beirut. She is a member of the editorial committee for Middle East Report.

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Mona Harb is Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Policy at the American University of Beirut. She specializes in research and teaching on the politics of public action and urban management. Her interests focus on the urban politics and cultural geography of Shi'a groups in Lebanon. She is the author of *Hezbollah: de la banlieue à la ville*, (forthcoming). Her more recent research investigates the geographies of pious morality in Beirut, with Lara Deeb. Harb also authors research on post-war reconstruction and municipal governance. She occasionally consults on urban planning and city development issues for the World Bank, the European Union, UNDP and UN-ESCWA.

Craig Larkin is a Research Fellow at the Politics Department of Exeter University, working on an ESRC funded project 'Conflict in Cities and the Contested State.' He received his PhD in Middle East Studies from the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University in April 2009. His doctoral thesis 'Memory and Conflict –Remembering and Forgetting the Past in Lebanon' focused on issues of identity, collective memory and conflict resolution models in post war Lebanon. His research interests include: the politics of memory and identity; urban and social division and conflict; processes of reconciliation and forgiveness. He has also been involved in research work for the European Commission on monitoring and verifying a Peacekeeping force, in South Lebanon (2000) and more recently employed as a research analyst for 'Conflicts Forum' (2005) reviewing Islamist websites and assessing regional trends.

Bashshar Haydar is a Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department at the American University of Beirut. He works mainly in the areas of Ethics, Political Philosophy, and Aesthetics. His publications include "Extreme Poverty and Global Responsibility," in *Metaphilosophy*; "Special Responsibility and Appeal to Cost," in *Journal of Political Philosophy*; "Aesthetics Principles," in *The British Journal of Aesthetics*; and "Literature, Knowledge, and Value," in *Philosophy and Literature*.

Session III: Street Violence and Militancy

Mohammad Abi-Samra is a Lebanese journalist and novelist. He has obtained a diploma d'études supérieures in Sociology of Culture from the Lebanese University in 1985. He has been an active journalist, writer and reporter since 1977. He served

as director of investigative reporting of *Al Makassed* (1980-82) and from then on contributed weekly to the following literary supplements: *Assafir* (1985-87), *Al Hayat* (1988-92), and *Annahar* (1994-2009). A prolific writer, particularly his rich and intimate ethnographies of urban neighbourhoods in Tripoli, southern suburbs of Beirut and elsewhere. Among his publications are: *Arrested Individualism in Arab Culture* (2001), *Les Habitants des Images* (2003) and *Pays de l'humiliation et de la peur: Kurdistan, Beyrouth, Casablanca* (2004).

Fidel Sbeity, born in South Lebanon made his way to journalism while pursuing his Law studies in Beirut. Since 2000, mostly as a writer and freelance journalist, he has contributed studies and reports to numerous Lebanese and Arab periodicals and newspapers, including *Assafir*, *Alhiwar*, *Albalad*, *Al Mustaqbal*, *NowLebanon* and the cultural supplement of *Annahar*, where he also publishes poems, essays and short stories. Among his publications are: *Touffahat Newton (Newton's Apples 2005)*, *Kill the man Lift his skull high* (2008).

Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl is a PhD Candidate in Political Science at Yale University. His dissertation research focuses on the decision-making of armed groups during civil wars, with a detailed study of the Lebanese Civil War. He is conducting field research in Lebanon, and is a doctoral research fellow at the Orient-Institut Beirut and an associate of the Center for Behavioral Research at the American University of Beirut.

Lorezno Cremonesi is Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern history at Milan Catholic University. He has been a war correspondent for the major Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, since 1984. He has covered various wars in the Middle East, including: the Gulf war (1991), the Afghan war (2001-02), War on Iraq (2002-03), and the recent war on Gaza (2009). Among his publications: *Baghdad Café* (2002), and *Dai Nostri Inviati* (2008). His current research on Palestinian youth is based on his experience as a foreign journalist in Israel and the Palestinian territories during the periods of 1982-2000, 2001 and 2005-06.

Fawwaz Traboulsi studied at the American University of Beirut and the School of Oriental Studies in London and received his doctorate in history from the Université de Paris VIII. After a career in journalism and political activism, he has been since 1997 an Associate Professor of Political Science and History at the Lebanese American

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University. He has written on history, Arab politics, social movements, political philosophy, folklore and art. His translations include works by Karl Marx, John Reed, Antonio Gramsci, Isaac Deutscher, Che Guevara, John Berger, Etel Adnan, Sa'di Yusuf and Edward Said (*Out of Place* (2000), and *Humanism and Democratic Critique* (2005). Among his books, *The Stranger, the Treasure and the Miracle* (2006), and *A History of Modern Lebanon* (2007).

Session IV: Youth, Voluntary Welfare Associations and Civil Society

Jennifer M. Dueck is currently a British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Oxford. She studied Modern History at Merton College, Oxford. Her doctoral thesis on "Culture and Politics in French Mandate Syria and Lebanon" was awarded the Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize from the British Society for Middle East Studies. She has held positions in Middle Eastern History at the University of Cambridge and the London School of Economics. She is the author of *The Claims of Culture at Empire's End: Syria and Lebanon under French Rule* (2009).

