

PROGRAMME
Kurdish Studies Conference

11-13 June 2025

London School of Economics and Political Science

DAY ONE

Wednesday 11 June 2025

10:30	Registration and Coffee
11:30 – 13:00	Welcome and Keynote Lecture <i>The Kurdish issue in the Middle East's new turning point</i> Professor Hamit Bozarslan, L'Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Panel 1A – Iranian Kurdistan: Historical contexts <i>Legacies of Sheikh Ubaydullah and Simko: Intergenerational reverberations of conflict in Iranian Kurdistan (1880–1979)</i> Mostafa Khalili, Kyoto University <i>The politics of Persianisation in Pahlavi Iran: A study of Kurdish cultural discrimination</i> Giulia Navab Daneshmand, University of Hamburg <i>The Kurds and Mossadegh in Iran, political development in Kurdistan in 1951-1953</i> Hemn Seyedi, University of Exeter <i>The historical contexts of the hegemonising Kurdish nationalism discourse in Iranian Kurdistan</i> Loghman Hamehmorad, University College Dublin and Jamal Khosravi, Payam-e Noor University <i>Modern historiography and the emergence of Kurdish national history-writing in the Twentieth Century</i> Marouf Cabi, LSE Middle East Centre
	Panel 1B – Activism and belonging in the Kurdish diaspora <i>Kurdish diaspora activism from homeland to host-land liberation: A case study of the "Reclaim the Initiative!" Conference, Vienna 2025</i> Eleonora Gea Piccardi <i>Digital Kurdistan: Reimagining nationhood and community in the virtual age through Kurdish generation Z refugees</i> Bariş Öktem, Royal Holloway, University of London <i>From socialist movement to nationalist movement: Focusing on the discourse on Kurdish identity in Kurdish publications in Europe</i> Miki Nose, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO

"You're just helping your parent": Experiences of language brokering within Kurdish families in Turkey and the UK
Kate Ferguson, Heriot-Watt University

Panel 1C – The gender politics of Kurdish films: Representation, reception and redistribution

The diasporic foundation of a Kurdish audience: The London Kurdish Film Festival
Ferhan Stêrk

Masculinity on the border: Kurdish cinema of Turkey
Nimet Gatar, EHESS

Rethinking Kurdish viewing practices, queering methodology: The films of Ali Kemal Çınar
Kaan Akın

Between industry and festival: A feminist imagination of Kurdish cinema
Bahar Şimşek Day, Bilkent University

Panel 1D – The Anfal Genocide: Recognition, justice and memorialisation

Statelessness and reparations for genocide in transitional justice: A case study of the Anfal Genocide
Matin Brifkani, University of Stockholm

Gender representation in Anfal memory sites
Aso Piri, Soran University

The banality of evil: State and civilian participation in the Kurdish Genocide(s)
Kaziwa Salih, Lived Places Publishing

Domestic hierarchies and the quest for international recognition of the Anfal Genocide
Hawar Rafaat Star, Charmo University

Panel 1E – Kurdish identity and insurgency

The Kurdistan Freedom Movement in the "war on terror": Counterterrorism as colonial counterinsurgency
Iida Käyhkö, Royal Holloway, University of London

Preserving Kurdish identity: The paradoxical role of the tribal system and cultural divisions in the face of historical challenges
Saman Fatah, University of Sulaimani

From armed groups to archivists: Introducing the Kurdish Martyr Obituaries Dataset (KMOD), 2001-2024
Alex Creamer

15:30 – 16:00 **Tea**

16:00 – 17:30 **Panel 2A – Memory and preservation**

Reason to believe: The role of myths in the memory of land and society in Kurdistan
Rojda Tuğrul

Memory as a resource to deal with uncertainty: The effects of encampment on Syrian Kurdish refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan
Charlotte Watelet, Labex TEPSIS (EHESS)

The Kurds in Tennessee: Food, senses, memory and belonging to two worlds
Steve Winingar, Southern Illinois University

Archiving in Kurdistan: Lessons from the KCAC Archive
Marina Wondrich, Kurdistan Center for Arts and Culture

Panel 2B – The Women’s Movement and emancipatory organisation among Kurds in Syria

