

## Rural Community Development MS Program September 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018

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

### Highlights

1. RCODE committee approved the request of Dr. Martiniello for Junior Faculty Research Leave (Spring Semester 2018, January 20 - May 20, 2018) - for the following objectives: 1) **Develop research and teaching collaboration** with the Centre for Rural Studies at the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Calabria: Family farming, agrarian change and migrations in the Near East and 2) Production of his first book: Land and Dispossession: The political economy of agrarian change in South Africa.
2. Dr. Chalak was appointed as acting coordinator from Jan. 20 to May 20, 2018, during the Junior Faculty Development research leave of Dr. Martiniello.
3. The program offered four core graduate courses (RCOD342, RCOD343, RCOD304, RCOD305, and four FAFS specialized electives (AGSC376, AGSC389, LDEM 630, and FSEC 310) during the reporting period.
4. Received a total of 26 new applications to the RCODE program: Approved (18), on probation (3), rejected (5).
5. Fourteen (14) graduate students are enrolled in the program (one non-thesis and 13 thesis) for the reporting period: One student graduated in Spring 2018 (Nadiya Ibrahim).

### 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

#### RCODE Officer

Diana Marroush Abi-Said	Research Assistant
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#### Graduate Assistants (9)

Alam Jeanbein	Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
Nour El Korek	Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017 (GRA)
Nadiya Ibrahim	Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017
Elias Arja	Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
Sarah Karam	Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
Nour Zeidan	Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Shalimar Sinno	Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
Brett Helms	Fall 2017, Spring 2018
Lamisse Khairallah	Fall 2017, Spring 2018

### **Master Card Foundation Scholarship Program (MCF) Students**

Shukri Islow	
Ibrahim Bahati	
Hikmat Al Khansa	

### **Teaching Activities**

#### Fall 2017–2018

<b>Course</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Instructor</b>
RCOD	342	4	Martiniello
RCOD	343	3	Hamadeh/Chalak
RCOD	304	3	Martiniello
RCOD	305	1	Martiniello

#### Spring 2017-2018

<b>Course</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Instructor</b>
RCODE	343	3	Hamadeh/Chalak

### **Services (Dr. Martiniello)**

<b>AUB</b>
Working Committee on the New Social Sciences Department.
Working on extending scholarship opportunities provided by the Master Card Foundation to African Students
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

## Thesis Supervision (Dr. Martiniello) - MSc Rural Community Development

Student Name	Thesis Title
Rami Assaf	The Waste Management Value Chain in the West Beqaa: Contributions to Labor Markets and Rural Development"
Alam Janbein	Family Farming in Lebanon among challenges and opportunities: the case of Baalback – Hermel
Nour Al-Korek	"Impact of Syrian conflict on water issues in Akkar, Lebanon".
Nadiya Ibrahim	Perceptions and Experiences of Syrian Refugees and Community Workers towards Community Kitchens in Lebanon: A Qualitative Study.
Shalimar Sinno	The productive Campus: The potential of an urban agricultural initiative at the American university of Beirut, Lebanon
Sarah karam	The effect of the protected areas on rural communities. Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve Case Study

Conferences, Special Lectures, Workshops and Travel Activity	Date
<p><b><u>Workshops:</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Martiniello attended the workshop on Radical Political Economy, Economic Strategy and Industrialization in Africa held in Accra, Ghana and presented a paper on Agrarian Transformations and Community Struggles in Africa</p>	November 13-14, 2017
<p>Dr. Martiniello attended the tenth session of the Agrarian Summer School in 2018, organized by the Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS) and partners under the theme: “Global Agricultural Value Networks and Contract Farming in the Contemporary South” in Harare, Zimbabwe, and presented a paper entitled: “Contracting sugar farming in East Africa: a comparative perspective from Uganda and Tanzania.”</p>	Jan. 15 -19, 2018
<p>Dr. Hamadeh and through ESDU projects’ activities, organized a workshop on <b>Youth in Rural Development</b>, which addressed the challenge of rural development in Lebanon and the region, bringing together people from the private and public sectors, NGOs, and civil society to consider ways to support youth in rural areas and how to empower them to revive the rural landscape.</p> <p>Under the same context, Launching of the pilot rural development network called REEF: Rural Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Forum, took place. Its objective was to develop a rural development strategy and put it into action to provide rural youth</p>	Jan. 19, 2018

with access to knowledge, technology, and finance via the regional platform for knowledge management, KariaNet.”	
<p><b><u>Expert meeting and seminar:</u></b>  Dr. Martiniello participated in the following meetings:  Expert Meeting Arab Watch Report on the Right to Food, in collaboration with ANND (Arab NGO Network for Development).</p> <p>Doctoral Seminar in Politica, Cultura e Sviluppo.: “Sviluppo Inclusivo o Incorporazione Avversa: il caso dell’agricoltura a contratto in Africa”, University of Calabria.</p>	<p>February 28, 2018</p> <p>April 13, 2018</p>
<p><b><u>Conferences:</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Martiniello, attended the international conference on “Environmental Politics - Environmental Justice in Northern Uganda &amp; the East Africa Region”, co-organized by University of Cambridge, Makerere University, Gulu University, and Human Rights Focus and presented a paper entitled: “The expanding sugar frontier in Northern Uganda: social and ecological implications”.</p> <p>Dr. Martiniello, attended the “Policy Forum on Charcoal” at the Gulu District Council, Northern Region of Uganda, in collaboration with local and national Ugandan authorities on implementing policy/regulation on charcoal. He contributed to a research, in collaboration with Dr. Adam Branch, University of Cambridge, as member of the Advisory Board for the project “Narratives of Conflict, Climate, and Development: Re-envisioning Sustainability from Post-War Northern Uganda”.</p>	<p>July 16-17, 2018</p> <p>July 18, 2018</p>

### **Strategic Challenges**

- RCODE, through its coordinator, has been successfully implementing and will keep working on a strategy to secure scholarship options for graduate students, in partnership with private and public stakeholders.
- RCODE program needs to proceed with the development of a strategy for providing an exchange program with international universities working in the field of rural development.
- The program needs to establish a form of external visiting experts’ participation, international organizations and leading scholars in the field of rural development, migrations and sustainable ecologies in the Mediterranean area.
- The program would 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, to consolidate the profile of the research activities undertaken in MENA region.