Dispossession, dislocation and involuntary movement of populations in the Middle East have indelibly marked the region throughout the past 100 years. Arising as part of the outcome of the decline of empires, and carried further by the colonial encounter, forced migration has come to be a defining feature of life in the 21st-century Middle East. This lecture explores the numerous waves of involuntary migration from outside the Ottoman Empire as well as from within the heart of its former Arab provinces. It seeks to contextualize the experience of dispossession within the international and regional political arena of its time and reflect on what this past teaches us about the contemporary humanitarian crisis facing the region.

Dawn Chatty is Professor of Anthropology and Forced Migration at the University of Oxford currently engaged in research on the Syrian humanitarian crisis to understand the perceptions, aspirations and behaviour of refugees, host community members as well as practitioners and policy makers.

Discussant: Assoc. Prof. Nazlı Balkır, Psychology, İşık University, Istanbul

For attendance, registration at helins@sri.org.tr is necessary

Refreshments are served after the lecture