The Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES)  
American University of Beirut  

Cordially invites you to a lecture  

Pax Americana: The United States and the Middle East in 1958  

By  

Dr. Jeffrey G. Karam  
Lebanese American University  

Tuesday December 4, 2018 at 6:00 pm  
Auditorium B, West Hall  

The revolutionary year of 1958 in the Middle East invited a global, regional, and domestic response to waning British and French power, rising American hegemony, and growing rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union in the first decade of the Cold War. In the context of the Cold War and the Arab Cold War between revolutionary regimes, led by Egypt, and conservative ones, led by Iraq, the revolutionary year of 1958 epitomized the height of the social uprisings, military coups, and civil wars that erupted across the Middle East and North Africa. Existing scholarship has analyzed the revolutionary year in the Middle East by focusing predominantly on critical developments in Egypt, Lebanon, and Iraq. However, there is little scholarship on the wider and much inclusive understanding of connections between the failed and successful revolutionary struggles in Arab, non-Arab, and North African states. The seminar will first introduce the forthcoming and tentatively titled volume *The Middle East in 1958: Reimagining a Revolutionary Year* and the upcoming conference at the American University of Beirut’s Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies in Spring 2019. It will then briefly present the findings of one of the edited volume's book chapters on the United States in the Middle East in 1958 by drawing on newly declassified U.S. intelligence and diplomatic records, memoirs, and multilingual sources. One of the goals of this seminar is to discuss U.S. policies at the crossroads of the revolutionary moment in 1958 and explain how an interdisciplinary and multilingual analysis of local, regional, and global dynamics is vital for analyzing foreign policy processes and outcomes, diplomatic relations, and state development and underdevelopment in the Middle East and North Africa.

Dr. Jeffrey G. Karam (MA ’10) is an assistant professor of political science and international affairs at the Lebanese American University. He is also a non-resident associate at the Middle East Initiative at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. Prior to joining LAU in fall 2018, Dr. Karam was a postdoctoral research fellow in the International Security Program at Harvard University’s Belfer Center. He was also a visiting assistant professor of international relations and Middle East politics at Boston University’s Pardee School of Global Studies and Harvard University’s Summer School. He is the author of several articles, book chapters, and policy briefs on U.S. intelligence and foreign policy in the Middle East and the politics of Lebanon and the Middle East. He is the recipient of several highly prestigious awards, research grants, and fellowships. His research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals and other venues, including *Intelligence and National Security*, the *Arab Studies Journal*, and the *Washington Post*. Dr. Karam is currently finishing his first book on the nexus between American intelligence and foreign policy in the Middle East, and editing a forthcoming interdisciplinary volume on the revolutionary year of 1958 in the Middle East and North Africa.