

Assistant Professor John T. Karam from DePaul University in Chicago visits LERC
Tuesday 13th March 2012, LERC, NDU
Reported by Shereen Mahshi, Intern, Winner of Akiki Grant

Dr. John T. Karam, who is an assistant professor in the Latin American and Latino Studies Program at DePaul University in Chicago, visited LERC offices with Latin America Liaison Officer Mr. Roberto Khatlab.

Dr. Karam studies Arab cultural practices and social networks to better understand national and hemispheric orders. Revealing how Arabness reflects and shapes the neoliberal turn in Brazil, his first book, *Another Arabesque: Syrian-Lebanese Ethnicity in Neoliberal Brazil*, won awards from the Arab American National Museum (AANM) and the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA).



Visitors at LERC Library from Left to Right: Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Mr. Roberto Khatlab, Director Guita Hourani, and Dr. John T. Karam

Dr. Karam is now working on his second book, *Redrawing U.S.-South American Geopolitics: Arabs, the Tri-Border, and the Rise of Brazil*. Focusing on the fifty-year history of Muslim Lebanese and Palestinians at a South American tri-border area (Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay),

this book maps how their diaspora has helped define Brazil's emergence as a hemispheric power in relation to Argentina, Paraguay, and the U.S. in a novel redrawing of U.S.-South American relations. Together with María del Mar Logroño-Narbona and Paulo Gabriel Hilu da Rocha Pinto, Mr. Karam is also co-editing *Crescent of Another Horizon: Islam in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latino USA*, the fourteen chapters of which explore the historical and contemporary making of the Americas through five distinct Muslim diasporas from the Iberian peninsula, West Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East, as well as the American hemisphere itself.

Dr. John T. Karam met with Director Guita Hourani and was given a presentation of LERC's electronic archives and database. Mr. Karam shared with LERC many of his publications and he is looking forward to future cooperation with the Center.