

Governing Diversity “The Kurds in the Middle East”

List of Participants



Faleh A. Jabar is a PhD political sociology Visiting Fellow at the School of Politics and Sociology at Birkbeck College, London University, and has written extensively about Iraq and the Middle East. His research interests cover various fields such as the Sociology of religion, sociology of nation building and state formation, tribes and modern socio- economic formation, and cultural discourses in Iraq and the wider ME. He is the author of the Shiite Movement in Iraq published by Saqi books, 2003. His other works include: Post-Marxism and the Middle East, Ayatollahs, Sufis and Ideologues: State, Religion and Social Movements in Iraq and (as co-editor) Tribes and Power: Nationalism and Ethnicity in the Middle East, all published by Saqi books. His latest writing: Conditions & Horrors, the Cultural Roots of Violence in Arabic Culture (Beirut- Furat press) the Dilemma of political uncertainties in Iraq 2009, The Dilemma of Political identity 2010.



Renad Mansour is a PhD Candidate at the University of Cambridge (Department of Politics and International Relations) and a Research Fellow at the Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies (IIST) in Beirut. His doctoral research focuses on paradiplomacy and Foreign Policy Analysis in the case of the Kurdistan Regional Government. He is also a Consultant for the Pembroke Security and Intelligence Initiative. Renad has recently published for Foreign Policy Magazine, the al-Jazeera Center for Studies, the European Journal of Minority Issues, and the Bologna Centre Journal of International Affairs.

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Raber Talaat Jawhar is a trainer with a lot of local and international organizations in the field of human rights, human development, political participation and awareness of young people, in many cities and the village of Kurdistan region. The organizations which I have worked with them are (NPA, PDA, PAO, Kurdistan youth empowerment organization, al-masala organization and ASK).



Harriet Allsopp is a Research Fellow at the Middle East Research Institute. She holds an MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Oxford, UK, and a PhD in Politics and MRes in Political Theory from Birkbeck College, the University of London, UK. Harriet’s recent research has focused on Kurdish political parties in Syria. As well as tracking the Kurdish response to the Syrian uprising Harriet has looked in detail at the effects of the state system, pre-existing sub-state social structures, regional pan-Kurdish dynamics and changes in the political economy on the form of politics that has arisen amongst Kurds in Syria. Harriet is the author of *The Kurds of Syria: Political Parties and Identity in the Middle East* (I. B. Tauris, 2014), “The Kurdish Autonomy Bid” in Ahmed & Gunter eds. *The Kurdish Spring* (Mazda, 2013), and of *The Kurds of Syria: an Existence Denied* (European Center for Kurdish Studies, Berlin, 2005). Before joining MERI, Harriet worked as a freelance expert on the Middle East, with a particular focus on Syria and the Kurdish question there. In this capacity she has been consulted by numerous governmental and non-governmental organisations and institutions.

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Michael M. Gunter is an authority on Kurds in Turkey and Iraq and has written seven books on the Kurdish struggle. He is frequently consulted by media members for analysis and comment on breaking news in the Middle East. ^[1] Gunter has written more than 75 articles in scholarly journals and books including *Middle East Journal*, *American Journal of International Law* and *World Affairs*. He has authored nine books about the Kurdish people of Turkey, northern Iraq, Syria and Iran, and two of those books were among the first analyses in English of the Kurdish unrest in the Middle East. In writing his analyses, Gunter has worked directly with top Kurdish and other Middle Eastern political leaders. He received the Kurdish Human Rights Watch’s “Service to the Kurds Award” in 1998. Gunter’s analyses and writings sometimes strike readers as controversial, but he says his views are often based on information that hasn't yet been made public. In fact, some organizations ask him not to discuss meetings and information gathered there.



Cengiz Gunes completed his PhD at the Government Department, the University of Essex, UK. He is the author of *The Kurdish National Movement in Turkey: From Protest to Resistance* (London: Routledge, 2012). He co-edited (with Welat Zeydanlioglu) *The Kurdish Question in Turkey: New Perspectives on Violence, Representation and Reconciliation* (London: Routledge, 2014). His main research interests are in identity and nationalism, peace and conflict studies and the international relations of the Middle East. Currently he is an Associate Lecturer at the Open University.

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Saad Abdulrazzak Hussain is a researcher at the Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies in Beirut, Lebanon. He is an ex-member of the Iraqi Parliament in Baghdad, Iraq. He was an analyst and advisor at the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies and Research in London, UK. He was a Senior Lecturer at the Institute for Information and Communication, at the University of Algiers, Algeria and a senior researcher at the National Center for Social and Criminal Research, in Baghdad, Iraq. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.



Michiel Leezenberg teaches at the Department of Philosophy and in the M.A. program (Islam in the Modern World) at the University of Amsterdam. Earlier, he was a fellow at the Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM) and at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS). During the 1990s, he conducted extensive fieldwork in Kurdistan. He has published widely on culture, economics and society in Kurdistan, and on the intellectual history of the modern Islamic world.

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Christine M. van den Toorn is the Executive Director of Policy and External Relations at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani (AUIS). She is also the Director of the University’s policy center, the Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS). She oversees the annual Sulaimani Forum, one of the premier gatherings for Iraq and Middle East policy debates. Her research focuses on the disputed territories of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and she has published in *Foreign Policy*, *Carnegie’s Sada*, *War on the Rocks*, *Iraq Oil Report*, *Inside Iraqi Politics*, *Daily Beast* and *Niqash*. Before coming to AUIS in 2009, Ms. van den Toorn received her M.A. in History (Middle East) from the University of Virginia and served in the United States Peace Corps in Morocco. She speaks Arabic and French.