

Calls for Abstracts: Approaches to Research on Iraq Graduate Student Workshop  
Location: The Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University  
Date: 29 March 2019

As we approach the sixteenth anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq, it is important to reflect on scholarly production in and about Iraq, and in particular, to reflect on both obstacles to and possibilities in the study of modern Iraq. Of course, it is understandable why some foreign scholars hesitated in focusing their research on Iraq; successive years of war made it nearly impossible for foreign researchers to conduct ethnographic or archival work in Iraq. All the while, looted artifacts, archival material, and cultural property are currently housed in museums, libraries, and universities abroad, raising questions about ethical archival and research practices. Yet renewed scholarly focus and energies, as well as the prospects for research within Iraq marks a new – and indeed hopeful – chapter in Iraq studies. Therefore, this workshop aims to bring graduate students, faculty, and researchers of Iraq together to discuss new developments in Iraq studies.

This workshop invites contributions of brief presentations and papers (500-1000 words) from graduate students presently conducting research on Iraq related to challenges, possibilities, and ethics surrounding research on Iraq. Throughout this workshop we hope to raise the following questions: what are the possibilities of conducting fieldwork and/or archival work in Iraq? What are the ethical implications and limitations of using particular archives? What is politically at stake with the participant's projects? How can we understand histories of trauma and violence without reproducing Iraq's history as a history of trauma and violence?

The workshop will take place in the morning of Friday, March 29, 2019, as part of a larger series of events reflecting on the anniversary of the 2003 Iraq war and the development of Iraq studies taking place on the evening of March 28th and continuing throughout the day on the 29th. This will be a collaborative and interdisciplinary workshop open to graduate students, who focus and conduct research on contemporary Iraq. Participants will be able to present their pre-circulated papers (5-10 minutes) followed by a roundtable discussion lead by two senior scholars in Iraq studies. Interested graduate students should send a brief 250-word abstract and a two-page C.V. no later than March 8 to Dr. James Ryan ([james.ryan@nyu.edu](mailto:james.ryan@nyu.edu)) and Janna Aladdin ([ja2362@nyu.edu](mailto:ja2362@nyu.edu)). Limited funding for travel to New York City is available.