

Revisiting the Politics of Sectarianism Amidst Lebanon's Concomitant Crises

KFAS All-day Roundtable Event

30 June 2022

Sciences Po, Paris (Salle du Conseil, Rue de l'Université 13)

Introduction: Tamirace Fakhoury, Scientific Advisor to the Kuwait Chair at Sciences Po Paris & Associate Professor of Political Science, Aalborg University in Denmark

Time: 9:15-9:30

Panel 1	Looking back: The history of Lebanon's power-sharing and its pathway towards collapse
Allison McCulloch	<i>Conceptualizing Power-Sharing and its Dilemmas: A Case of Diminishing Returns?</i>
Chloe Kattar	<i>Sectarianism in the 1970s: conservative interpretations</i>
Nadim Shehadi	<i>Sectarianism is often in the eye of the beholder</i>
Makram Ouaiss	<i>Militiamen turned politician: how sectarian authoritarianism destroyed Lebanon</i>
John Nagle	<i>Protesting Power-Sharing: Placing the Thawra in Recent Waves of Contentious Politics</i>
Alessandra Thomsen	<i>An (In)escapable fate? Lebanon's endemic challenges and their manifestation in the Beirut blast</i>
Chair: Time:	Tamirace Fakhoury 9:30-11:00

Discussion round 1	<i>Covering the collapse from the ground: How did Lebanon get there?</i>
<p>Jim Muir, <i>BBC Journalist</i></p> <p>Makram Ouaiss, <i>Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS) Executive Director</i></p> <p>Aya Majzoub, <i>Human Rights Watch Lebanon Researcher</i></p> <p>Abby Sewell, <i>L'Orient Today Journalist</i></p>	
Moderator: Time:	Miriam Aitken 11:00-12:00

Lunch Break

Panel 2	Human rights, refugee struggles and the international aid system
Aya Majzoub	<i>The human rights landscape in Lebanon</i>
Abby Sewell	<i>Unwelcome Guests: Syrian refugees in Lebanon and the decision to stay, go or return to Syria</i>
Clothilde Facon	<i>NGOization and politicization of aid in the context of Syrian displacement.</i>
Chair: Time:	Allison McCulloch 13:30-15:00

Discussion round 2	<i>Lebanon's Crises in a New Geopolitical Order: The Implications of Russia's War in Ukraine for Lebanon and for the region</i>
<p>Chloe Kattar, <i>University of Cambridge Research Fellow</i></p> <p>Salam Kawakibi, <i>Centre Arabe de Recherches & d'Études Politiques Director</i></p> <p>Nadim Shehadi, <i>Economist; previously Lebanese American University New York headquarters Executive Director</i></p> <p>Makram Ouais, <i>Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS) Executive Director</i></p> <p>Miriam Aitken, <i>Sciences Po Paris Kuwait Chair Research Assistant; International Crisis Group Research Associate</i></p>	
Moderator: Time:	Amr Abdelrahim 15:00-16:00

Coffee break

Concluding Roundtable	<i>Looking forward: Revisiting sectarianism, outlook, and prospect for Lebanon in 2030</i>
<p>Makram Ouais, <i>Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS) Executive Director</i></p> <p>Salam Kawakibi, <i>Centre Arabe de Recherches & d'Études Politiques Director</i></p> <p>Aya Majzoub, <i>Human Rights Watch Researcher</i></p> <p>Nadim Shehadi, <i>Economist; previously Lebanese American University New York headquarters Executive Director</i></p> <p>Allison McCulloch, <i>Brandon University Professor of Political Science</i></p> <p>John Nagle, <i>Queen's University Belfast Chair of Sociology</i></p>	
Moderator: Time:	Tamirace Fakhoury 16:30-17:30

