

**PROGRAMME**  
**Kurdish Studies Conference**

22-23 May 2024

The Wave, Whitham Road, University of Sheffield

\* Online presentation

**DAY ONE**

**Wednesday 22 May 2024**

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**08:30 Registration Opens**

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**09:00 – 10:30 Panel 1A – Kurdish Women’s Activism in its Various Forms and Shapes  
Seminar Room 3**

Chair: Emrah Karakuş, LSE

*Factors Affecting Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Kurdistan, Iran: A  
Structural Equation Model*

Snour Ahmadi, University of Foggia

*Kurdish Women Activists’ Conceptualisation of Feminism and Nationalism:  
An Ethnographic Study of London-Based Kurdish Organisations*

Berrin Altın Soran

*The Emerging Field of Kurdish Gender Studies and the Formation of the  
Kurdish Gender Studies Network*

Necla Açık, Middlesex University

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**Panel 1B - Voice, Justice and Memory in Kurdish Film and Documentary  
Seminar Room 5**

Chair: Kaveh Ghobadi

*Voice and Subjectivity in Contemporary Kurdish Documentary Film*

Erika González Flores, National Autonomous University of Mexico

*Kurds on and Behind the Screen: Producing Films and Festivals*

Fatma Edemen, Jagiellonian University

*Vernacular Imaginations of Justice in Kurdish Documentary Films*

Nilgün Yelpaze, Philipps University of Marburg

*Cultural Memory Through Stateless Cinema: An Exploration of Kurdish  
Documentary Film*

Cem Koç, Ulster University

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*Dynamics of Kurdish Cinematic Production and Distribution in Turkey:  
Unveiling Alternative Models and State Mechanisms*  
Ilknur Bilir, Martin-Luther University Halle- Wittenberg

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**10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break**

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**11:00 – 12:30 Panel 2A - Approaches to Kurdish Cultural Production  
Seminar Room 3**

Chair: Nicole Watts, San Francisco State University

*Areas of Intersection between Alevi and Kurdish Identities in Contemporary  
Theatre and Dance from Turkey*  
Sinibaldo De Rosa, University of Milan

*Analysing the Symbolic Action of Bereaved Mothers of Kurdistan based on  
Mourning Sounds and Mourning Dance in the Jina Movement*  
Shakiba Rahmani

*Unveiling Dêrsim: A Linguistic and Literary Analysis of Zazakî Oral  
Literature*  
Mahîr Dogan, University of Bamberg

*Self-governing Through Cultural Production: A Comparative Study of  
Kurdistan's Jews in Jerusalem and the Kurdish Diaspora in Berlin*  
Veysi Dag, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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**Panel 2B - Education as an 'Integration' Policy: Iraqi Kurdistan and  
Turkey**

**Seminar Room 5**

Chair: Nidal Al Haj Sleiman, Ulster University

*Formal Education in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Towards Coexistence  
and Peacebuilding*  
Mustafa Wshyar, Ulster University

*Education Policies in the Refugee Camps in Iraqi Kurdistan*  
Hussein Abbas, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

*Stories of Women Displaced by ISIS: A Social Justice Perspective on the  
Social and Educational Experiences of Young Women in Kurdistan*  
Jumana Al-Waeli, Ulster University

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**Panel 2C - Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Human Mobility Hub  
Workroom 3**

Chair: Thomas McGee, University of Melbourne Law School

*The Grass is Not Always Greener on the Other Side: The Evolution of Iraqi  
Kurdish Migration to Europe: The Case of Kurdish Migrants in Athens and  
Dunkirk*

Abdullah Omar Yassen, Erbil Polytechnic University & Jehat Mirkhan,  
Norwegian Refugee Council

*The Prospects for Durable Solutions for IDPs in Iraq: A Case Study of Erbil  
Governorate Camps*

Halmat Saadoon Ghareeb, University of Salahaddin-Erbil & Taban  
Masoom Hawrami, University of Salahaddin-Erbil

*What Happens to Law in a Refugee Camp? Turkish and Iranian Attacks on  
Refugee Camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq*

Zozan Yasar, journalist/filmmaker & Shakir Suleman Mahmud, Kurdistan  
Regional Government

