Kurdish Studies: A Critical Zone

University of Toronto
March 6-7, 2020

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Handan Çağlayan

Location:
Jackman Humanities Building
170 St. George St.
M5R 2M8 Toronto ON
Room 100

This event is free and open to public
Please advise if you have any accessibility requirement
For further information, please contact: ksiuoft@gmail.com
Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and learn on this land.

KURDISH STUDIES: A CRITICAL ZONE

University of Toronto
March 6 - 7, 2020

Location:
Jackman Humanities Building
170 St. George St.
M5R 2M8 Toronto ON
Room 100

This event is free and open to public
Please advise if you have any accessibility requirement
For further information, please contact: ksiuoft@gmail.com
On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/487362925549681/
**Kurdish Studies: A Critical Zone** is an interdisciplinary and multilingual symposium to be held at the University of Toronto on March 6&7, 2020. The symposium is envisioned as a forum to think through and enrich dialogue on contemporary Kurdish Studies as a scholarly and political zone of critical knowledge production. Presenters will critically interrogate history, arts, culture and politics of the Kurds to reposition Kurdish Studies within a robust decolonial, anti-imperialist, de-Orientalist and feminist analysis. It is in this context that Dr. Handan Çağlayan’s recent book entitled *Women in the Kurdish Movement: Mothers, Comrades and Goddesses* will be launched at this event.

**Kurdish Studies: A Critical Zone** is the second scholarly gathering to be hosted at the University of Toronto. It provides a much-needed platform for scholarly pursuits to enrich Kurdish Studies research and teaching at the University of Toronto. The recent publication of Amir Hassanpour, *Essays on Kurds: Historiography, Orality and Nationalism*, as well as his diverse and rich archival materials donated to the Robarts Library, University of Toronto will be launched at the Symposium.

This Symposium is organized by Kurdish scholars at the University of Toronto and York University and sponsored by:

- Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
- Department of Anthropology
- Equity Studies, New College
- New College, NCIF
- Women and Gender Studies Institute
- Kurdish Studies Initiative-University of Toronto
- Ontario Middle Eastern and North Africa Network
MARCH 6, 2020

13:00 - 13:30

Land Acknowledgment
Salah Hassanpour (PhD Candidate, Cinema and Media Studies, York University)

Welcome/Opening Remarks
Professor Timothy Harrison, Chair, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Kurdish Studies: A Critical Zone
Professor Shahrzad Mojab, Director, Equity Studies & OISE/UT

13:30 - 14:30

Chair, Dr. Susan Benson (University of Toronto)

Keynote speaker

Dr. Handan Çağlayan
Women in the Kurdish Movement: Mothers, Comrades and Goddesses

14:30 - 15:00

Refreshment Break
15:00 - 16:30
Panel Presentation: Sounds, Images and Borders
Chair, Dr. Çağrı Yoltar (Koç University & OISE/UT)

Shahrzad Arshadi (multidisciplinary artist, performer and social justice activist)
Anna Chatterton (playwright and performer)
Stories from Qandil Mountains

Sardar Saadi (PhD candidate, Anthropology, University of Toronto)
Soundscapes of Kurdishness

Dr. Omer Ozcan (Anthropology, York University)
Strategic Waiting, the State, Guerillas and Smugglers in the Kurdish Borderlands

16:30 - 16:45
Refreshment Break

16:45 - 18:30
Amir Hassanpour’s Book & Archival Launch
Chair, Professor Fırat Bozçalı (Anthropology, University of Toronto)

Daniela Ansovini, Archivist, University of Toronto Archives
Mahdi Ganjavi, PhD Candidate, LHAEOISE/UT
Blair Kuntz, Near and Middle Eastern Studies Librarian, University of Toronto

A Revolutionary Commitment: Amir Hassanpour’s Vision and Achievement in the Preservation of Kurdish History, Culture and Struggle

Professor Jaffer Sheyholeslami (Linguistics and Language Studies, Carleton University)
Essays on Kurds: Historiography, Orality and Nationalism
14:00 - 14:15
Land Acknowledgment
Gulay Kilicaslan (PhD Candidate, Sociology, York University)

14:15 - 15:30
Chair, Shahrzad Mojab, Director, Equity Studies & OISE/UT

15:30 - 16:00
Refreshment break

16:00 - 17:00
Chair, Sardar Saadi (PhD Candidate, Anthropology, University of Toronto)

Essays on Kurds: Historiography, Orality and Nationalism

MARCH 7, 2020

14:00 - 14:15
Land Acknowledgment
Gulay Kilicaslan (PhD Candidate, Sociology, York University)

14:15 - 15:30
Chair, Shahrzad Mojab, Director, Equity Studies & OISE/UT

نوا و نگاره های کردی: دیروز و امروز

شهرزاد اردشی (فیلم ساز، هنرمند و کنشگر سیاسی): داستانها و نوازی زنان کرد از کوههای قندهی

ستار فتحی آوینگ (عضو کومه و حزب کمونیست ایران): نگاره های سرکوب در روزهای اولت

15:30 - 16:00
Refreshment break

16:00 - 17:00
Chair, Sardar Saadi (PhD Candidate, Anthropology, University of Toronto)

