

Conference on “Exiles and Destinations: The Foreigner, Out of His Place”

Thursday May 31st, 2012. Main Library, Room 3, USEK Main Campus.

Reported by *Victoria B. Huerta, LERC Research Affiliate*

The Center of Studies and Cultures of Latin America (CECAL) at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), in collaboration with the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC-NDU), organized a conference on the theme of “Exiles and Destinations: The Foreigner, Out of His Place”, given by Dr. María Ester Jozami, Argentinian of Lebanese origin. The conference was translated from Spanish into English by Victoria B. Huerta.

Dr. Jozami holds a Ph.D. in Social Psychology. She is Professor in the Department of Psychoanalysis and Head of the Department of Free Studies of Lebanon at the John F. Kennedy Argentinian University. She has written several books in Spanish regarding psychological matters such as *De violencias y Destinos: modalidades de victimización, Buenos Aires, 2012*, *Presentación del Líbano: entre Oriente y Occidente, Buenos Aires, 2011*, *De exilios y destinos. El extranjero: un sujeto fuera de lugar, Buenos Aires, 2011* and *De pasiones y destinos, Buenos Aires 2009*, amongst others.

During her conference, Dr. Jozami stated that when talking about migration and migrants it becomes essential to ask what an immigrant is. She reminded the audience that is the modern state which is endeavoring to classify and to define both the same time the citizens that have certain rights and the foreigners who cannot claim such rights.



From left to right: Mr. Roberto Khatlab, Director of CECAL-USEK and Dr. María Ester Jozami.

Dr. Jozami exhorted the assistants to think what at stake when asking a couple of basic questions to someone: What is your name? What do you do? These necessarily point to something beyond the literal interpretation of the possible answers, of which one might be unaware of. She is

certain that they obviously concern questions related to a personal journey, enabling everyone to present themselves, and refer to his or her belongingness: ideological, language, territory, etc.



The audience attending Dr. Jozami's conference.

After Dr. Jozami's speech at USEK, she visited the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at Notre Dame University-Louaize. She was given a tour of the different collections the Museum has in permanent exhibition. Once the tour had ended, Dr. Jozami presented Director of LERC Guita Hourani with her book *Presentación del Líbano: entre Oriente y Occidente*.



From left to right: Dr. María Jozami and Mrs. Guita Hourani.

Director Guita Hourani was pleased to receive from Dr. Jozami a copy of two other of her books, *De exilios y destinos* and *De pasiones y destinos*, which will be available in LERC's library. Besides this, Dr. Jozami sent a painting of her late sister, Daniela Jozami, to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum in order for it to become part of the permanent exhibition. The visit of Dr. Jozami confirmed the ties between LERC and the Argentinian Lebanese community.