*The Use of Kurdish Language vs English Language in the Workplace in the  
Private Sector of Kurdistan Region of Iraq*

\*Dlpak Mustafa Azeez, Catholic University in Erbil, Taban Khudhur Omar,  
University of Kurdistan-Hewlêr & Selar Othman Ali, Erbil Polytechnic  
University

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**Panel 2D - Discourses of Kurdishness, Conflict and Reconciliation in  
Turkey**
**Lecture Theatre 4**

Chair: Arda Bilgen, LSE Middle East Centre

*Between Indigenous to Territory and Threat to State Sovereignty:  
Polarisation of Discourse on Kurdishness within Turkey's Political Sphere*

Aynur Unal, Arden University

*The Turkish Official Discourse of Terrorism and the Kurdish Peace Process*

\*Azad Dewanee, Bradford University

*Land, Conflict and Political Mobilisation in Kurdistan: The Agrarian frontiers  
of Kurdish Autonomy, 1950s-1980s*

Alex Creamer, London School of Economics

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**12:30 – 13:30 Lunch**


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**13:30 – 15:00 Panel 3A - Constructions of Political and National Identity in the Diaspora**

**Seminar Room 3**

Chair: Veysi Dag, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Banal Nationalism and Kurdishness: A Comparative Approach between Denmark and Sweden*

Tiago Duarte Dias, Lund University

*Exploring the Impact of AKP's Authoritarianism on Kurdish Diaspora: Psychological and Political Dynamics*

Haci Cevik, Humboldt University

*Portrait of a Kurdish Exile between "intellectualism" and "activism": Nuredin Zaza (1919-1988)*

\*Bilal Ata Aktaş, Panthéon-Sorbonne University

*Yezidi Women in Siberia and the Discourse over Education and Employment: Chances and Perspectives*

\*Henriette Raddatz, Freie Universität Berlin

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**Panel 3B - Governing North and East Syria**

**Seminar Room 5**

Chair: Arda Bilgen, LSE Middle East Centre

*Democratic Confederalism in Deir ez-Zor and the Arab Regions of North and East Syria: Crisis or Opportunity?*

Matt Broomfield

*Rojava's Democratic Governance: A Unique Paradigm within the Rebel Governance Discourse*

Pedro Campos, Universidade Federal Fluminense

*Education Reform in Rojava: Rebel Governance Practices in a Multicultural Reform*

Yushan Huang, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

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**Panel 3C - The Different Aspects of Consolidating 'Statehood' in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

**Workroom 3**

Chair: Kamaran Palani, LSE Middle East Centre

*Interactions between Emerging and Established States: A Pathway to a New Form of Statehood? The Case Study of the Consolidation of Statehood of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (1991 – 2020)*

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Silvia-Lucreția Nicola, Bundeswehr Center for Military History and Social Sciences

*Institutionalising Peace in Iraqi Kurdistan post-Civil War, 1998 to present*  
Hawre Hasan Hama, University of Sulaimani

*The Role of Kurdish Women in Parliament and Government in South Kurdistan 1992-2023*  
Harem Hasan Ahmed Baban, University of Raparin

*An Academic Affair: Kurdish Cultural Production in South Kurdistan in the 1970s*  
Saman Ihsan Abdalkarim, University of Exeter

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**Panel 3D - The Transformation of Kurdish Identity in Turkey**

**Lecture Theatre 4**

Chair: Fulya Atacan, LSE Middle East Centre

*Reflections of the Modernisation / Urbanity Relationship Established in Hegemonic Discourse on Kurds' "New Urbanity" Experience: The Case of Diyarbakır*

\*Rotinda Çağdaş, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University

*Glocal Securitization-Led Gentrification of Diyarbakır-Sur*  
Ibrahim Has

*Between the Legacy and the Reality: Unveiling the Kurdish Ethnic Identity through the Intergenerational Perspective*

\*Berfin Coşkun, Kurdish Studies Center

*Modernisation Theory and the Emergence of a Hierarchical Caste System in Turkey*

