KURDS, DISPLACEMENT AND RESILIENCE

University of Toronto
October 12–14, 2018

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Handan Çağlayan

For more information about the conference, please contact:
iksstoronto2018@gmail.com

Location:
OISE, Room 12–199
University of Toronto
252 Bloor St. W, Toronto, ON
This event is free and open to public
Please advise if you have any accessibility requirement
Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and learn on this land.

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Friday, October 12, 2018
Location: OISE/UT, Room 12-199

9:30AM-10:00AM    Arrival, Coffee, Registration
10:00AM-10:30AM    Welcome-Opening remarks

Sardar Saadi (PhD Candidate, Anthropology, University of Toronto)
Dr. Bonnie McElhinney (Principal of New College, University of Toronto)
Dr. Shahrzad Mojab (Director of Equity Studies, OISE/University of Toronto)

10:30AM-12:00PM    Panel 1: Resistance, Resilience, and Self-Reliance

Chair: Dr. Firat Bozçalı (Anthropology, University of Toronto)

Presenters:
Susan Benson-Sökmen (History, University of Toronto)
‘Stories that Get in the Way’: The Women of Mount Ararat Rebellion and the Writing of Kurdish, Feminist, and Gender Histories in the Turkish Republic

Kamal Chomani (The Tahrir Institute for the Middle East Policy & Freelance Journalist)
Dependency and Revival (Rasan) of Kurdish Political Parties in Iran

12:00PM-1:30PM    Lunch (7th floor, Peace Lounge)
1:30PM-3:00PM  Panel 2: Labor and Survival Strategies among Displaced Kurds

Chair: Dr. Sümercan Bozkurt-Güngen (Social Science & Political Science, York University)

Presenters:
Dr. Deniz Duruiz (Anthropology, Northwestern University)
Migrant Labor: Continuation of Displacement by Other Means

Aram Mahmood (Economics, Komar University for Science and Technology)
Labor Market Situation for Syrian Refugees in Iraq: Case Study Arbat Refugee Camp- Kurdistan Region

Gülay Kılıçaslan (Sociology, York University)
From Solidarity to Exploitation: The Interaction between Kurdish Forced Migrants in Istanbul

3:00PM-4:30PM  Panel 3: Micro-histories of Kurdish Political Mobilization and Resistance

Chair: Dr. Ömer Özcan (Anthropology & Sociology, York University)

Presenters:
Elif Genç (Politics, The New School for Social Research)
Oral Histories of Resistance: The Toronto Kurdish Community Centre (Komal)

Dr. Özlem Belçim Galip (Anthropology, University of Oxford)
From Kurdistan to Europe: Kurdish Literary, Artistic and Cultural Activism by Kurdish Women Intellectuals

Dr. Michael Ferguson (History, Concordia University)
Towards a Microhistory of Kurdish Displacement: The Life and Death of Rahşan Demirel

4:30PM-5:00PM  Break

5:00PM-6:00PM  Keynote Speaker: Handan Çağlayan
Formation of Kurdish Women’s Identity in Praxis

7:00PM-9:00PM  Dinner, Dance & Music (7th floor, Peace Lounge)
9:30AM-11:00PM  Panel 4: Cartographies of Violence: Contested Spaces, Urban Warfare and Territorial Control

Chair: Dr. Andrea Muehlebach (Anthropology, University of Toronto)

Presenters:
Dr. Amir Sharifi (California State University, Long Beach) & Dr. Ali Ashouri (San Diego State University)
Cultural Revival in the City of Kermanshan: A New Cartography of Contested Identities

Ronay Bakan (Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University & Fox International Fellow, Yale University)
The Roots of Insurgency: Micropolitical Dynamics of the Urban Warfare in Suriçi

Dilan Okçuoğlu (Political Studies, Queen’s University)
‘Even Our Dogs are Living in Exile’: Control and Resistance in Turkey’s Kurdish Borderlands

11:00AM-12:30PM  Panel 5: Resilient Praxis: Art, Music and Dance

Chair: Dr. Chandni Desai (Equity Studies, University of Toronto)

Presenters:
Jon Bullock (Ethnomusicology, University of Chicago)
Music and/as Resistance: (Re)inventing the Kurdish National Anthem

Fethi Karakeçili (Ethnomusicology, York University)
‘What’s in a name?’: The Problems in Classification of Kurdish Dance and Songs in Contemporary Turkey

Benjamin Haluk Bilgen (International Development Studies, York University)
Kurdish Group Dance as Resistance in Turkey

Nicholas Glastonbury (Cultural Anthropology, City University of New York, Graduate Center)
‘The Heart Beats in the Homeland’: Love, Exile, and Political Imaginaries in the Work of Mehmed Uzun

12:30PM-2:00PM  Lunch (7th floor, Peace Lounge)
2:00PM-3:30PM   **Plenary Session: Resources to Support Kurdish Studies**

Chair: Dr. Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi (History & Near and Middle Eastern Civilization, University of Toronto)

**Presenters:**

Dr. Tom Ricks (Ret. Historian of Modern Middle East)
- Travel Accounts and Missionary Letters: Social and Cultural Sources for Modern Kurdish History

Dr. Michael L. Chyet (Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)
- Bibliographic Introduction to Kurdology

Blair Kuntz (Near and Middle Eastern Studies Librarian, University of Toronto)
- Past Struggles and Future Prospects for Kurdish Publishing

6:00PM-9:00PM   **Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto**  
**Amir Hassanpour Memorial Lecture**

**Featuring Professor Joost Jongerden** (Rural Sociology, Wageningen University)
- State and Capitalism in Kurdistan: Imagining Alternative Futures

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**Sunday, October 14, 2018**

Location: 7th Floor, Peace Lounge

1:00PM-3:00PM   **Closing Remarks and the Future Plan**
Amir Hassanpour Memorial Lecture

Featuring Dr. Joost Jongerden

STATE AND CAPITALISM IN KURDISTAN:
IMAGINING ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

Saturday, October 13, 2018
6 to 9 pm

Musical performances and a keynote address followed by a reception.

Innis Town Hall
University of Toronto
2 Sussex Ave, Toronto, ON

To register:
https://tinyurl.com/y8y7onok

This event is free and open to the public.
Please advise if you have any accessibility requirements.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Joost Jongerden is associate professor at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, and the project professor at the Asian Platform for Global Sustainability & Transcultural Studies at Kyoto University, Japan. He is the editor of Kurdish Studies, and is on the editorial board of Kurdish People, History and Politics. His research has focused on the question of how people create and maintain a liveable life under conditions of precarity. This research interest has expressed itself in two interrelated research tracks: one focusing on the ways people develop alternatives for market-induced insecurities, and the other on how people develop alternatives for state-induced insecurities. Jongerden refers to these alternatives as ‘self-organized practices’ or ‘Do-It-Yourself-Development’.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Diar: Syrian trio performs Syrian and Arabic traditional songs mixed with a flamenco touch

George Sawa & Suzanne Meyers Sawa: Celebrated scholars, well-known performers of traditional Arabic music and much revered U of T community members

Amir Hassanpour was a scholar of Kurdish history and language, a revolutionary scholar, a professor at the University of Toronto, and a great friend. On October 13, 2018 we honour Dr. Hassanpour with a lecture and musical performance. We hope you can join us.

This event is generously supported by donations made to the Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations in memory of Dr. Hassanpour. Donate today: donate.utoronto.ca/hassanpour

Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations
University of Toronto