

Drs. Hourani and Sensenig Were Keynote Speakers at the Finnish Institute in the Middle East

***By LERC Staff
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Dr. Guita Hourani, Assistant Professor at the Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) and Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU, and Dr. Eugene Sensenig, Assistant Professor for Political Science at the FLPS, NDU, were both invited to attend a workshop titled, “*New Forms of Trans-border Mobility*,” as keynote speakers. The workshop was organized by the Finnish Institute in the Middle East (FIME), which is headquartered in Beirut, in cooperation with the Institute of Migration, Turku, Finland; the Åbo Akademi University Centre of Excellence Young Adults and Religion in a Global Perspective; the Academy of Finland Center of Excellence of the Universities of Oulu and Tampere.



Dr. Sensenig and Dr. Hourani at the Finnish Institute in Beirut with conference speakers and organizers

The rationale behind the workshop was that “international migration and increased internal mobility in general are among the currently most debated areas.” This workshop focused on emerging issues in transnational mobility, including different forms of circular migration,

transmigration, and other forms of temporary visits in a transnational realm (students, professionals, refugees, and tourists). The workshop departed from an understanding that current forms of international migration and mobility are socially highly divided and also that new forms of (global) precariousness have emerged.



Dr. Hourani during her keynote speech

Under the title of “*State Sovereignty, Security, and Refugees’ Trans-border mobility in the Age of Jihadist Groups*,” Dr. Sensenig gave an overview on sovereignty, refugees, and the global south, speaking about fortress Europe, “cordon sanitaire,” and securitization.

Dr. Hourani spoke on the “ladder of options” in the case of Lebanon, highlighting the “options” taken by Lebanon in dealing with the infiltration of jihadists and takfiri groups in the Syrian refugee communities in Lebanon as well as Lebanon’s policies to counter the threat of ISIS.

A serious effort is being made to publish the papers of this workshop in a series published by the Université de Genève.