\*Abdulla Hawez, London School of Economics

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**15:00 – 15:15 Break**

**15:15 – 16:30 Keynote Lecture: *Feminist Kurdish Studies***

**Lecture Theatre 2**

Choman Hardi, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

Chair: Zeynep Kaya, University of Sheffield

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**16:30 – 18:00 HOME Exhibition and Conference Drinks Reception**

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## DAY TWO

Thursday 23 May 2024

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**09:00 – 10:30 Panel 4A - The Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Politics, Patronage and Sovereignty**
**Seminar Room 3**

Chair: Marouf Cabi, LSE Middle East Centre

*The Kurdish Political System in Erbil*

Rebwar Salih

*Between Merit and Patronage: Hybrid Appointments of KRG Top Civil Service*

Ari Mamshae, University of Oslo

*Intensifying Domestic Challenges of Iraqi Kurdistan: Bolstering Iran's Influence in the Middle East*

Anahita Motazed Rad, London School of Economics

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**Panel 4B – The Ugly Terrain of Ethnic Identity Management**
**Seminar Room 5**

Chair: Mostafa Khalili, Kyoto University / LSE Middle East Centre

*Ethnic Engineering and Neo-colonial Regional Planning in the Afrin Region*

Hevidar Mert, London School of Economics

*Democratic Confederalism as a Disputing Kurdish Cosmology*

José Vicente Mertz, CAPP/University of Lisbon &amp; Felipe Mattos Johnson, University of Lisbon

*Automated Ethnic Cleansing? AI's Turkish Bias, Minority Risks, and the Spectre of Genocide*

Naren Briar

*The Factors Affecting Kurdish Language Publishing in Turkey*

Miki Nose, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan

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**Panel 4C - Historical Accounts from Kurdistan**
**Workroom 3**

Chair: Allan Hassaniyan, University of Exeter

*Land, Power and Armenian-Kurdish Relations in the Ottoman East: A Testimony of an Armenian Survivor from Van*

\*Diana Yayloyan, Georgetown University

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*Readership and Book Culture in a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Ottoman Kurdish Emirate: A Study of the Library of Abdāl Khān of Bidlīs*

Sacha Alsancakli, University of Münster / Inalco, Paris

*An Anatomy of Islamic Awakening in Iranian Ouramanat: The Case of Naser Sobhani*

Yasuyuki Matsunaga and Sohrab Ahmadian, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

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**Panel 4D - Gender, Militarism and Nationalism**

**Lecture Theatre 4**

Chair: Berrin Altın Soran

*'Women Who Face Death': Understanding Motivational Factors for the Female Peshmergas of the KDPI*

Clara Rasouli, University of Oslo

*Fighting Multiple Battles on Different Frontlines – An Extensive Study of the Female Peshmerga*

Rawina Trautmann, European University Viadrina

*Dehumanising Kurdish men, Delegitimising Kurdish Nationalist Movement: The portrayal of Kurdish and Persian masculinities in Iranian war Films*

Kaveh Ghobadi

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**10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 12:30 Panel 5A - Challenges Faced by the Displaced in Iraqi Kurdistan and the UK**

**Seminar Room 3**

Chair: Haci Cevik, Humboldt University

*Returning from Europe to the Camp? Barriers Faced by Yezidi IDPs*

*Escaping Protracted Displacement in Iraqi Kurdistan*

Aleksandra Ancite-Jepifánova, Cardiff University

*The Forgotten Refugees: Rojhelati Refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq*

Allan Hassaniyan, University of Exeter

*"Credibility Undermined" - Challenges in Determining Country of Origin for Stateless Asylum Seekers: Kurds from Syria in the UK*

Thomas McGee, University of Melbourne Law School

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**Panel 5B - Social Movements, Identity and Economic Progress in Kurdistan**

**Seminar Room 5**

Chair: Rebwar Salih

*Identity as Injustice: Contested Meanings of Rural Life in Northern Iraq*  
Deema Alchuristany, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

*Political Hurdles on the Road to Economic Progress: Exploring Challenges in Iraqi Kurdistan*

\*Ribaz Chato Biro, Soran University

*Has the Iranian 1979 Revolution Benefited the Kurdish Movements in the Middle East?*

