

Coordinators at Haigazian’s Economic Justice Center, Mr. and Mrs. Goertzen, introduced to LERC through Dr. Rita Sabat

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Coordinators at the newly founded Economic Justice Center at Haigazian University in Beirut, Mr. Donald Goertzen and Mrs. Cyra Michelle Goertzen, accompanied by Dr. Rita Sabat, Assistant Professor at NDU’s Faculty of Political Science, Public Administration & Diplomacy, were introduced to the electronic archives at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU.

While Mr. Goertzen is a graduate in divinity and journalism with a doctoral interest in social ethics and political economy, Mrs. Goertzen’s graduate work emphasizes knowledge management and national innovation systems.

Mr. Donald Goertzen and Mrs. Cyra Goertzen are helping to set up a Center for Economic Justice at Haigazian University, supported by the Mennonite Central Committee. Both have a vast experience working in economic justice in the United States and the Philippines.



Coming to LERC: (from left to right) Cyra Michelle and Donald Goertzen with Dr. R. Sabat (June 2011).

According to The Haigazian’s website their work on economic justice “has taken the form of international advocacy involving governments and multilateral agencies, livelihoods work in the rural Philippines, teaching graduate and undergraduate students, program development and research.”

Dr. Sabat met the Goertzens through LERC's Research Affiliate, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, after they had asked to meet her to discuss economic justice from a gender perspective.

In the perspective of launching the Center for Economic Justice, Dr. Sabat recognized the value of introducing the Goertzens to LERC for possible cooperation in areas that would be of common interest. She believes that future cooperation would be in the area of remittances and the national economy.

While at LERC the Goertzens were given a detailed presentation of LERC's electronic archives and database.