

FINAL PROGRAMME

Kurdish Studies Conference

24-25 April 2023 | Marshall Building, London School of Economics

Monday 24 April 2023

09.00–09.30 Registration

09.30–11.00 Room 1.04 Panel 1A – Affective Politics of Kurdish Everyday Life, Political Mobilization, and Conflict in the Middle East

Chair: Emrah Karakus, Brandeis University

Kurdish revolutionary affect and politics of friendship in the 1990s
Delal Aydin, University of Duisburg-Essen

Feeling debt: Affect and intimacy in Kurdish queer/trans worlds
Emrah Karakus, Brandeis University

Deployment of the “Berxwedan” (resistance) narrative: Experiences of loss and recovery in Rojava
Thomas McGee, University of Melbourne

Room 1.10 Panel 1B – GCRF Hub Research: Gendered Migrations, Displacements and Masculinity in Kurdistan

Chair: Janroj Yilmaz Keles, Middlesex University

Gendered return mobilities to conflicted regions: The Kurdish case
Janroj Yilmaz Keles & Muslih Irwani, American University of Iraq - Baghdad

Gendered labour migrations in KRI
Eleonore Kofman, Middlesex University, Muslih Irwani & Jiyar Aghapouri, American University of Kurdistan

Prolonged displacement and gender in Diyarbakir
Necla Acik, Middlesex University & Zeynep Ceren Eren Benlisoy, Erasmus University of Rotterdam

Masculinity and violence
Twana Hassan, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

Backlash against the women’s rights movement
Choman Hardi, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

Room 2.04 Panel 1C – Social-psychological Approaches to Studying the Turkish-Kurdish Conflict: The Role of Multiple Identities in Conflict, Peace and Reconciliation

Chair: Arda Bilgen, LSE Middle East Centre

The role of Turkish and Kurdish identities, allyship, and conflict narratives in supporting pro-Kurdish policies among Turks and Kurds
Özden Melis Uluğ, University of Sussex

Village guards as “in between” in the Turkish-Kurdish conflict: Re-examining identity and position in intergroup conflict
Yasemin Gülsüm Acar, University of Dundee

Reflecting on the role of Kurdish, Muslim, and Turkiyeli identities for reconciliation and peace
Gülsele Baysu, Queen’s University Belfast

Dangerous knowledge and proxy-reasons: therapeutic attempts of a former PKK fighter
Nerina Weiss, Fafo Institute for Labour and Social Studies, Norway

Room 2.10	Panel 1D – Kurds in Iran: Protests, Islam and Intersectionality Chair: Marouf Cabi, LSE Middle East Centre <i>The hashtag Mahsa_Amin or Zhina_Amini: A social media ethnography on the ontological relationship between Kurdish identity and Iranian identity during the 2022 Iranian protests</i> Jiyar Aghapouri, American University of Kurdistan <i>The Muslim Peshmerga and the IRGC: How the Iranian Islamist regime won and lost its Kurdish allies</i> Siarhei Bohdan, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies <i>Komala: a popular left-wing organisation</i> Marouf Cabi, LSE Middle East Centre <i>A comparative study of the response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to religious political groups in Iranian Kurdistan</i> Mehdi Dehnavi, Journalist & Researcher & Zarifeh Ahmadi, Researcher <i>Intersectionality and multitasking: The struggle of Kurdish women in Iranian Kurdistan (Rojhelat)</i> Rahim Hajiagha, Jagiellonian University
11.00–11.30	Coffee break
11.30–13.00 Room 1.04	Panel 2A – Kurdish Refugees in the Diaspora: Integration, Self-governance and Space Chair: Fiona Adamson, SOAS <i>Toward a multi-scalar understanding of integration: Kurdish refugees between state, diaspora and geopolitics</i> Fiona Adamson & Veysi Dag, SOAS <i>Self-governing from below: Kurdish refugees on the margins of European societies</i> Veysi Dag, SOAS <i>Criminalisation, self-defence and special warfare</i> Iida Käyhkö, Royal Holloway, University of London <i>Inscriptions of Kurdish politics into spaces of exile and radical internationalist politics in Greece</i> Beja Protner, University of Cambridge
Room 1.10	Panel 2B – Kurmanji and Zazaki Identity and Linguistics Chair: Janroj Yilmaz Keles, Middlesex University <i>Speaking Kurdish: A space of one's own in language</i> Alex Pillen, University College London <i>Bi-/multilingual identity and linguistic behaviour of Kurdish heritage speakers</i> Alex Bellem, Aga Khan University & Mehmet Yonat, Mardin Artuklu University <i>Linguistic characteristics of the Zazaki Mutki dialect</i> Pinar Yildiz, Mardin Artuklu University
Room 2.04	Panel 2C – The KRI in Regional and Global Context Chair: Zeynep Kaya, LSE Middle East Centre <i>The role of external actors in the making and breaking of states: Germany and the consolidation of statehood of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq between 1991 and 2020</i> Silvia Nicola, Centre for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr <i>China's soft power in Iraqi Kurdistan</i> Sardar Aziz, Researcher & Writer

