American University of Beirut
Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Media Studies & Lebanese Sociological Association
to a lecture by
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The circulation of knowledge and globalization of knowledge systems: a sociological question

In English with translation into Arabic
Wednesday, October 30
5:00-6:30 pm

IFI aud. (green oval), AUB

Open to Public

Rigas ARVANITIS is sociologist and senior researcher at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), head of the research unit CEPED (www.ceped.org), specializing in sociology of science, innovation, and research policy. He is also founding member and former director (2015-2018) of IFRIS, a French consortium on research, innovation and society (www.ifris.org). He has worked for ten years in Latin America (Venezuela and Mexico), followed by a four years project in China on innovation policies and technological learning. More recently, he has been appointed at the Lebanese National Research Council of Research (CNRS-L) and was invited professor at the American University of Beirut (AUB) where he conducted a research project on Knowledge production in the Arab World with Dr. Sari Hanafi. He has coordinated various European research projects and international conferences. His work focuses today on international scientific collaborations as well as innovation policy analysis. In Jan 2016, he coordinated, with the Canadian IDRC, a conference on the Transformation of research systems in the South. He has been editor-in-chief of the Revue d’Anthropologie des Connaissances (2007-2014). He is author of many articles and books, last work is “Knowledge Production in the Arab World” (with Sari Hanafi, Routledge).

ABSTRACT:

The circulation of knowledge and globalization of knowledge systems: a sociological question

Why do we talk about “knowledge production” and not about scientific institutions? And since science has always been an international activity, why is it that suddenly we are so much concerned today about its circulation? Is it that globalization changed our vision of science? And, also: what circulates: people, money, articles and books? How do these objects circulate? Or is it not about these objects but about something else that we call “knowledge” because we don’t have any better word to qualify it? Based on my empirical research experience about scientific research, on scientific communities in Latin America, the Middle-East and Africa, I would like to discuss (since I have many doubts about the role of this “knowledge production”) these issues that concern not only science but also borders, infrastructures and public policy.