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***A Third World War: Revolution, Counterrevolution, and Empire in Lebanon, 1967–1990***

This presentation views Lebanon as an important setting for competing networks of revolution, counterrevolution, and empire on local, regional, and global scales during the second half of the twentieth century. While treated as an internal conflict in the existing literature, the growth, transnational circulation, and demise of the war's opposing political camps involved far more than Lebanese politics. The conflict combined debates over the nation, the distribution of political power, social justice, religious difference, visions of development, and foreign policy in a divided global system. Drawing on multiarchival, multilingual research I explore how Middle Eastern actors employed and transformed transnational networks and discourses of conflict, while arguing the war was a crucial setting for the US and its allies after Vietnam. Using what I call the "Third World War" as a conceptual framework, I track the linkages between people, materiel, and ideas across sites of conflict, contributing toward a rethinking of the Cold War as an international civil war connecting actors in numerous states, and often driven by events in the "periphery."