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Abstract of paper to be presented at the conference.

For details of the conference programme go to [www.iraqistudies.org](http://www.iraqistudies.org)

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Title: Iraqi Islamic Parties: Primary Sources and Reconstructing their Activities and Ideologies

**Abstract:**

This presentation aims to demonstrate a methodological approach of studying Iraqi Islamic parties in general, Shi'ite Islamic parties in particular. The Iraqi Islamic parties attracted enormous attentions after the U.S. invasion to Iraq in 2003. On the contrary, insufficient research has been conducted on this topic. This is partly because they have been considered to have less importance in analyzing Iraqi politics, or substantial primary sources of them have been missing. Needless to say, no methodological approach has been shown.

Hence, this presentation attempts to reconstruct an all-encompassing image of the Iraqi Islamic parties dividing them into four stages; its formation in 1957 to 1980, 1981-1988, 1990-2003, and from 2003. It also tries to consider methodological approaches in analyzing each stage, with special reference to possibilities of reconstructing their activities and ideologies in utilizing primary sources.