DIWANIYYA, DEMOCRACY, AND KUWAIT’S DEVELOPMENTAL PATH

Presented by: Bayly Winder
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Winder’s research looks at the diwaniyya, a central and extremely well-established institution in Kuwaiti society. In essence, the diwaniyya is a physical space where family members, close contacts, and notable individuals meet to discuss a wide range of different subjects. Besides being a venue for informal, everyday discussion, the diwaniyya is oftentimes where major business deals take shape and political debates occur. It is something that is unique to Kuwait and has maintained its relevance over the years despite the rapidly-changing state of the nation. The diwaniyya remains a critical link between the ruling Al-Sabah family and its subjects, as well as a forum for the type of intense political speech which is far less possible in other GCC countries.

Bayly Winder is currently conducting research at AUK as a Fulbright Scholar. In 2014, he graduated from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, with a bachelor’s degree in political science. His primary academic interests are Persian Gulf politics and GCC-U.S. relations. During the past several years, he has studied the region intensively, including a year abroad at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Doha, Qatar. Once his tenure in Kuwait concludes at the end of May, he hopes to move to Washington, D.C. and begin a career in foreign policy.

DATE:
Tuesday April 28, 2015

TIME:
2:00 pm

VENUE:
Classroom B205 (Liberal Arts Building)