Justice, rights-politics, and the coloniality of knowledge production: Critical lessons from Rojava and the Jineolojî movement towards liberating life
Hasret Cetinkaya, Manchester Metropolitan University

The women’s institution in Rojava: Unmuted women? A case study of the Women’s House (Mala Jin)
Yushan Huang, EHESS

“Walking on this land now gives us strength”: The ecological dimension of the Kurdish Women’s Movement in the Rojava Revolution
Letícia Giminez, São Paulo State University

“Networked Leninism”: Rojava as effective organisational model in the decade of “missing revolutions”
Matt Broomfield, University of Sussex

Women’s Everyday Experiences of Political and Social Upheaval in Post-Conflict Northern Syria
Mustafa Kemal Topal, Roskilde University

Panel 2C – Literature and language in Kurdish worlds

The Kurdish novel as a response to genocide(s)

Lolav Alhamid, University of Dohuk

*Journalistic translations in Hawar: Their part in the development of
Kurdish language and literature*

Dibar Çelik

Language act: Theorising pragmatics of Kurdish language

Yunus Abakay, University of Exeter

*Zazakî in the digital age: Bridging education and technology to save an
endangered language*

Mahîr Dogan, University of Bamberg

Panel 2D – Reassessing the Kurdish conflict in Turkey

*Beyond politics and forgiveness: A bottom-up approach to reconciliation
in the Kurdish conflict*

Güneş Daşlı, Loughborough University

Restorative justice and the Kurdish conflict: Preparing for peace in Turkey

Dadlez Sabak, Friedrich Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

*Concealed violence: Forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in
Southeastern Turkey amid development initiatives post-2016 military
operations*

Eugenio Grosso

*Cultural trauma and the PKK: The legacy of August 15 offensive in
Turkey's Kurdish conflict*

Bariş Tuğrul, Hacettepe University

Panel 2E – 20th Century Kurdish international encounters

*Fraught fascinations: The politics of stereotypes in British women
travellers' encounters with the Kurds (1890-1940)*

Himan Heidari, University of Roehampton

*Britain, Iraq, and the politics of genocide: The 1963 Ba'ath government
campaign against the Kurds*

Hawraman Ali, University of Manchester

What did Lausanne offer the Kurds?

Derya Bayir, University of Copenhagen

*Reframing the Kurdish Question (1980s–1990s): International dimensions,
strategic adaptations, and evolving activism*

Kubra Sagir, EHESS

DAY TWO
Thursday 12 June 2025

09:00 – 10:30 Panel 3A – Knowledge production and reflexivity within Kurdish Gender Studies

Kurdish Gender Studies Network: Reflections on building an epistemic community

Necla Açıık, Middlesex University

Prisons as decolonial sites of resistance and knowledge production in Kurdish Gender Studies

Berivan Kutlay Sarikaya, University of Toronto

Temporal ripples: Queer time and the Kurdish struggle for liberation

Emrah Karakuş, LSE

Kurdish women's knowledge beyond borders: Decolonial perspectives and the quest for legitimacy

Dilan Bozgan, Universidad Nacional de San Martín

Decolonial education and knowledge production: Challenges and opportunities in global feminist pedagogies

Münevver Azizoğlu-Bazan, University of Bremen

Panel 3B – International engagement with Kurdish questions in the mid-20th Century

The Comintern and the Kurdish Question, 1919-1939: A radical tragedy

Angelika Pobedonostseva, Saint Petersburg State University

The complex interplay between the Soviet Union and Kurdish movements in Syria and Iraq during the Pan-Arab apogee (1950s-1960s)

Mauro Primavera, University of Padua

British Empire, Iraqi nation-state: A Road through Kurdistan (1928-1932)

Morad Roohi, Queen's University

International alliances of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan during the Cold War

Siarhei Bohdan, University of Regensburg

Panel 3C – Interrogating language and comedy

Turkish state actors' attitude towards the Kurdish language during the 1930s and 40s

Yuksel Gonul

The invention of a language: Popular media and Kurmancî print efforts in the 1990s

Rojda Yavuz

The rise of Kurdish stand-up and its impact on Kurdish language in Turkey
Zubeyde Karagoz

The limits of laughter: Making the coloniser laugh and Kurdish identity in Turkish stand-up comedy

Haci Cevik, Humboldt University and Berhudan Şamar,

Panel 3D – Political thought and ethnic performativity in Turkey

The Kurds and left-wing thought in Turkey, 1961 – 1971: Political representation and the “order” of society

Marc Sinan Winrow, LSE

The sacralisation of politics in Turkey: Remaking Kurdishness in the face of Abdullah Öcalan

Esra Elmas, Independent Researcher

Women in the political thought of Abdullah Öcalan: Gender idealism or political strategy?

