



Archives and Special Collections Department,  
American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon  
© 2018

## **Betty Anderson Oral History Collection, 2005-2006**

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB  
Prepared by Dalya Nouh

Contact information:

[asc@aub.edu.lb](mailto:asc@aub.edu.lb)

Webpage:

[www.aub.edu.lb/Libraries/asc](http://www.aub.edu.lb/Libraries/asc)

## **Descriptive Summary**

**Call No.:** OH: 320.54

**Library Catalog ID:** [b19213578](#)

**Record Creator:** Anderson, Betty S. (Betty Signe) 1965-

**Collection Title:** Betty Anderson Oral History Collection, 2005-2006.

**Collection Dates:** 2005-2006

**Physical Description:** 13 interviews

**Language(s):** English, Arabic

## **Administrative Information**

**Source:** The collection was donated by Dr. Betty Anderson to the Archives and Special Collections Department, Jafet Library, in January 2006.

**Access Restrictions:** The collection can be used within the premises of the Archives and Special Collections Department, Jafet Memorial Library, American University of Beirut.

**Preferred Citation:** Betty Anderson Oral History Collection, 2005-2006, OH: 320.54, Sd:AUB:xxx, American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

## **Scope and Content**

Around 13 oral history interviews were conducted by Makram Rabah and Dr. Betty Anderson, Professor of Middle Eastern History at Boston University, in 2005-2006, as background research for a book project by Dr. Anderson. The interviewees were selected amongst AUB alumni, and members of the AUB administration. All interviews were collected to fill in documentation gaps for research in support of Anderson's book: "The American University of Beirut: Arab Nationalism and Liberal Education" which was eventually published in 2011, by the University of Texas Press. The interviews focused on the interviewees' social and educational backgrounds prior to their service to AUB, their memories and perceptions of AUB during their service years, with a focus on the following decades: the 60s and 70s. The interviews provide a glimpse of student life and student activism during a turbulent time of Lebanon and AUB's history during those two decades. The interviews constitute a good source of information for researchers interested in the history of AUB and the region, in student activism, movements of resistance, politics, history of education, and the socio-cultural and political modern history of AUB and Lebanon during those two decades.

Sample questions asked during the oral history interviews focus on the following: Where the interviewees grew up; where they went to school before AUB; their memories of their time at AUB, and their overall impression of AUB, and their analyses of the socio-cultural and political situation in those two decades.

## Arrangement

The Collection is arranged in two series, based on the background, functions and roles of the interviewees:

**Series I:** AUB Alumni

**Series II:** AUB Faculty, Deans and Administrators

## Historical Background

To complement rare existing historical resources documenting the 60s and 70s at AUB and in the region, Dr. Betty Anderson conducted, with the help of Mr. Makram Rabah, several interviews with several AUB Alumni, faculty, and administration members. The interviews aimed to examine this turbulent period in the institution and the region's history, and to shed light on students' activism, and movements of resistance during this period. Dr. Anderson also aimed to explore the interaction between liberal arts education and the political engagement of students, in the period when Arab nationalism, Syrian nationalism, Nasserism, and the Palestinian issue were crucial formative ideas and movements in the region. The main idea, per Anderson's book, was to use AUB as a prism to reflect the socioeconomic and ideological changes that took place in the Middle East in the mid- twentieth century.

Please see: [https://www.aub.edu.lb/maingate/Documents/v3\\_2004-2005\\_no1-4\\_pt1.pdf](https://www.aub.edu.lb/maingate/Documents/v3_2004-2005_no1-4_pt1.pdf)

## Subject Headings

American University of Beirut -- History -- Interviews.

American University of Beirut -- Alumni and alumnae.

American University of Beirut -- Faculty.

Universities and colleges -- Lebanon -- History.

Oral history -- Middle East.

Education, Higher -- Middle East.

Education, Humanistic -- Arab countries.

Nationalism -- Arab countries.

Student movements -- Lebanon.

Student strikes -- Lebanon -- Beirut -- History.

College students -- Political activity -- Lebanon.

Autobiography.

Interviews.

