THE CREATION OF A SUPER-WELFARE STATE:  
A Glimpse into the Making of Modern Kuwait

Presented by:  
Saleh Al-Nafisi, Ph.D.

This lecture takes the audience back to the eve of oil and the early days of the oil boom, when the initial ideas about how to utilize Kuwait’s newfound wealth were being formulated. Using archival material from the period, it reveals some of the very early discussions, debates, and conflicts among policymakers concerned with the economic, financial, and administrative development of Kuwait. The lecture then reveals the very first plans and policies that ultimately transformed the country into what was referred to at the time as a ‘super-welfare state.’ In so doing, the lecture encourages a reassessment of Kuwait’s so-called ‘Golden Age,’ as many of the country’s current problems, particularly those related to its unsustainable economic and socioeconomic system, are in fact rooted in policy choices of that era.

Saleh Al-Nafisi holds a PhD in Government and International Affairs from Durham University and a Masters in International Political Economy from Warwick University. His research interests include the political economy of natural resource wealth, oil, democratization and development, and Kuwait political and economic history.

DATE: 
Tuesday, November 26th, 2013

TIME:  
6:00 pm

VENUE:  
Auditorium