Hemn Seyed, University of Exeter

*From de-Tribalisation to re-Tribalisation: Instrumentalisation of Tribal Ties among the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds in post-Revolutionary Iran*  
Mostafa Khalili, Kyoto University and LSE Middle East Centre

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**Panel 5C - Historical Approaches to Kurdish Politics: Lausanne, Mahabad and the Soviet Union**

**Workroom 3**

Chair: Kamaran Palani, LSE Middle East Centre

*Britain's Response to Mahmoud's Collaboration with Turkey During and After the Lausanne Conference, 1922-23*

Ranjdar Mohammed Azeez, University of Suleimani

*"This is another melody": The Turkish Newspapers' Reactions to the Establishment of Mahabad Kurdish Republic and Azerbaijan People's Government in 1946*

\*Evren Çakıl, Boğaziçi University

*Revolutionary Heroes in Kurdish Sovietic Novels (1935-1991)*

Betül Çoban Akaygün, Dicle University

*Deconstructing Soviet Kurdish Policies: the Kurds between Moscow, Baku and Yerevan*

\*Angelika Pobedonostseva-Kaya, Saint Petersburg State University

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**Panel 5D - The Women's Movement in Rojava: Tactics, Mythology, Empowerment and Resistance**

**Lecture Theatre 4**

Chair: Hasret Cetinkaya, Manchester Metropolitan University

*Gendered Discursive Tactics: The Strategy behind the Kurdish Women Movement's Liberation Ideals in Rojava*

Mustafa Kemal Topal, Roskilde University

*Gender, Militarism, and Mythology in the Kurdish Freedom Movement*

Stephen Knight, University of Oxford & Jenny Schulz, FCDO

*Jineolojî and Women's Protection Units (YPJ): A Cartography on the Resistance of the Kurdish Women's Movement to Femicide and Ecocide*

Letícia Gimenez, San Tiago Dantas Postgraduate Program in International Relations

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**12:30 – 13:00 Lunch**

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**13:00 – 14:00 Plenary Session: Republic of Dreams: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Struggles, and the Future of Iraqi Kurdistan**

**Lecture Theatre 2**

A Reading and Conversation with Professor Nicole Watts, San Francisco State University

Chair: Robert Lowe, LSE Middle East Centre

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**14:00 – 15:30 Panel 6A - Kurdish Geopolitics**

**Seminar Room 3**

Chair: Bariş Çelik, University of Sheffield

*Turkey's Rapprochement towards China in Geopolitics: Understanding Security Policies of the Kurdish People inside the Belt and Road Initiative*  
Edoardo Lavezzo, University of York

*Using Human Rights to Gain International Standing: A Comparison of the Iraqi Ba'thist and Kurdish Nationalist Archives*

Lily Hindy, University of California, Los Angeles

*From Would-be-state Diplomacy to Rebel Diplomacy: The International Relations and Diplomatic Activities of Kurdish Political Actors, 1908-1938*

Kubra Sagir, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

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**Panel 6B – Social Media and Education in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq  
Seminar Room 5**

Chair: Ari Mamshae, University of Oslo

*Social Media Engagement and Internet Usage Patterns among Youth in the  
Kurdistan Region of Iraq*

Mahmood Baban, Rudaw Research Center

*The Duality of Leadership and Policy and the Questions of Social Justice  
Education in Iraqi Kurdistan Schools*

Nidal Al Haj Sleiman, Ulster University

*The Rise of Education Privatization in Kurdistan Region of Iraq*

Karwan Mustafa Saeed, Koya University

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**Panel 6C - Agency, Desire and Positionality in Kurdish Worlds  
Workroom 3**

Chair: David Duriesmith, University of Sheffield

*Re-Theorising Namûs beyond 'Honour': Self-Making, Feminist Agency and  
Global Epistemic Justice*

Hasret Cetinkaya, Manchester Metropolitan University

*Queer States of Camouflage: Race and Desire in Kurdish Worlds*

Emrah Karakuş, London School of Economics

*The Female Combatant in Rojava: Perspectives on Gender and War from  
Brazil*

Beatriz de Tullio Pessoa Ramos, State University of Campinas  
(UNICAMP)

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**15:30**

**Close of Conference**

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