

Conference

Iraq Twenty Years After the US Invasion: Memory Politics, Governance and Protests

29–31 March 2023

German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) | Room 243

Neuer Jungfernstieg 21, Hamburg

Programme

Wednesday, 29 March 2023

3:30 p.m. | Guided city tour with Achim Rohde

Meeting point: lobby of Hotel Alsterhof

6:00 p.m. | Casual pre-conference get together with food and drinks

Meeting point: GIGA, room 237

7:00 p.m. | Public GIGA Forum event

Iraq 20 Years after the US Invasion with welcome reception afterwards

Key note: Nadje Al-Ali, Brown University

Panel:

- Bernd Erbel is a former German Ambassador to Iraq
- Christoph Reuter is a journalist at the German news magazine *Der Spiegel*
- Dr. Ula Abd Al Khalel Merie is a Principal Architect at the University of Babylon, Iraq and a Visiting Fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA).
- Moderator: Prof. Dr. Eckart Woertz is Director of the GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies and a Professor for Contemporary History and Politics of the Middle East at the Universität Hamburg

Thursday, 30 March 2023

9:00–9:30 a.m. | Introduction to the Workshop

9:30–11:30 a.m. | Panel 1

The Politics of Memory in Iraq

Chair and discussant: Achim Rohde

- Identifying the Missing in the Quest of Transitional Justice in Iraq
Zouhair Atieh (American University of Iraq, Baghdad)
- The Form of Remembrance: Prison Writing and the Memory of the Ba’th
Hawraa al Hassan (University of Cambridge)
- “Only the dead really participated”: the memory of the 1991 uprising and political contestation in Iraq today | Amir Taha (Amsterdam University)
- Blood washes blood: Remembering Saddam era with PMF’s seasoned Shia fighters
Younes Saramifar (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

11:30–11:45 a.m. | Coffee break

11:45 a.m.–13:15 p.m. | Panel 2

The Politics of Archives and Historical Artefacts

Chair and discussant: Alyssa Walter

- The making of regime change in Iraq
Wisam Alshaibi (University of California, Los Angeles)
- Local, national and international agendas of heritage and archival record preservation
Peter Wien (University of Maryland)
- Repatriation and Retribution? The Archives of Saddam Hussein’s Regime and the Politics of Remembering the Ba’thist Era in Iraq
Michael Brill (Princeton University)

1:15–2:15 p.m. | Lunch

2:15–4:15 p.m. | Panel 3

Governance, Protests, and Conflict

Chair and discussant: Eckart Woertz

- Neighborhood Problem Solving in Baghdad: Changing Governance Structures under the Ba'thists, Americans, and Militias
Alissa Walter (Seattle Pacific University)
- Baghdad behind walls: Mapping urban heritage for spatial justice
Ula Abd Ali Khalel Merie (The University of Babylon)
- State and Sufism in Iraq: The Sufi Insurgency of the Former Ba'th Regime
David Jordan (Ruhr University Bochum)
- War and Capitalism in the Gara mountain
Schluwa Sama (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation)

4:15–4:45 p.m. | Coffee break

4:45–6:45 p.m. | Panel 4

Gender Politics and Imaginaries

Chair and discussant: Nadjé Al-Ali

- 'Everyday there is Malak': an Iraqi feminist online rebellion
Balsam Mustafa (University of Warwick)
- Reflections of Gender and Nationalism on Iraqi Postage-Stamps, 1917–2011
Noga Efrati (The Open University of Israel)
- Gender Politics and Processes of Nation-Building in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
Mamilan Hussein (University of West London) and Ana Cristina Marques (University of Kurdistan Hewlêr)
- Peacebuilding and/or Patronage Building in Post-conflict Iraq: The Role of the International in Anbar's NGO Sector
Jessica Watkins (GIGA) and Falah Mubarak Bardan (University of Anbar)

7:30 p.m. | Dinner

Friday, 31 March 2023

9:00–11:00 a.m. | Panel 5

Iraq's Culture and Art Scene

Chair and discussant: Jessica Watkins

- Iraqi theatre venues post-2003: Politics of space, and memory
Hadeel Abdelhameed (Monash University)
- The Vernacular Aesthetic and Modern Digital Poetry in Iraq
Qussay al Attabi (Kenyon College)
- Memory and Literature: The Iran-Iraq War in Post 2003 Iraqi Novels
Ronen Zeidel (Tel Aviv University)
- The 'First True Iraqi Citizen': The Pitfalls of the Nation in Ahmed Saadawi's Frankenstein in Baghdad (2013)
Nuha Askar (Goethe University)

11:00–11:15 a.m. | Coffee break

11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m. | Panel 6

Perspectives of Non-Arab Iraq

Chair and discussant: Hamit Bozarslan

- Yezidi Women's Narratives of Transitional Justice and Reconciliation
Tutku Ayhan (Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals)
- Historicizing Iraq's Minoritized Communities: Framing Citizenship pre and post 2003 (on Assyrians)
Alda Benjamin (University of Dayton)
- Humanitarianism in Action: Governance, charity and the social in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
Müjge Küçükkeleş (University of Kent)

12:45–2:00 p.m. | Lunch

2:00–3.30 p.m. | Roundtable discussion on the relevance of Iraq Studies twenty years after the US Invasion, possible networks and further publication steps

List of Participants

Conveners:

Nadje Al-Ali, Professor, Brown University

Hamit Bozarslan, Ph.D., École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris (EHESS)

Dina Khoury, Professor, George Washington University

Achim Rohde, Ph.D., Universität Hamburg

Eckart Woertz, Professor, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and Universität Hamburg

Speakers:

Zouhair Atieh, Ph.D., American University of Iraq, Bahgdad

Hawraa Al-Hassan, Ph.D., University of Cambridge

Amir Taha, Amsterdam University

Younes Saramifar, Ph.D., Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Wisam Alshaiibi, University of California, Los Angeles

Peter Wien, Professor, University of Maryland

Michael Brill, Princeton University

Alissa Walter, Ph.D., Seattle Pacific University

Ula Abd Ali Khalel Merie, Ph.D., The University of Babylon

David Jordan, Ph.D., Ruhr University Bochum

Schluwa Sama, Ph.D., Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

Balsam Mustafa, Ph.D., University of Warwick

Noga Efrati, Ph.D., The Open University of Israel

Mamilan Hussein, University of West London

Ana Cristina Marques, Ph.D., University of Kurdistan Hewlêr

Jessica Watkins, Ph.D., German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)

Falah Mubarak Bardan, Ph.D., University of Anbar

Hadeel Abdelhameed, Ph.D., Monash University

Qussay Al-Attabi, Ph.D., Kenyon College

Ronen Zeidel, Ph.D., Tel Aviv University

Nuha Askar, Goethe University

Tutku Ayhan, Ph.D., Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)

Alda Benjamen, Ph.D., University of Dayton

Müjge Küçükkeleş, University of Kent