Hannah Evrengün, University of Amsterdam and Mariwan Kanie, University of Amsterdam

Ethnic performativity of the Shaykbesiene Kurds in a Turkish-majority town

Reyhan Özşahin, University of Tübingen

Panel 3E – Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Statelessness, displacement, trafficking

Climate change and climate migration as an incoming challenge to Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Hemn Jameel, Kurdistan Regional Government

Countering human trafficking: Law and policy in Iraq

Sayran Ibrahim Shawkat, University of Kurdistan Hewlêr

Human trafficking in KRI: Challenges, impacts, and pathways to justice
Isabella Lombardi, University of Edinburgh

“We are the new Bidoons of Iraq” ISIS affiliated families at risk of statelessness: Ninawa Governorate

Abdullah Yaseen, Erbil Polytechnic University

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee**

11:00 – 12:30 Panel 4A – Unpacking the realities of NES self-administration: Loss, resistance and survival

North and East Syria's Self-Administration under Trump: Past and future
Mohammed Ibrahim, Independent Researcher

Eliminating the native in Afrin: Turkey's settler colonial agenda in Rojava
Zozan Yasar, University of Edinburgh

Representing Rojava's women in art
Vian Hussein, Independent Researcher

SDF governance in Northern Syria: The "Kadro" figure as backbone
Thomas McGee, University of Oxford

Panel 4B – Approaches to Kurdish cultural production

Kurdish art as political witness
Autumn Cockrell-Abdullah, Agnes Scott College

The vocalisation of Kurmanji long song (dengbêjî)
Nicholas Hobbs, Independent Researcher

A Kurdish poetics of violence in three acts
Hevin Karakurt, Stanford University

Kurdish futurism? Possibilities of envisioning future(s) through Kurdish cinema
Nilgün Yelpaze, Philipps University of Marburg

Panel 4C – Governance in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The interplay between transport planning, urban heritage, and its impact on heritage values of buildings and assets in historic city centers
Niyam Ibrahim, UCL

Crossing the boundaries of Kurdishness: Overcoming the limitations of ethnonationalism in the Kurdish curricula

Abdurrahman Wahab, Tishk International University and Soran Mustafa Kurdi, Independent Researcher

Centralisation and the challenges of bureaucracy and institutionalisation in Iraqi Kurdistan
Hiwa Majid, Salahaddin University

Territorial patronage and the appointment of top civil servants
Ari Mamshae, University of Oslo

Panel 4D – Diyarbakır: Urbanisation, identity and counterinsurgency

“There are orchards around Diyarbakır”: Retracing Kurdish forced urbanisation in the 1980s and 90s

Jiyan Andiç, Boğaziçi University and Francesco Pasta, Politecnico di Milano

The politics of changing place names in Kurdistan, Turkey and the case of Diyarbakir province: Identity, space, and political strategies

Mazlum Capan, Aix-Marseille University

“Risky Areas” of Diyarbakır: Dissemination of counterinsurgency in urban restructuring

Arjin Taş, University of Vienna

Shaping ethno-political identities through ritual: Mevlid-i Nebi commemorations in Diyarbakır

Z. Aslı Elitsoy, University of Copenhagen

Panel 4E – Positionality, statelessness and identity in Kurdish Studies

Who am I? Insider/outsider positionalities and the importance of self-reflexivity as a research practice in Kurdish Studies

Rawina Trautmann, European University Viadrina

Rethinking Turkish researcher identity in conflict studies from the perspectives of Kurdish participants

