

PROGRAMME**Kurdish Studies Conference**

22-23 May 2024

The Wave, Whitham Road, University of Sheffield

Allan Hassaniyan**University of Exeter**

Allan Hassaniyan is Lecturer in Middle East Studies at Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter. He is author of *Kurdish Politics in Iran Crossborder Interactions and Mobilisation since 1947* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). Hassaniyan's current research focuses on state-society relationships in Iran and Kurdistan, and environmental movements and ecological security and challenges in the Middle East".

Abdulla Hawez**London School of Economics**

Abdulla Hawez is an MSc graduate in Middle Eastern Politics from SOAS with distinction. He has contributed as a journalist to several media outlets, including the BBC, Al Jazeera, and The Daily Beast. He co-founded Yalla, a leading Iraqi media start-up from 2014-2017, and has been quoted on the Kurdish Question by numerous journalists and scholars. Hawez is currently pursuing Social Research Methods at LSE.

Abdullah Yassen**Erbil Polytechnic University**

Abdullah Yassen is Policy and Advocacy Adviser at Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Iraq and Assistant Professor of Public International Law at Erbil Polytechnic University. Yassen received a PhD in International Refugee Law from Newcastle University. Yassen's research has focused on the social sciences, conducting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary empirical research, notable in relation to Iraq as a country of refuge. Yassen is Chair of the Research and Advocacy Network on Statelessness in The MENA (RANS MENA) and Researcher at the REF-ARAB project (2019-2023, an interdisciplinary research project at the University of Oslo on refugee protection in the Arab Middle East funded by the Research Council of Norway), and member of the advisory board for the BEYOND Project (University of Oslo, funded by the European Research Council 2021-2026). Yassen is also the country expert on citizenship for GLOBALCIT, based at the European University Institute and the Iraqi consultant for the UNESCO Institute for lifelong learning.

Aleksandra Ancite-Jepifánova**Cardiff University**

Aleksandra Ancite-Jepifánova is an interdisciplinary scholar working in the field of European and comparative migration, asylum and nationality law and policies. She holds a PhD in law from Queen Mary University of London and is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff University and a Research Affiliate with the Refugee Law Initiative. Her research interests currently focus on the EU-Belarus border crisis and the implications of EU migration policies for Iraqi nationals, particularly from the KRI.

Alex Creamer**London School of Economics**

Alex Creamer is a postgraduate student in MSc Theory and History of International Relations at the London School of Economics. He has previously worked at the University of Sussex as a Research Ambassador within International Historical Sociology, advancing the subfield's first regional study focusing specifically on the social property relations of Kurdistan. At LSE, Alex has continued to engage with this paradigm through getting involved with the editorial process of *Millennium: Journal of International Relations*, whilst drawing on the expertise of LSE's International History department in researching land inequality in 19th and 20th century Anatolia.

Angelika Pobedonostseva-Kaya **Saint Petersburg State University**

Angelika Pobedonostseva-Kaya studied at the Peter the Great Polytechnic University of St. Petersburg, the University of Istanbul and Saint Petersburg State University (PhD in history). Her research interests include modern Kurdish history and culture, Russian-Kurdish relations (XIX-XX c.), Soviet Oriental studies, Yezidism, Assyrian history and culture. Currently, she is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Asian and African Studies of the Saint Petersburg State University.

Ari Mamshae**University of Oslo**

Ari Mamshae is a PhD Research Fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Oslo. Coming from a blended background of academic and practical experience, Ari holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Oxford's School of Government and a master's in international studies from the University of Kurdistan Hewler. His professional journey includes extensive work in various roles within the KRG and participation in several cabinet-level policy committees. Currently, Ari's research is centred on the politicization of bureaucracy and the appointment criteria of top civil service personnel, areas that align closely with his expertise in governance and public policy.

Aynur Unal**Arden University**

Aynur Unal is currently an Associate Lecturer at Arden University, England. She holds a PhD in Political Sociology from the University of Leicester, U.K. (2019), an M.A. in International Relations (specialised in International Law and Human Rights) from Deakin University, Australia (2016) and a B.A. degree in International Community Development from Victoria University, Australia (2014). Her interdisciplinary research interests include indigeneity, ethnicity, indigenous rights, Kurdish political movement, indigenous peoples of Mesopotamia (Middle East), internal colonisation, post-colonial nation states, self-determination movements, indigeneity discourse, national identity discourse, political communication, and Critical Discourse Studies (CDS).

Azad Deewanee**Bradford University**

Azad Deewanee obtained a PhD in Peace Studies from Bradford University. He previously worked as a lawyer and human rights advocate, and dealt with cases related to Kurds, Iraqis, Syrians, and others. His research focuses on Middle Eastern conflicts, political discourse, terrorism, Jihadism, human rights, the Kurdish question, and U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Beatriz de Tullio Pessoa Ramos UNICAMP

Beatriz de Tullio Pessoa Ramos has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP). Currently pursuing a master's degree in the Sociology Department at the Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences (IFCH) in the same university. She is a researcher of the autonomous Women's Movements in Rojava, exploring the impacts of the relationship between women and war for international alliances. Beatriz is also a member of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Kurdish Studies (NUPIEC).

Berfin Coşkun Kurdish Studies Centre

Berfin Coşkun is a researcher and project coordinator at the [Kurdish Studies Center](#), a think-tank based in Diyarbakır, Turkey, as of September 2023. Coşkun pursued her postgraduate studies at Ghent University, Conflict and Development Studies and successfully completed the degree in August 2023 with her thesis, entitled "Ethnic Identity from an Intergenerational Perspective: An Ethnographic Research on Kurds in Diyarbakır, Turkey," which was rewarded with high academic distinction. Berfin Coşkun holds her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Marmara University, Turkey. During her bachelor's degree, Coşkun actively engaged in various junior roles within non-governmental organizations. Her recent professional experience includes serving as a project coordinator at the United Nations World Food Programme. Coşkun is still contributing as a volunteer at the Association of Young Peacebuilders of Turkey.

Berrin Altın Soran Researcher

Berrin Altın Soran completed her PhD in Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Nottingham, UK in August 2023. Her areas of research expertise are Transnational Feminism, Intersectionality, Migration, Activism, and Kurdish women.

Betül Çoban Akaygün Dicle University**Bilal Ata Aktaş Patnhéon-Sorbonne University**

Bilal Ata Aktaş studied Political Science and International Relations at Istanbul University, then completed a master's degree in Contemporary Western Societies from the Department of History at Panthéon-Sorbonne University. In 2022 he was part of the PhD preparation class in Political Studies within École des hautes études en sciences sociales | EHESS. He is currently pursuing Geopolitics studies at Patnhéon-Sorbonne University. His research interests lie in the areas of nationalism, intellectualism, diaspora, exile, political literature, conflict resolution, decolonial studies, and politics of daily life and objects. In addition to his academic journey, he took part in various cultural, associative and artistic works. He lives and works in Paris.

