



Julia Kristina Daley of AUB visits LERC

By Alaa Hejazi, LERC Intern

May 11, 2015

Julia Kristina Daley, a student at of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies at the American University of Beirut (AUB) visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre- Dame University-Louaizé (NDU) to meet with the Center's Director Dr. Guita Hourani regarding her work on the Kurds of Lebanon. Ms. Daley is writing her MA thesis on one of the Dom (gypsies, *Nawar*) communities in Beirut.

Ms. Daley met with Dr. Hourani to discuss the former's thesis. Dr. Hourani gave Ms. Daley comments on her research and advised to interview stakeholders including NGOs and the local government to learn more about the Dom in Beirut. She also advised her to investigate the issue of statelessness with the Dom group that she is studying in order to assess their access to education, jobs and loans in order for her to evaluate their socio-economic situation in light of these accesses.

Following her meeting with Dr. Hourani, Ms. Daley was introduced to LERC's electronic Archive—LEAD. Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Chief Indexer and Archivist, introduced LEAD and the Center's research infrastructure and shared with Ms. Daley material pertaining to her topic.

The Dom people are found in small groups in various parts of Lebanon. Their number is estimated to be around 8,000 people. Dom families have high fertility rate with seven or more children per couple. Several groups of Dom can be found in and around Beirut, Tripoli, Byblos, and the Bekaa Valley. They are in their majority poor and uneducated and some continue to be stateless despite the fact that many were naturalized in Lebanon in 1994.