پرسور جعفر شیخ الامامی (دانشگاه کارلتون، کانادا): رونمایی کتاب امیر حسن پور

Essays on Kurds: Historiography, Orality and Nationalism

مهدی گنجوی (دانشجوی دکترای دانشگاه تورنتو); آرشیو کردان انقلابی: چشم انداز و دستاورد دهای امیر حسن پور در حفظ تاریخ، فرهنگ و مبارزه مردم کرد

14:00 - 14:15
Land Acknowledgment
Gulay Kilicaslan (PhD Candidate, Sociology, York University)

14:15 - 15:30
Chair, Shahrzad Mojab, Director, Equity Studies & OISE/UT

نوا و نگاره های کردی: دیروز و امروز

شهرزاد اردشی (فیلم ساز، هنرمند و کنشگر سیاسی): داستانها و نوازی زنان کرد از کوههای قندهی

ستار فتحی آوینگ (عضو کومه و حزب کمونیست ایران): نگاره های سرکوب در روزهای اولت

15:30 - 16:00
Refreshment break

16:00 - 17:00
Chair, Sardar Saadi (PhD Candidate, Anthropology, University of Toronto)

پرسور جعفر شیخ الامامی (دانشگاه کارلتون، کانادا): رونمایی کتاب امیر حسن پور

Essays on Kurds: Historiography, Orality and Nationalism

مهدی گنجوی (دانشجوی دکترای دانشگاه تورنتو); آرشیو کردان انقلابی: چشم انداز و دستاورد دهای امیر حسن پور در حفظ تاریخ، فرهنگ و مبارزه مردم کرد
PRESENTERS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Shahrzad Arshadi, a Montréal-based award-winning multidisciplinary artist, performer, feminist and social justice activist, came to Canada as a political refugee on December 24, 1983. In her artistic career Shahrzad has ventured into different fields of photography, documentary film, sound creation, playwright and performance enabling her focus on issues of memory, culture and social justice. She has been awarded: 1) “Little Prize” 2018, Center for Oral History and Digital Storytelling-Concordia University, For Community-Based Oral History Performance and Creation, 2) Women of Distinction 2017 the Inspiration Award (Women’s Y Foundation), 3) Winner of the 19th International Galawai Cultural Festival 2015/ for her documentary film “Dancing for Change.”

Dr. Handan Çağlayan studied social policy and political sciences and gained her PhD degree from Ankara University in 2006. She worked as a nurse and as a trade-union specialist; taught human rights at universities as well as at trade unions and NGO’s. Her academic and activist areas of interest are women’s political participation, women’s participation in trade-unions, violence against women, social rights, language rights and forced migration. She is teaching at Human Rights School which is an on-line education program constituted by some of peace-academicians who were purged from Universities after signing the peace-petition in 2016.

Anna Chatterton is a librettist, playwright and performer. She is a two-time finalist for the Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama in 2017 and 2018. Anna’s plays have been produced by the Shaw Festival, Nightwood Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, The Theatre Centre, and upcoming Alberta Theatre Projects. Anna has been nominated for five Dora Mavor Moore Awards, including Outstanding New Play and Outstanding New Opera, winning the 2017 Outstanding Production of an Opera. Her play Quiver was a finalist for the 2019 Hamilton Literary Awards in Fiction, she won the 2016 Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Supporting Actress, and was named a top ten Toronto Theatre Artist of 2016. As a librettist, Anna’s opera work has been produced across Canada and the States. Anna has been a playwright in residence at Tarragon Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, Tapestry Opera and at the National Theatre School of Canada.

Dr. Omer Ozcan is Visiting Professor in the Department of Anthropology at York University and affiliated with Center for Refugee Studies at York University. He holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. His current book project, Strategic Waiting: Time, Space, and Violence in Turkey, examines spatial and temporal aspects of counter-insurgency strategies of the Turkish State across the Kurdish Borderlands.
**Sardar Saadi** is a PhD candidate in anthropology at the University of Toronto. His PhD research focuses on urban dynamics of the Kurdish struggle for self-determination in Diyarbakir, Kurdistan. His research interests include Kurdish culture and politics, sovereignty, social justice, urban and political anthropology, and welfare politics. Sardar is the host and producer of a podcast called The Kurdish Edition.

**Dr. Jaffer Sheyholislami** completed his PhD in communication at Carleton University in 2008 after he earned his master’s degree in applied linguistics and his bachelor’s in general linguistics. He has been an associate professor at the School of Linguistics and Language Studies at Carleton since 2013. He was the Interim Director of the school in 2018/2019. His main research interests are sociolinguistics, language policy and planning, discourse studies and Kurdish language and linguistics. He has published widely in both English and Kurdish, including in Language Policy, Discourse & Society and International Journal of the Sociology of Language (IJSL), and has authored Kurdish Identity, Discourse and New Media, Palgrave, 2011, and co-edited (with Dr. Amir Hassanpour and Dr. Tove Skutnabb-Kangas) a special issue of IJSL focusing on Kurdish, in 2012. Several of his publications have been translated into Kurdish (Central, Northern and Southern), Persian, Tibetan, and Turkish.