



Dr. Amal Hamada, currently Fulbright Scholar in Residence at Framingham University in Massachusetts, visited area institutions March 27, 2015, as part of Bluefield State College's **Windows on the World Lecture Series**. Dr. Robin Ware of Princeton, West Virginia, hosted Dr. Hamada in her home.

At BSC, Dr. Hamada discussed "Alternative Histories: how the people in the streets tell the story of the Arab Spring." This session was co-sponsored by Bluefield State College's Colloquium Series spearheaded by Dr. Sean Connolly.

Dr. Hamada also shared her thoughts on this subject with students, teachers, and administrators at Bluefield High School.

"After four years of the start of the so called 'Arab Spring'," said Dr. Hamada, "there is a lot of pessimism about the future of democracy in the region (the Middle East and North African countries). Some would go as far as talking about an "Arab Winter". In my talk, I address the issue from a different perspective. The amount of transformation that took place on the level of society has not been rightfully evaluated. People have different accounts about what has happened in the last four years and their stories need to be listened to in order to comprehend the development in a better way."

A member of the Arab Team for Christian-Islamic Dialog, Dr. Hamada's scholarly pursuits center on Middle East politics, religion, democratic initiatives, history and development of Iran's political system, bloggers in the Middle East as a force for social movements especially in Egypt and Iran, and social media and political change.

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Dr. Amal Hamada of Egypt

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