



International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies

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SOAS, University of London

Abstract of paper to be presented at the conference.

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

Speaker: Nadjé Al-Ali, SOAS

Title: "Best Day in our Lives" or "End of Iraq"?: Iraqi Women Narrating the Revolution

Abstract

The proposed paper seeks to present different narratives around the revolution of 1959 by Iraqi women who themselves lived through this historical period. Rather than the attempt to present a picture of "what really happened" I am interested in presenting how different women have experienced, memorized and actively constructed the past. While presenting these various accounts, I will also attempt to explain the positionality of the women and analyze the sources of difference. Due to the current political situation inside Iraq, I will address the question about the role of memory and history in current political debates: How are social memories used in contestations about identity, power and resources in contemporary Iraq as well as within the diaspora?