

*The Mashriq and the Mahjar:
Migration from the Levant, 1800-2000*

It has now been two decades since the publication of Albert Hourani and Nadim Shehadi's edited volume *The Lebanese in the World*, the first comprehensive attempt to track the dispersal of Eastern Mediterranean men and women through the world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and its effects on the lands of their birth. In the intervening years, the study of modern Eastern Mediterranean migration has blossomed into an intellectually fecund and ever-expanding field. This growth has coincided with the "transnational turn", which has spurred on historians and social scientists to look beyond the confines of the nation-state with a renewed enthusiasm for world history and with a focus on the interconnections forged between various regions of the globe by circulation of people, goods, and ideas. These developments have not just encouraged further study of Eastern Mediterranean migration; they also offer scholars the possibility of arriving at a new, and more refined, understanding of the Middle East and its entanglements with the rest of the world.

Organised to mark the twentieth anniversary of Hourani and Shehadi's path-breaking effort, this conference seeks to take stock of recent work on migration from present-day Lebanon, Syria and Israel/Palestine, to open up fruitful discussion, and to chart paths for future research. It will bring together scholars working in different disciplines to consider the connections, comparisons, and contrasts between migrants' experiences in different periods and locales. With this in mind, we invite scholars working on any aspect of migration from the Levant over the last two centuries to contribute theoretically innovative and empirically grounded papers that might enhance our understanding of the multifaceted process of movement. Though the central focus of the conference will be on those who left the lands which now make up Lebanon, we would welcome contributions on migration from present-day Syria and Israel/Palestine.

Possible topics might include:

- The political and intellectual history of migrant communities
- The role of gender, race, and class in structuring these communities, and their relations to their hosts
- The transformation of religion and religious institutions and practices through migrations
- The social and economic history of these communities, their occupations, and everyday habits
- Literary and political representations of the diasporic experience
- Return migration and relations to the Middle East

The conference will be held from April 20-22 2012 at North Carolina State University under the auspices of the Khayrallah Program for Lebanese-American Studies.

Please send abstracts of 250-300 words, including name, contact details, and institutional affiliation as a word or PDF document by 31 October 2011 to all three conference organisers:

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