## Container List

### Series I: Alumni

**Mohammed Dajani**, December 21, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/12/21 (128 min.)

Born in 1946 in Palestine, Dr. Mohammed Suleiman Dajani Daoudi is a former AUB professor (provide dates) and peace activist. As a young man at the American University of Beirut in the 1960s, Mohammed Dajani was a student activist and a member of Fatah, fighting for the liberation of Palestine. He earned a PhD in government from the University of South Carolina and another PhD in political economy from the University of Texas, Austin. Over the years, Dajani's positions and beliefs evolved towards advocating conflict resolution and moderation, working to end conflict through sharing personal narratives. He co-founded the Wasatia movement of moderate Islam. Since resigning from Al Quds University in 2014, Dajani helped found - in collaboration with Friedrich Schiller University in Germany - a PhD program in reconciliation and peace negotiations.

**Mohamad Mashnouk**, July 18, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/07/18 (113 min.)

Born in 1941, HE Mohammad Machnouk earned a BA in Political Science and Public Administration from AUB in 1968. Machnouk also holds a degree in Media Studies from the University of Strasbourg in France. Mr. Mohammad Machnouk was appointed Minister of the Environment in the government of Tammam Salam in 2013. Machnouk held several positions in the public and private sectors, including General Director of the *Beirut al Massa* newspaper (1966-73), General Director of the National News Agency at the Ministry of Information (1973-79), Representative of Lebanon to the Standing Committee of the Arab Media in the Arab League (1973-79), President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (1988-89), media lecturer at the Lebanese University and Beirut University College (1975-85), Member of the Board of Trustees of Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association (1978-2004), Chairman of the Education Committee (1994-04), President of the Cultural Council of the city of Beirut (2000-04), President of the American University Alumni Association (1998-2004), and a member of its Supreme Council. He has published several books and works.

**Munah El-Solh**, July 9, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/07/09 (122 min.)

Munah El-Solh (1927-2014) was a preeminent Lebanese newspaper editor and a Lebanese Arab political activist. Munah graduated with a BA 1951 from the American University of Beirut. In 1987, Solh co-founded Dar al-Nadwa, a dialogue center meant to create a space for the exchange of ideas during the harsh years of the 1975-1990 Lebanese Civil War. He also co-founded the Arab Nationalist Conference in 1990, the Arab Nationalist Forum in 1992, and the Islamic

Nationalist Conference in 1994. He was honored by the Arab Cultural Club at the 48th Beirut Arab and International Book Fair, 2004, for his outstanding achievements as a writer and critic. El-Solh was a firm believer in Arab nationalism and a firm believer in the right of Palestinians to return to their occupied lands.

**Salim el-Hoss**, July 14, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/07/14(02) (74 min.)

Born in Beirut, Salim El-Hoss received his BBA with distinction (1952), and his MA (1957) both from the American University of Beirut. He also holds a PhD in Business and Economics from Indiana University (1961). El Hoss has been an AUB trustee emeritus since 2001, and a trustee 1991-2000. El-Hoss taught at AUB, primarily as an Associate Professor of Business Administration. Prime Minister El-Hoss is currently chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Combating Corruption and vice-chair of the Board of Trustees for the Arab Democracy Foundation. He is a former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Minister of Education, and long-time Member of Parliament, representing Beirut. Past business posts include President of the Banking Supervision Committee, Lebanon; Chairman of the Board of Banque Arabe et Internationale d'investissement, Paris; and Chairman of the Board and General Manager of the National Bank for Industrial Development, Lebanon.

## **Series II: Faculty / Deans /Administrators**

**Huda Zurayk**, January 12, 2006.

Sd:AUB:2006/01/12 (59 min.)

Professor and Former Dean, Huda Zurayk was the first woman academic dean at AUB, Faculty of Health Sciences, and is an internationally recognized scholar on reproductive health and health in the Arab World. Born in Beirut, Zurayk graduated from AUB with a BA in statistics in 1965. Then, after completing an MA at Harvard University in 1966, Zurayk returned to Beirut and was eventually recruited to teach statistics at AUB's School of Public Health. She received her PhD in biostatistics and population dynamics from Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health, 1974, and the next year resumed her role at AUB. Zurayk has been influential in helping to build institutions, partnerships, and networks that allow collective efforts in the fragmented Arab world and ensure quality and sustainability for building capacity and knowledge.