Cem Koç Ulster University

Cem Koç is a PhD student at Ulster University researching transnational cinema, documentary films, decolonial cinema, and Kurdish studies. He holds a bachelor's degree in Public Relations and Advertising from Ankara University and a master's degree in Media, Culture, and Society from the Graduate School for Social Research in Warsaw. Koç's

master's thesis focused on the Rojava Film Commune and its films to examine the role of Kurdish cinema in nation-building. He is currently researching the connections between Kurdish documentary culture and cultural memory in Turkey from a decolonial perspective.

Clara Rasouli**Researcher**

Clara Rasouli is a Norwegian-Kurdish researcher with a Masters in Middle Eastern Studies and the Arabic language from the University of Oslo. Her master's thesis focuses on the motivational factors for Kurdish girls and women in Iranian Kurdistan to leave behind their lives and join the armed peshmerga forces of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan. For this research she did extensive fieldwork spanning four months in the party camps and mountain bases of northern Iraq. Situating herself in the field of Kurdish studies, Clara researches gender issues, Kurds in exile, and the impact of war and geopolitics on Kurdish populations. At the University of Oslo, she has worked as an Arabic teaching assistant, also bringing joy to her students by teaching them Kurdish folkdance, *hallparke*. Outside of academia, Clara is an activist for Kurdish rights. Additionally, she has been a part of establishing an Oslo-based Kurdish student union where she helps organize and execute social gatherings as well as academic seminars for and about Kurds. Currently, she is one of its board members.

Dalir Barkhoda**Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg**

Dalir Barkhoda is a PhD candidate in Sociology at Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany and a research assistant in the Department of Anthropology at the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University in Copenhagen, Denmark. His academic journey intersects sociological theories with anthropological insights, particularly focusing on Kurdish and Iranian studies. In his research, he delves into the intricacies of political sociology and social change, with a special emphasis on power dynamics within Kurdish and Iranian societies. This aligns closely with the interdisciplinary nature of the Kurdish Studies Conference. His work explores themes such as power, inequality, social change, social movements, democratization, governance, and gender studies.

Deema Alchuristany**American University of Iraq, Sulaimani (AUIS)**

Deema Alchuristany is a senior at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani (AUIS), and a leader in the AUIS Human Rights Club. She has actively engaged in community-based social justice initiatives. She collaborated with the UK Consulate in Erbil to organize panel discussions about the aftermath of the Yazidi genocide post-ISIS; whilst advocating for awareness and action on human rights. Deema's work focuses on SRHR, human rights in international law, and the implementation of rights in a post-conflict Iraq. As part of her advocacy, Deema collaborated with the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) to improve harassment policies, fostering inclusivity and safety on campus. These experiences shaped her interests in human rights, culture, and advocacy.

Diana Yayloyan**Georgetown University**

Diana Yayloyan is a PhD student in the History department at Georgetown University. For the past two years, she has been working at the USC Shoah Foundation as an indexer of the

Richard G. Hovannisian Armenian Genocide Oral History Collection, the most extensive existing collection in the world of Armenian Genocide oral testimonies.

Dilan Okcuoglu**Aberystwyth University**

Dilan Okcuoglu is an incoming Marie-Curie fellow in the department of international politics at Aberystwyth University, Wales, and international relations at Sussex University in the UK. She is currently a non-resident visiting fellow at the CUNY Middle East and Middle Eastern American Centre in NY. She is a project-based consultant for the Council on Strategic Risks in Washington, DC. Prior to that, Okcuoglu was a M. Barzani postdoctoral fellow and professorial lecturer in Global Kurdish Studies at the American University, School of International Service. In 2019, she was a visiting scholar at Cornell University, M. Einaudi Center for International Studies. Okcuoglu has an interdisciplinary background in politics, economics, and philosophy. In addition to academic life, she has a keen interest in policymaking and diplomacy. Her teaching and research interests primarily lie in international relations, conflict and peace studies, comparative territorial and border politics, qualitative research methods, democratization, social movements, politics of the Global South, MENA politics, global justice, ethnic politics, secession, self-determination and nationalism as well as state-society relations. Her research is awarded by American Political Science Association, Association for the Study of Middle East and North Africa, Mitacs Globalink, International Development of Research Canada (IDRC) and Middle Eastern Studies Association. Currently, Okcuoglu is working on the main article of her ongoing research which got revise and resubmit by a high-impact journal in IR/comparative politics. Meanwhile, she is developing her two other manuscripts, organizing international workshops, and continues to give talks at prestigious universities, such as Harvard, Northwestern, UCLA, and University of Sussex.

Dilek Celebi**University of Manchester****Dlpak Mustafa Azeez****Catholic University in Erbil**

Dlpak Mustafa Azeez is a lecturer at the Catholic University in Erbil, Kurdistan region of Iraq. She has BA in English Language and Literature and MA in Applied Linguistics- TESOL, University of Kurdistan- Hewler. She has taught a range of English language courses including but not limited to General English, Academic English, Academic Writing, Conversation Course, and IELTS Exam Preparation Course, at different local and international institutes and universities in KRI. Her research interests mainly lie in Language Planning and Policy, Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy, Teacher Development, Technology and Language Learning, and Curriculum Design and Development.

Edoardo Lavezzo**University of York**

Edoardo Lavezzo is a PhD Candidate at the University of York supervised by Professor Jappe Eckhardt and Dr. Nick Ritchie. Currently, he's writing his thesis about Turkey's image as a middle power by focusing on its foreign policy behaviour in the EU-China competition. His areas of research include: EU Foreign Policy, Middle and Small Powers role in International Relations; China Foreign Policy and Great Power Competition.

Emrah Karakuş**Brandeis University**

Emrah Karakuş is a Junior Research Fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University. For the next two years, he will be an LSE Fellow in the Department of Gender Studies at the London School of Economics. He holds a Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Arizona. His interdisciplinary research lies at the intersection of cultural anthropology and gender and sexuality studies, utilizing ethnographic methods with queer of color critique, postcolonial scholarship, and transnational feminism with a focus on the modern Middle East. He is currently working on his book project, *Queer Debt: Affective Politics of Security and Intimacy in Kurdish Turkey*, which explores how the Kurdish notions of debt (bedel), right, and repayment are taken up, adapted, and deployed by queer and trans Kurds as they negotiate the value of their lives, rights, and labor. Karakuş is also a Jean Monnet Scholar who completed his MSc at University College London's Security Studies program.

Erika González Flores**National Autonomous University of Mexico**

Erika González Flores is a graduate of History from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a master of International History from the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE A.C.), currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Art History, specializing in Film Studies, at UNAM. She has contributed as a historical advisor in public institutions in Mexico, such as the Mexican Senate and the Congressional Channel. She coordinated the first Women's Museum in Mexico City and is a co-author of the book 'Sin Maletas: Stories of Refugees from Exile.' In 2019, she conducted research at the Center for Turkish, Ottoman, Balkan, and Central Asian Studies, EHESS (Paris, France). Furthermore, she served as a jury member in the inaugural edition (2020) of the Leloun International Film Festival.

