



International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies

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

Convenor: Nada Shabout, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of North Texas

Title: Mores and Wars: Cultural Patrimony in Iraq

**Abstract:**

This panel will address aspects of Iraq's cultural patrimony with frequent comparisons between the before and after of 2003. It will address issues of destruction and its ramifications that ensued since the invasion of 2003 and its affect on Iraqi's collective memory as pertains to their relationship to their material cultural heritage in the forms of museums, architecture, libraries and public monuments. With the continuous heritage loss and carnage, threatening to obliterate Iraq's cultural history into oblivion, and in view of the complete international disregard, the panel urges awareness and calls for action. Various papers will address the development of a modern built culture since 1958 and their transformation till 2003. Issues of erasure and replacements as evident in various reconstruction projects will be addressed as well.