**Ibrahim Salti**, July 13, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/07/13 (36 min.)

Ibrahim Salti is Head of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the American University of Beirut. Dr. Salti graduated from the American University of Beirut, Medical School with distinction in 1963. In 1970, he obtained a PhD in Medical Sciences from the Institute of Medical Sciences at the University of Toronto. During his tenure as Deputy President

of AUB from 1987-93, he helped guide the university through the various turbulences of the civil war. He established the first clinical endocrinology fellowship program in the region at the American University of Beirut. In addition, Dr. Salti introduced the first radioimmunoassay hormone assays laboratory in the region. In 1999, he established the Pan-Arab Congress for Endocrinology and Diabetes which meets annually and is a vehicle for cooperation and continuing education. Dr. Salti has authored over 100 publications, has been an invited speaker in more than 400 CME events in Lebanon and the region. He is a member of several professional societies around the world.

**Elie Salem**, July 25, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/07/25 (36 min.)

Elie Salem earned a BA in Political Science from AUB in 1950, and an MA in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Cincinnati in 1951. He completed his PhD in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies at The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, in 1953. Salem was chair of AUB's Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, (1972-1974) and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (1974-1982). Salem was also Lebanon's Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1982 -1988. He was elected as President of Balamand University in 1993. Salem is the author of numerous articles and books on the history of Lebanon.

**Kamal Salibi**, June 1; 30, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/06/01 (117 min.) /

Sd:AUB:2005/06/30 (130 min.)

Kamal Suleiman Salibi completed his secondary education at the Prep School in Beirut (now International College), and his BA in History and Political Science from AUB (date?). After his graduation from SOAS (PhD in history 1953), Salibi joined AUB as bibliographer of the Arab Studies Program. He then became Professor in the Department of History and Archaeology where he joined other prominent and already established historians such as Nicholas Ziadeh and Zeine Zeine. In 1994, Salibi helped found the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies in Amman, Jordan, and became its director from 1997 until 2004. He was associated as a consultant with the Druze Heritage Foundation. He retired from the Department of History and Archeology at the American University of Beirut in 1998 and became Professor Emeritus. Salibi's research and teaching output spans over half a century and includes seminal works such as *The Modern History of Lebanon* (1965) and *A House of Many Mansions: The History of Lebanon Reconsidered* (1988). Professor Kamal Salibi died on September 1, 2011.

**Nabeel Ashkar**, July 14, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/07/14(01) (95 min.)

Nabeel G. Ashkar (BBA 1945) joined AUB in June 1965 as Director of Alumni affairs at the Office of Development and Centennial Affairs. He went on to serve as Acting Public Relations Officer, Executive Secretary of the Commencement Committee, and Commencement Coordinator under President Harold Hoelscher. In 1970, he was asked by President Kirkwood to assume the position of Assistant Registrar for public relations. While at AUB, he drafted the regulations for Order of Precedence at the University Functions, wrote the text for Commencement Exercises at the request of President Hoelscher, prepared guidelines for the use of university premises for public activities, and, at the request of Vice President Adnan Iskandar, drafted a general University Policy Manual. Ashkar also helped to design the AUB faculty emblems. He also designed the AUB ring, and then at the request of President Hoelscher, designed a set of AUB cufflinks. Ashkar was given the title of Honorary University Marshal. He died on October 15, 2007.

**Nabil Dajani**, July 7, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/07/07 (81 min.)

Born in Jerusalem in 1937, professor Dajani earned his BA (1957), and MA (1960) degrees in sociology from the American University of Beirut (AUB). He also holds a PhD in mass communication theory and research from the University of Iowa, USA. Dajani is a Professor of Communication and Media Studies in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies. Dr. Dajani helped found the Mass Communications Program at AUB and served as Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences between 1979 and 1984. He is a founding member and first chairperson of the Board of Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) and board member of the Center for the Freedom of the Press in the MENA region. He also served as President of the Faculty Association of the American University of Beirut and General Secretary of the AUB Alumni Association. He is served as President of the Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut (WAA-AUB) for two terms (2011-.2015) Prof. Dajani is the author of several books and published a number of research articles in professional journals in English and Arabic. He has contributed to international and regional professional communication meetings.

