Special invitation for faculty, staff and students

Teaching the Middle East: Lessons from the Jadaliyya Experience

A presentation and Q&A session with Dr. Bassam Haddad (George Mason University, Georgetown University)

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 | 2:30–4:30 p.m.
SFU Harbour Centre, Room 7000 (Earl & Jennie Lohn Policy Room), 515 W Hastings Street, Vancouver

To register: http://bit.ly/1BgX1CV

How do you teach a topic fraught with preconceptions, misconceptions and conflicting points of view? In this informal presentation, visiting scholar Dr. Bassam Haddad, Director of the Middle East Studies Program at George Mason University, will describe his experience creating the educational publication Jadaliyya, which is part of an initiative by the Arab Studies Institute to produce instructional tools, resources, databases and multimedia content to supplement curricula on the Middle East across disciplines. Dr. Haddad will present his work within the context of challenges in teaching about the region. He will also discuss the double-edged sword of news coverage about the Middle East and how it can be both detrimental and beneficial for teaching engagement. The event will include a presentation component followed by a Q&A/group discussion session. Attendees will leave with a greater knowledge of the resources available to educators about the Middle East. They will also learn about the challenges of teaching a region in a state of political flux and how best to manage and use the barrage of information being disseminated in the media.

Dr. Bassam Haddad is Director of the Middle East Studies Program and Associate Professor in the Department of Public and International Affairs at George Mason University, and is Visiting Professor at Georgetown University. He is the author of Business Networks in Syria: The Political Economy of Authoritarian Resilience (Stanford University Press, 2011). Dr. Haddad is currently editing a volume on "Teaching the Middle East After the Arab Uprisings," a book manuscript on pedagogical and theoretical approaches. His most recent books include two co-edited volumes: Dawn of the Arab Uprisings: End of an Old Order? (Pluto Press, 2012) and Mediating the Arab Uprisings (Tadween Publishing, 2013). Dr. Haddad serves as Founding Editor of the Arab Studies Journal, a peer-reviewed research publication, is co-producer/director of the award-winning documentary film About Baghdad, and is director of the critically acclaimed film series Arabs and Terrorism, based on extensive field research/interviews. More recently, he directed a film on Arab/Muslim immigrants in Europe, titled The "Other" Threat. Dr. Haddad is Co-Founder/Editor of Jadaliyya Ezine and serves on the Editorial Committee of Middle East Report. He is the Executive Director of the Arab Studies Institute, an umbrella for five organizations dealing with knowledge production on the Middle East, and Founding Editor of Tadween Publishing.

Sponsored by the Simon Fraser University's School of Communication, the School for International Studies, and the Teaching and Learning Centre