

***LERC Welcomes Dr. Elsa el-Hachem Kirby
Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC
March 4, 2014***

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) welcomed on March 4, 2014, from noon to 2:00 p.m., Dr. Elsa el-Hachem Kirby at the Abou Khater Hall Conference Room, NDU Main Campus..

Dr. Guita Hourani, LERC Director, welcomed Dr. Kirby to the roundtable moderated by Dr. Elie Menassa, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE) at NDU. A number of NDU professors, staff members, students, and the LERC team attended the event.



Dr. ElHachem Kirby, Dr. Hourani and Dr. Menassa at the NDU Abou Khater Auditorium (March 4, 2014)

In the first part of her presentation, Dr. Kirby addressed the scope of integration of the Lebanese, as a concept within a sociological framework. She also discussed how the specific notion of ‘Brazilian-style’ integration allowed the group to preserve its specificity while still becoming a permanent part of Brazilian society. In the second part, she dealt with the factors that were external to the group and those that were inherent to it.

She traced changes that operated over the course of the process to the advantage of the group in three key areas: Education and training, profession, and family. Finally, she broadly identified indicators of this integration that are henceforth assumed to be common to all other areas and sectors of social life. Depending on the individual, the pattern varies and is a dynamic and multidimensional process. The presentation focused on what was observed during the field work and through the prism of entrepreneurship.

Lastly, attendees were able to inquire further about the topic, as well as to make any additional comments and conclusions in that respect. They also touched upon the issue of how the Lebanese community communicated across different sectors.