**Nicola Ziadeh**, July 8, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/07/08 (93 min.)

Professor Ziadeh (1907-2006) taught history at AUB from 1949 to 1973. He went on to devote himself to education and scholarship for more than seventy-five years. Professor Ziadeh published more than forty books in Arabic, dealing with Arabic-Islamic civilization and culture. Over the years, Professor Ziadeh presented almost 150 academic articles and papers at various conferences, published hundreds of short articles and book reviews, and between 1947 and 2000

delivered almost two thousand short broadcasts (for the BBC and other networks) in Arabic on a variety of historical subjects. Ziadeh was a member of several academic societies, including the American Oriental Society, the American Medieval Society, and the Iraqi Academic Society. Professor Emeritus Nicola Ziadeh died on July 27, 2006.

**Samir Makdisi**, August 11, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/08/11 (68 min.)

Born in Beirut 1932, Professor Samir Makdisi earned his BA (1953) and MA (1955) in Economics from AUB, and his PhD in Economics from Columbia University (1959). Makdisi is Professor Emeritus of Economics and served as Chairman of the Department of Economics at AUB. He served as Deputy President of AUB from 1993-98. He was founding director of AUB's Institute of Financial Economics (1984-2007). Makdisi was on the staff of the International Monetary Fund (Exchange and Trade Relations Department) between 1962-1972. Professor Makdisi was appointed Minister of Economy and Trade in 1992. Since 1987, Professor Makdisi has been General-Secretary of the Cairo-based Arab Society for Economic Research. He served as Policy Coordinator at the Lebanese Government's Bureau of Economic Policy Coordination 1979-1983. Professor Makdisi has also been a member of various economic committees established by regional and international organizations. He is the author of several books and numerous articles published in professional and academic journals, addressing various issues in economics, and development in the Arab world.

**Shafik Jaha**, August 5, 2005.

Sd:AUB:2005/08/05 (109 min.)

Born in Beshmezin-Koura in 1912, Jaha earned a BA (1933) and an MA (1944) in history from AUB. Mr. Jaha began his teaching career in 1933 at the IC Elementary School. In 1944, he was appointed Chairman of the Social Studies Department at IC, which at that time included History, Civics and Geography. He was also a member of AUB's Education department, where he taught between 1954 and 1970. Jaha was responsible for introducing the systematic teaching of national and civic education in Lebanon, prior to its being included in the official Lebanese curriculum. He also co-authored forty textbooks and is the author of several other books in Arabic. Shafik Jaha died on January 25, 2011.

## **Related Material**

### **Audio**

- Press Conference by Howard W. Page: AUB Students' Strike [1974] [Sd:AUB:1974/04/04](#)

### **Archival Material**

- Students 1970s [ARCHIVE AA:4.3.9](#)



- Students 1960s [ARCHIVE AA:4.3.8](#)

## **Books**

- Anderson, B. S. (2014). *American University of Beirut: Arab Nationalism and Liberal Education*. Austin: University of Texas Press. [J 378.569:A545a:c.1](#)
- Ghusayni, R. S. (1974). Student activism at Lebanon's universities, 1951-1971. [CA 378.198:G427s:c.1](#)
- Rabah, M. G. (2009). *A campus at war: Student politics at the American university of Beirut, 1967-1975*. Beirut: Dar Nelson. [J 378.5692:R112c:c.1](#)

## **Serials**

- [Outlook: Organ of the Students' Association \(1960-1974\)](#)
- [Campus \(yearbook\) \(1963-1975\)](#)

## **Posters**

- Are we to Stand Still and do Nothing? Wake Up for God's Sake. [Ps:AUB:1970s\(22\):01](#)
- Why Do We Want a Responsible Government? [Ps:AUB:1970s\(26\):01](#)

## **Photographs**

- Students Clashes on Campus, 1972 [Ph:AUB:1972/02\(02\):01:53](#)

## **Thesis**

- Rabah, M. G. (2007). *The student movement at the American University of Beirut*. [T:4933:c.1](#); [Mic-T:4933:Master:c.1](#)

## **Palestinian Oral History Archive**

- [Issam Fares Institute \(IFI\) Page](#)
- [Al-Nakba: 1948 Palestinian Exodus: Oral History LibGuide](#)