Evren Cakil**Boğaziçi University**

Evren Cakil graduated from History Department of Boğaziçi University in 2018. In 2021, he completed my master's degree in Boğaziçi University's History department with the thesis titled "The Social and Economic Transformation of Mush Region between 1865 and 1890". In 2023, he started his PhD at Boğaziçi University, Atatürk Institute Program. He translated Arminius Vámbéry's book, *Story of Hungary*, into Turkish and it will be published by Selenge Yayınevi in 2024.

Fatma Edemen**Jagiellonian University**

Fatma Edemen is a PhD candidate in the Studies on Arts program at the Doctoral School in the Humanities at Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Her dissertation focuses on curating Kurdishness in film festivals. Prior to her current studies, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ankara University and a master's degree in Cultural Studies: Comparative Heritage Studies from Jagiellonian University.

Felipe Mattos Johnson**University of Lisbon**

Felipe Mattos Johnson PhD Anthropology student at the Institute of Social Sciences (ICS) of the University of Lisbon. Research fellowship holder in ICS/University of Lisbon Grant number UI/BD/154315/2022, financed by FCT.

Fidan Mirhanoglu**Paris Business School**

Fidan Mirhanoglu 's research delves into the realm of petroleum policy within the historical geography context of the Middle East, spanning from the mid-19th century to the present day. Her primary focus revolves around unraveling the profound influence of oil on the formation of nation-states and the delineation of borders in the Middle East following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Her scholarly contributions include a noteworthy peer-reviewed journal article titled "Oil or State? The Role of the Oil in the Recognition of Kurdish Statehood in Iraqi Kurdistan" appeared in the Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism in the year 2023. Additionally, Fidan has also penned public-facing essays for platforms such as Observatoire de la Turquie, Lausanne project. and PolitikArt, Bianet. She got her PhD degree from the Institut Français de Géopolitique (IFG) in 2023, Fidan teaches geopolitics classes at the Paris Business School.

Hacı Çevik**Humboldt University**

Hacı Çevik completed his undergraduate education at Kocaeli University, Department of Political Science and Public Administration. He received his master's degree from Ankara University Department of Political Science and his PhD degree from Hacettepe University Department of Social Work with his thesis titled "Socio-Cultural Integration in the Context of Social Relations and Migration Policies: The Case of Syrian Refugees in Ankara". Between 2019-2022, he worked as a research assistant at Hacettepe University, Department of Social Work. He is currently continuing his academic studies at Potsdam University, Department of Sociology. His academic interests include ethnic discrimination and politicisation, Kurdish studies, migration and integration. He has a book titled "Are there Kurds in Konya, Kurds of Central Anatolia and the Politicisation of Kurds" published by İletişim Publications.

Halmat Saadoon Ghareeb**Salahaddin University-Erbil**

Halmat Saadoon Ghareeb is a lecturer of Public International Law at the College of Law, Salahaddin University-Erbil. Ghareeb has PhD and masters from Public International Law at the Salahaddin University and is also a researcher at the Rudaw Research Centre. He was a Member of the Advisory Committee in the Presidency of the Kurdistan Parliament. Ghareeb has also taught at the Police Academy and has written several articles on International Law and International Organizations.

Harem Hasan Ahmed Baban**University of Raparin**

Harem Hasan Ahmed Baban is a lecturer and head of History Department at University of Raparin. He acquired a PhD in US Policy towards Iraq at Salahadin University-Iraq, MA History at Bangor University-UK. He has been lecturer at department of history at university of Raparin since 2013. His research interests are US Policy, Middle Eastern studies, Kurdish studies, Migration studies, Cold war Studies and Gender history.

Hasret Cetinkaya**Manchester Metropolitan University**

Hasret Cetinkaya is a Senior Lecturer in Human Rights and Gender at Manchester Law School, Manchester Metropolitan University.

Hawar Ameen

Welsh Government

Hawar Ameen is currently a Senior Research Officer in the Race Disparity Evidence Unit of the Welsh Government working on measuring the impact of the Anti-racist Wales Action plan. Originally from Kurdistan (Iraq) he arrived in the UK at the age of 11 as a refugee. Hawar has an MSc in Comparative Political Economy from Cardiff University and a PhD in Middle East Politics from Exeter University. He has worked in the third sector all his life with varying roles primarily in the refugee sector. Prior to working for the Welsh Government he spent 12 years in Iraqi Kurdistan working for a disaster relief organisation and an international university as a researcher and project manager.

Hawre Hasan Hama

University of Sulaimani

Hawre Hasan Hama is lecturer in International Studies and Security Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in peace at the University of Sulaimani, and obtained his M.A. in International Studies at the University of Sheffield in the U.K. He is currently a lecturer at the University of Sulaimani, Department of Politics and IR. He is widely published in international journals including, Ethnicities, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, World Affairs, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Contemporary Review of the Middle East, Asian Affairs, and Asian Journal of Comparative Politics.

Hemn Seyedi

Researcher/Political Analyst

Hemn Seyedi was born in Mahabad in a family with a political background and was involved in political activities at an early age. He was arrested three times in the 1990s while studying Architecture in Hamedan. He was forced to leave Iran in 2001 and lived in Iraqi Kurdistan for seven years, working in the academic field as a lecturer at the University of Salahaddin and Koya University and being involved in politics as a member of the Central Committee of KDP -Iran. He moved to the UK in 2008, starting new courses of study in the field of politics; HEC *International Studies*, 2013, University of London, BA *Global Politics and IR*, 2016, University of London, MSc *Middle East in Global Politics*, 2017, University of London, Mphil *Iranian Studies*, University of St Andrews, 2019, PhD *Kurdish Studies*, University of Exeter, since 2021. He works with the media as a Middle East expert, contributing to BBC Persian, Manoto TV (a Persian TV based in London), VOA Kurdish in Washington, and Radio Farda in Prague.

Henriette Raddatz

FU Berlin

Henriette Raddatz is a doctorate candidate at the FU Berlin in the department of Iranistic. She graduated from a Bachelor degree in Middle Eastern archaeology and found her academic focus later with the graduation in her master degree in Middle Eastern studies. Due to her own interest field, she tries to combine in her research the Middle East and North Africa region with former Eastern bloc countries. Therefore my master's degree project focused on Muslim-Kurds in Ukraine. Working also as a social worker in Asylum and Migration brings everyday practical aspects to her academic research and field of interest,

where she focuses for my PhD on Yazidi in Russia with a special interest on the socio-economic organization.