Özden Melis Uluğ, University of Sussex

Composite statelessness and migrating racisms: A translocal analysis of cumulative violence in the lives of Kurds

Rosa Burc, DeZIM Institute

Ontological (in)security and Kurdish identity: Construction of biographical continuity and navigation of existence

Amjed Rasheed, King’s College London

12:30 – 13:30**Lunch**

13:30 – 15:00**Panel 5A – Kurdish international relations**

The Barzani legacy: Shaping Lebanese politics through Kurdish influence
Sara Scampini, Independent Researcher

Kurdistan Region-GCC relations: Evaluating the impact of the Iran-Saudi Arabia competition

Zubir Ahmed, Salahaddin University

To what extent has the Kurdish Regional Government’s relationship with Israel influenced the region’s aim of achieving independence from Iraq?

Taylor Pearson, SOAS

Between cooperation and compliance: The role of the Kurdish Question in the "critical dialogue" Euro-Iranian negotiations

Louise-Marie de Busschère, Paul-Valéry University Montpellier 3

Panel 5B – Media representation, pop poetry and identity

The German media coverage of the Jina Uprising in Iran and Rojhilatê Kurdistanê – A mixed-methods approach

Bahar Çati, Humboldt University

Silent voices: Nationalism and the marginalisation of Kurdish identity in Türkiye's social media

Busra Tasdemir, York University

Bahdinani pop poetry: Constructing Kurdish identity and contesting the Arab other

Yaser Ali, University of Dohuk

Critical discourse analysis: Media representation of women in the Kurdish media

Hazhan Khalid Ahmed, Kurdistan Technical Institute

Panel 5C – Historical accounts from Kurdistan

Abdāl Khān's Translation Programme in Seventeenth-Century Bidlīs

Sacha Alsancakli, University of Münster

Mullā Sheikh b. Ilyās Kurdī: An unexplored Kurdish scholar and his contributions

Sayed Salahuddin Amin, SOAS

Citation, redeployment, reanimation: The defeat of the Mount Ararat Uprising retold by its descendants

Susan Benson-Sokmen, York University

Tracing the genealogy of an uprising in its centennial year: Sheikh Said and his ancestors in the Naqshbandi-Khalidi tradition

Merve Fırat, Middle East Technical University

Panel 5D – Kurdish feminist and queer approaches to resistance and survival

Waiting as survival: Marriage, motherhood, and conflict in Kurdish women's lives

Ruşen Işık, Independent Researcher

Revisiting state violence through perpetrators' lenses: A feminist embodied and everyday analysis

Devran Öcal, Bern University

The innocence as a denial mechanism: Commonalities and divergences in Kurdish and queer childhood politics in Turkey

Dilan Yılmaz, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University

Examining the importance of cultural competence and interdisciplinarity in psychological research: A case study of the Kurdish and Yazidi

Genocides

Fatma Kaya, Point Park University

Panel 5E – The Peshmerga and the Barzinji in the KRI

The Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq - party militia, constitutional force or hybrid security actor? Security sector reform in a fragile federal state

Francis Owtram, University of Exeter and Gareth Stansfield, University of Exeter

Utilising a social-ecological framework to understand Peshmerga involvement and loyalty

James Hewitt, University of St Andrews

The role of armed forces collaboration in the consolidation of statehood: Bundeswehr - Peshmerga Relations

Silvia Nicola, Bundeswehr Center for Military History and Social Sciences

Charisma in transition: The Barzinji in the religious landscape of Iraqi Kurdistan

Camilla Insom, Sapienza University

15:00 – 15:30

Tea

15:30 – 17:00

Conference Roundtables

How To Get Published

Decolonizing Kurdish Studies

17:00 – 18:30

Conference drinks reception

DAY THREE
Friday 13 June 2025

09:00 – 10:30 Panel 6A – Socioeconomics and oral history in Rojhelat

The impact of the landlord-peasant system on the socioeconomic structures of rural Kurdistan in Iran

Senour Ahmadi, University of Foggia and Serveh Ahmadi

The political economy of Kulbari: The intersection of oppressions and uneven development in Iran

