

Associate Professor from San Diego University Visits LERC on Syrian Refugees Project

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Dr. Shawn Flanigan, Associate Professor of Public Administration in the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University (SDSU), U.S.A., visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) to interview Dr. Guita Hourani, LERC Director, regarding the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Dr. Flanigan also took the opportunity to discuss her interest in diaspora philanthropy.

Dr. Flanigan discussed with Dr. Hourani her interest in the role of power and coercion in service provision to vulnerable populations in Lebanon, particularly the Syrian refugees. She wishes to address this dynamic in health and social service provision by examining the role of faith-based organizations, political parties, and civil society organizations in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey.



Ms. Haddad (left) and Dr. Flanigan (right) at LERC Offices in NDU (Dec. 2014)

Dr. Hourani presented Dr. Flanigan with an overview of the Center's capacity, particularly concerning field research, *methodological approaches for conducting research in conflict zones and on hard-to-reach populations*, literature review, and media monitoring, among other topics

of interest. Dr. Hourani also shared her conclusions and observations, which she gathered during her research and writing of four reports on the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Dr. Hourani mentioned to Dr. Flanigan that the Center has performed a brief research on the philanthropy of the Lebanese diaspora and added that this is an under-researched topic, which is of great interest to the LERC and the diaspora field.

Dr. Flanigan completed her B.A. in Latin American Studies and her M.A. in Public Administration at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, U.S.A. She received her PhD in Public Administration and Policy in 2007 from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany-SUNY, New York. Dr. Flanigan currently teaches both the undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of Public Policy, Public Administration, and Non-profit Organizations (NGOs) at SDSU.

The Associate Professor specializes in “Comparative Public Administration” and “Nonprofit Organizations,” as both policy actors and service providers. Her research focuses on the role non-profit organizations play in meeting the health and social service needs of minorities and marginalized groups, with a specific interest in the developing world and low-income populations in the United States. She has conducted field research throughout the world in countries, such as: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Romania, Sri Lanka, and the United States, and has collected additional data from Mexico, Palestine, and the Philippines.

Dr. Flanigan is currently applying for funding to finance her research project in Lebanon. She expressed explicit interest in collaborating with the Center and Dr. Hourani.