Hevidar Mert **Researcher**

Hevidar Mert is a postgraduate specializing in comparative politics at the London School of Economics (LSE), actively contributes to the research endeavors of the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research. Her professional engagements include substantive involvement with GESIS, notably the German Longitudinal Election Study, the preeminent national election study in Germany. Additionally, she has lent her expertise to the Leibniz Institute for Media Research (HBI). In an instructional capacity, Mert imparts lectures on matters pertaining to Kurdish issues.

Hozan Salih Hussein **Researcher**

Hozan Salih Hussein earned her MSc in clinical psychology department from the faculty of science and health. She has a BSc. degree in clinical psychology from Koya University in 2018. She worked as a clinical psychologist at Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights from 2019 to 2021. In this experience, she provided psychotherapy for those who suffered psychological disorders. She has also worked with Yazidi traumatized women by providing them psychological services. Hozan has participated in several short training courses with regard to psychotherapy such as (Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT), Garden Therapy, Trauma Focused CBT- for Children and Adolescents, Fundamentals of Substance use Disorders and Motivational Interviewing, Mental Health Problems in School Children, etc.). She was a member of Youth Network (2021 – 2022) for interreligious and cultural dialogue. In the same vein, she has participated in a TOT for freedom of religion and belief for a duration of 6 months (November 2021- May 2022) by FORB Platform. She was also a consultant for Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights and ECPAT Canada on child exploitation, early and forced marriage of children. Her areas of research include mental health problems and peace education of minority communities and conflict-affected contexts such as Yazidis.

Hussein Abbas **University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne**

Hussein Abbas is a Kurdish student from Kobani. He conducted his bachelor's degree in political sciences and administration at Lebanese University in Beirut. In France, he studied L3 kurde at INALCO university. He is currently studying Master 2 in International Crises and Conflicts at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Ibrahim Has **Researcher**

Ibrahim Has is an independent researcher. He has PhD in urban studies from De Montfort University (DMU), after which he adapted his thesis for publication. He holds an MA in political economy from the University of Manchester and a BA in accounting and finance, again from DMU. Ibrahim was granted political asylum in the UK in 1999, having experienced oppression and maltreatment in his own country (Turkey). He is particularly interested in urban political economy, securitization theory, emancipatory politics and grassroots movements.

Ilknur Bilir

Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Ilknur Bilir is a media and communication studies scholar and PhD student at Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She also holds an MA in film and television studies from Istanbul Bilgi University and a double major BA in Western Languages and Literature and Film Studies from Boğaziçi University. Her research interests include alternative mechanisms of film distribution, Kurdish cinema production and distribution, and global alternative streaming cultures and audience studies. Regarding her professional experience, she has been working as an advisor and researcher at Minor- Projektkontor research company in Berlin. She has also been teaching as a part-time faculty member at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She has also academic articles on Kurdish cinema and non-academic journalist articles and reports. She is one of the co-producers of the feature film (Zer, by Kazim Öz, 2017) and distributed many feature documentaries.

Jehat Abdullah Mirkhan

Norwegian Refugee Council

Jehat Abdullah Mirkhan is Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Project Manager at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) based in Duhok, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Mirkhan has Masters in the Human Rights and Multiculturalism at the Vestfold and Boskerud University, Norway. From 2017 to 2021, he served as a lecturer at Law, Sociology, and Peace and Human Rights Department at the Duhok University. Since 2014, Mirkhan has worked in various role as legal officer, Legal coordinator, Housing, Land and property rights coordinator and has several years' experience in the humanitarian sector. He has also contributed to the academic realm, serving as the Development Unit Manager at the Training and Development Centre at Duhok University (2014).

Jenny Schulz

FCDO

Jenny Schulz has an academic background in gender and militarism, having received her MSc from LSE's Gender Institute, where she focussed on Kurdish military identities and organisations. She is Head of Portfolio for Gender, Peace, and Security in the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office. (Any views expressed are her own and do not necessarily reflect those of the FCDO)

José Vicente Mertz

University of Lisbon

José Vicente Mertz Phd Anthropology student at the School of Social and Political Sciences (ISCSP) of the University of Lisbon. Research fellowship holder in CAPP/University of Lisbon, Grant number UI/BD/152091/2021, financed by FCT.

Jumana Al-Waeli

Ulster University

Jumana Al-Waeli is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Ulster University, a Fellow of the British Academy, and an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Jumana is also a co-founder of the SWANA Forum for Social Justice at UCL. Her work examines the political economy of education and peacebuilding and the sociology of education through social justice in contexts of conflict and displacement. Jumana's doctoral research at UCL's Faculty of Education and Society (IOE) investigated the learning of Syrian refugee students in the UK through the lens of social justice, belonging and acculturation. Jumana also holds a master's degree in effective learning and teaching from UCL's IOE and an MSc in

Environment and Sustainability from Damascus University. Jumana's research interests include social justice in education, critical pedagogy, refugee education, female education, belonging, acculturation and social theory.

Kamran Aziz Abdulla**Soran University**

Kamran Aziz Abdulla has been a lecturer at Soran University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology for 8 years. He is currently at the last stages of writing his doctoral dissertation. He obtained his MA in Continental Philosophy from the University of Warwick, the UK in 2013. He has always been fascinated by the intersecting point of history and sociology, and as a result, his doctoral research has been dedicated to investigate the genealogy of sovereignty in Southern Kurdistan. The official title of his doctoral research is "The Genealogy of Sovereignty in Southern Kurdistan Since 1945-2020".

Karwan Mustafa Saeed**Koya University**

Karwan Mustafa Saeed earned his B.A. degree in Translation from Koya University in Kurdistan Region in 2008, his master's degree in Applied Linguistics from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in Malaysia in 2013, and his Ph.D. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Malaysia in 2018. He is currently a lecturer at the Faculty of Education at Koya University. His professional interest is in the realm of TESOL Education, teacher professional development, English language teaching, speaking proficiency, language testing, education, peace education, education privatization, and multidisciplinary research methods in the line of social sciences.

Kaveh Ghobadi**Researcher**

Kaveh Ghobadi received his PhD in Kurdish Studies in 2016 from the University of Exeter. He has published works on Kurdish fiction and gender. His main areas of research interest are Kurdish culture and literature, cinema, gender, and Kurdish nationalism. He is currently an independent scholar and freelance consultant based in the UK.

Kubra Sagir**EHESS**

Kubra Sagir is a PhD student in the Law, Political Studies, and Philosophy program at *within École des hautes études en sciences sociales* - EHESS (Paris). She completed her MA in Political Studies department at EHESS in 2023, and her BA with a double major degree in History and Literature at Boğaziçi University, in 2020. She has worked as a writer, translator, and editor for several academic journals, and has also gained experience in local and international civil society organizations. She is one of the editors of the book *Kurds and the Republic*, [*Kürtler ve Cumhuriyet*, Ankara: Dipnot Yayinlari] which will be published in December 2023.

