

International Conference - Gender in Iraqi Studies

Gender in Iraqi studies: Trans_ local actors and knowledge flows in comparative perspective

Zeit: 06.05.2015 15:00 h - 08.05.2015 15:00 h

Ort: Philipps Universität Marburg

Weitere Informationen:

This conference contributes to contemporary research on gender-relations and gendered configurations of change in Iraq. Scholarship focusing on gender issues concerning Iraq has developed as part of a feminist agenda of writing the marginalized stories of women into the historiography of Iraq, and of highlighting women's perspectives and their agency in contemporary developments even under conditions of occupation and violent conflict. Applying a gender studies perspective is twofold; apart from being a normative choice of scholars indebted to feminist, queer and subaltern studies, it is the result of pragmatic considerations regarding an effective research strategy that will render visible the ruptures as well as the continuities of modern and contemporary Iraqi history in various interconnected fields.

In order to adequately assess the changes of social relations and governmentalities triggered by the ruptures the country experienced since the early 20th century, our scholarship needs to move beyond more or less normative and teleological assumptions emphasizing either 'deterioration' or 'improvement'. Therefore, the conference is designed along the following lines:

- Taking into account the historicity of social relations, we seek to trace patterns of continuity and change since the 1920s and to discuss competing gender discourses and gendered practices in Iraqi society over time.

- Aware of the complexity of transformative processes as well as of gender-based injustice and violence, the conference focuses on the political, economic, legal as well as cultural dimensions of gender configurations in Iraqi society, on the multiple and transregional flows of knowledge and the moves of relevant translocal actors.

- Informed by practice theory we claim that an understanding of reconfigurations and their academic representation requires a strong focus on ways of perception, thought and action, as well as on self-reflexivity regarding our own academic practice of knowledge production and circulation.

The specificities of the Iraqi case and the interaction of these factors can best be understood by looking at the *longue durée* of modern Iraqi history in a (trans-)regional comparative framework, thus we seek to situate the study of Iraq within the broader context of comparative (trans-)area studies.

Diese Konferenz leistet einen wichtigen Beitrag zur aktuellen Forschung im Bereich der Geschlechterbeziehungen und der Konfigurationen vergeschlechtlichter Umbrüche im Irak. Die Gender Studies Perspektive ist nicht nur unserem normativen Anspruch als Wissenschaftler_innen geschuldet, sondern darüber hinaus das Ergebnis pragmatischer Überlegungen hinsichtlich eines effektiven Forschungsansatzes, der Brüche ebenso wie Kontinuitäten der modernen und zeitgenössischen irakischen Geschichte sichtbar machen kann. Um die Veränderungen sozialer Beziehungen und Gouvernementalitäten im Zuge der Umbrüche des 20. und 21. Jahrhunderts adäquat einschätzen zu können, muss unsere Forschung über simplifizierende Dichotomien von „Verfall“ und „Verbesserung“ hinaus gehen. Die Besonderheiten des irakischen Falls können am besten auf der Grundlage komparativer Langzeitforschung mit trans-regionalem Ansatz nachvollzogen werden. Dadurch können unter anderem die intersektionalen Verknüpfungen von Genderfragen, Wissensproduktion, sowie regionale und trans_lokale Wissensübertragungen wahrgenommen werden.

Veranstalter:

Das Forschungsnetzwerk "Re-Konfigurationen. Geschichte, Erinnerung und Transformationsprozesse im Mittleren Osten und Nordafrika"



International Conference
Gender in Iraqi Studies:
Trans_local Actors and Knowledge Flows in Comparative Perspective

Date: 6-8 May 2015

Conference Venue: Centre for Near and Middle East Studies (CNMS),
Philipps-Universität Marburg (UMR)

Convened by Research Network Re-Configurations - History, Remembrance and
Transformation Processes in the Middle East and North Africa

Wednesday, May 6th 2015

15h

Registration

15.45h

Welcome Address and Introduction

Andrea Fischer-Tahir (CNMS) and Achim Rohde (CNMS)

