



International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies

3rd Annual Conference, 16-17 July 2008

SOAS, University of London

Statement of purpose of panel to be presented at the conference.
For details of the conference programme go to www.iraqistudies.org

Convenors: Nadjé Al-Ali (SOAS) and Nicola Pratt (University of East Anglia)

Title: Gendering Wars, Occupation and Migration

Abstract:

The proposed panel seeks to show the centrality of gender for understanding and analyzing processes related to war, occupation and migration in the context of contemporary Iraq. Gender, here, does not merely refer to an “add women and stir” paradigm. The concept of gender represents a relation of power, which is implicated in the establishment, reproduction and challenging of a variety of hierarchies of power. Common to a wide range of feminist analyses is the view that the differentiation and relative positioning of women and men is an important *ordering principle* that, ‘is seen to shape the dynamics of every site of human interaction, from the household to the international arena’ (Cockburn, 1999: 3). In other words: gender operates at the personal, inter-personal, national and international/transnational levels.

In this panel, we seek to uncover the various ways gender has been and is operating in the context of war and violence (the Iraq-Iran war and the current war/occupation) as well as in relation to forced migration, particularly in the context of the Iraqi diaspora in Amman.