

## Nathalie Rosa Bucher, Assistant to Filmmaker Philippe Aractingi, Seeks the LERC

By LERC Staff  
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Ms. Nathalie Rosa Bucher, Assistant to Lebanese filmmaker Philippe Aractingi, sought out the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) to obtain information and contacts on Lebanese organizations, associations, and individuals around the world so that she may contact them to organize a screening of Aractingi's new film *Héritages (Mirath)*.

The film recounts the history of Aractingi's ancestors fleeing wars for five generations through migration, exile, recollection, and disbursement. The film, which turned out to be a family project, is filled with the pain of forced migration, of negotiated identities, and the reconstruction of the past as a medium to understand one's present.



Dr. Hourani and Ms. Bucher at LERC (May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

The 2006 war triggered Aractingi's anxiety about yet another episode of forced migration. Aractingi writes, the event "*brought forth in me a sense of déjà-vu, while several other stories seemed to echo it. Mine, but also that of my grandmother's, who had left her native country, find that across five generations, none of my parents, my grandparents, or my ancestors, was born and died in the same place. Whether due to a war or to a massacre, they have all had to flee at least once in their life.*"

The film is showing in various cinemas in Lebanon and plans are being formulated to screen it abroad.

Ms. Bucher, whose present mission is to get Aractingi's film *Héritages* screened around the world, is a feature writer with a passion for the seventh art, a keen interest in culture and mobility, as well as social and environmental subjects. Being half-French, half-German possibly explains why she is drawn to divided countries and diverse societies: She called Cape Town in South Africa home for over a decade before coming to Beirut in early 2012.

*Heritages is a journey through time. It is a real story, built through the prism of memory.... The film leaves the audience with a daunting question that every emigrant family at one point or another asks: "Was our family doomed to exile? Or is it the Levant that continues to harbor these same stories?"*