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

Cordially invites you to a lecture

A State without Citizens: The Tragedy of Syrian History

Kevin W. Martin
Indiana University

Tuesday, March 15 at 5:30pm
West Hall, Auditorium B

Abstract In Syria, the years 1954–1958 are popularly known as the “Democratic Years.” It was a brief period of civilian, parliamentary government before the consolidation of authoritarian rule. In this talk, Kevin W. Martin places this period in historical context. He focused on the role of mass media and professional expertise in the project of “making” citizens, and traces the process by which politically motivated violence was exploited to militarize the concept of citizenship, institutionalize the army’s role in politics, and ultimately, undermine Syria’s experiment with democratic governance.

Bio Kevin W. Martin is Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Indiana University. His research on the cultural history of the twentieth-century Levant has been published by Indiana University Press, The International Journal of Middle East Studies, History Compass, and The Journal of Cold War Studies.