



## 3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL KURDISH STUDIES CONFERENCE

# Shifting Dynamics of the Kurdish Cause in a Changing Middle East

Over 35 million Kurds live under the national jurisdictions of Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria where the Kurdish identity, culture, linguistic rights, homeland and own political representation are contested and contained in most cases by the force of arms. Consequently, the combination of authoritarian state ideologies, the systematic and recurrent use of state violence in these countries has led to the rise of Kurdish opposition. In turn, the ruling states have further used the Kurdish resistance as a pretext to reinforce draconian policies of negation, assimilation and elimination of Kurdish national aspirations.

The 20th century has marked the most repressive state policies against the Kurdish quest for self-determination. At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, various political developments suggest a shift for the Kurds. The regime change in Iraq in 2003, the ongoing civil war in Syria and the emergence of ISIS were among the watershed events that have not only changed the balance of power in the Middle East but also the perception and position of the Kurds in the global political system.

The establishment of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Kurdistan-Iraq, the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria and the rise of pro-Kurdish political parties in Kurdistan-Turkey have given rise to the political visibility of the Kurds in international politics. The old borders and boundaries that separated the Kurds are becoming increasingly ineffective. These crucial developments have deepened the sovereignty crisis of the oppressive regional states. Simultaneously with this emerging new political geography and visibility of the Kurds, the number of scholarly studies on the "Kurdish Question" and "Kurdistan Question" has rapidly increased in recent years. The "Kurdistan Question" is growing into an international political issue that needs a global response to find a peaceful settlement in the region.

### **Keynote Speaker**

Prof Abbas Vali, Emeritus Professor of Sociology

### **Call for Abstracts**

This interdisciplinary conference aims to bring together researchers from a range of disciplines working on Kurdish history, politics, culture, gender, minority rights and diaspora to examine the ongoing political, social and cultural developments in the lives of the Kurds and Kurdistan. In this context, we seek a broad range of contributions from disciplines of sociology, politics, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, gender studies, cultural studies, history, economics, law, international relations and migration studies.

Researchers are kindly encouraged to contribute to and help shape the conference through submissions of their research abstracts. We also welcome proposals for sessions and are open to suggestions as to what format these take, including panel discussions, roundtables and workshops or

book launches. The conference will provide an excellent venue for academics, researchers, students, professionals and policymakers.

#### **How to submit**

Please submit your abstract of maximum 350 words to [KurdishStudies@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:KurdishStudies@mdx.ac.uk). Please suggest up to 5 keywords, indicate your institutional affiliation and the stage of your fieldwork, if it's relevant.

#### **The Conference Organising Committee**

Dr Janroj Yilmaz Keles, Middlesex University  
Prof Joshua Castellino, Middlesex University and Minority Rights Group International  
Dr Naif Bezwan, University of Innsbruck, Austria, and UCL  
Ibrahim Dogus, Centre for Kurdish Progress  
Ass.Prof Mehmet Ali Dikerdem, Middlesex University  
Dr Tunc Aybak, Middlesex University  
Dr Edel Huges, Middlesex University  
Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman Gülbeyaz Nagasaki University  
Dr Arzu Yilmaz  
Dr Selim Temo, Associate professor  
Dr Umut Erel, Open University  
Dr Necla Acik, University of Manchester  
Dr Kamal Soleimani, The College of Mexico, Mexico  
Dr Mohammed Shareef, University of Exeter

#### **Conference Details**

Location: [Middlesex University](http://www.middlesex.ac.uk), London, UK

<b>Dates</b>	
Abstract submission deadline	March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
Notification of acceptance	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019
Conference Date	June 25-26, 2019

#### **Conference Fee**

Registration fee: £ 100

Discount fee for students (postgraduate and doctoral): £ 50

All delegates will be expected to make and pay for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

#### **Abstract Submission Guidelines**

The maximum word limit for the abstract is 350 words. The abstract must contain a brief statement of the objectives, methodology, essential results and the conclusion of the study.

The abstract must also contain the authors' names, institutional affiliations, contact number, email and postal address. Please submit your abstract to [KurdishStudies@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:KurdishStudies@mdx.ac.uk) email address.

This conference is organised by the **Department of Politics and Law, Middlesex University, Minority Rights Group International** and **Centre for Kurdish Progress**.

**Contact:** For more information, please contact Dr Janroj Yilmaz Keles at [J.Keles@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:J.Keles@mdx.ac.uk)