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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: Policy Effects Vis-à-Vis Iraqi Forced Migrants

**Abstract:**

In this paper, I intend to analyze and compare policy strategies implemented vis-à-vis Iraqi forced migrants in Iraq and in various states near to or bordering Iraq. After I review domestic Iraqi policies for those classified as IDPs and returnees, I shall discuss regional policy approaches towards those classified as refugees found in countries such as Syria, Jordan, Iran, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, and some others. I shall base my analysis on NGO, UN, and governmental reports; media reporting; trade publications in the humanitarian sector; and a brief site visit to the region.

In the first section of the paper, I shall briefly survey the major issues facing countries hosting Iraqi forced migrants, including challenges inherent in the rule of law, health policy, education, security, and other sectors. Once I survey the major issues facing host countries, I shall examine each country in turn, and analyze how they have chosen to react to such challenges since 2003. Questions I intend to pose include the following:

- What has each country decided in terms of border regulations, asylum seekers, and repatriation?
- In whose interest were such policies decided upon?
- Have such policies changed in recent months? If so, why?
- Do Iraqi forced migrants have access to adequate health care, education, housing, and employment?

In the final section of the paper, I intend to survey current asylum policies in light of the continuing evolution of the international refugee protection regime in the past 20 years. Here I shall attempt to analyze how such policy approaches and changes affect Iraqi forced migrants themselves while encouraging sectarianism amongst Iraqi exile communities and in Iraq itself.