

University of Dayton

eCommons

Conference: The Social Practice of Human Rights

The Social Practice of Human Rights

Oct 2nd, 2:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Double Jeopardy: The Rights of Refugees in Marginalized Communities in the Middle East (abstract)

Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous
Notre Dame University of Louaize, Lebanon

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights



Part of the [Peace and Conflict Studies Commons](#), [Policy Design, Analysis, and Evaluation Commons](#), [Policy History, Theory, and Methods Commons](#), [Politics and Social Change Commons](#), and the [Work, Economy and Organizations Commons](#)

Sensenig-Dabbous, Eugene, "Double Jeopardy: The Rights of Refugees in Marginalized Communities in the Middle East (abstract)" (2015). *Conference: The Social Practice of Human Rights*. 1. https://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights/2015/humanitarianconcerns/1

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Human Rights Center at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Conference: The Social Practice of Human Rights by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact mschlangen1@udayton.edu, ecommons@udayton.edu.

The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy

2015 Conference of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center

Oct. 1-3, 2015, Dayton, Ohio

For the archive of the conference, see http://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights/2015/

Research Panel: Humanitarian Concerns

Presenter: Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous

Title: Double Jeopardy: The rights of refugees in marginalized communities in the Middle East

Abstract: The plight of Syrian, Iraqi, and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon has been well documented in recent years. Less attention has been paid to the impact these large refugee populations have had on the already marginalized regions in the northern (Akkar), eastern (Bakaa), and southern (Tyre & Nabatiye) parts of the country. Basic human rights such as education, health care, childhood development, family, employment, and equal protection before the law are being undermined through the ‘double burden’ of a largely unregulated and under-serviced refugee population, which is now threatening to exceed 2 million by the end of 2015.

This paper will deal with the nexus of refugee rights and the rights of impoverished populations in the marginalized regions of Lebanon. It will focus on the possibility of conceptualizing a comprehensive strategy, which takes the emergency needs of the newly arrived Syrians, as well as the already partially integrated Iraqi and Palestinian refugees into consideration, while simultaneously promoting the medium and long term economic and infrastructural development of the above mentioned peripheral parts of the country.

This paper will focus on the Akkar region in the far north of Lebanon. From a theoretical perspective, it will argue that the developmental agenda inherent in Catholic Social Teaching offers Lebanon a rational for a revitalization of the country, based on the experience of modernization in the 1950s and 1960s, often referred to as Chehabism (after the Maronite president at the time), and exemplified in the reform proposals developed by Louis-Joseph Lebret and the 1964 IRFED project report for Lebanon.

The original research to be presented in this paper will be drawn from projects carried out by this author, together with the staff at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center and in the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, both at Notre Dame University, during the past four years.

Keywords: refugees, employment, education, infrastructure development, Catholic Social Teaching

Biography: Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) and a senior researcher at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC), both at Notre Dame University, Lebanon. He has a MA in German literature and a PhD in political science from the Paris Lodron University, Salzburg Austria. He has published extensively in the fields of migration, refugee, and minorities studies, both in Austria and Lebanon. Currently he is working at LERC on an assessment of the impact of the civil war related Syrian refugee population on the economic development of Lebanon. He is also responsible at FLPS for the Catholic Social Teaching agenda, where he developed and has taught the course “The Politics of Catholic Social Theory” several times. He is a member of the Council of Elders at the International Community Church Beirut, where he is primarily responsible for both the children’s ministry and the social justice agenda.