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# CALL FOR STUDENT RESEARCHERS: RESEARCH PROJECT IN ANTHROPOLOGY OF PEACE EXPERTISE

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**DEADLINE: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

The research project entitled “**Institutions of expert knowledge production: Challenges of transformations in the structures of peacemaking in Lebanon**” is soliciting student researchers. The project is supported by the *Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries* (KFPE) in Switzerland and the *Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs* at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in Lebanon. The participation of student researchers in the project will ideally complement the completion of their MA thesis in anthropology or sociology. The student will be part of a five-member research team, comprised of the principal research coordinator (Nikola Kosmatopoulos, Zurich University), a Lebanon-based facilitator (Zina Sawaf, Issam Fares Institute) and three student researchers (two in Lebanon and one in Switzerland). The research will cover a period of 12 months starting in January 2009 and ending in January 2010, divided into four three-month phases. The first two phases will be devoted to fieldwork and the latter two to analysis and dissemination of results.

The research project aims to contribute new insights and spur action-oriented debate on two different levels: academic and societal. On the first level, it seeks to analyze the specific ways in which experts in peacemaking are functioning, i.e. how they produce knowledge, undertake advocacy, secure their legitimacy, render their accounts authoritative and address their diverse constituencies. On the level of societal contribution, it aims to spur broader debate among Lebanese society on issues raised by the research. The backbone of the research project is the anthropological method of ethnography, facilitated by such mainstream or innovative techniques as participant observation, semi-structured interviews, group discussions and visual documentation.

## **Who can apply?**

*Students only:* Open to any graduate or undergraduate student currently enrolled in a degree program toward the completion of an undergraduate senior thesis or master thesis in anthropology or sociology, enrolled in a university in Lebanon. Students from all universities in Lebanon are encouraged to apply.

## **What is expected from the student researchers?**

The student researchers are expected to conduct six-month-long fieldwork, which consists of research conducted at an institution of peacemaking in Lebanon (phase 1), as well as among its beneficiaries (phase 2), and to analyze the data gathered (phase 3). Examples of potential institutions for the research are local or international NGOs, committed think tanks or even UN bodies, all with a vocal specialization in peacemaking or peacekeeping. A 20-page report is expected after the completion of each research phase (phases 1-3). Finally, active engagement in dissemination activities is expected and encouraged (phase 4). All reports will be written in English.

## **What is the benefit of participation?**

Students will have the chance to participate in a highly relevant and innovative research project, which will be facilitated by intensive fieldwork, creative teamwork, intellectual stimulation and international linkages. Planned publications, presentations and conferences will contribute to the dissemination of research results in Lebanon and Switzerland (at universities, UN agencies, think tanks etc). Although salaries and direct payments are not provided, transport costs within Lebanon as well as a trip to Switzerland for one week are included.

## **Application requirements**

- 1] Short essay detailing general research experience and interests (1 page)
- 2] Writing sample in English (no more than 4 double-spaced typed pages)
- 3] Letter of recommendation from professor
- 4] CV

Applicants are requested to email the above application material to both members of the selection committee, by no later than December 31. The letter of recommendation can be faxed or mailed to the addresses below. Applications will be reviewed and decisions announced by January 15.

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Research Project on KFPE website: <http://www.kfpe.ch/projects/jeuneschercheurs/kosmatopoulos.php>