"Selling" the Kurdish plight in Iraq to the U.S. of the 1980s and 90s: The messaging of the Kurdish National Congress of North America
Lily Hindy, University of California, Los Angeles

Room 2.10

Panel 2D – Urban Development, Heritage and Politics in Turkey

Chair: Veli Yadirgi, LSE Middle East Centre

Uproot, detach and pacify: On the Turkish state's infrastructural politics in northern Kurdistan

Kamuran Akin, Humboldt University of Berlin

Mastering the past, becoming a tourist: Heritage-making as a means of counterinsurgency in the post-conflict era

Ronay Bakan, Johns Hopkins University

Turkey's military urbanism and neo-colonial architecture in Kurdish Cities

Diren Taş, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

Resurrecting the ruins: A Kurdish haunting of Suriçi's landscape

Aalekh Dhaliwal, University of Cambridge

(Re)thinking class conflict for Kurdish politics from 'Neoliberalizing Amed'

Esra Karadas Ekinci, Ankara University

13.00–14.00

Lunch

14.00–15.30

Panel 3A – Democracy, Citizenship, Justice and Education in Rojava

Room 1.04

Chair: Robert Lowe, LSE Middle East Centre

Is the future of democracy hybrid? Lessons from Mexico and Kurdistan about how to reconcile direct and representative democracy

Hanifi Baris, University of Aberdeen

Reconfiguration of citizenship beyond state boundaries

Atefeh Ramsari, Bielefeld Graduate School of History and Sociology in Germany

Rethinking justice in Rojava

Hasret Cetinkaya, Department of Gender Studies, LSE

Politics of education choice in North-East Syria

Benoîte Martin, Ulster University

Room 1.10

Panel 3B – Kurdish Women and Politics of Gender in the Diaspora

Chair: Eleonore Kofman, Middlesex University

Formative experiences of Kurdish women activists setting up small-scale activist projects in Kurdistan and the Diaspora

Wendelmoet Hamelink, University of Oslo

Transnational decolonial encounters: The Kurdish women's movement and western feminism in Europe

Eleanora Gea Piccardi, Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

Negotiating alternative social spaces - Kurdish gender roles within families and activism in diaspora

Hayal Hanoglu & Karol Kaczorowski, Cracow University of Economics

Kurdish women's ordinary life and trajectories of subjectivity, a case study in the triangle of Istanbul, Berlin and Paris

