



CMES
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



SOAS
University of London

The Jews of Iraq – Engagement with modernities Conference 16-18 September 2019 at SOAS, London

A conference organised by the British Institute for the Study of Iraq in collaboration with
The Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago and the
Department of History, Religions and Philosophies
at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London

Location: The Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, Thornhaugh Street Russell Square, London, SOAS

The conference aims to evaluate the many contributions of the Jewish community in Iraq within the spheres of the arts and culture, social policy, education, government and the economy in the early modern and modern period. Iraqi Jews constituted one of the world's oldest and most historically significant Jewish communities and were in Iraq for over 2,500 years. There is a widening academic interest in the history and contributions of the Jewish community as well as growing interest in Jewish history in contemporary Iraq. This conference will bring together UK, Iraqi and international scholars interested in exploring and researching the contributions of this important community to modern Iraq.

Conference Steering Committee:

Joan Porter MacIver (BISI Vice-Chair/Conference Coordinator);

Orit Bashkin (University of Chicago)

Zvi Ben-Dor Benite (New York University)

Daniel Lowe (British Library)

Glen Rangwala (Cambridge University)

Joseph Sassoon (Georgetown University)

Ella Shohat (New York University)

Ali Khadr (BISI Executive Officer)

To purchase tickets and further information go to the Events Page at www.bisi.ac.uk/

Conference registration will close September 2nd – please register early.

This programme may be subject to changes prior to the conference.

Ticket Prices include access to full conference programme with Lunch and Refreshments

Non-Members: Early Bird: £50

After 16th August Non-Members: £65

BISI Member Early Bird: £40

After 16th August BISI Member: £55

Unwaged Early Bird: £40

After 16th August Unwaged: £55

Student/Early career academics: (within three years of completing PhD) Early Bird: £25

Student/Early career academics: (within three years of completing PhD) after 16th August: £35

PROGRAMME

Day 1 – Monday, 16 September 2019

- 13.00. – 13.45 **Registration**
- 14.00 **Welcoming Remarks**
- 14.00 – 16.00 **Memoires, Memories and Personal Histories:**
Moderator – Ella Shohat
- Avi Shlaim (Chair)
 - David Basson
 - Linda Abdulaziz Menuhin
 - Sami Zubaida
- 16.00 – 16.30 **Tea/Coffee break**
- 16.30 – 17.30 **Panel Discussion and Q & A**
- 18.30 – 20.30 **Conference Reception at The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace,
London SW1 5AH**

Day 2 – Tuesday, 17 September 2019

- 8.30 – 9.00 **Registration**
- 9.00 – 9.30 **Historical Overview – Zvi Ben-Dor Benite & Orit Bashkin**
- 9.30 – 11.00 **Panel 1: Jews in Iraqi Society; sociological and cultural aspects**
Chair: Orit Bashkin
- Geoffrey Khan, University of Cambridge – *The Aramaic-speaking Jewish communities of Northern Iraq*
 - Sarah Farhan, Department of History, York University, Canada – *Jewish Medical Professionals in Hashemite Iraq: The Making and Unmaking of State-Intermediaries*
 - Pelle Valentin Olsen, University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations – *Iraqi Jews and the Production and Consumption of Leisure*
- 11.00 – 11.30 **Tea/Coffee**
- 11.30 – 13.30 **Panel 2: Ottoman Iraq and its Jews – Early experiments with modernity**
Chair: Zvi Ben Dor Benite
- Annie Green, University of Pennsylvania – *Political Roots of an Iraqi Statesman: The Ottoman Deputy Sassoon Efendi Hesqel*
 - Lital Levy, Princeton University – *Literary Translation and Iraqi Jewish Modernity: The Case of fin-de-siècle Judeo-Arabic Fiction*
 - Mazen Latif, Editor in chief of *Nahraya* – *The role of Iraqi Jews in the Iraqi journalism*
 - Yuval Evri, SOAS – *Between Al-Andalus and Baghdad: Tracing Iraqi-Jewish Literary Visions in the Turn of the Twentieth Century*
- 13.30 – 14.30 **LUNCH**

- 14.30 – 16.30 **Panel 3: The Hashemite period: New roles for Iraqi Jews**
Chair: Joseph Sassoon
- Emile Cohen, independent researcher – *Iraqi Jewish education and impact on Iraqi Society*
 - Hanaw Mohammed Taqi Mohammed Amin – *Urban Jewish Cultural Heritage*
 - Sasha R. Goldstein-Sabbah, Leiden University – *Baghdadi Transnational Networks in the Hashemite Period*
 - Khalidah Hatem (Fine Arts Institute Baghdad) – *The role of Al-Hasid newspaper in refining the cultural awareness in Iraqi community : A Study investigating woman's issues*
- 16.30 – 17.00 **Tea/Coffee**
17.00 **Film screening – *Remember Baghdad*** with a Q & A with David Dangoor

DAY 3 – Wednesday, 18 September 2019

- 9.15 – 11.15 **Panel 4: Music, Cinema, and Performance: Cultural Considerations**
Chair: Ella Shohat
- Dafna Dori, Uppsala University – *Şālih al-Kuwaytī as a modern Iraqi composer*
 - Liliana Carrizo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - *Intermusicality and Musical Remembrance: The Convergence of Muslim-Jewish Soundscapes in the Private Songs of Iraqi Jews*
 - Sara Manasseh – *Musical Life in Baghdad c. 1920–1950: Changing Attitudes towards Iraqi Jewish – Women as Performers and Participants*
 - Yaron Shemer – *Home, Nostalgia, and Post-Memory in the Films of Second and Third Generation Iraqi-Jewish Immigrants*
- 11.15 – 11.45 **Tea/Coffee**
11.45 – 13.15 **Panel 5: Representing the Past: Archival, Literary and Culinary Dimensions**
Chairs: Joseph Sassoon & Ella Shohat
- Daniel Montereescu, Central European University, & Joel R Hart, Oxford University – *The Diasporic Social Life of Amba: Culinary Schismogenesis Among Iraqi Jews in London and Israel*
 - Hana Morgenstern, Cambridge University – *Fire in the Camp: Committed Arab Literature and the Transit Camp Narratives*
 - Sigal Goorgi, Ben-Gurion University – *The Culture and the Identity of the Iraqi Jews as reflected in their literary works*
- 13.15 – 14.15 **LUNCH**
14.15 – 16.15 **Panel 6: Painful dislocation and exile and future**
Chair: Zvi Ben-Dor Benite
- Khairuldeen Al Makhzoomi, Georgetown University – *The Forgotten Minorities: The History of Iraqi Jews from 1948-1971*
 - Gadi Algazi, Tel Aviv University – *Protest on the Frontier: Iraqi Jews in an Israeli Transit Camp (1951–1952)*
 - Ronen Zeidel, The Moshe Dayan Center for ME studies, Tel Aviv University – *“Where are the Iraqi Jews ?”: Difficulties in Communication Between the Second Generation of Iraqi Jews in Israel and Non Jewish Iraqis*
 - Sa’ad Salloum, College of Political Sciences of Mustansiriya University, Baghdad – *Is there any future for the existence of Jewish Minority in Iraq?*
- 16.15 – 16.45 **Break**
16.45 – 17.30 **Closing Panel – Orit Bashkin, Zvi Ben-Dor Benite, and Ella Shohat**
Chair: Avi Shlaim