Centre d'études et de documentation économiques, juridiques et sociales



On Thursday, June 25, 2024 at 11am at CEDEJ, **Kyle Anderson** will present his research: "The Radical Life of Mansur Rif'at: An Egyptian in the Global Revolutionary Underground".

Histories of Egyptian anti-colonial activism in the first quarter of the twentieth century have often concentrated on developments that took place within the territorial borders of the modern Egyptian nation-state. But a significant group of activist Egyptians working against the British occupation lived abroad in cities including Paris, London, Geneva, Berlin, Beirut, and Istanbul. This article provides a case study of one influential vet relatively unknown Egyptian who moved through these circles: Mansur Mustafa Rif'at. After reviewing the literature on Egyptian anti-colonial



activism and proposing a new framework for understanding the transnational and diasporic dimensions of what I call Egyptian radicalism, this article reconstructs Rif'at's life and political activities from his education in Syria and the United States through his peripatetic wanderings throughout Europe and the Middle East. It focuses on his activities in Philadelphia (1906-1908), Cairo (1909), Paris (1910-1911), Geneva (1912-1914), and Berlin (1915-1925), where I argue that, even despite the putative failure of Egyptian radicalism broadly, Rif'at made his impact felt in Egypt and across the globe.

Kyle J. Anderson is an Associate Professor in the Department of History & Philosophy at the State University of New York in Old Westbury and the author of *The Egyptian Labor Corps: Race, Space, and Place in the First World War.* His research focuses on British colonialism and anti-colonial movements in the Middle East during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries