

***Polish Professor and Scholar Dr. Konrad Pędziwiatr visits LERC***

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie. Nabhan

Dr. Konrad Pędziwiatr, Assistant Professor and Project Coordinator at the Tischner European University, and a scholar with a deep interest in migration, was introduced to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center by NDU Professor and LERC Senior Researcher Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous.

According to his biography, Dr. Pędziwiatr, holds “a PhD in Social Sciences from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, MA in European Studies from the University of Exeter in the UK and MA in Sociology from the Jagiellonian University in Poland. He has published widely on various dimensions of Muslim presence in Europe.”

Dr. Pędziwiatr was on a visit to Lebanon to participate in the International Conference on Cross-Cultural Education that was held at the Notre Dame University, Louaizé, on the 2nd and 3rd June, 2011, in collaboration with the Adyan Foundation, where Dr. Pędziwiatr chaired a panel on *Cross-Cultural Education and the Transformation of Teacher and Learner Roles* and participated in the panel *Managing Global and Local Diversity*, where he presented a paper entitled *European Muslims and the Transformations of the Multicultural Regimes*.

Dr. Pędziwiatr had a meeting with LERC’s Director Ms. Guita Hourani to learn about LERC’s mission, research infrastructure and programs, past and on-going research, and accomplishments.

This included discussion of LERC’s research commissioned by the International Organization of Migration (IOM), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the European Union Parliament (EUP), Relief International, and the Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) among others.

Ms. Hourani briefed Dr. Pędziwiatr on LERC’s publications and on the published papers and articles on topics ranging from the integration of the Lebanese expatriates in their diasporic societies to migration gender issues, and to the renewed Lebanese naturalization of Lebanese emigrants and their role in the elections in the country. She also informed him of the Center’s ongoing studies, including ones covering out-of-country voting, socioeconomic mobility and political participation of the naturalized Kurds, and the directory of the Lebanese diasporic organization.

Ms. Hourani and Dr. Pędziwiatr also discussed matters of mutual interest and talked about the possibility of future co-operation in joint conferences and research. Dr.

Pędziwiatr drew similarities between the exodus from Lebanon in the last few decades and that from Poland, from where about two million Poles emigrated for different reasons, and saw the possibility of comparative studies of these migrations.



Dr. K. Pędziwiatr pictured at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU (June 2011).

Dr. Pędziwiatr was then introduced to LERC’s electronic archives and database and shown important items in the Center’s collections. He was particularly impressed with the annotated bibliography on Brazil and its innovative approach as a comprehensive tool for researchers and with the Lebanese Emigration Archive and Database (LEAD) and the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU. He commended LERC for this “excellent initiative”.