Serbest Kurdish Studies Conference

Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs

June 7-8, 2019

John Evans Alumni Center
1800 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
FRIDAY, 7 June 2019

9:00-9:30 WELCOMING REMARKS

❖ TBA

❖ Session I: Colonialism and Violence I

9:30-10:15

Erdem İlter – UCLA, Department of History
The Sheikh Said Rebellion and the Formation of Modern Turkey 1925 – 1938

Matan Cohen – Columbia University, Middle Eastern South Asian and African Studies
Dependence, Independence & Interdependence: Political Belonging Beyond Unitary Sovereignty and (Neo)Colonial Walling

Bilgesu Sümer – University of Massachusetts, Department of Political Science
Political life of P'ling's Dead Body: Politicization of the Dead in Turkey

10:15–10:30 Q&A

❖ 10:30-10:40 Coffee Break

❖ Session II: Colonialism and Violence II

10:40-11:25

Maya Avis (and Oren Ziv) – Graduate Institute of Geneva
The Non-Citizen Journalist:
Narrating Colonial State Power and Constructing the Boundaries to Vision

Nasser Abourahme – New York University, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies
Camp/Colony: On the Vanishing Horizon of Settler Permanence

Latif Tas – SOAS University of London, School of Interdisciplinary Studies
Beyond the Colonial State: Kurdish Alternative Justice and State Building

11:25-11:40 Q&A

❖ 11:40-12:00 Lunch (served)

❖ 12:00-12:30 - KEYNOTE SPEECH: Charles Mills, The Graduate Center, CUNY

❖ 12:30-1:00 Lunch Break continued
Session III: Law, the Peace Process, and Transitional Justice

1:00-2:00

Adam Sitze - Amherst College, College of Law
South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission: A Genealogy

Nisan Alıcı - Ulster University, Transitional Justice
Transitional Justice in an Ongoing Conflict: A victim-survivor centred analysis of Transitional Justice mechanisms in the context of the Kurdish Conflict

Emilio Dabed - An-Najah National University, Law School Nablus-Palestine
Palestinian Legal Activism: Between Liberation and the ‘Desire’ of Statehood

Sinem Arslan - University of Essex, Michael Nicholson Centre for Conflict and Cooperation
Transborder Ethnic Kin and the Dynamics of Peace Processes: Insights from the Kurdish Conflict

2:00-2:20 - Q&A

2:20–2:30 – Coffee Break

Session IV: Political Economy

2:30-3:30

Andy Clarno – University of Illinois at Chicago, Sociology and African America Studies
The Specter and Labor of the Black Poor in South Africa after Apartheid

Veli Yadırgı – London School of Economics
The Three Pillars of Development in Kurdistan: Forced Displacement, Cultural Annihilation, and Economic Expropriation

Deniz Duruiz - Northwestern University, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs
The Kurdish Labor Intermediary: The Symptom of Turkey’s Racialized and Gendered Labor Regime

Patrick Lewis - University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology
Teachers, Schools, and Changing State Value Regimes: The Politics and Political-Economy of Memurluk (Being a Civil Servant) in North Kurdistan

3:30–3:50 - Q&A

3:50-4:00 Coffee Break

Session V: Environmental Contestations

4:00-5:00

Ken Salo – University of Urbana-Champaign - Department of Urban and Regional Planning
Contesting Liberal Legality: Informal Legal Cultures in Post-Apartheid South Africa's Privatizing Seafood Fishery

Allan Hassaniyan – University of Exeter, Kurdish Studies
Securitization of Environmental Activism in Iranian Kurdistan

Pınar Dinç (and Lina Eklund) - Lund University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
An Interdisciplinary Approach to Forest Fires and Conflicts in the Middle East

Arda Bilgen – Independent Scholar
Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full? An Appraisal of the Four Decades of Turkey’s Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP)

5:00–5:20 Q&A

SATURDAY, 8 June 2019

❖ Session VI: Nationalism and Kurdish Women

9:00-10:00

Madiha Pınar Sorma – University of Washington Seattle, Gender, Department of Women and Sexuality Studies
Denationalizing the Body: Kurdish Women’s Guerilla Resistance towards a Stateless Freedom

Nadje Al-Ali - Brown University, Watson Institute for Public and International Affairs
Nationalism and Feminism: Comparative Perspectives

Özüm Yeşiltaş - Texas A&M University-Commerce, Department of Political Science
Nationalism and Women’s Agency: Constructions of Feminist Nationalist Identity in the Kurdish Movements in Iraq and Syria

Stanley Thanagaraj - City College of New York, Department of Anthropology
Deploying "Woman" and Managing Difference: Transnational Negotiations of Diasporic Identity

10:00-10:20 Q&A

❖ 10:20-10:30 Coffee Break

❖ Session VII: The Kurdish Political Movement

10:30–11:15

Elif Genç – The New School for Social Sciences, Department of Political Science
Kurdish Movement’s Realpolitik: The Case of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Gülay Kılıçaslan - York University, Department of Sociology
Situating Kurdish Forced Migration as a Contentious Political Terrain in Turkey
11:15–11:35 Q&A

- 11:35–11:45 Coffee Break
- 11:45-12:45 Session VIII – Comparison Workshop
- 12:45-1:45 Lunch Break (served)

- 1:45-2:55 Session IX - Presentation of Workshop Results
  - 1:45-1:55 Panel I – Colonialism and Violence I
  - 1:55-2:05 Panel II – Colonialism and Violence II
  - 2:05–2:15 Panel III - Law, the Peace Process and Transitional Justice
  - 2:15–2:25 Panel IV – Political Economy
  - 2:25-2:35 Panel V – Environmental Contestations
  - 2:35-2:45 Panel VI – Nationalism and Kurdish Women
  - 2:45-2:55 Panel VII- The Kurdish Political Movement

- 2:55-3:05 Coffee Break
- 3:05-3:45 Session X: Discussion of Workshop Results with All Participants

- 3:45-4:00 Coffee Break

- 4:00-5:00 – Session XI: Closing Session
  Kurdish Studies from a Postcolonial Perspective