

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



November 2017

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AISC OFFICE VISIT

On 15 November 2017, the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) welcomed the Iraqi academic Dr Jehan Baban. Dr Jehan is the manager of the UK's Iraqi Environment & Health Society. She provided a briefing on the Iraqi Environment & Health Society's work and their upcoming conference in London.

During her visit, Dr Jehan toured the centre's library and was briefed about the library's books and articles, published in English about Iraq in the last two centuries.

Also, it was a pleasure to host Dr Majid Al-Yasiri, manager of the Iraqi Society, in the same visit. Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ihsan M Al-Hakim from AISC hosted their visit and the centre looks forward to working with them for the benefit of the Iraqi community in the future.



Dr Jehan Baban, Dr Majid Al-Yasiri,
Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ihsan M Al-Hakim



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Iraqi Consultative Group sessions (19 & 26 November 2017)

In November, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the AISC team attended two consultative group sessions held in London.

These sessions were organised by the Iraqi Consultative Association for Development & Progress (ICADP). The ICADP gathers Iraqi academics and activists to analyse a range of issues, and also produces research papers which are then submitted to decision-makers and interested parties in Iraq. This represents the voluntary efforts of Iraq's expatriate communities to assist their country's process of recovery.

The ICADP is divided into 20 committees, which analyse and produce research papers on issues including culture, education, health, environment, transport and so on. In conjunction with Iraqi ministries and academics, they then produce reports which analyse the challenges facing all these aspects of life in Iraq.

Within the next 12 months, the ICADP intend to gather these reports together and publish a critically informed blueprint for reform in Iraq.



Above: Iraqi Consultative Association for Development & Progress, 19 November 2017



Above and below: Iraqi Consultative Association for Development & Progress, 26 November 2017



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Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF) Cultural Events

In this month, the AISC team attended two cultural events held at the offices of the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation (HDF), known as Salam House, in London.

On 1 November 2017, a cultural event was held featuring a knowledge presentation by the Iraqi journalist Dr Abdul Hamied Saeh. This centred on his most recent publication, "Media and public opinion; the limits of freedom and responsibility".

Dr Saeh graduated from the Iraqi Academy of Fine Arts, and later he continued his higher studies in Egypt. Whilst working in Cairo, he was the director of Al-Baghdadia media channel. He is a journalist and poet who has published several books, and edited several magazines, within the last 25 years.

The next cultural event, held on 8 November 2017, featured a knowledge presentation by Iraqi photographer Mr Hussain Al-Sikafi about the history of photographs and their place in social history, media and publications. He also spoke about the technological development of modern cameras, and the ways in which this can change the artistic and creative industries in the future.



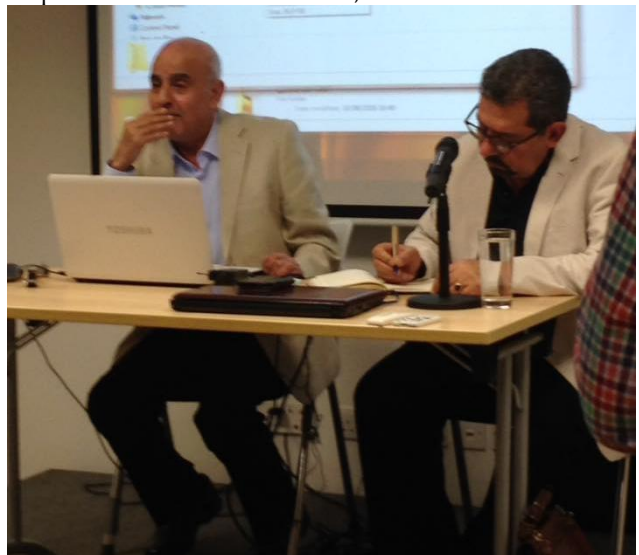
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Dr Abdul Hamied Saeh with Mr Sayeb Al-Taei at Salam House, 1 November 2017



Above: the audience attending knowledge presentations at Salam House, November 2017



Above: Mr Hussain Al-Sikafi with Mr Sayeb Al-Taei at Salam House, 8 November 2017

Royal United Service Institute (RUSI) & Chatham House

The AISC team attended two other events held at the offices of RUSI and Chatham House in London this month.

Nadeem Al-Abdalla attended an event at RUSI's offices on 7 November 2017, titled "Remembering the Unremembered". This event, which formed part of the centennial commemorations of World War I, focused on the forgotten contributions of thousands of people from many countries, ethnic and cultural backgrounds during World War I from 1914-1918, and included the Mesopotamia (Iraq) campaign. The panel at this event included Dr Edward Madigan from Holloway University London, Dr Santanu Das from Kings College London (KCL) and Dr Virginia Crompton, Chief Executive of the Big Ideas Society. Entertainment was provided by the well-known jazz artist, Mr Courtney Pine.

