This presentation addresses the structural causes and dynamics of the Syrian Uprising, as well as the more recent developments and their implications for Syria’s future. The speaker builds on his research on Syria’s political economy since 1970 and the social consequences of the neoliberal turn after 2000. He also addresses the causes behind turning the Syrian crisis into a regional and an international affair.

**Bassam Haddad** is Director of the Middle East Studies Program and teaches in the Department of Public and International Affairs at George Mason University, and is Visiting Professor at Georgetown University. He is the author of *Business Networks in Syria: The Political Economy of Authoritarian Resilience* (Stanford University Press, 2011). Bassam recently published “The Political Economy of Syria: Realities and Challenges,” in *Middle East Policy* and is currently editing a volume on *Teaching the Middle East After the Arab Uprisings*, a book manuscript on pedagogical and theoretical approaches. Bassam is a founding editor of the *Arab Studies Journal* a peer-reviewed research publication and is co-producer/director of the award-winning documentary film, *About Baghdad*, and director of a critically acclaimed film series on *Arabs and Terrorism*, based on extensive field research/interviews. More recently, he directed a film on Arab/Muslim immigrants in Europe, titled *The “Other” Threat.* Bassam is the Executive Director of the Arab Studies Institute, an umbrella for four organizations dealing with knowledge production on the Middle East.