Dilan Salik, Researcher

Room 2.04	Panel 3C – Activism and Identification through Art, Ethnography and Music Chair: Isabel Käser , LSE Middle East Centre <i>Art as an ethnographic event: The art of Ismail Khayat</i> Autumn Cockrell-Abdullah, Researcher <i>Walking, Kurdish movies and crisis in collective identification</i> Hemen Heidari, University of Amsterdam <i>Documenting the lost practices of Kurdish felt and felt-making in the foothills of the Zagros Mountains</i> Renas Babakir, Culture Project, EMKP grantee <i>What is the role of Kurdish music in the transnational space and the post-national discourse?</i> Mediha Inan, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Room 2.10	Panel 3D – Canon and Decolonial Critique in Kurdish Studies Chair: Spyros Sofos, LSE Middle East Centre <i>Reporting on Kurdistan. A critical examination of Western post-2014 fieldwork in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the Autonomous Administration of North-East Syria</i> Dastan Jasim, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) <i>Ethnicization and sectarianization in the Kurdistan region of Iraq</i> Michiel Leezenberg, University of Amsterdam <i>The intellectual and prophecy in the colony and diasporas</i> Bilal Ata Aktas, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) <i>Imagined or imaginary Kurdistan: What do we know about the political stance of Kurdish youth living in Kurdistan?</i> Baris Oktem, Researcher <i>Ethical and methodological challenges of an emergent scholarship in Kurdish Studies</i> Mashuq Kurt, Royal Holloway University of London
15.30–16.00	Break
16.00–17.00	Keynote Lecture: The History and Development of Kurdish Studies Professor Martin van Bruinessen, Emeritus Professor, Utrecht University Chair: Zeynep Kaya, LSE Middle East Centre Sheikh Zayed Lecture Theatre, New Academic Building
17.00–18.30	Drinks Reception Great Hall, Marshall Building <i>Music by Peyman Heydarian</i>

09.30–11.00 Room 1.04	Panel 4A– Kurds in-between Multiple Political Spaces and Discourses Chair: Matthew Whiting, University of York <i>Displaced bodies: Syrians in Kurdistan and Kurds in Syria</i> Yunus Abakay, University of Exeter <i>Three new datasets on the transformation of the Turkey-PKK conflict since 1984</i> Amy Austin Holmes, George Washington University & Diween Hawezzy, Researcher <i>Sub-state diplomacy at work – The KRG and the Syrian conflict</i> Tamas Dudlak, Eötvös Loránd University Budapest <i>The Democratic Union Party (PYD) and People’s Protection Units (YPG) in Turkish official discourse</i> Azad Deewanee, Researcher
Room 1.10	Panel 4B– Ideology, Governance and Reconciliation in Conflict Chair: Isabel Käser, LSE Middle East Centre <i>Governance without territorial control: The experiences of the PKK in 1970s Turkey</i> Francis O’Connor & Joost Jongerden, Wageningen University <i>The discourse of death in PKK’s ideology: A journey to fathom political violence and fascination for death</i> Emdjed Kurdnidad, European University Institute <i>Deliberation in the contexts of ethnic conflict: Kurdish peace process example</i> Musa Akgül, Lancaster University & Çiğdem Görgün Akgül, Ordu University
Room 2.04	Panel 4C– The Question of Kurdistan, Colonialism and Historiography Chair: Francis Owtram, University of Exeter <i>The perceived image of the other: British in Kurdish literary discourse in post-World War I and Post-2003</i> Karzan Kareem Ameen, Salahaddin University- Erbil <i>Kurdish nationalist historiography: Narrative, identity and belonging</i> Mohammed Kareem, Independent Researcher <i>The question of Kurdistan: Integral colonisation after imperial domination</i> Naif Bezwan, University of Vienna <i>The Kurdish quest for independence since the First World War: The struggle for identity, autonomy, and a sovereign state</i> Francis Owtram, University of Exeter
Room 2.10	Panel 4D– Constructions of Kurdishness at the Global Level Chair: Spyros Sofos, LSE Middle East Centre <i>Reproduction strategies among stateless migrants: the Syrian Kurds in Sweden</i> Nubin Ciziri, Uppsala University <i>International football through a Kurdish perspective: The local versus the global</i> Tiago Duarte Dias, Fluminense Federal University <i>Black skins white languages: Artmaking by Kurdish migrant women artists</i> Özlem Belçim Galip, University of Oxford <i>Social construction of homeland and diasporic national identity among the Kurdish diaspora in the West with a particular focus on the youth</i> Soheila Shahriari, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS)
11.00–11.30	Coffee break

