

## **Dr. Andrew Arsan of the University Cambridge wins the 2015 Dr. Fayad-Taan Award from LERC of NDU**

**By Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC Staff**  
**2 August 2016**



The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC), of the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) of Notre Dame University- Louaize (NDU), is pleased to announce the winner of Dr. Dunia Fayad-Taan Grant/Award for 2015. The winner of this year's Award is Dr. Andrew Arsan of the University of Cambridge for his book *Interlopers of Empire: The Lebanese Diaspora in Colonial French West Africa* (London and New York: Hurst and Oxford University Press, 2014)

Dr. Arsan is a cultural, political and intellectual historian of the Arabic-speaking Levant in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, he is a currently University Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Modern Middle Eastern History in the Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of St. John's College. His first book was *Interlopers of Empire: The Lebanese Diaspora in Colonial French West Africa* which was jointly awarded the Royal Historical Society's 2015 Gladstone History Book Prize for the best first book in non-British history. His other

publications include *The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Middle Eastern Mandates* (London and New York: Routledge, 2015). Dr. Arsan has also published several articles in journals such as the *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Modern Intellectual History*, and the *Journal of Global History*. He held several positions at the University of London and at Princeton University in the US.

The 2014 Fayad-Ta'an grant went to Ms. Marwa El Chab who is a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris for her current research on the dynamics of capitalism, sub-Saharan migrations, ethnic business, Lebanese Diasporas and networks. The main goal of the project is to understand how current economic reconfigurations of destination countries in West Africa and the arrival of new economic actors impact Lebanese economic activities. With multi-sited fieldwork in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and Dakar (Senegal), and through a socio-anthropologic lens, this research hopes to bring a new understanding of the Lebanese migration and businesses in West-Africa.

Dr. Dunia Fayad-Ta'an is an ethno-sociologist with a Ph.D. from the Université de Nice in France. Dr. Ta'an, who hails from South Lebanon, has spent time studying and living abroad especially in France, Morocco and the Ivory Coast. The book is a result of further research into West Africa. She is the author of *Les Libanais en Côte d'Ivoire d'Hier à Aujourd'hui*. While an Associate Researcher with LERC she worked on the Arabic translation of her book which was later published by NDU Press in 2007.

The call for application for the 2016 Dr. Dunia Fayad-Ta'an will be announced in early September 2016. Those who are interested should contact the Lebanese Emigration Research Center.