Shakiba Rahmani, University of Science and Culture Tehran

Oral history of Kurdistan: Litigating mothers

Soma Negahdari Nia, Mehdi Dehnavi and Fariba Mohamadi

Life of Halabja refugees in Iranian camps: Women's oral history narratives

Zamdar Ahmed Rasool, Koya University

Panel 6B – Turbulent KRI-Iraq relations

The functionality of the judicial system of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
Rebwar Salih, University of Halabja

Constitutional federalism at a crossroads: Iraq's Federal Supreme Court as an obstacle

Majida Ismael, Liverpool John Moores University

The continuing time bomb of Kirkuk

Saad Jawad

A tale of two de-Ba'athifications in Iraq: Evidence from Erbil and Baghdad
Ruiheng Li, Peking University

Panel 6C – North and East Syria: Domestic politics and foreign policy

Comparative study of the religious policies of the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria
Katia Zagoritou, University of the Peloponnese

Democratisation through Kurdish Decentralisation? A critical comparison of the 2005 Iraqi Constitution and the 2023 Rojava Social Contract

Dastan Jasim, German Institute for Global and Area Studies

A house divided against itself? Ideology, trust, and the limits of Kurdish cooperation in the Syrian Civil War

Andrea Novellis, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

The West's double standard foreign policies towards the Kurds with a particular focus on Rojava

Soheila Shahriari, EHESS

Panel 6D – Kurdish feminist struggles

Women against the state: Jineoloji and its affinities with Latin American feminisms

Beatriz de Tullio, UNICAMP

Insurgent feminism: A comparative-empirical analysis of the Colombian FARC and Kurdish PKK-YPG Guerrillas

Vierelina Fernández, Rutgers University

Battling the "Patriarchal Trifecta": Women in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and their battle

Shilan Fuad Hussein, Middlesex University

Insights into the emergence of the feminist movement in Iraqi Kurdistan: Lessons from the history of theatre

Mari Rostami

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee

11:00 – 12:30

Panel 7A – Kurdish women's activism in its various forms

Women in the political thought of Abdullah Öcalan: Gender idealism or political strategy?

Hannah Evrengün, University of Amsterdam

From "Femina Grata" to "Femina Sacra": Shifting approaches to Kurdish women in feminist academic discourse

Şilan Tank

Young women in the intra-Kurdish conflict: Gender, identity, and peacebuilding

Mehmet İlhanlı, Diyarbakır Institute for Political and Social Research

How inclusive is public space for Kurdish women's interaction? A comparative study of different urban contexts

Hooshmand Alizadeh, University of Vienna

Panel 7B – Violence, fugitivity and survival

Words, pills and silence(s): (Re)constructing subjectivities in the field of mental health in a reality riven by violence

Gülistan Zeren, University of Aix-Marseille

Divas, terrorists, and witches, among other misnomers in Sur District, Diyarbakır

Meryem Uzun, Rutgers University

Fugitivity as an everyday experience in the forests of the Dersim Sanjak between 1915 and 1918

Diana Yayloyan, Georgetown University

Join life hevall!: Communal care and political ward as an intimate public space

Mete Ulutaş, Penn State University

Panel 7C – Kurdistan Jews: History, present and heritage

The story of the Jews of Kurdistan

Birgit Ammann

Jews of Kurdistan: History, culture, integration and homeland

Veysi Dag, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Kurdish-Jewish community of Zakho: Life, immigration, and integration

Baruch Shimoni, Bar-Ilan University

Cultural (non-)preservation of the Jewish heritage in Kurdistan

Thomas Schmidinger, University of Kurdistan Hewlêr

Panel 7D – Politics of contestation in the KRI

Transformations of Iraqi Kurdistan peripheral populations: From conservative Muslim Brotherhood voters to abstentionist Salafists

Armin Messenger

Trends in press freedom violations in Iraq's Kurdistan Region

Winthrop Rodgers

Duality of martyrdom: The cases of forced disappearances in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Kamal Chomani, Leipzig University

Subjective experiences of forced returnees: Identity, belonging, and reintegration in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Abdul Samih Gubari, Eötvös Loránd University

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 15:30 **All The Mountains Give**

Film Screening and conversation with Director, Arash Rakhsha
Shaw Library

15:30 **Close of conference**
