

Journalist and writer Claude Saliba calls upon LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Ms. Claude Saliba, journalist and writer, paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center, where she met with LERC Project Manager, Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek. Over the course of the interview, Ms. Abdel Khalek explained to Ms. Saliba about the operations within LERC and gave a presentation of LERC's current projects, especially the research underway on citizenship entitled *Acquisition and Loss of Nationality: The Case of Lebanon*.

Ms. Abdel Khalek informed Ms. Saliba about the other LERC projects underway including *The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Lebanese Expatriates in the Gulf Countries*; *Impact of Naturalization on Employability, Social Mobility, and Economic Development of the Naturalized Kurds in Lebanon*; the book in the process of being printed on the Arabs in Cuba, and the book in the making on out-of-country voting.

Ms. Saliba was also introduced to all of LERC's publications including the Center's latest book *Our People* and NDU's Palmer Journal special issue on Lebanese migration.

Ms. Saliba was particularly interested in the cause and circumstances of Lebanese migration to Africa and the situation of the Lebanese diaspora there. Her other concerns was the immediate and worrying emigration of young graduates seeking a life abroad.

Concerning data on the Lebanese emigrants in the world, since there are neither accurate studies nor research available that pinpoints Lebanese related populations abroad, Ms. Abdel Khalek was able to provide her with only estimates.

Ms. Saliba was then introduced to LERC's infrastructure and given a presentation of the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database. She was then taken on a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU.

She left with warm wishes for LERC's future endeavors and gratitude for preserving the memories of Lebanese expatriates.



Ms. Claude Saliba pictured in front of the *Evacuation* painting at the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU (Jan 2010).