Christian Gahre earned his MA in Middle Eastern Studies from the American University of Beirut, writing his thesis on the youthful mobilization of the Spring 2005 (the Independence Intifada). At the time, he was affiliated with the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo. Gahre is currently a humanitarian worker based in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Elinor Bray-Collins is a PhD Candidate in Political Science at the University of Toronto. She is a Doctoral Fellow at the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Canadian Consortium for Human Security. Her dissertation research explores youth politics and political mobilization in divided societies, and focuses on Lebanon in particular. Before entering graduate studies in 2004, Bray-Collins worked in community development initiatives in Tanzania, led programmes for rural youth in Thailand, and facilitated teams of 'youth at risk' in inner city projects in Toronto. She has also partnered with Lebanese NGOs to conduct research on gender politics and elite networks. Her publications include "Caught in Contradiction: A Gender Profile of Lebanon" (2003) and "Peace-Building and the Politics of Development Aid" (2002).

Roel Meijer is currently a senior lecturer in Middle Eastern history at the Department of Arabic Studies and Islam at Radboud University. He is affiliated with the International Institute for Social History in Amsterdam, and the Clingendael Institute in The Hague. His PhD dissertation studied Egypt during the monarchy and the Nasser periods. His publications include: *The Quest for Modernity: Secular Liberal and Left-wing Political Thought in Egypt, 1945-58* (2002) *Cosmopolitanism, Identity and Authenticity in the Middle East* (1999), *Alienation or Integration of Arab Youth: Between the Family, the State and the Street* (2000) and *Global Salafism: Islam's New Religious Movement* (2009). He held a fellowship at the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM). Since 2008, he has been conducting a comparative postdoctoral research on Islamist movements in Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Session V: Music, Popular and Cyber Culture

Kirsten Scheid is Assistant Professor of Anthropology of Art at the American University of Beirut. She earned her PhD in Anthropology from Princeton University in 2005. She studies art modernisms, historiography, and contemporary art politics in the Lebanon and the Middle East. She is the author of several articles on art and civilizing discourses in colonial and post-colonial contexts as well as a monograph, *On Civilized Art in Primitive Place: Modern Art and the Formation of Lebanese Society* (2006). She has also recently begun work on the production of identity and taste among upper-class adolescents in Beirut.

Miriam Gazzah currently works at a Dutch provincial museum (Limburgs Museum) doing research on the migration history of this Dutch province. Born in the Netherlands, (with Tunisian roots), she received her PhD in September 2008. Her dissertation entitled “Rhythms and Rhymes of Life: Music and Identification Processes of Dutch-Moroccan Youth” is one of the first and most extensive studies on Dutch-Moroccan youth culture. Gazzah studied Mediterranean Studies at the Radboud University in Nijmegen (1996-2001) and wrote her MA thesis on the emergence of the Algerian raï music subculture. She worked as a journalist for several Dutch regional newspapers (2001-03) and was a PhD fellow at the ISIM (Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World) at Leiden University (2003-07). She is also working as a post-doc-researcher at Amsterdam University on the emergence of new youth cultures in Europe.

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Said Graiouid is Professor of Communication and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, University Mohammed V, Rabat and the Academic Director of SIT Study Abroad "Morocco: Migration Studies Program." He has written extensively on Moroccan culture and cultural politics. His most recent research focuses on migration and youth culture. He is in process of completing a book on *Migration and Cultural Politics in Morocco*. Graiouid is also an Associate Research Fellow with the Smart Lab Centre at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London Institute, and the Transnational Network Research Group, Sterling University, UK.

Carolyn Landau is Visiting Lecturer in the Music Department at City University, London, where she teaches Ethnomusicology and Musical Traditions from North and East Africa. Landau is currently undertaking doctoral research into music consumption and identity amongst Moroccans in London. She holds a BA in Music and French (University of Birmingham) and an MA in Ethnomusicology (SOAS). She worked for several years in the British Library Sound Archive, World and Traditional Music Section and in Cameroon recording and researching traditional music. Her published articles are on Moroccan and Algerian musicians in London. She has also produced an album of UK-based Moroccan musicians (entitled *Moroccan Melodies in Britain*), in addition to many educational resources on Moroccan music and musicians as part of the project *Moroccan Memories in Britain*.

Sarah Bracke is Assistant Professor of Sociology of Religion and Culture at the KULeuven, Belgium. She holds a doctoral degree in Women's Studies from Utrecht University and was a Marie Curie Fellow at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She works on questions of religion and the secular, agency and subjectivity, and gender and ethnicity. Her work has appeared in a variety of journals including the *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *Feminist Review*, *Multitudes* and *Theory, Culture and Society*. Her current project focuses on the post-secular and the intersection between secular and sexual politics.