Letícia Gimenez**UNICAMP**

Letícia Gimenez is a Brazilian master's student at the San Tiago Dantas Postgraduate Program in International Relations (UNESP, UNICAMP, PUC-SP), holder of a scholarship from the Ministry of Education in Brazil (CAPES) and has a bachelor's degree in International Relations at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). Researcher at the Center for

Interdisciplinary Research in Kurdish Studies (NUPIEC), the Center for Gender Studies (Iaras-GEDES) and the Feminist Observatory of International Relations (OFRI).

Lily Hindy**UCLA**

Lily Hindy is a PhD candidate in History at the University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA). Hindy's research examines how the Kurdish nationalist movement in Iraq and the diaspora harnessed the bureaucracy of human rights to gain international attention for their plight and support for autonomy between 1975 and 2003. Hindy was recently awarded a Fulbright-Hays doctoral dissertation research abroad grant and will spend six months in England and Sweden in 2024. Both are home to relatively large and politically active Kurdish communities from Iraq; Hindy will engage in oral history interviews and archival research during the grant period.

Mahîr Dogan**University of Bamberg**

Mahîr Dogan, a PhD candidate at the University of Bamberg (Department of General Linguistics), specializes in Zazakî, particularly focusing on morphosyntax, sociolinguistics, and language documentation. A native Zazakî speaker from Dêrsim, his work bridges linguistic theory with practical application. His research aims to further explore and safeguard the linguistic diversity of Kurdish languages.

Mahmood Baban**Rudaw Research Center**

Mahmood Baban is a research fellow at Rudaw Research Center. Prior to this, he was the deputy head of the planning department and a journalist at Rudaw Media Network. Further, he volunteered to help Syrian refugees and IDPs from 2013 to 2015, and during 2016 to 2018, he worked in different international organizations such as DRC, INTERSOS, ACTED and NRC as a WASH engineer and distribution and education officer. His work focuses on analytical writing, research, report and translations, and book contributions in various fields. Besides, as an engineer, field assistant, researcher and journalist, he has had immediate contact with many internal issues closely tied to the global arena we live in. He has three years of daily in-person experience in areas liberated from ISIS in Iraq, working as a research assistant and data collection and surveying with international NGOs. He pursued the BSc with honours and studied EMBA and MA in oil and gas management with academic excellence awards. In the summer of 2022 in London, He earned two certificates at LSE (one for Public Policy Analysis and Environmental Economics and the other for Sustainable Development). It is worth mentioning that he is a UNITED2030 ambassador in Iraq and , working to achieve the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In September 2022, in New York, his team won the Sub Solution Hub among 40 groups.

Maria Florencia Guarche Ribeiro **UFRGS**

Maria Florencia Guarche Ribeiro is a PhD candidate at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Brazil. She has been involved in engaged-research with the Kurdish Women's Movement since 2015, when she finished the Bachelor of International Relations in Brazil. Furthermore, she is conducting a participatory research with Kurdish communities in Europe.

Matt Broomfield**Freelance Journalist**

Matt Broomfield is a freelance journalist who spent three years living and working in North and East Syria (NES) as co-founder of the Rojava Information Center (RIC), the top independent news source in the Kurdish-led region. He has written on NES and the Kurdish issue for the *New Statesman*, the *Independent*, the *National Interest*, among others, while his research with the RIC has been cited in thousands of news reports throughout the international press. He has an MA in Journalism (Distinction) from City University, London, and in 2024 plans to begin PhD research focused on democratic confederalism and its practice in NES. He has also written literary essays and academic chapters offering critical assessments of NES, and award-winning poetry based on his experiences in NES, as well as translating and teaching Kurmanji Kurdish. The research presented here will be published in a forthcoming volume on 'The Governance of Resistance in Northern Syria', edited by Zeynep Kaya and Robert Lowe.

Mehdi Dehnavi**Analyst/Author**

Mehdi Dehnavi is a London-based Middle Eastern affairs analyst who specialises in Iran's regional and nuclear policies, the Kurdish issue, and disarmament. His insightful contributions have graced esteemed publications such as *ITCT*, *Modern Diplomacy*, *Sputnik International*, *The Diplomatist* and *The Russian International Affairs Council*. Additionally, Mehdi, an accomplished author, has published a noteworthy book titled "The US' Nuclear Weapons in Iran's Security Environment" in Iran. His commitment to illuminating complex geopolitical issues reflects a dedication to fostering a nuanced understanding of the Middle East security dynamics.

Mete Ulutaş**Researcher**

Mete Ulutaş is a Turkey-based independent researcher. For his Master's degree in the Sociology department at Boğaziçi University, he conducted an ethnographic study on the political prisoners associated with the Kurdish movement in Turkey. For his PhD studies, he plans to conduct a genealogical study on political prisoners in Turkey from the late Ottoman Empire and the early Turkish Republican era.

Mohd Amirul Asraf Bin Othman**Australian National University**

Mohd Amirul Asraf Bin Othman is a Ph.D student in Political Science and International Relations at the Australian National University. His academic interests are diverse and encompass areas such as Middle East Security Studies, Regionalism, Terrorism, and Extremism, as well as the broader fields of Political Science and International Relations in the Middle East context.

Morad Roohi**Queen's University Canada****Moslem Ghomashlouyan****University of Bern**

Moslem Ghomashlouyan is an assistant and PhD candidate at the University of Bern's Institute of Social Anthropology. He held a research affiliate fellowship at the Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University (2023/24). Moslem

completed an MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology at the Central European University (CEU). Before that, he had studied Sociology at the University of Tehran. He works on mobility and borders with a special regional knowledge of Iran and Kurdistan.

Mostafa Khalili**Kyoto University/ LSE**

Mostafa Khalili is an Assistant Professor at the Hakubi Center for Advanced Research at Kyoto University. He received his Ph.D. in Global Studies from Doshisha University in 2020, and his thesis title was: "Everyday Ethnicity and Nationalistic Politics of the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds in Iran, a Case in Political Anthropology." He has done extensive ethnographic fieldwork in the tri-border region of Iran, Iraq, and Turkey, and his works have been published in various journals, including *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, and the *Journal of Global Studies*. He is currently working on developing his Ph.D. dissertation into a monograph.

Musa Akgül**Lancaster University**

Musa Akgül is a PhD candidate in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University. He earned his master's degree from the Department of International Relations at Bilkent University. His main research interests include international security and terror, conflict and resolution studies, Turkish politics, Turkish foreign policy, and Kurdish Issue. His articles and reviews have appeared in international journals like *Turkish Studies*, *International Journal*, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, and *Insight Turkey*.

