



# WORKSHOP

6 November 2015  
Washington DC

# ASI/GMU/Carnegie P r o j e c t s



Political Economy of the Middle East  
*Continuities & Discontinuities in Teaching & Research*



On 6-7 November 2015, we held a Political Economy Project Pedagogy Workshop at George Mason University. The event involved a two-part public event on Friday 6 November that began with research presentations by Max Ajl, who gave a talk entitled “Event and Conjuncture: Braudel, Political Economy, and the Tunisian Uprising”, and Melisande Genat whose talk was on Iraqi Kurdish collective towns during the 1970s. These presentations were followed by the second part of the event focused on the challenges of teaching the political economy of the Middle East in the contemporary period. In this part, five presenters engaged key pedagogical issues and challenges of teaching about the region from various disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. The goal here was to highlight the connections between our research and teaching and strategies for illuminating key political economy questions in the classroom.

#### ORGANIZERS

Bassam Haddad  
Samer Abboud

#### PARTICIPANTS

Melisande Genat  
Max Ajl  
Omar Dahi  
Shana Marshall  
Ziad Abu Rish  
Samer Abboud  
Bassam Haddad

The second day of the workshop involved all seven participants discussing and planning activities of the PEP Pedagogy Working Group. These discussions involved strategizing about how best to collect and disseminate pedagogical material, such as syllabi, as well as expanding the network of instructors who could draw on PEP’s pedagogical activities. The goal was to identify the main structure, goals, and future activities of the working group. The workshop also involved preliminary planning for a Political Economy Summer Institute (PESSI) to be held in June 2016 at George Mason University.....

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### Papers and Presentations

**Melisande Genat (*Stanford University*)**

From Agrarian Experiments in the Context of Socialist "Villagization" to Population Displacements: Iraqi Kurdish Collective Towns During the Seventies

**Max Ajl (*Cornell University*)**

Event and Conjunction : Braudel, Political Economy, and the Tunisian Uprising

**Omar Dahi (*Hampshire College*)**

Against the Grain: Syrian Refugees and the Political Economy of Survival

**Shana Marshall (*George Washington University*)**

Do not go quietly: Human agency, contingency, and the push to formulate a structural explanation of the Arab Spring

**Ziad Abu Rish (*Ohio University*)**

Revisiting the Merchant Republic: Lebanon in Comparative Perspective

**Samer Abboud (*Arcadia University*)**

The World Bank, the Arab Uprisings, and the Poverty of Neoliberal Repetition

**Bassam Haddad (*George Mason University*)**

Incorporating Class and Capital in Teaching the Middle East:  
The Case of Syria, Then and Now