



International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.iraqistudies.org)

**Speaker:** S. Gulden Ayman, Marmara University

**Title:** The future of Iraq and Turkish-American relations

**Abstract:**

The alteration in the international environment brought not only opportunities but also serious challenges to Turkish foreign policy. Turkish-American relations involve several issues however Iraq seems to be the most critical today. Turkey differs from other allies of the USA because of the geographical proximity and the direct security challenges posed by the War in Iraq. In this paper I would like to evaluate the tensions in Turkish-American relations that stem from the discrepancies in their policies regarding Iraq as a secondary alliance dilemma with an attempt to explain to what kinds of challenges posed to Turkish interests and the strategy pursued by Turkey to cope with these challenges. As recent developments clearly show finding a formula to cope with the security dilemma is not impossible. However it requires enhancing common understandings not only on the goals of strategic actions but also on the relevant means to be used.