Mustafa Kemal Topal**Roskilde University**

Mustafa Kemal Topal is an Assistant Professor at Roskilde University in Denmark. He received his PhD-degree (2020), based on a dissertation that analyzed intersecting motivations among Kurdish women to join the PKK in its militant struggle. He is the author of the book, 'Women Fighters in The Kurdish National Movement: Transforming Gender Politics and PKK' (2024, I.B. Tauris). He has been awarded the Independent Research Fund Denmark Internationalization Fellowship grant for the project 'Kurdish Women's Democratic Experiment in Post-Conflict Northern Syria/ Rojava' which is currently being carried out at Bergen University in Norway.

Mustafa Wshyar**Ulster University**

Mustafa Wshyar is a PhD holder in the field of Literary and Cultural Studies. He currently holds the position of Research Associate at Ulster University and Senior Lecturer at Koya University. His ongoing research is part of the "Education, Peace, and Politics" project, which is generously funded by the British Academy. Mustafa's research interests encompass conflict resolution, peacebuilding, as well as cultural and literary studies.

Naren (Narîn) Briar**Researcher**

Naren (Narîn) Briar graduated from Boston College with an undergraduate degree in Political Science, and with a Masters in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence from Northeastern University. She currently works on Ethics and AI at Meta. However, she is an independent researcher currently focused on the intersection of AI and Human Rights. She

has previously integrated methods like conflict analysis and photography as a means to share the experiences of silenced ethnic and religious minorities. Through her website, Narinbriar.org she shares her platform in helping support various targeted groups by posting different projects that anyone could help contribute to. In 2019, she was recognized by Elizabeth Warren, and her work was displayed at institutions such as Harvard, Yale, and Boston College.

Nazanin Tazein**Researcher**

Nazanin Tazein holds a degree in Psychology. She works as a researcher and women's rights activist. Her personal experiences with gender, national, and religious discrimination have given her a deep understanding of people's pain and challenges. Growing up in Kurdistan has provided her with valuable insights, shaping her perspective on societal issues. As a women's rights activist, she is dedicated to promoting justice and equality in communities facing discrimination.

Necla Aık**Middlesex University**

Dr. Necla Aık is a Research Fellow at the Middlesex University London. She earned her PhD in Social Statistics from the University of Manchester and holds a Magister degree in Islamic Studies from the Free University of Berlin. Dr. Aık's scholarly work in Kurdish gender studies spans over three decades. She was a member of the International Kurdish Women's Studies Network from its formation in 1996 to 2002 and is currently a member of the Kurdish Gender Studies Network. In the last decade, Dr. Aık has been actively involved in large international research projects that utilized mixed methods. Her work includes designing and analysing surveys as well as conducting ethnographic fieldwork on topics related to migration, extremism, radicalisation, as well as counter-terrorism, with a particular focus on gender, youth, and ethnicity.

Neslihan Yaklav**Researcher**

Neslihan Yaklav is an researcher in Kurdish Studies, completed MA program in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice with distinction grade in QUB, Belfast. She organizes panels and seminars about Kurdish language and academic studies by getting Student Initiative Funds by QUB as well as being a speaker in different conference including previous EASA conference. Her current activities, she is one of convenors for [Ethnographic inquiry, decolonial epistemologies, and ethics in peace, conflict, and security research](#), in She also organizes an event on [gender, militarism and ethnographic research in Kurdistan](#). Her current research interest for PhD is violence, ethics, security, AI, counter-insurgency (COIN), political violence, ethnicity, nationalism, statelessness and human rights.

Nidal Al Haj Sleiman**Ulster University**

Nidal Al Haj Sleiman is a post-doctoral research associate at Ulster University and a visiting research fellow at the Centre for Lebanese Studies. Nidal has a PhD in the sociology of education and educational leadership from UCL's Faculty of Education and Society, and a MSc of Education (Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment) from Walden University, U.S.A. Nidal is also a co-founder of SWANA Forum for Social Justice at UCL, and a coordinating member of UCL Sociology Network. Her research interests include social and cultural

justice in education, multicultural education and pedagogy, leadership, policy, critical adult learning theory, and social theory.

Nilgün Yelpaze**Philipps Universität Marburg**

Nilgün Yelpaze studied Political Science and International Relations at Bogazici University, Istanbul from 2007 to 2012. She received her MA degree from the Free University of Berlin, Sociology- European Studies in 2020. She has been a PhD researcher at the Center for Conflict Studies since October 2020 with a scholarship from the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung. Her research focuses on the narratives of justice in Kurdish documentary films and approaches arts and cinema as potential actors during bottom-up transitional justice processes. Nilgün Yelpaze is involved in feminist filmmaking and video activism herself and has one feature documentary film on the protests against the abortion ban in Poland. She is currently located in Berlin, Germany.

Özgür Güven**Gaziantep University's**

Özgür Güven is an assistant professor at Gaziantep University's Faculty of Communication. He continues his academic activities in the fields of media and cultural studies and Kurdish studies.

Pedro Campos**Universidade Federal Fluminense**

Pedro Campos is a doctoral student in the department of political sciences at the Universidade Federal Fluminense, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Pedro is researching issues related to the Kurdish struggle in northern Syria where he did his field work in 2022. He has also been working, together with other Brazilian researchers, on establishing a Kurdish studies center, the first of its kind in the country.

Pınar Dinç**LSE**

Dr. Pınar Dinç has a Ph. D. in Political Science from the Department of Government at the London School of Economics. Her research interests lie in the areas of nationalism, ethnicity, social movements, memory, diaspora and the conflict-environment nexus in the Middle East and beyond. She is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Political Science. She leads the interdisciplinary Exploring Conflict- Environment Interactions for Sustainable Development and Conservation Project, ECO-Syria, since September 2023, which is funded by the Strategic Research Area: The Middle East in the Contemporary World (MECW) at the Centre for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University

Pishtiwan Mustafa**University of Kurdistan – Hawler**

Pishtiwan Mustafa is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kurdistan – Hawler, in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. He has an MA in International Relations from the same university and a Bachelor's degree in the same field from the American University of Iraq - Sulaimani. His research interests include Israeli policy in the Middle East, and more specifically Israel's policy toward Iraq, Iran, and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. He is also interested in conflict studies, radical armed religious groups and guerrilla warfare in the Middle East.

Ranjdar Mohammed Azeez**University of Sulaimani**

Dr. Ranjdar Mohammed Azeez has obtained the degrees of B.A. in History (2005), and M.A. in Teaching History Methods (2009), from University of Sulaimani, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and Ph.D in History, from Leicester University, U.K (2017). Since 2018, he has been teaching various subjects in history, mainly Kurdish modern and contemporary history for Sulaimani and Halabja universities. Meanwhile, he continues to teach history and supervise Ph.D theses at the Halabja University while also serving as Vice President for Student Affairs. His research interests focus on modern and contemporary Kurdish history, and British foreign policy in the Middle East during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In this regard, he has one published book and a number of published articles. The most recent article is titled: History of Kirkuk during the British Mandate Period, which was published by the Journal of the University of Raparin in 2023.

