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Abstract of paper to be presented at the conference.

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

Speaker: Isis Nusair, Denison University, (US)

Title: Gendered Bodies/Gendered Wars: Iraqi Women Refugees in Jordan

Abstract:

This paper is based on extensive research with Iraqi women refugees in Jordan during 2007 and 2008. It traces the causes that prompted the women to leave Iraq post 2003. It also traces the transition that they went through and the economic, social and political challenges that they currently face as urban refugees in Jordan. I analyze the gendered and sexual politics of their status as women refugees and the response of the Iraqi and Jordanian governments to their plight. In addition, I analyze the response of the United Nations as well as national and international aid organizations to their needs. Finally, the paper examines women's coping mechanisms and networks of support, and the ways in which they are negotiating with these conditions of extreme dislocation and instability in their lives.