11.30–13.00 Room 1.04	Panel 5A – Judiciary and Governance in the KRI Chair: Ahmed Tabaqchali, LSE Middle East Centre <i>The politics of judiciary in Iraq: An opportunity or a challenge for post-referendum Kurdistan</i> Majida Ismael, Liverpool John Moores University <i>The impact of the judiciary on development and democratisation in the KRI</i> Banaz Taha, City, University of London <i>The interrelationship between state building and good governance: The case of KRI</i> Dara Salam, SOAS <i>Management of religion and governance in Iraqi Kurdistan</i> Kamaran Palani, Salahaddin University–Erbil
Room 1.10	Panel 5B – Kurdish Women at the Centre of Political Life Chair: Polly Withers, LSE Middle East Centre <i>Transformation of gender regimes through entrepreneurship among Kurdish women in post-ISIS Kurdistan</i> Kaziwa Salih, Jagiellonian University <i>Kurdish women in the KRI: Surveying gains and setbacks</i> Shilan Fuad Hussain, Middlesex University <i>The Kurdish female fighter as an exoticized neo-Orientalist trope</i> Nazy Raouf, SOAS <i>On the everyday life of women in illicit economies of Iranian Kurdistan</i> Peyman Zinati, University of Exeter <i>An ethnography on Gazete Sujin: Women-centered journalism of Kurdish women</i> Zubeyde Karagoz, Istanbul Bilgi University
Room 2.04	Panel 5C – Kurdish Socioeconomics and Marginalization in Iran Chair: Marouf Cabi, LSE Middle East Centre <i>Landscapes of il/legality: Contraband mobility in the Kurdish mountains of the Iran-Iraq border</i> Moslem Ghomashlouyan, University of Bern <i>Have cross border activities been beneficial for Kurdish movements?</i> Hemn Seyedi, University of Exeter <i>Kurds and their rights: A key to Iran's socioeconomic advancement</i> Tahirih Danesh, Researcher <i>The marginalization process of the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds from the core of Kurdish politics in Iran</i> Mostafa Khalili, Kyoto University <i>The Kurdish archives in Iran: Significance and challenges</i> Rafiqfuad Yarahmadi, Filmmaker
Room 2.10	Panel 5D – Space and Institutions in Rojava Chair: Zeynep Kaya, LSE Middle East Centre <i>Space, place, gender, struggle: Sociospatial pedagogy as data Collection in Collaboration with the University of Rojava</i> Charlotte Grace, Researcher

Searching for theoretical-methodological approaches to the study of democratic confederalism in Rojava

Erika Aguilar, National Autonomous University of Mexico

Autonomous administration of North and East Syria/Rojava: State-like entity in the making or hybrid form of governance beyond the one-nation state?

Katia Zagoritou, University of Peloponnese

Political violence and decolonial construction process: An analysis of the

relationship between self-defense and the building of new institutions in Rojava

Pedro Campos & Marcial Suarez, Fluminense Federal University

13.00–14.00

Lunch

14.00–15.30

Room 1.04

Panel 6A – Neoliberalism, Security and Social Movements in the KRI

Chair: Isabel Käser, LSE Middle East Centre

Neoliberalism in Iraqi Kurdistan: Nationalism, dissent, and new forms of political engagement

Müjge Küçükkeleş, Global Partners Governance

Path dependence from proxy agent to de facto state: A history of 'strategic exploitation' of the Kurds as a context of the Iraqi Kurdistan security policy

Piotr Sosnowski, University of Warsaw

Why do social movements not arise? Civic dis/engagement and youth migration in Kurdistan region of Iraq (KRI)

Hewa Khedir, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust

Room 1.10

Panel 6B – Transformations and Continuities in Kurdish Identity

Chair: Arda Bilgen, LSE Middle East Centre

What do the Kurds want now? Spotighting the gap in public and private perceptions in the Southeast and Istanbul

