

Political Scientists from New York University -Abu Dhabi Visit LERC

**By LERC Staff
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The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), hosted on January 26, 2016 Assistant Professor of Politics Dr. Leonid Peisakhin and Postdoctoral Associate Dr. Han Il Chang (both of New York University in Abu Dhabi) who were eager to discuss with LERC Director Dr. Guita Hourani their upcoming research project in Lebanon.



Drs. Peisakhin and Chang at NDU (Jan. 2016)

Drs. Peisakhin and Chang are in their identification phase for a “lab-in-the-field experiment on religious identity and intergroup cooperation among Shia and Sunni Muslims and Christians.” Their research aims at establishing interactions between religious identity and economic self-interest when it comes to preferences for how public goods ought to be distributed. Furthermore, their research explores “whether and why some voters might favor egalitarian distribution of public goods across all groups in society.”

On this visit, the two academicians discussed with Dr. Hourani the role of sectarianism and activism, voting behavior and political outlook among the Lebanese, particularly the youth, as well as methodological approaches to better conduct their experiments. These lab-in-the-field experiments are planned for 2016.

Dr. Peisakhin is specialized in comparative politics, political economy, political behavior, European politics, and experimental methods while Dr. Chang is specialized in comparative political economy, political behavior, identity politics, experimental political science, Game Theory, and Korean politics.