Member at Large Bio
Melanie S. Tanielian

Walking the streets of Beirut for the first time in 2004, I knew that the city would have to become my second home. I, at that moment, decided to focus my future studies on Lebanon. I was particularly interested in social and cultural history of World War I, a reminder of which stood at the center of Beirut. The statue of the martyrs in the Burj (also referred to as Martyrs’ Square) riddled with bullet holes from the recent civil war sparked my interest. I spent the next few years in Beirut tracking down fragments of archives to get at the stories of civilian homefront life that had been silenced in the state-sponsored national discourse of heroic resistance against Ottoman tyrannical rule and male martyrdom. My research resulted in my dissertation *The War of Famine: Every Day Life in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (1914-1918)*. The dissertation has since turned into a book manuscript that explores daily life at the Lebanese homefront through the lens of famine, family, disease and medicine, as well as local, state, and international war relief. Since the completion of my PhD in Middle Eastern history at the University of California, Berkeley in 2012, I have been teaching as an assistant professor in the History Department at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. My research and teaching interests include the social and cultural history of WWI in the Middle East, the emergence of religious philanthropic societies and their work in times of conflict, the history of German missionaries, social Protestantism and modern humanitarianism, disease, medicine, and hospitals, the history Childhood and Youth.