Session VI: Representation and Self-Perceptions of Young Adults

Samir Khalaf is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Behavioral Research at AUB. Educated at AUB (BA and MA) and at Princeton (PhD 1964), he has also held academic appointments at Princeton, Harvard, MIT and New York University. Among his books are *Hamra of Beirut* (1972), *Persistence and Change in Nineteenth Century Lebanon* (1979), *Lebanon's Predicament* (1987), *Recovering Beirut* (1993, with Phillip Khoury), *Cultural Resistance: Global and Local Encounters in the Middle East* (2001), *Civil and Uncivil Violence in Lebanon* (2002), and *Sexuality in the Arab World* (edited with John Gagnon 2006). He is trustee of several foundations and serves on the editorial boards of a score of international journals and publications. Recently he has been honoured at Harvard, Melbourne and Sydney Universities.

Nicolien Kegels completed her MA in Anthropology and Sociology of Non-Western Societies at the University of Amsterdam in 2007. In 2004, she spent one year at New York University for a minor in Anthropology and Africana Studies. In 2006 she conducted research on the Lebanese upper class and their discourse of national identity. She currently resides in Beirut, where she works as an independent researcher and writer. Her website and blog can be found at <http://www.qussa.nl>.

Roseanne Saad Khalaf is Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at the American University of Beirut. Educated at AUB (BA), Simmons College (MA) and Leicester (PhD), she has been, since her return to Beirut in 1995, engaged in exploring the narrative and literary reflections of Lebanese youth. Her experience spans creative, academic and editorial work in Lebanon, as well as in the US and UK. Khalaf's publications include two short story collections: *Once Upon a Time in Lebanon* and *Lebanon: Four Journeys to the Past*; two children's books: *Cleo the Hotel Cat* and *Cleo Visits Downtown Beirut*. She is co-editor, with Malu Halasa, of *Transit Beirut: New Writing and Images* (2004) and editor of *Hikayat: Short Stories by Lebanese Woman* (2006). Her chapter, "What AUB Students Really Think about Sex," was published in *Sexuality in the Arab World*, and, most recently, "Youthful Voices in Post-War Lebanon," appeared in *The Middle East Journal. Arab Society and Culture*, co-edited with Samir Khalaf, is scheduled for publication in early 2009 and "Beirut Reflections," is forthcoming in *Souk Ukaz: Writing In and Beyond the City* (International Writing Program: Iowa University).

Speaker's Biographical Sketches

Ghassan Moussawi earned his MA in Sociology from the American University of Beirut (2008). His thesis “On the Shaming of Gender: Compulsory Heterosexuality and the construction of non-heterosexual masculinities in Beirut” explores the intersection between compulsory heterosexuality and non-heterosexual masculinities. He is interested in gender, sexualities, masculinities, and narratives of the self. He is a part time instructor of sociology at AUB and is a research assistant at the Center for Behavioral Research at AUB. He will be, beginning in Fall of 2009, pursuing his PhD in Sociology at Rutgers University.

Pardis Mahdavi, is Assistant Professor of Anthropology, at Pomona College. Mahdavi obtained a joint PhD from the departments of Sociomedical Sciences and Anthropology at Columbia University. Her research interests include sexuality, human rights, youth culture, transnational feminism and public health in the context of changing global and political structures. She has published in the *Encyclopaedia of Women in Islamic Cultures*, *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, *Anthropology News*, and the *Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World Review*. She has recently published her book *Passionate Uprisings: Iran's Sexual Revolution* (2008). She is a recipient of several research awards from the American Public Health Association, the Society for Medical Anthropology and the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Steven Seidman is Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Albany. He has been the Whitlesey Professor of sociology at AUB for the past two years. He works in the fields of social theory, queer studies, and recently Middle East studies. He has published widely on social theory, gender and sexuality. His publications include: *Embattled Eros* (1992) *Difference Troubles* (1997), *Beyond the Closet* (2002), and *Contested Knowledge* (2004). He co-edits the Cambridge Cultural Social Studies Series which has published over 40 volumes. He is currently writing on Beirut and working on the concept of “the other.”

Roundtable Discussion and Future Prospects

Rami Khouri is Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. He also serves as editor at large of the Beirut-based *Daily Star* newspaper. He obtained his BA in Political Science and Masters in Mass Communications from Syracuse University. From 1975 to 1982 and again in 1987-88, he was Editor-in-Chief of *The Jordan Times*. From 2003 to 2005 he was Executive Editor of *The Daily Star*. He is an internationally syndicated columnist, and he has taught journalism, mass communications and public policy at University of Chicago, AUB, Northeastern University, Yarmouk University, and LAU. He is a non-resident research fellow at Harvard University, Syracuse University and Dubai School of Government, and a member of the international advisory board of the ICRC.

Riad Tabbarah is Director of the Center for Development Studies and Projects (MADMA), and a senior expert at the United Nations Development Programme, since 2003. He holds a PhD in Economics, from Vanderbilt University and has served several academic, advisory and diplomatic posts. Dr. Tabbarah was Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the American University of Beirut, 1991-94 and Ambassador of Lebanon to the United States, 1994-97. His articles appeared in *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *Journal of Development Studies*, and *Journal of Human Ecology*. His publications include: *Information and Communication Technology in Lebanon (2000)* and *Employment and Unemployment in Lebanon (2000)*.