The second event Nadeem attended was held at Chatham House on 29 November 2017. Chatham House is the home of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), which is one of the world's oldest global institutions focusing on international issues. This event looked at the challenges surrounding the UK's forthcoming withdrawal from the EU in 2019, and how Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) can be maintained. The panel included Dr Michael Gasiorek, Dr Peter Holmes and Professor Jim Rollo from the University of Sussex, and Mr Andrew Hood, director of Decherts Solicitors.



RUSI event, "Remembering the Unremembered", London, 7 November 2017



Above: RUSI, Whitehall, London



Chatham House event, London, 29 November 2017

Centre for Kurdish Progress: Kurdish Referendum implications

On 22 November 2017, Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ihsan M Al-Hakim from the AISC team were invited to attend an event held at the UK Parliament in London.

This event was organised by the Centre for Kurdish Progress. Speakers at this event included Dr Reinhad Mansour of Chatham House and Mr Shwan Zulal from the Energy Institute of Kings College London (KCL). They spoke about the negative political and economic implications of the referendum held in Iraqi Kurdistan on 25 September 2017.



Arab Tribal Sheikh event, London

Ihsan M Al-Hakim, Nadeem Al-Abdalla and Ali Al-Mousawi from the AISC team attended this community event, held in London on 2 November 2017.

This event was held to bid farewell to the sheikh of the Arab B'dour tribe in southern Iraq, who had been visiting London for a few weeks. Members of the Iraqi community, including members of his B'dour tribe, organised this event in the presence of the Iraqi Consul and other guests.



UK Parliament, London (above and below)



Above: Iraqi community event, 2 November 2017

ANGLO-IRAQI MAPS



This map was issued in 1959 by Iraq's Directorate-General of Municipalities, showing their 20 years of work in all provinces (liwas), municipalities and which areas are served by water and electricity.

ANGLO-IRAQI IMAGES

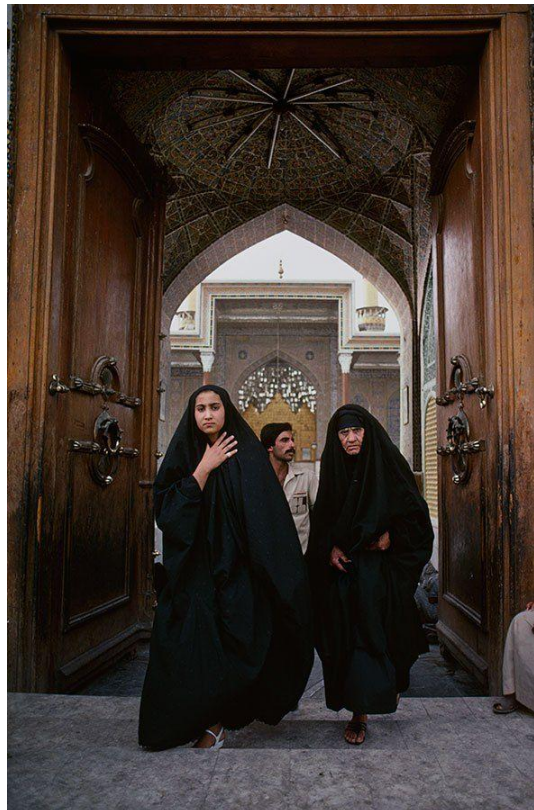
"The New Face of Baghdad" *National Geographic* magazine, January 1985

This article was published in the January 1985 edition of the *National Geographic* magazine, and detailed the visit of Steve McCurry and William S Ellis to Iraq in June and July 1984.

William S Ellis wrote this article whilst Steve McCurry, an American editorial photographer, provided the photographs. It showed Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, describing the way of life of Iraq's people and its culture.

Steve McCurry has visited many destinations during times of war, but said in 2014 in an interview with *Phaidon* that visiting Iraq was his most difficult assignment. He described the heat of the summer, the frequent sandstorms that accompanied this heat, his experiences taking photographs in this, and not being able to photograph Iraq outside of the capital city or unaccompanied by officials from the Iraqi Ministry of Information.

This was also McCurry's first visit to Iraq, and one of many photography assignments he carried out for geography and travel magazines, including *Phaidon*, *Magnum* and *Ultratravel*, the Daily Telegraph's luxury travel magazine. McCurry is the author of "Untold: The Stories Behind the Photographs" and "The Iconic Photographs".



Top: Al-Khadamiya Mosque, Baghdad
Below: women leaving the mosque
Steve McCurry, June-July 1984

FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about the AISC project, our activities and services, please visit our website at:

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Where East Meets West”

