Faculty Research Chat
Sponsored by the Babson Faculty Research Fund

Monday, April 4th, 2016
Noon - 1:15 PM
Needham Room, Olin Hall

“Grids of Power: Toward a Phenomenology of Fuel”
Brian Seitz – Arts and Humanities

Since our earliest relations with fire, humans have always relied upon and our identities been informed by “external” forms of fuel and power. Although earlier generations had a more humble and profound understanding of this reliance, humans in the modern period have tended to frame fuel through a restricted discourse of “natural resources” and, by extension, to fancy themselves in control of power. A contribution to environmental philosophy, this presentation is a critique of this instrumentalist, managerial discourse, illustrated by some examples.

“Notes from Iraqi Kurdistan: Sustainability and Entrepreneurship Are the Real Crises and Opportunities”
Adam Sulkowski – Accounting and Law

Iraqi Kurdistan is our most effective frontline ally against ISIS. But a visit in January involving dozens of conversations (planned and unplanned) with security, business, political, religious, cultural, and educational leaders and people at bazaars, bars, the front, historic sites, and elsewhere revealed a common theme: no one there is scared of ISIS or potential tensions related to hosting almost 2 million refugees. The real crisis is economic: namely, how to transition their autonomous region away from an oil-based economy to a more sustainable means of meeting needs and generating wealth. Entrepreneurship was on display in surprising places like displaced persons camps, yet many said more entrepreneurship capacity building is needed. This talk will highlight opportunities to get involved with research that could play a constructive and valuable role there and elsewhere.

We look forward to your participation. Refreshments will be paid for by the BFRF - Pick up your lunch in Olin Pandini’s (before noon), sign the Chat list at the checkout period. Please join your colleagues in the Needham Room. For additional information, contact Sandra Castaldini, x5339.

Next Chat
Thursday, April 14th, 2016