

Recent Cambridge University PhD. graduate Andrew Arsan seeks out LERC for his upcoming book on the Lebanese diaspora

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Dr. Andrew Arsan visited LERC to discuss with its Director Ms. Guita Hourani cooperation on his upcoming book on the Lebanese in the Diaspora. The book covers the main waves of Lebanese migration from the 1880s to the 1950s. This book is based on the historical work undertaken for his Ph.D., which took him to the archives in Paris, Provence, Beirut and Dakar.

Dr. Arsan, son of Lebanese emigrants, lived in Lebanon and France and is now settled in London, UK. He graduated in December 2009 from the University of Cambridge with a Ph.D. in history. His dissertation was entitled the *Lebanese Migrants in West Africa 1898-1939*. In 2005, Dr. Arsan was awarded the Royal Historical Society/ History Today Undergraduate Essay Prize for his undergraduate thesis on the Lebanese author and political journalist Shukri Ghanem (1861-1929).



Dr. Andrew Arsan pictured at the LERC Library during his visit to the Center (Jan 2010).

He discussed with Ms. Hourani the possibility of cooperating with LERC for the publication of his book. Ms. Hourani briefed him on what LERC can offer, particularly in terms of research infrastructure and offered him an association status at LERC which will allow him to conduct research using LERC's diverse and unique collections. Dr. Arsan was pleased with the cordial reception and accepted the offer to come to LERC as an associate in the summer of 2010.

Dr. Arsan was then taken on a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU by Mr. Elie Nabhan, followed by an introduction to the Lebanese Emigration Archives Database by Mrs. Liliane Haddad.

He was greatly impressed by the variety of material that the Center houses and particularly the range of historical and contemporary photographs