



CITIZEN HARIRI

LEBANON'S NEOLIBERAL
RECONSTRUCTION

HANNES BAUMANN

BOOK LAUNCH

Tuesday, 15th August, 6.30pm

At: Kenyon Institute Garden

30 Mount of Olives Road
Sheikh Jarrah
East Jerusalem
(Next to Gallery Café)

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*This is a joint event between the Kenyon Institute,
the Educational Bookshop and Dar al-Tifel al-Arabi*

Rafiq Hariri was Lebanon's Silvio Berlusconi: a 'self-made' billionaire who became prime minister and shaped postwar reconstruction. His assassination in February 2005 almost tipped the country into civil strife. Yet Hariri was neither a militia leader nor from a traditional political family. How did this outsider rise to wield such immense political and economic power?

Citizen Hariri: Lebanon's Neoliberal Reconstruction (Hurst, 2017) shows how the billionaire, having grown rich as a contractor in the Gulf, converted his wealth and close ties to the Saudi monarchy into political power, and turned Lebanon into an outlet for Gulf capital. But at the same time, Hariri was a deeply Lebanese figure: he had to fend against militia leaders and a hostile Syrian regime. The billionaire outsider eventually came to

behave like a traditional Lebanese political patron. The book assesses not only the personal legacy of the man dubbed 'Mr Lebanon' but charts the wider social and economic transformations his rise represented, and how changes in global neoliberalism reshaped Lebanese politics. At this book launch event, author **Dr Hannes Baumann** will be in discussion with **Dr Toufic Haddad** who will draw out how similar social and economic transformations have taken place in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Hannes Baumann is a lecturer at the University of Liverpool, UK. His current research looks at the politics of Gulf investment in non-oil Arab states.

Toufic Haddad is a Palestinian-American researcher and author of *Palestine Ltd: Nationalism and Neoliberalism in the Occupied Territory* (IB Tauris, 2016).

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