The Liberal Arts Program presents

Liberal Arts Guest Speaker Series 13-14

“Informal Social Control and Weapon of Political Repression: Sexual Harassment in Egyptian Public Spaces”

Dr. Helen Rizzo

9 Feb 2014
12-1 pm
LH 238

ABSTRACT INFO:
This lecture will discuss the recent history of public space sexual harassment as a form of informal social control that women face every day in Egypt as well as how it has been used as a weapon of political repression against female protesters before and after the January 25, 2011 uprising. The lecture will also discuss the initiatives that are attempting to end the various types of sexual harassment including the campaign that began before 2011 by a well-established women’s rights organization as well as the initiatives and alliances that have emerged since January 2011 by younger female activists.

BIO:
Helen Rizzo received her PhD in sociology from The Ohio State University in 2000. She has published numerous articles on public opinion, citizenship rights and the democratization process in Kuwait. Her book, Islam, Democracy and the Status of Women: The Case of Kuwait, was published in 2005 by Routledge Press. She is currently the sociology-anthropology graduate program director in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology and Egyptology at the American University in Cairo.

Recent projects include working with colleagues from political science and sociology on an NSF Human and Social Dynamics grant project, examining the dissent/repression nexus in the Middle East, in addition to research focusing on social movement campaigns against street sexual harassment in Egypt. Rizzo has also volunteered in the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights campaign titled Making Our Streets Safe for Everyone. She is currently a research consultant with Harassmap, an initiative to end the social acceptability of sexual harassment, and serves on the graduate advisory committee of the Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies at AUC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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