



International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies

3rd Annual Conference, 16-17 July 2008

SOAS, University of London

Abstract of paper to be presented at the conference.

For details of the conference programme go to www.iraqistudies.org

Speakers: Nicola Pratt (University of East Anglia), Nadjé Al-Ali (SOAS)

Title: Between Nationalism and Women's Rights: The Kurdish Women's Movement

Abstract:

In this proposed paper, we examine the relationship between nationalism and women's rights struggles by analyzing the activities and strategies of Iraqi Kurdish women's organisations based in northern Iraq. We address the following questions: What is the role and significance of Iraqi Kurdish women's organisations and activists for political processes within the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) -controlled areas? What is the relationship between Kurdish women activists in the north and Iraqi women's organisations throughout Iraq? What alliances and strategies do Kurdish women activists pursue *vis a vis* the Kurdish/Iraqi diaspora, transnational feminist organisations, the political leadership in KRG-controlled areas and in Baghdad? The proposed paper is based on empirical research carried out amongst Iraqi/Kurdish women activists in the diaspora (London, San Diego, Detroit and Amman) and in Erbil and Sulaymaniya.