

For Immediate Release



## Upcoming events at AUB

Beirut, Lebanon- 19/04/2012 - The following seven events will be taking place at the American University of Beirut in the coming days:

- **Lecture on the “digital occupation” of Palestine**

The Center for American Studies and Research is organizing a lecture entitled "Digital Occupation: Cellular Im/Mobilities in Palestine-Israel," by Helga Tawil-Souri, from the Department of Middle East and Islamic Studies at NYU, Abu Dhabi, and Institute for Palestine Studies.

The lecture will be held on April 22, 2013, 6-8 pm, in West Hall Auditorium B.

The talk will highlight the impossibility of making a telephone call between four places less than 10 kilometers apart in Palestine-Israel. It will demonstrate how infrastructures and hi-tech networks are political and territorial processes; and in the case of Palestine-Israel are material manifestations of the conflict itself.

Helga Tawil-Souri is an associate professor of media, culture, and communication at New York University. Her work focuses on issues of spatiality, technology, and politics in the Middle East, with a particular focus on cultural/technological bordering mechanisms in contemporary Israel-Palestine. Her publications have analyzed different aspects of contemporary cultural politics, including the internet, telecommunications, television, film, and videogames, as well as physical markers such as ID cards and checkpoints.

- **City Debates 2013**

The Department of Architecture and Design is organizing the annual Masters in Urban Planning and Policy/Masters in Urban Design programs' annual conference, "City Debates 2013," to be held on April 22-24, 2013, in the Architecture Lecture Hall.

On Apr 22 at 6:30pm, Professor Neema Kudva will deliver the opening keynote address, entitled “Critical Interventions: Advancing Equity in the Informal City.”

The conference’s full program and speakers’ biographies may be found at:

<http://webfea.fea.aub.edu.lb/citydebates/2013/>

City Debates is an annual conference that brings together professionals, academics, and students from Beirut and beyond to explore issues of contemporary relevance to the

urbanization of the region. Over the past few years, City Debates has addressed issues such as cultural heritage and the politics of the present, security of/in the city, and emerging practices in urban design.

Titled "Rethinking Informality: Design Tactics/Planning Strategies," City Debates 2013 will address the theme of informal spatial production as it materializes in different scalar levels and within multiple contexts of the Middle-East and beyond. By bringing together scholars, practicing planners and designers, as well as activists engaged in a reflection about the spatial production of informal settlements, their changing position in ever-growing cities, and their relation to both the agricultural and urban landscapes at the intersection of which they often stand, the event seeks to articulate a critical discourse about planning and design that goes beyond the traditional/professional understandings of these disciplines. Case studies will be taken from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt but also India, Columbia, Germany, France, the United States, and more to draw parallels across national contexts. In light of the centrality of forced population displacement movements in our region, special attention is given in refugee camps as key sites of informality.

- **Museum lecture : 'Hegra - La Petra du Hijaz: Fouilles Franco-Saoudiennes (2008-2013)'**

The Society of the Friends of the Museum is organizing a lecture entitled "Hegra - La Petra du Hijaz: Fouilles Franco-Saoudiennes (2008-2013)," by Francois Villeneuve, directeur de l'Ecole Doctorale d'Archeologie, Universite Paris 1, Pantheon-Sorbonne. The lecture will be in French and will take place at the AUB Archeological Museum on April 24, 2013 at 5:30pm.

- **Lecture on the politics of global English**

The Anis Makdisi Program in Literature is organizing the 2013 Anis Makdisi Memorial Lecture, entitled "The Politics of Global English: From Kipling to K-Maró," by David Damrosch, Harvard University. The lecture will take place on April 25, 2013 at 6pm in Assembly Hall.

The spread of globalization has led many to fear that the world's cultures are increasingly melting into a "global babble" dominated by global English and American popular culture. Examples such as the early experiments by Rudyard Kipling, contemporary works by Tibetan postmodernist Jamyang Norbu, and Lebanese-Canadian hip-hop artist K-Maró reveal how English is being warped into a creative mode of counter-communication, at once local and global in expression and audience

David Damrosch is the distinguished Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Comparative Literature, Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, past President of the American Comparative Literature Association, and an international authority in his field. His books include: *What Is World Literature?* (2003), *The Buried Book: The Loss and Rediscovery of the Great Epic of Gilgamesh* (2007), *How to Read World Literature* (2009). He is also the general editor of the *Longman Anthology of World Literature* (2004, 2009), co-editor of *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature* (2009), and founding director of the Institute for World Literature

- **Lecture on the future of Palestine: Beyond the 2-state consensus**

The Institute for Palestine Studies is organizing its annual Constantine Zurayk Lecture by Richard Falk, Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestine for UNHRC. Entitled "Rethinking the Future of Palestine: Beyond the Two-State Consensus," the lecture will take place on April 25, 2013 at 6pm at the Charles W. Hostler Student Center Auditorium

- **AUB Annual Job Fair-Exhibition 2013**

The Office of Student Affairs' Career and Placement Services is organizing the AUB Annual Job Fair-Exhibition 2013, on April 25 and 26, 2013, from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm,

- **IBDAA 2013 to showcase students' innovative projects on water and biodiversity**

The AUB Nature Conservation Center is holding its seventh annual International Biodiversity Day At AUB (IBDAA) on Friday April 26, 2013 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the Agriculture Square, lower campus.

More than 200 students will participate in this poster fair, competing for the Jammal Trust Bank Eco-Innovation Award.

IBDAA 2013 is a venue for innovative ideas and projects tackling "Water and Biodiversity," a theme chosen to coincide with the UN designation of 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation.

As is the custom every year, students will show their creativity and imagination in IBDAA projects, finding environmentally-friendly solutions in research, arts and humanities, business planning, and product development. Projects include energy generation from algae, a short story about a kingdom in the Mediterranean Sea, a design for a community water-park, duckweed-based sewage treatment, a comic about the change in the marine ecosystem of the Mediterranean, a study of microbial biodiversity of muddy rain, and many more.

ENDS

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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