"Political Changes through Medical Glasses"

Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, American University of Beirut
ga60@aub.edu.lb

DESCRIPTION:
The biological aim of wars is to wound and out-wound the enemy. The war wound carries with it a political capital that remains for the lifetime of the patient. The value of this capital changes with the changing political fortunes of the imperial and regional projects for which these wars were waged. This paper builds on my personal experiences as a plastic surgeon—with interest in war surgery—working at the American University of Beirut and in different conflict settings in the region. By looking at the political value of war injuries of Iraqi patients traveling to Beirut for surgical care, I show that how one can more accurately and antecedently assess the fragments and fault lines of the competing political projects vying for hegemony in Iraq.