

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**
 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

Iraqi Kurds’ Diplomatic and Military Relations with France and the Independence Referendum
 Derya Kilic, University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

An Asset: Iraqi Kurdistan in Israeli Foreign Policy 1961 – 2017
 Pishtiwan 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: on 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 Açık, Middlesex University

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

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

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 Universty & Necmettin Türk, University of Hamburg

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

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

Panel 2B – Identity, Mobility and Tribalization in Iranian Kurdistan

Chair: Marouf Cabi, LSE Middle East Centre

Transnational Kin Connections and the Securitization 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-tribalization to Re-tribalization: Instrumentalization of Tribal Ties among the Kurmanji-speaking Kurds in Post-revolutionary Iran

Mostafa Khalili, Kyoto University and LSE Middle East Centre

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 Co-existence 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

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

Chair: Thomas McGee, Melbourne University

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 Saadoun Ghareeb, University of Salahaddin-Erbil & Taban Masoom Hawrami, University of Salahaddin-Erbil

What Happens to Law in a Refugee Camp? Turkish and Iranian attacks on Refugee Camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
Zozan Yasar, journalist/filmmaker & Shakir Suleman Mahmud, Kurdistan Regional Government

The Use of Kurdish Language vs English Language in the Workplace in the Private Sector of Kurdistan Region of Iraq
Dlpak Mustafa Azeez, Catholic University in Erbil, Taban Khudhur Omar, University of Kurdistan- Hewlêr & Selar Othman Ali, Erbil Polytechnic University

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

"We can live without harmony, but also without fighting": Agonistic Approach to Political Reconciliation in the Kurdish Conflict in Turkey
Güneş Daşlı, Freie Universität Berlin

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

12:30-13:30 Lunch

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

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, Potsdam 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

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, EHESS

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

Institutionalizing 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

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

15:00–15:15 Break

15:15–16:30 Keynote Lecture
Choman Hardi, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
Chair: Zeynep Kaya, University of Sheffield

16:30-18:00 Conference Drinks Reception

DAY TWO

Thursday 23 May 2024

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
Kamaram Aziz Abdulla, Soran University

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 Spector of Genocide
Naren Briar

The Factors Affecting Kurdish Language Publishing in Turkey
Miki Nose, Institute of Developing Economics, Japan

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 17th- Century Ottoman Kurdish Emirate: A Study of the Library of Abdāl Khān of Bidlīs
Sacha Alsancakli, University of Münster / Inalco, Paris

Panel 4D – Kurdish-Islamic Interactions

Chair: Fulya Atacan, LSE Middle East Centre

The Portrayal of Kurds in Islamic Jurisprudence: An Illustrative-Critical Account

Farzad Fallah, Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

The Role of Religious Scholars as Mediators between Local Kurdish Society and the Safavid Centre in the Case of an 'Ulama Family in the Ardalan Emirate
Akihiko Yamaguchi, Sophia University, Tokyo

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

Yasuyuki Matsunaga, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Panel 4E – 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

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

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 Yazidi 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, Melbourne Law School

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

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, Sulaimani University

"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

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

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 Knights, 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

12:30–13:00 Lunch

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

14:00–15:30 **Panel 6A – Kurdish Geopolitics**
Chair: Bariş 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
Edoardo Lavezzo, University of York

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

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

Panel 6C – Agency, Desire and Positionality in Kurdish Worlds

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

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

Maria Florencia Guarache 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)

15:30

Close of Conference