16.30h - 18.00h

***Panel 1: Political Transformations and Gender In
Historical Perspective***

Continuity in the History of Women and Revolutions in Iraq
Noga Efrati (The Open University of Israel)

Political Transformations and Gender in Historical Perspective: A Transnational Feminist
Perspective
Nadje Al-Ali (SOAS, University of London)

Bint al Huda's Reconceptualization of Hajj as a Means of Raising the Status of the Iraqi Da'wa
Network
Anwar Al-Khalldy (Otto-Suhr-Institut, FU Berlin)

Discussant: **Claudia Derichs** (UMR)

Chair: **Achim Rohde** (CNMS)

DINNER

Thursday, May 7th 2015

9.30h - 11.00h ***Panel 2: Dealing with the Past: Memories, Commemoration and Transitional Justice***

Anfal Survivors in Kurdistan-Iraq: Gendered Processes of Memorialization
Karin Mlodoch (Haukari e.V. Berlin)

The Painful Return: Prisoners of War und Society in the Iraqi Novel
Ronen Zeidel (Haifa University)

Discussant: **Anika Oettler** (UMR)
Chair: **Mariam Salehi** (CNMS)

11.00h - 11.30 h COFFEE BREAK

11.30h -13.00h ***Panel 3: Gendered Violence and Manhood***

Gendered Violence and the State Before and After 2003
Achim Rohde (CNMS)

The social production of masculinity: Honor, Violence and Manhood in Iraqi Kurdistan
Minoo Alinia (Uppsala University)

Discussant: **Hamit Bozarlan** (L'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris)
Chair: **Christoph Schwarz** (CNMS)

13.00h - 14.00h LUNCH BREAK

14.00h - 16.00h ***Panel 4 Spaces of Gendered Subjectivities***

Gendered Agency in Iraqi NGOs? Encounters Between International and Local Spaces
Annika Henrizi (UMR)

Gendering Neoliberalism in Iraqi-Kurdistan
Schluwa Sama (UMR)

Everyday Gendered Experiences in Precarious Times
Shenah Abdullah (University of Exeter)

Discussant: **Katrin Bromber** (Center of Modern Orient Studies, Berlin)
Chair: **Christoph Schwarz** (CNMS)

16: 30h CITY TOUR with Alena Strohmaier

Friday, May 8th 2015

09.30h - 11.00h ***Panel 5: Gendering Cultural Production and Symbolic Violence***

Gender Norms and Images of Women in the Media of Iraqi Kurdistan (*Paper presented by Shenah Abdullah*)

Runak Faraj (Rêwan Women's Media and Education Center, Sulaimaniya)

Embargo, War, and Violence - Iraqi Women's Responses to the Political and Cultural Situation of the 1990s in Iraq

Leslie Tramontini (CNMS)

The Image of Woman in Iraqi Films after 2003 (*Paper presented by Hanna AlTaher*)

Irada Zaydan (University of Baghdad)

Discussant: **Ines Braune** (CNMS)

Chair: **Alena Strohmaier** (CNMS)

11.00h – 11.15h COFFEE BREAK

11.15h - 12.15h ***Panel 6: Gender, Trans_local Knowledge Flows and Academic Knowledge Production Inside Iraq***

Gender Studies in Higher Education in Kurdistan-Iraq

Choman Herdi (American University, Sulaimaniya)

Gender Studies and Knowledge Production in Iraq (*Paper presented by Hanna AlTaher*)

Lahay Abdul Hussein (University of Baghdad)

Discussant: **Andrea Fischer-Tahir** (CNMS)

Chair: **Dimitris Soudias** (CNMS)

12.30h – 13.30h ***Round Table Discussion: Re-Configuring Iraqi Studies***

Participants: **Hamit Bozarslan / Noga Efrati / Choman Herdi / Lahay Abdul Husain**

Chair: **Achim Rohde**

LUNCH

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