

PRESS RELEASE

PALMA JOURNAL'S SPECIAL ISSUE ON LEBANESE MIGRATION

Notre Dame University – Louaizé publishes *Special Palma Journal on Lebanese Migration*

Palma Journal's special issue on migration has been released by Notre Dame University – Louaizé (NDU). In this volume Palma has joined hands with the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU to tackle the issue of Lebanese migration from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Some of the most insightful work currently being undertaken on Lebanese migration is presented in this volume. It is made up of two articles on migration history and four on contemporary topics.

The first article in the issue is written by Dr. Anne Monsour and is entitled *New century, old story! Race, religion, bureaucrats, and the Australian Lebanese story*. The article provides an overview of the history of Lebanese settlement in Australia and discusses these immigrants' encounter with racial classification and discrimination.

The second article is *The Transnational Imagination: XXth century networks and institutions of the Mashreqi migration to Mexico*, by Dr. Camila Pastor de Maria y Campos, where the author addresses the issues of networking, institution formation, and role of the Lebanese community in Mexico from its beginning until the present.

In the third article *Balad Niswen – Hukum Niswen: The perception of gender inversions between Lebanon and Australia*, Ms. Nelia Hyndman-Rizik addresses the issue of gender roles of male emigrants from the village of Hadsheet in North Lebanon now living in Sydney. She maintains that their self-perception has been emasculated by the migration process.

The article *Diaspora and E-Commerce: The Globalization of Lebanese Baklava* was written by Guita Hourani. The paper argues that new technologies allow small and medium enterprises in developing countries, especially those with “ethnic” or “nostalgic” merchandise, to carve out a niche for their products in the international market. Taking e-commerce in baklava production as an example, this study shows how the main producers of this delicacy used ICT to tap into the Lebanese diaspora, as described in “business to diaspora” theory.

Rita Stephan's article, *Lebanese-Americans' Identity, Citizenship and Political Behavior*, examines Lebanese-Americans' political behavior in order to give a better understanding of the correlation between identity politics and ethnic minority citizenship. Stephan surveys how Lebanese, and Arab-Americans as a group, identify themselves and how they are identified by US society.

The final article, *Pathways to Social Mobility: Lebanese Immigrants in Detroit and Small Business Enterprise*, was written by Sawsan Abdulrahim. Abdulrahim aims at understanding the

roots of the Lebanese immigrants' decision to engage in small-businesses in their new home country.

This special issue of Palma Journal is an academic contribution of Notre Dame University in Lebanon that expands discourse on Lebanese migration. The reader will certainly discover many new insights into the field of empirical migration studies and into the ongoing debates on migration theory. This issue aspires to promote further dialogue on migration between scholars in the West and those in the Middle East.

The Journal is available from NDU Press at the University's main campus in Zouk Mosbeh. For further information please visit Palma's website <http://electra.ndu.edu.lb/research/ndupress/palma/Index.htm> or contact Mrs. Lydia Zgheib-Chidiac at 09-218950 ext. 2329.