International Conference
The Kurds and Kurdistan: Identity, Politics, History
2nd and 3rd April, 2009
Centre for Kurdish Studies
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies
University of Exeter

WEDNESDAY, 1st APRIL

17:00 -17:45
Conference participants arrive
Registration

IAIS Lecture Theatre
17:45 Welcome Address
Professor Tim Dunne
Head, School of Humanities and Social Science
University of Exeter

18:00-19:00  Keynote Address
Dr. Amir Hassanpour, University of Toronto
*On the changing social bases of Kurdish Studies: From Sharaf Khan to the Dominican Fathers to the unruly world of the internet*

19:00
Buffet dinner

19:30 Film Screening
To be followed by Q&A with director Bahman Ghobadi

THURSDAY, 2nd APRIL

9:00-10:30  Simultaneous Panels, Session 1

IAIS Lecture Room 1
*Turkey’s ‘Kurdish Question’: Development and Conflict*

Panel Chair, Hamit Bozarslan (Paris)
Robert Olson, University of Kentucky
*Kurdish-Turkish Relations from the 22 July general elections to the 29 March local elections: solutions or stalemate?*

Ramazan Aras, University of Western Ontario
*The State Sovereignty and the Politics of Fear: Ethnography of Political Violence and the Kurdish Struggle in Turkey*
Michael Gunter, Tennessee Technological University
*Turkey’s EU Accession: The Rise and Fall of the AK Party’s Attempt to Solve the Kurdish Problem?*

Welat Zeydanlioglu, Anglia Ruskin University
*Turkification and torture in Diyarbakir*

**IAIS Lecture Room 2**
*Expressions of Religiosity*
Panel Chair, Christine Allison (Exeter)

Estelle Amy de la Bretèque, Laboratoire d'ethnomusicologie, Paris
*Duduk lament and zurna dance: a musical typology of emotion in Armenia’s Yezidi communities*

Khanna Omarkhali, Georg –August University, Goettingen
*Current Concerns with a Canon in the Nowadays Yezidi Society*

Philip Kreyenbroek, Georg –August University, Goettingen
*Popular Zoroastrianism and the Religion of Western Iran*

Geoffrey Haig, University of Kiel
*Documenting endangered languages and cultures of the Kurds: The case of Gorani and the Ahl-e Haqq communities of Iran*

10:30-11:00
Coffee break

11:00-12:30  Simultaneous Panels, Session 2

**IAIS Lecture Room 1**
*Encounters with Diversity: Kurds and Others*
Panel Chair, Philip Kreyenbroek (Goettingen)

David Gaunt and Jan Betsawoce, Soedertoern University College, Stockholm
*Assyrian-Kurdish relationships ca 1850-1920*

Vahe Boyajian, Yerevan State University
*Notes on the Balochi Tribes of Kurdish Origin*

Iran Mohammadi, EHESS Paris
*Family and school crossing: the question of Kurdish youth identity*

Azat Zana Gündoğan, SUNY - Binghamton University
"They Have Villas, We Have Caves“. Eastern Demonstrations at the Conjuncture of Social Change: 1968 Movement in Turkey and Kurdish Political Movement

**IAIS Lecture Room 2**  
*Representation, History and the Development of Kurdish Identity*  
**Panel Chair, Robert Olson (Kentucky)**

Janet Klein, University of Akron  
*Nationalism, Statelessness, and Kurdish Studies Today*

Nilay Ozok, SUNY- Binghampton  
*There is no Justice, Liberty and Equality for us: Commoners’ Perception of the 1908 Revolution in Diyarbekir.*

Deniz Ekici, University of Exeter  
*Dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and the Emergence of Kurdish Nationalism*

Yavuz Aykan, EHESS, Paris  
*Legal Pluralism and Gendered Discourse of Divorce in the 17th Century Ottoman Amid (Diyarbakir)*

**12:30-13:30**  
*Lunch*

**13:30- 15:00 Simultaneous Panels, Session 3**

**IAIS Lecture Room 1**  
*Kurdish Political Spaces in Transition*  
**Panel Chair, Michael Gunter (Tennessee)**

Said Shams, independent researcher  
*Historicising Kurdish national identity: who imagines what, how and when*

Cengiz Gunes, University of Essex  
*Promoting Kurdish rights and democracy in a delimited space: the pro-Kurdish political parties in Turkey*

Robert Lowe, Chatham House  
*Kurds in Syria: five years since the serhildan*

Gilles Dorronsoro, Carnegie Foundation and Nicole Watts, San Francisco State University  
*How social coalitions shape political parties: Associational Networks and Pro-Kurdish Parties in Diyarbakır (Turkey)*
IAIS Lecture Room 2
The Politics of Cultural Production
Panel Chair, Clemence Scalbert Yucel (Exeter)

