During the British Mandate in Palestine, there existed among the majority Muslim Arab population a perception that they were being discriminated against in favor of Christian Arabs with respect to administrative positions. While initially there was some truth to this, likewise justification, given that at the start of the Mandate Christian Arabs were arguably more qualified from the standpoint of respective educational backgrounds, over time, the number of Muslim youths with a suitable (that is, secular-based) education quickly increased. The perception of Christian favoritism nonetheless persisted, and would come to define a significant Muslim grievance often disruptive of Muslim-Christian Arab unity with respect to the Palestinian nationalist movement. The talk will ascertain whether, on the basis of a statistical analysis of the actual numbers of Muslim and Christian Arabs employed by the British mandatory government and their respective educational qualifications, the latter did in fact constitute a privileged group.

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**Prof. Louis Fishman** (History, Brooklyn College) will offer comments.