**Overview of Research**

We are interested in the role played by Armenians in the Middle East’s and Asia’s commercial dynamics and relationships with the wider world. One aspect of this is the role of Armenians in creating commercial connections between countries and regions: do Armenians still constitute a “stretched community” that connects different countries and regions and is able to broker connections between different economies, groups and cultures? The other aspect is asking about the commercial roles of Armenians within particular cities in Kuwait, and the kinds of social relations, neighbourhoods, institutions and heritage they have created in the process.

**Specific Questions**

Transnational connections

Do you participate in trade networks and commercial relationships that extend beyond one country? If so, are these exclusively Armenian networks or do they comprise non-Armenians too? What are the trading activities, what places do they connect, and how have these activities developed through time? What kinds of relations have you built and maintained with non-Armenians (Arabs, Muslims) in the process? What kinds of identities underpin these trading networks (Syrian/Levantine, Armenian, Arab, Middle Eastern etc?)

Commercial life of cities

When and why did you / your family choose to move to Kuwait? How did you / your family establish yourselves economically? What commercial activities have you undertaken within particular cities in Kuwait? What kinds of relations have you built and maintained with non-Armenians (Arabs, Muslims) in the process?

Social and family life

What kind of social relations do you maintain with Arabs and Muslims in Kuwait, and how do you do so – what spaces, institutions or activities are important for this?

How you participate in Armenian community life? Is there a distinctively Armenian neighbourhood? What are the key institutions of Armenian life?

What kind of family life do you maintain – is your family dispersed across more than one country, and how did it come to be dispersed?

If you moved to Kuwait during your lifetime, what kind of adjustments or changes have you made to live in Kuwait? What kinds of Syrian or Armenian heritage or ways of life is it important for you to maintain, and how do you do so?

**About the researchers**

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The aim of the project is to write a book and academic articles that can be used in university teaching to improve understanding about the different kinds of culture, movement and identity that make up the wider Middle East.