Delal Aydin, Boğaziçi University
Mobilizing the Kurds in Turkey through Newroz myth

Ozlem Galip, University of Exeter
A comparative analysis of novelistic discourse between Turkish Kurdistan and its diaspora with regard to the idea of home, belonging and identity

Metin Yuksel, University of Chicago
Dengbej, Mullah, Intellectual: Continuity and Change in Kurdish Culture in the Modern Middle East

15:00-15:30
Coffee break

15:30-17:00 Simultaneous Panels, Session 4

IAIS Lecture Room 1
Gender, Violence and the Nation
Panel Chair, Sarah Keeler (Exeter)

Minoo Alinia, Mid-Sweden University
Borders, identities and violence

Rojda Alac, EHESS, Paris
Women as Translators: On the speakability of the village guardianship (Koruculuk) among the Kurdish women of Van

Sungun Ebru, University of Paris
War rape as a gender-based violence in Kurdish society

David Romano, Rhodes College
Kurdish women in arms

IAIS Lecture Room 2
Contemporary Kurdish Politics
Panel Chair, Gareth Stansfield (Exeter)

Francis Owtram, University of Kurdistan – Hawler
The foreign policies of quasi-states in comparative analysis: the case of the Kurdish Regional Government

Marie Leray, IREMAM, Aix – IEP, Lille
Highlighting Kurdist Mobilizations through their Margins: conversions and concurrent identity mobilizations in Tunceli

Gülcan Kolay, EHESS, Paris

Habur border gate: the impact of border commerce in southeast Turkey

19:00 – 22:00 Conference Dinner
Reed Hall
With concert by of Ahl-e-Haqq music by Ali Akbar Moradi

FRIDAY, 3rd APRIL

9:00-10:30 Simultaneous Panels, Session 1

IAIS Lecture Room 1
Exile, Displacement and Transnational Political Mobilisations
Panel Chair, Janet Klein (Akron)

Liza Nell, Leiden University
Kurdish Diaspora Politics in the Netherlands, 1990s-2005

Marlies Casier, University of Ghent
Human Rights defenders, ‘the Kurdish question’, and the Turkish state after OHAL: Continuity or change?

Diane King, University of Kentucky
Narrations, crossings, enforcements: Kurdistan as borderland

Olivier Grojean, EHESS, Paris
The “Return Effect” of Transnational Kurdish Mobilizations

IAIS Lecture Room 2
The Kurdish Subject, Language and Literature
Panel Chair, Hashem Ahmadzadeh (Exeter)

Hassan Ghazi, independent researcher
Language standardisation and the question of the Kurdish dialects: the language debate in Iraqi Kurdistan

Bakhtiar Sajjadi, University of Exeter
The Identity of the Kurdish Subject: coherent, fragmented, or ideological?

Farangis Ghaderi, independent researcher
The (magnificence of) language in Sherko Bekes’ poetries
10:30 – 11:00
Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Simultaneous Panels, Session 2

IAIS Lecture Room 1
*Virtual Identities and New Media Discourses*
Panel Chair, Amir Hassanpour (Toronto)

Christian Sinclair, University of Arizona
*Re-framing Kurdish identity: Language, Politics and New Media*

Jaffer Sheyholislami, Carleton University
*Kurdish Identities, Discursive Constructions, and the New Media*

Gevorg Avetikyan, Central European University/Yerevan State University
*The use of web resources by the Kurdish nationalist movement in contemporary Iran*

Andrea Fischer-Tahir, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin
*Enforced Neighbourhood: imaginations of “the Arab” in Iraqi Kurdish print media since 2003*

IAIS Lecture Room 2
*Ideologies of Nationalism in Iraqi Kurdistan*
Panel Chair, Tim Dunne (Exeter)

Omar Sheikhmous, independent researcher
*The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq: Origins, Ideologies, Visions and Realities*

Michael Eppel, University of Haifa
*Kurdish leadership in Iraq: facing the challenges, the dangers, and the chances of post-Saddam Iraq*

Shorsh Hajji, University of Exeter
*The Resurgence of Kurdish Nationalism (1975 – 1985) – A journey From Denial to Recognition*

Mahir Aziz, University of Exeter
*The three phases of Kurdish nationalism: Kurdawari, Kurdayati, and Kurdistanyati*

12:30-13:30
Lunch

13:30-14:30 Keynote Address
Dr. Hamit Bozarslan, EHESS, Paris
*The “State of the art” and the future of Kurdish studies*

14:30-14:50
Closing Remarks
Hashem Ahmadzadeh, Director of Centre for Kurdish Studies
University of Exeter