

Rural Community Development MS Program

Annual Report (Sept. 1, 2016 - August 31, 2107)

Prepared by: Dr. Giuliano Martiniello, RCODE Coordinator
Mrs. Diana M. Abi-Said, RCODE, RA

Highlights

The RCODE committee approved the appointment of Dr. Martiniello as RCODE coordinator, starting Spring Term 2017

RCODE committee approved to change the names of the following core RCODE courses, along with their description to read as below:

RCOD 341: “Rural Development: Theories and Policies”, and

RCOD 342: “Qualitative Research Methods in Rural Development”

The program offered five core graduate courses during the reporting period

Received a total of 20 new applications to the RCODE program; Three new Graduate students who got enrolled in the program are beneficiaries of the Master Card Foundation Scholarship program: 2 from Sub-Sharan Africa and one from Lebanon.

Sixteen graduate students are enrolled in the program (15 thesis and one non-thesis).

Ms. Farah AbiMosleh was the first student to graduate from the RCODE program - spring 2017.

Personnel

Full-time Faculty / RCODE committee members

Giuliano Martiniello	Assistant Professor/ RCODE coordinator
Shady Hamadeh	Professor
Rami Zurayk	Professor
Ali Chalak	Associate Professor
Lamis Jomaa	Assistant Professor

Instructor

Dominique Anid	Research Assistant

RCODE Officer

Diana Marroush Abi-Said	Research Assistant

Graduate Assistants

Alam Jeanbein	Fall 2016
Nour El Korek	Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Nadiya Ibrahim	Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Rami Assaf	Fall 2016
Elias Arja	Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Sarah Karam	Fall 2016, spring 2017
Nour Zeidan	Fall 2016, Spring 2017

Shalimar Sinno	Fall 2016, spring 2017
Brett Helmes	Fall 2017-2018
Lamisse Khairallah	Fall 2017-2018

Teaching Activities

Fall 2016-17

Course		Credits	Instructor
RCOD	343	3	Hamadeh/Chalak
RCOD	342	4	Martiniello
RCOD	305	1	Martiniello

Spring 2016-17

Course		Credits	Instructor
RCODE	343	3	Hamadeh/Chalak
RCODE	341	3	Martiniello
RCODE	344	4	Martiniello/Anid

Research Activities (other than thesis) – Dr. Martiniello

Project title	Funding Agency	Amount
Smallholders' integration in global value chains and the implications for food security in Lebanon: evidence-based research for policy formulation	AUB	8,000USD

Services (Dr. Martiniello)

AUB	Other
Member of FAFS Research Committee	
Member of FAFS Library Committee	
Working Committee on the New Social Sciences Department.	
Working in close collaboration with the librarians at FAFS, to expand and develop the library collections on rural development references, particularly with regard to the MENA region	
Working on extending scholarship opportunities provided by the Master Card Foundation to African Students	

Thesis Supervision (Dr. Martiniello)

Student Name	Major	Thesis Title
Rami Assaf	Msc Rural Community Development	The Waste Management Value Chain in the West Beqaa: Contributions to Labor Markets and Rural Development"
Alam Janbein	Msc Rural Community Development	Assessing the impact of access to post-harvest cold-handling on small scale farmers in Baalbeck
Nour Al-Korek	Msc Rural Community Development	"Impact of Syrian conflict on water issues in Akkar, Lebanon".
Nadiya Ibrahim	Msc Rural Community Development	Perceptions and Experiences of Syrian Refugees and Community Workers towards Community Kitchens in Lebanon: A Qualitative Study

Conferences, Special Lectures, Workshops and Travel (Dr. Martiniello)

Activity	Date
Participated at the Agrarian Summer School 2017, which was organized by the African Institute of Agrarian Studies (AIAS) and partners, where Dr. Martiniello presented his research and abstract under the title: "Don't Stop the Mill: South African capital and agrarian change in Tanzania", which has been published in Third World Thematic, accessible here http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23802014.2016.1243017 .	January 15 – 21, 2017
Participated in the International Conference titled: Capitalist Development in Hostile Environments, organized by the Arrighi Centre for Global Studies, John Hopkins University and University of Calabria. Dr. Martiniello presented a paper Trajectories of Agrarian Change in Uganda's rural peripheries: the salience of Giovanni Arrighi's scholarship.	June 6-8, 2017

Strategic Challenges

- RCODE program needs to develop a strategy for providing an exchange program with international universities working in the field of rural development.
- RCODE, through its coordinator, has been implementing and will keep working on a strategy to secure scholarship options for graduate students, in partnership with private and public stakeholders.
- Since there has been an increase in student's enrollment in RCODE program in the last 2 years, it is recommended to have a full-time officer (RA) for the program.

- The program will benefit from participation of external experts and leading scholars in the field of rural development, which needs to be applied in the coming academic years, with an increase in the operating budget. It would also benefit from an increase in funding for students fieldwork activities that will help the program start developing an initial documentation of rural development challenges and case studies in Lebanon.