Thursday, 6 November 2008

09:00-09:30  Welcome Remarks:
Phillippe Burrin, Director IHEID, Geneva & Anna Neubauer, SSMOCI, Bern
Introduction to the Conference:
Riccardo Bocco, IHEID, Geneva & Jordi Tejel, SSMOCI, Bern

Session One - Dealing with the Past: Methodological Issues at Stake
Chair: Peter Sluglett, University of Utah, Salt Lake City (USA)
09:30-09:50  Writing the History of Iraq: The Fallacy of 'Objective' History
Johan Franzen, School of Oriental and African Studies, London (UK)
09:50-10:10  Iraq Political Theory: Advice from the Past (1939-1958) to the Present
Orit Bashkin, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago (USA)
      Coffee Break
10:30-10:50  The Relevance of Contemporary American Historiography
Dietmar Herz, University of Erfurt (Germany)
10:50-11:10  The Sectarian Master Narrative in Iraq Historiography: New Challenges
Reidar Visser, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Oslo (Norway)
11:10-12:10  Discussion

Session Two - The Monarchy Revisited
Chair: Joseph Sassoon, St. Antony’s College, Oxford (UK)
14:00-14:20  The Difficulties of Writing the History of the Monarchy in Iraq after 2003
Hala Fattah, Independent Scholar, Amman (Jordan)
14:20-14:40  Understanding Political Radicalization in Interwar Iraq as a Generational Conflict
Peter Wien, University of Maryland, College Park (USA)
14:40-15:00  Literacy, Nation and Gender in Iraq, 1945-1958
Sara Pursley, CUNY Graduate Center, New York (USA)
15:00-15:30  Discussion
      Coffee Break

Session Three - Rethinking the Ba’thist Period
Chair: Hamit Bozarslan, EHESS, Paris (France)
16:00-16:20  Understanding Ba’thist Iraq? Towards a Comparative Historiography of Dictatorships
Achim Rohde, Asia-Africa-Institute, Hamburg University (Germany)
Fanny Lafourcade, Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Paris (France)
16:40-17:00  The Genealogy of Tribal Idiom in Iraqi Political Discourse
Loulouwa Al Rasheed, Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Paris (France)
17:00-18:00  Discussion
Friday, 7 November 2008

Session Four - Dealing with Victimhood: Whose Memories of Mass Violence?
Chair: Riccardo Bocco, IHEID, Geneva (Switzerland)
09:00-09:20  Violence, Memory, and Dealing with the Past in Iraq: The Perspective of Anfal Survivors in Kurdistan
  Karin Modloch, Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin (Germany)
09:20-09:40  “...to exterminate the Kurdish race”: The Concept of Genocide as Part of the Production of Academic Knowledge in Iraqi-Kurdistan
  Andrea Fischer-Tahir, Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin (Germany)
09:40-10:00  Memories of the Intifada: Truth and Victimhood
  Dina Khoury, Department of History, George Washington University (USA)
10:00-10:30  Discussion
  Coffee Break

Session Five - The Iran-Iraq War: Between Oral and Official History
Chair: Astrid Meier, University of Zürich (Switzerland)
11:00-11:30  The Triumph of the ‘Nation’: A Comparative Study of War Narratives of Iraqi and Iranian Veterans of the Iraq-Iran War
  Babak Rahimi, Program for the Study of Religion, Department of Literature, University of California, San Diego (USA)
“Qadissiyat Saddam”: The gamble that didn’t pay off
  Cherine Chams El Dine, Faculty of Economic and Political Sciences, Cairo University (Egypt)
11:40-12:00  Discussion

Session Six - Shi’a Actors in Post-Saddam Iraq: Partisan Historiography
Chair: Géraldine Chatelard, Institut Français du Proche-Orient, Amman (Jordan)
14:00-14:20  Navigating the Shoals of Partisan and Global Identity in the Historiography of Iraqi Religious Institutions
  Robert Riggs, University of Pennsylvania (USA)
14:20-14:40  The Rebirth of Arab Shi’a Political Thought: From Najaf to Beirut
  Michaelle Browers, Wake Forest University (USA)
14:40-15:00  Between Symbols and Action: The Claims of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq to Religious and Political Leadership
  Elvire Corboz, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford (UK)
15:00-15:40  Discussion

Saturday, 8 November 2008

Session Seven - Representing Iraq History through Literature and Cinema
Chair: Hilary Kilpatrick-Waardenburg, SSMOCI, Bern (Switzerland)
09:00-09:20  Literary Glimpses of Iraqi Society in the XXth Century
  Sami Zubaida, Birbeck College, University of London (UK)
09:20-09:40  Are Iraqi Filmmakers Writing History or Just Fiction?
  Lucia Sorbera, Ca’ Foscari University, Venice (Italy)
09:40-10:00  From Fragmentation to Reconstruction: Movies about Iraq
  Nicolas Masson, Project Consultant ‘Palestinian Territories,’ Middle East and North Africa Programme, Ramallah (Palestine)
10:00-10:20  Creating History: Poetry in the Service of Nation-Building
  Leslie Tramontini, Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Marburg (Germany)
10:30-10:50  Discussion
  Coffee Break

Session Eight - New Paradigms for Iraqi History?
Chair: Jordi Tejel, SSMOCI, Bern (Switzerland)
13:30-13:50  Identity and History in Iraq: The “Sunni Arab Paradigm” Revisited
  Myriam Benraad, Institut d’Études Politiques, Paris (France)
13:50-14:10  Building on Sand? Butressing the body of knowledge of the Saddam Era
  Peter Harling, International Crisis Group, Damascus (Syria)
14:10-14:30  Discussion
  Coffee Break

Concluding Remarks
15:00-16:00  Concluding remarks:
  Hamit Bozarslan, EHESS (France), Peter Sluglett, University of Utah, Salt Lake City (USA) and Riccardo Bocco, IHEID (Switzerland)

Please register your attendance by email: jtejel@vtxn.ch

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Access from Railway Station: Bus nr. 1 (Stop Sécheron)