Rawina Trautmann**European University Viadrina in Frankfurt
(Oder)**

Rawina Trautmann is a PhD Candidate, Researcher, and Lecturer at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. She teaches International Relations Theory as well as Feminist International Relations with a particular focus on gender and security and has gained teaching experience at the European University Viadrina and the University of Paris 8, Vincennes-Saint-Denis. Her PhD project analyses the empirical case of the female Peshmerga while embedding it in theoretical debates on gender and security, nationalism, and militarism. Before pursuing her PhD, she obtained a BA in Political Science from the University of Vienna and an MA in European Studies at the European University Viadrina with semesters at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations and Sciences Po Paris. Her language skills include Kurdish, German, English, French, and basic Farsi.

Rebwar R. Salih**Iraqi Centre for Policy Analysis and Research**

Dr. Rebwar R. Salih is originally from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). He came to the UK in 2002 and became a British citizen in 2008. He completed his BA in Global Politics and International Relations from Birkbeck College, University of London in 2015 before completing his Master's degree in Government, Policy and Politics, also from Birkbeck College, University of London in 2016. He started his PhD program at Darwin College at the University of Cambridge in October 2017 and graduated in April 2023. He worked for the London-based Centre for Kurdish Progress. He led the Cambridge University Kurdish Society (CUKS). He is a co-founder of the Iraqi Centre for Policy Analysis and Research (ICPAR). He follows the changes and politics of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and its government the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

Ribaz Chato Biro**Soran University**

Ribaz Chato Biro is actively pursuing a Ph.D. in Politics and International Relations at Soran University, Iraq. With a passion for becoming a proficient author in the field of international political economy and economic development, he presently holds the position of Assistant Lecturer in Political Economy and International Relations at Soran University. Furthermore,

he holds the role of Director at the Economic Research Center within the same institution, where he oversees strategic projects and collaborates with academic, governmental, and industry stakeholders to enhance the university's reputation as a hub of innovative economic research and discourse.

Rotinda Çağdaş**Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University**

Rotinda Çağdaş graduated from Yeditepe University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics. After her graduation, she completed her master's degree at the same university. In her master's thesis, she conducted an anthropological study with feminist-vegetarian theory under the title "Meat Eating Culture and Sexism in Diyarbakır". She started her Ph.D. programme in Anthropology at Yeditepe University Institute of Social Sciences and after taking courses for two years, she transferred to the General Sociology and Methodology programme at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Institute of Social Sciences. She is currently continuing her doctoral studies. She is working as a scholarship holder in a TUBITAK Project titled "Local People's Perspective on Gastronomy Tourism in Kars". Within the scope of this project, she presented a paper titled "An Overview of Gastronomy Tourism in Kars" at the 5th International Multidisciplinary Social Sciences Congress. She also presented a paper titled "Conducting Research in Times of Multiple Crises: Researchers' Experiences of Participant Observation" at the 10th Sociology Congress of Galatasaray University. Her major interests are food sociology, agriculture, identity, urban sociology, and Kurdish Studies.

Sacha Alsancakli**University of Münster / Inalco, Paris**

Sacha Alsancakli is a cultural historian of the Islamic world, focusing on historiography and the history of the book, with a view to studying the actors and processes involved in the composition, transmission, and reception of manuscript texts in the Turco-Iranian world in the early modern period. He holds a PhD in Iranian Studies and Modern History from Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris (December 2018), with a doctoral dissertation on 'Sharaf Khān Bidlīsī's *Sharafnāma* (c. 1005/1597): Composition, Transmission, and Reception of a Chronicle of Kurdish Dynasties between Safavids and Ottomans'. He is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow in the Emmy Noether Junior Research Group 'Inner-Islamic Transfer of Knowledge within Arabic-Persian-Ottoman Translation Processes in the Eastern Mediterranean (1400–1750)' (Translapt) at the University of Münster, and as a lecturer at the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco, Paris), affiliated with the Centre de recherche sur le monde iranien (CeRMI). He has published book chapters and articles in journals such as *Eurasian Studies*, *Kurdish Studies Journal*, and *Die Welt des Islams*.

Saman Ihsan Abdalkarim (Fuad) University of Exeter

Saman Ihsan Abdalkarim (Fuad) has an MA in Kurdish Studies at the University of Exeter and is currently a Phd candidate in Kurdish Studies at the same institution. He worked for two years at the Kashkul, the Center for Arts and Culture at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani. He has published work titled "[The Old Houses of Slemani - Global History Dialogues](#)" in Princeton University's Global History Dialogue's project. He has an upcoming co-translation of a selection of Piramerd's articles in *Jîn* and *Jîyan* in late 2024.

Selar Othman Ali**Erbil Polytechnic University****Shakiba Rahmani****Researcher**

Shakiba Rahmani is a researcher and Art Studies Graduate. She has a master's degree in Art Studies from Azad University, Department of Science and Research, Tehran, Iran. She is currently a master's student in cultural studies at University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran. **Shakiba** authored three articles in the fields of art and culture in Iran: Comparative Study of Elements in Iranian and Iraqi War Posters and World War II in Poland. The Role of Advertising in Population Control in Iran during the 1360s and 1370s. A Comparative Study of Stories and Texts of Mandaean Books with Their Customs and Traditions in Daily Life. She participated in two international conferences - Prohibition of Women's Singing in Iran after the 1979 Revolution. - Study on the Formation of Iranian Coin Collections in Polish Museums.

Shakir Mahmud**Soran University**

Shakir Mahmud is senior judicial investigator at the Ministry of Justice and visiting lecturer at Soran University, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Shakir has PhD in Criminal Law from Alexandria University, Egypt. Shakir has more than 21 years' experience in judicial courts and his research has focused on criminal investigation. Shakir has taught in several private and public universities and has participated in a number of conferences, workshops and symposia.

Shukriya Bradost**Virginia Tech University**

Shukriya Bradost is a Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech University, specializes in Middle Eastern geopolitics, focusing on the securitization of ethnic groups. A prominent commentator, Shukriya is a regular contributor to media outlets such as Al Jazeera, the Jerusalem Post, and the Observer. She extends her influence by publishing and presenting topics at esteemed think tanks, including the Atlantic Council, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and the Middle East Institute.

Siarhei Bohdan**University of Regensburg**

Siarhei Bohdan is a research associate and lecturer at the University of Regensburg (Germany). He studied international relations, Persian, Japanese and political science in Minsk, Tehran and Vilnius, and got a doctoral degree in political science from the Freie Universität Berlin. His intellectual background combines studies of Middle Eastern and (post-)Soviet history and politics. Recent publications on the Iran-DPRK relations during the Cold War and on developments in Iranian Kurdistan after the 1979 Revolution, with another forthcoming one on Arab regimes' relations with the Kurdish national liberation movement.