Participants ¹

<p>Allison McCulloch</p>	<p>Allison McCulloch is Professor of Political Science at Brandon University (Canada). Her research considers the design of political power-sharing (consociational) institutions. This includes the incentive structures for ethno-political moderation and extremism that power-sharing offers, how power-sharing governments handle political crises, and how power-sharing arrangements can be made more inclusive of identities beyond the ethnonational divide.</p>
<p>Makram Ouais</p>	<p>Makram Ouais is Executive Director of the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS), one of the leading think tanks in Lebanon established in 1989. Ouais's research and writings are in the areas of conflict resolution, democratization and elections</p>
<p>John Nagle</p>	<p>Professor John Nagle is Chair of Sociology at Queen's University Belfast. He is a Fellow and member of the advisory board for SEPAD (Sectarianism, Proxies & De-sectarianisation), a project hosted at the Richardson Institute, Lancaster University and a Fellow of The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. His research focuses on non-sectarian social movement activism in divided societies, particularly Northern Ireland and Lebanon. He has published six books and over 50 chapters and articles in leading international journals.</p>
<p>Nadim Shehadi</p>	<p>Nadim Shehadi is an economist with interest in the history of ideas. Until recently he was executive director of the Lebanese American University New York headquarters and academic center.</p>
<p>Chloe Kattar</p>	<p>Chloe Kattar is a Research Fellow in History at Darwin College, Cambridge University, and a Fellow of Europe in the Middle East at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. Her research interests lie at the intersection of world history and the history of political thought.</p>
<p>Alessandra Thomsen</p>	<p>Alessandra Thomsen is a recent graduate of the International Security master's program at Sciences Po's Paris School of International Affairs, where she specialized in Human Rights and the Middle East. Her research focuses on peace and conflict studies, especially conflict management and prevention, as well as the politics of ethnically divided societies.</p>

¹ Listed in order of appearance on the program.

Jim Muir	Jim Muir is a print, radio and TV journalist who has been based in Beirut since 1975. He was Middle East correspondent for the BBC for more than 20 years, including terms in Cairo, Tehran and Baghdad, and has contributed to numerous publications and media outlets.
Aya Majzoub	Aya Majzoub is the Lebanon researcher at Human Rights Watch (HRW), based in Beirut. She has led investigations into a broad range of issues, including the explosion in Beirut's port, the excessive use of force against protests, and the impact of the economic crisis on rights, and has conducted national and international advocacy.
Abby Sewell	Abby Sewell is deputy managing editor of L'Orient Today, the English language sister publication of the long-running French language Lebanese newspaper L'Orient-Le Jour. Based in Lebanon since 2016, she has written extensively about refugee issues, among other social, economic and political topics, for local and international publications. She previously worked as a local news reporter for the Los Angeles Times.
Clothilde Facon	Clothilde Facon is a PhD candidate in Political Sociology at the University Sorbonne Paris Nord and a research affiliate at the Institut Français du Proche-Orient in Beirut.
Salam Kawakibi	Salam Kawakibi is Director of the Centre Arabe de Recherches & d'Études Politiques (CAREP) Paris, Associate Professor at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and President of Initiative for a New Syria.
Amr Abdel Rahim	Amr Abdelrahim is an Egyptian student interested in the intersection of politics, culture, and discourse in the Middle East and North Africa. In the past, he has worked on Egyptian television in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. His next project will be a Ph.D. dissertation on Egyptian hip-hop and subaltern urban youth's subjectivities.

Organisers

Tamirace Fakhoury	Tamirace Fakhoury is the scientific advisor to the Kuwait Chair at Sciences po (2020-2022) and an Associate Professor of Political Science at Aalborg University, Copenhagen Campus. Prior to that, Tamirace was an Associate Professor at the Lebanese American University and the director of the Institute for Social Justice and Conflict Resolution (ISJCR). From 2012 until 2016, she was a visiting Assistant Professor in the summer semesters at the University of California in Berkeley. Tamirace
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	<p>has earned several research fellowships, including the Jean Monnet Fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence. Her research focuses on power-sharing governance, refugee and migration politics, policy contestation in the international refugee regime, and the EU's migration policy in the Mediterranean.</p>
Miriam Aitken	<p>Miriam Aitken is a Research Assistant at Sciences Po Paris and Research Associate at the International Crisis Group. She holds a master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action from Sciences Po and a bachelor's degree in International Relations from King's College London. She has written on conflict, refugee issues and social movements in the MENA region. She is an incoming MPhil candidate in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford University.</p>