



**WORKSHOP**  
27-28 July 2015  
Beirut

# ASI/GMU/Carnegie Projects



State Building, Public Institutions, & Social  
Mobilization in Lebanon 1943-1958



مؤسسة الدراسات العربية  
Arab Studies Institute





On 27-28 July 2015, Ziad Abu-Rish and Mona Harb co-convened a two-day research workshop entitled “State Building, Public Institutions, and Social Mobilization in Lebanon: 1943-1958.” The workshop featured an interdisciplinary group of scholars, 9 of whom were present and additional 5 of which participated remotely. Each of these 14 researchers either directly study the early independence period of Lebanon or engaged in research projects that rely on specific understandings of the period. The topical focus of the workshop is an attempt to both fill a major gap in the scholarly literature on Lebanon as well as to challenge static and exceptional frameworks of state formation and nation-building in the country.

The first day of the workshop featured introductions and individual presentations, which were grouped thematically and followed by focused discussion and feedback. The second day was geared toward tackling the commonalities across all presentations in terms of major themes, methodological challenges and opportunities, as well as future plans. It also featured an exclusive visit of the Archives and Special Collections of the American University of Beirut, the staff of which had curated a small exhibition of documents related to the workshop topic and time period. This workshop represents the first meeting of what is planned to be an ongoing and expanding research....

*Read more, visit [www.ArabStudiesInstitute.org](http://www.ArabStudiesInstitute.org)*

#### ORGANIZERS

Ziad Abu Rish  
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#### PARTICIPANTS

Ziad Abu Rish  
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Sami Atallah  
Hiba Bou Akar  
Lea Bou Khater  
Mona Fawaz  
Zeina Maasri  
Hicham Safieddine  
Abir Saksouk-Sasso

## Papers and Presentations

**Hicham Safieddine**

Banking Regulation in Post- WWII Lebanon: Derailing Development,  
Self- Organization and Legal Cooptation

**Lea Bou Khater**

Workers' Mobilization for State Building in Lebanon 1943-1958

**Sami Attallah**

Leveraging Local Politics for National Power

**Hiba Bou Akar**

On Planning and the Spatial Turn in Development in the Global South:  
A Viewpoint from Lebanon

**Mona Fawaz**

Crashing the Party: Rural Migrants and Ideals of Suburban Modern  
Living

**Abi Saksouk-Sasso**

The Legacy of Old Laws and the Fight for the Commons

**Ziad Abu Rish**

Beyond Exceptionalism: Institution Building and Political Organization  
in Early Independence Lebanon

**Zeina Maasri**

Dislocating the Nation: Imagining Lebanon in Tourism Promotions

**Mona Harb**

The Route to Power: Camille Chamoun's Municipal Reforms