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

Sillas Akassio da Silva Nascimento is an undergrad student of Social Sciences at the Federal University of Maranhão (UFMA). Researcher at the Center for Interdisciplinary

Research in Kurdish Studies (NUPIEC) and a member and scholarship holder of the Project PET – Connections and Knowledge in Popular Communities group.

Silvia Nicola**Bundeswehr Center for Military History and
Social Sciences**

Silvia Nicola works as a Research Associate at the Bundeswehr Center for Military History and Social Sciences. She is presently completing her PhD at Freie Universität Berlin, investigating the relationship between Germany and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) from 1991 to 2020. Her research has a strong empirical foundation, derived from extensive field research trips across the KRI. Silvia's research interests lie primarily in the areas of security studies, post-conflict transformation, political economy, and migration, as reflected in her published works.

Sinibaldo De Rosa**Università Statale di Milano**

Sinibaldo De Rosa is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the project *Negotiating Abjection: Performance and Politics among Turkey's Diasporas in Lombardy* at Università Statale di Milano. Sponsored by the AHRC-SWW DTP and by a Max Weber Stiftung Research Grant at the Orient Institute-Istanbul, his PhD thesis (Drama, University of Exeter and Music, Cardiff University, 2020) is titled *Movement in Contemporary Staged Adaptations of the Alevi Semahs (1982-2018)*. Since 2021, he serves the Society for Dance Research as Events Secretary and works as Associate Lecturer in Dance and Theatre at Roehampton University, Bird College and Rose Bruford College.

Snour Ahmado**University of Foggia****Sohrab Ahmadian****Tsukuba University/ Tokyo University**

Sohrab Ahmadian is a PhD candidate at Tsukuba University and an adjunct research fellow at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in Japan.

Stephen Knight**University of Oxford**

Stephen Knight is a DPhil candidate at the Centre for Legal Studies at the University of Oxford. His research focuses on the impact of the Kurdish Freedom Movement's ideology on the application of international humanitarian law by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria. Stephen is also a barrister, practising in criminal, immigration, and public law.

Taban Khudhur Omar**University of Kurdistan- Hewlêr****Taban Masoom Hawrami****Salahaddin University-Erbil**

Taban Masoom Hawrami is an assistant lecturer of Law at the College of Law, Salahaddin University-Erbil. Hawrami received Masters in Public International Law from London Metropolitan University. She is qualified OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner Immigration Advisor Level 1) and has worked at the Kurdish Info & Advocacy Centre (KIAC) /London, 2003-2008. Hawrami is an experienced Legal Advisor provided clients with expert advice on Immigration & Legal matters and has worked as a Secretary to

the Head of Mission/ Consulate General of the State of Kuwait in 2017-2019. Hawrami have also participated in the Philip Jessup Moot Court competition, first on Iraqi Universities participation on -International Round in Washington DC in United States of America, April 2014.

Thomas McGee**University of Melbourne Law School**

Thomas McGee is a PhD researcher with expertise in legal and social dynamics for the Kurdish community in Syria. Holding a Masters in Kurdish Studies from the University of Exeter, his current PhD at Melbourne Law School focuses on Syria's changing statelessness landscape since the start of the country's civil war in 2011. Thomas' academic and policy work has been published in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Kurdish Studies Journal and Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration. Prior to starting his PhD, Thomas worked for a decade as an analyst and advisor for humanitarian and development programmes implemented in Syria, with emphasis on securing operational access to Kurdish-majority territories. Speaking Arabic and Kurdish, Thomas has managed field research teams across Syria for programming with both the UK FC(D)O and USAID. He has also served as a Country-of-Origin expert on cases of Syrian stateless Kurds within European asylum processes. Thomas is currently the MENA Coordinator at the European University Institute's Global Citizenship Observatory (Globalcit) and co-coordinator of the MENA Statelessness Network (Hawiati).

Tiago Duarte Dias**Lunds University**

Tiago Duarte Dias has a PhD in Anthropology and currently works as a substitute professor at Lunds University. He has done research within the Kurdish diaspora in both Denmark and Sweden and most recently has published "Inserting Kurdishness within Swedish football" and "Ethnicity and Aesthetics in Swedish Football" based on his research.

Veysi Dag**Hebrew University of Jerusalem/SOAS**

Veysi Dag is a postdoctoral Minerva research fellow at the Department of International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is also a research associate at SOAS, University of London. Studies of migration and diaspora; governance, social movements, and transnationalism; comparative politics with a focus on refugee and migration policies in Europe and the Middle East; peacebuilding and conflict transformation; and regional policy analysis with a focus on Middle Eastern politics and the Kurdish-Turkish conflict are among his research interests. Dag was a visiting researcher at SOAS in 2014 and the International Migration Institute (IMI) of Oxford University in 2015. He holds a Ph.D. from the Free University of Berlin. Dag is the author of „Construction of Kurdish Diaspora Communities and Identities: A Case Study of the Kurdish Refugees in Berlin and London" and the forthcoming book "Voices of the Disenfranchized: Knowledge Production by Kurdish-Yezidi Refugees from Below" He has published his research in a wide range of academic journals and media outlets. His research has been funded by the EU-funded project Migration Governance and Asylum Crises (MAGYC), the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF), the German Research Foundation (DFG), and the Minerva Foundation.

Yasuyuki Matsunaga**Tokyo University**

Yasuyuki Matsunaga (PhD, NYU) is a professor of political science at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in Japan.

Yushan Huang**EHESS**

Yushan Huang is currently conducting my PhD in sociology at EHESS (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences). Intrigued by the Rojava revolution, she became interested in the practical implication of Kurdish women behind the romanticised imagination. Her doctoral research explores the concrete circumstances and tangible contributions of women in Rojava to gender equality and female emancipation in the complex socio-political landscape, aiming to understand how the 'rebel governance' exercised by the AANES under the guidance of progressive ideology fosters women's participation and gender equality, especially in the face of traditional patriarchal norms and external uncertainties.

Zarifeh Ahmadi**Researcher**

Zarifeh Ahmadi is an International Relations graduate from Allameh Tabatabai University. She is interested in researching on the Kurdish question, as well as security issues such as proxies in the Middle East. Zarifeh has published many articles. "Models of political Islam and balance of power in the Middle East (2011-2019)" in the Polish National Science Centre to name a few.

Zozan Yasar**Journalist/Filmmaker**

Zozan Yasar is an exiled Kurdish journalist/filmmaker based in the UK. She produced the documentary "My (Refugee) Life" and co-directed "We Depend on Each Other." Her insight contributions have graced prominent media outlets in the UK and the US, including T Guardian, BBC, Vice News, and Humanitarian Practice. With a background at The N Humanitarian and Internews, she boasts a wealth of experience. A graduate of the University of Oxford's Refugee and Forced Migration pathway course, Zozan has conducted significant projects focusing on refugees in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. Notably, she documents Little Amal's journey in the UK, shedding light on the plight of refugees.