

**The Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies
The Department of Political Studies and Public Administration
American University of Beirut**

Cordially invite you to a hybrid lecture

A Tale of Two Colleges

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Abstract:

Robert College (later Boğaziçi University) and Syria Protestant College (later the American University of Beirut) are sister institutions. Both were chartered by the state of New York in 1864 and founded by the same group of American missionaries. Daniel Bliss, the founder of the Syrian Protestant College, and Cyrus Hamlin the founder of Roberts College, were friends and colleagues from Yale.

This talk will present the similarities and differences of the ways in which the two institutions articulated with their host societies in Istanbul and Beirut. The two institutions were very aware of their similarities, in fact they published a joint newsletter until the 1920's. Yet, their relationships with their respective societies were very different. This talk will discuss the various similarities and differences between the two colleges from their inception to their transformation into universities. It will also focus on their impact on the intellectual and political life of Turkey and the Arab world.

Biography:

Selim M. Deringil is Professor Emeritus at Boğaziçi University and is currently affiliated with the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies at the American University of Beirut. His publications include *The Ottomans, the Turks, and World Power Politics: Collected Essays* (Isis Press, 2000); *Turkish Foreign Policy during the Second World War: an "active" neutrality*; (Cambridge University Press, 2004); *The Well-Protected Domains: Ideology and the Legitimation of Power in the Ottoman Empire, 1876–1909* (London: I. B. Tauris, 1998), which was awarded the "Turkish Studies Association Fuad Köprülü" prize in 2001.