Aslam Kakar, Rutgers University- Newark

Prefiguring post national identities through learning and knowledge making process: Insights from the Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK), Turkey

Birgul Kutan, University of Sussex

Songs and the performance of Kurdish Identity

Ana Cristina Henriquez Marques & Vienna Salam, University of Kurdistan Hewlêr

Kurds of Central Anatolia as an alternative Kurdishness

Haci Cevik, University of Potsdam

Glocal securitization of the Kurdish identity and desecuritization of the Kurdish question in Turkey

Ibrahim Has, Independent Researcher

Room 2.04

Panel 6C – Ottoman Kurdistan

Chair: Veli Yadirgi, LSE Middle East Centre

Road to rebellion: A prehistory of Sheikh Ubeydullah rebellion

Sabri Ates, Southern Methodist University

The Sheikh Ubeydullah debate and the origins of Kurdish nationalism

Djene Rhys Bajalan, Missouri State University

Shaikh Mahmud and the Kurdish revolt

Richard Wilding

Four-legged capitalism: Kurdistan's economy in the nineteenth century

Zozan Pehlivan, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Room 2.10	Panel 6D – Aspects of Yezidi and Soviet Kurdish Studies Chair: William Park, King's College London <i>Soviet Kurdish studies and policies towards the Kurds: The problem of agents and agency</i> Angelika Pobedonostseva-Kaya, Saint Petersburg State University <i>The new elite within Yezidi Siberian diaspora: Breaking of religious boundaries and new political consciousness</i> Henriette Raddatz, Free University of Berlin <i>The next step on the way to orthodoxy: The International Yezidi Theological Academy in Georgia and its activities</i> Artur Rodziewicz, University of Warsaw
15.30–16.00	Break
16.00–17.30 Room 1.04	Panel 7A – Trans Aesthetics and Activism, Marriage and Women's Resistance Chair: Necla Acik, Middlesex University <i>Towards Kurdish Trans aesthetics: Art, materiality, and Queer politics</i> Heja Aksünger, Mimar Sinan University <i>Kurdish Queer/Trans interventions: Rethinking Queer politics and activism in Turkey</i> Rukan Atçeken, Istanbul University <i>Marriages and the politicization of Kurdish culture in Turkey in the context of the civil war</i> Derya Kiliç, Pantheon-Sorbonne University <i>Kurdish women's democratic experiment in Rojava</i> Mustafa Kemal Topal, Roskilde University
Room 1.10	Panel 7B – Justice, Indigeneity and Displacement in Turkey Chair: Arda Bilgen, LSE Middle East Centre <i>Transitional justice trajectories in Turkey's Kurdish conflict</i> Nisan Alici, Nottingham Trent University <i>Tribal conflict resolution among Kurds of Turkey – The current state, the need, and the future</i> Jan Byczkowski, Marmara University <i>The radical democracy model of the Kurdish political movement in Turkey: Mesopotamian indigeneity with honeycomb analogy</i> Aynur Unal, Arden University <i>Entangled atmospheres of affect: The ambivalence of displacement, resettlement and the Kurdish question in Hasankeyf, Turkey</i> Cansu Sonmez, Gran Sasso Science Institute
Room 2.04	Panel 7C – Liberation, Activism, and Memorialisation Chair: Francis O'Connor, Wageningen University <i>The national liberation movement of the Kurds, the other of the international system</i> Sahar Bagheri, Sorbonne Paris Nord University <i>Imagining freedom beyond state-seeking: On Kurdish transformative mobilization</i> Rosa Burc, Scuola Normale Superiore

Multidirectional travel of the concept of "Genocide" in the Kurdish victimo-mémorial grammar across time and space

Adnan Celik, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Germany

The applicability of small state theories on Iraqi and Syrian Kurdistan

Máté Szalai, Ca' Foscari University

Unstable climate in unstable land: Kurdish activists facing ecological catastrophe

Dobrosława Wiktor-Mach, Cracow University of Economics & Marcin Skupiński, University of Warsaw

17.30

Close of conference
