

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

22-23 May 2024

The Wave, Whitham Road, University of Sheffield

**DAY ONE****Wednesday 22 May 2024****08:30 Registration opens****09:00-10:30 Panel 1A – Kurdish Political Actors’ International Engagements**

Chair: Xavier Mathieu, University of Sheffield

*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

*An Asset: Iraqi Kurdistan in Israeli Foreign Policy 1961 – 2017*  
Pishtivan Mustafa, University of Kurdistan Hewlêr

*Contested Hegemonies: Kurdish Political Fortunes in the Shadow of Iranian Ascendancy (2003-2020)*  
Mohd Othman, Australian National University

**Panel 1B – Kurdish Women’s Activism in its Various Forms and Shapes**

Chair: Emrah Karakus, London School of Economics

*Factors Affecting Rural Women Entrepreneurship in Kurdistan, Iran: A Structural Equation Model*  
Snour Ahmadi, University of Foggia

*The Role of Kurdish Women in the Evolution of the Critical Nature of Iranian Women with an Emphasis on the Zhina Movement*  
Zarifeh Ahmadi and Mehdi Dehnavi

*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 Açıık, Middlesex University

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**Panel 1C – Voice, Justice and Memory in Kurdish Film and Documentary**

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

*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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**Panel 1D – Environment and Agriculture in Iraqi Kurdistan and Rojava**

Chair: Arda Bilgen, LSE Middle East Centre

*The Impact of Oil Economy on Agriculture and Environment in Iraqi Kurdistan after 2005*  
Fidan Mirhanoglu, Paris Business School

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

*Ecological Racism and Olive Tree Destruction in Rojava and Palestine*  
Pinar Dinc, Lund University & Necmettin Türk, University of Hamburg

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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**

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

*Analyzing 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 – Identity, Mobility and Tribalisation in Iranian Kurdistan**

Chair: Marouf Cabi, LSE Middle East Centre

*Transnational Kin Connections and the Securitisation of Ethnic Minorities A Case Study of Iran's Kurdish Ethnic Group in the Post-1991 Era*  
Shukriya Bradost, Virginia Tech University

*Minority or National Identity? Analysis of Kurdish Identity within Iranian Identity*  
Dilek Celebi, University of Manchester

*A Landscape of (Im)mobility in a Border Village in Rojhelat, Iran*  
Moslem Ghomashlouyan, University of Bern

*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 2C – Education as an 'Integration' Policy: Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey**

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

*The Practice of Displacing the Kurdish Language: 'Transported education'*  
Özgür Güven, Gaziantep University

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**Panel 2D – Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Human Mobility Hub**

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*  
Halimat 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*

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

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**Panel 2E – Discourses of Kurdishness, Conflict and Reconciliation in Turkey**

Chair: Pinar Dinc, Lund University

*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

*The Utilisation of Suicide Attacks by Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê (PKK)*

Neslihan Yaklav, Queen's University Belfast

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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**

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*

Hacı Çevik, Humboldt University

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

Bilal Ata Aktaş Panthèon-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-East Syria**

Chair: Arda Bilgen, LSE Middle East Centre

*Nationalists without Nationalism: The PYD's Identity-Building Strategies in  
Northeast Syria*

Musa Akgül, Lancaster University

*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  
Context*

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**

Chair: Hawar Ameen, Welsh Government

*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)*

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 1970s*

Saman Ihsan Abdalkarim, University of Exeter

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

Chair: Veli Yadirgi, 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 Diyarbakir-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*

Abdullah Hawez, London School of Economics

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**15:00-15:15 Break**

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

Choman Hardi, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

Chair: Zeynep Kaya, University of Sheffield

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**16:30-18:00 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**

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

*The Struggle for Being Hegemonic: Discourses of Sovereignty in Southern Kurdistan between 1946-2018*  
Kamran Aziz Abdulla, Soran University

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

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, University of Lisbon & 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**

Chair: Allan Hassaniyan, University of Exeter

*On the Imperial Roads to National-Colonialism: Iranian and Iraqi National Armies on the British Roads to Occupy Kurdistan*  
Morad Roohi, Queen's University Canada

*Land, Power and Armenian-Kurdish Relations in the Ottoman East: A Testimony of an Armenian Survivor from Van*  
Diana Yayloyan, Georgetown University & Mete Ulutaş

*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

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*An Anatomy of Islamic Awakening in Iranian Kurdistan: 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**

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

*Dehumanizing 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**

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

Chair: Hacı Çevik, 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**

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 Biro, Soran University

*Kurdish Nationalism and Identity*  
Hawar Ameen, Welsh Government

*Has the Iranian 1979 Revolution Benefited the Kurdish Movements in the Middle East?*  
Hemn Seyedi, University of Exeter

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

Chair: Diana Yayloyan, Georgetown University

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

Ranjdar Mohammed Azeez, University of Sulaimani

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

Evren Cakil, 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**

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

*Bid for a Democratic Governance, and the Precarious Process of Women's Empowerment in Rojava: An Ethnographic Study*

Dalir Barkhoda, Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

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

Leticia 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**

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

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

Chair: Barış Çelik, University of Sheffield

*Dangerous Liaisons? Non-Syrian Kurdish Political Organisations and Syria*  
Siarhei Bohdan, University of Regensburg

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

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Edoardo Lavezzo, University of York

*Using Human Rights to Gain International Standing: A Comparison of the Iraqi Ba'athist and Kurdish Nationalist Archives*  
Lily Hindy, University of California – Los Angeles

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

Chair: Ari Mamshae, University of Oslo

*The Role of Coping Strategies on Social Networking Sites: Addiction as Mediated by Perceived Social Support among Yazidis in Kurdistan Region – Iraq*

Hozan Salih Hussein

*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**

Chair: Erman Örsan Yetiş, University of Sheffield

*The Kurdish Woman on Cinema Screens: An Analysis of the Representation of Kurdish Women's Role and Agency in Bahman Qobadi's Films*

Nazanin Tazein

*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 Karakus, London School of Economics

*Reframing Positionality: Embracing Responsibility and Vulnerability in Conflict Zones as a Minority Scholar*

Dilan Okçuoglu, Aberystwyth University

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**Panel 6D – Jineolojî: Perspectives from Latin America**

Chair: David Duriesmith, University of Sheffield

*Rojava, Political Struggle and Women's Activism: Notes on Research and Information Produced in Brazil*

Sillas Akassio da Silva Nascimento, Federal University of Maranhão (UFMA)

*From the Mountains of Kurdistan to the Forests in Abya-Yala: Transnational connections between the Kurdish Women's Movement and the Comunitário Feminisms in América Latina*

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Maria Florencia Guarche Ribeiro, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul  
(UFRGS)

*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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