



# World Kurdish Congress

Science and Culture for Progress in Kurdistan

زانست و کولتوور بۆ پیشکەوتن له کوردستان

## FINAL PROGRAM

**1st World Kurdish Congress (WKC2011)  
Rotterdam - Netherlands, 7-9th October 2011**

- Scientific Perspectives on Health, Education, Economy and Politics
- Medical Treatments in Kurdistan, Challenges and Opportunities
- The Struggle of Kurdish People for Freedom
- Education in Kurdistan and Future Projects
- The Challenges of Mental and Social Health in Kurdistan and Prevention of Diseases
- Business and Economic Development in Kurdistan, Education and Health
- The Future of Kurdistan in the Middle East and the Role of Women in Kurdish Society
- The Impact of Culture and Music in Kurdish Society



## **Introducing the 1<sup>st</sup> World Kurdish Congress (WKC2011) Rotterdam - Netherlands, 7-9<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to Rotterdam and the first World Kurdish Congress. This congress offers a unique opportunity. For the first time in our history Kurdish and non Kurdish scientists, businessmen, academics and members of the cultural community from all over the world will gather in The Hague. The goal of the Congress is to share their research and discuss the potential reshaping for the future of Kurdistan through science and reinforce Kurdish and non Kurdish scientists' cooperative relationships.

It is with great excitement that we have scheduled approximately 30 presentations in 8 sessions that will be dedicated to different and important aspects of Kurdish health, education, economy and political science as well as culture. Our objective is to exchange and develop knowledge regarding the progress of Kurdish society – including the ways that health, life quality, political, social and economic development, human rights and education could be improved. Our mission is to come up with creative and scientific solutions to address the many possibilities for Kurdish society and culture to step into the modern world as a contributing member and to strengthen the relationships with Kurdish and non Kurdish organizations for international recognition.

The recent progress in economic and political relationships between the Kurds and regional states has increased the likelihood of Kurdish issues becoming a major focus in the Middle East. For instance, the Kurdish issue in Turkey is considered the key obstacle for Turkey's membership in the European Union. This matter must be resolved before Turkey will be accepted as a national member of the Union.

In parallel with incremental improvements in the conditions in Turkey, the Kurdish people in both Iran and Syria are suffering from repression, struggling on a daily basis with those totalitarian regimes. Many people have lost their lives or been imprisoned due to their political beliefs. Turkey and Iran have an ongoing relationship and collaboration to prevent progress amongst the Kurdish people. The outcome of such close collaboration is the daily use of military aggression in bombing villages located in the heart of Kurdistan. None of this brutality has drawn any attention or protest from the international community.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) offers a great opportunity to define the future of the Kurdish people. However, for many reasons, its political influence is limited in other parts of Kurdistan. The historical opportunity and available resources need to be used more effectively to unite the Kurdish people with their land beyond the current borders drawn by the former colonial powers. In addition, the presence of individuals active in politics but free of political influence, including Kurdish scientists and business communities, can play a key role in this critical situation by strengthening our commitment towards achieving our goals, namely freedom and progress.

Unfortunately, thus far we have been unsuccessful in engaging Kurdish scientists and influential businessmen to help establish these much needed and strong institutions, along with suitable mechanisms to support rebuilding of the region.

The political barriers and narrow-minded personal interests have been major obstacles towards the formation of an integrated network of the Kurdish scientific and business community – if they are not supported by some of the existing major political parties. Therefore, the recent years of attempt to establish such relationships and cooperation have failed and resulted in widespread corruption, nepotism and a simple misuse of scarce resources.

The current leadership lacks necessary tools in the forms of education, skill, experience, networks, support and capabilities to raise important issues such as independence and the need for our people to realize their dream in actually governing Kurdistan. It is the scientists, as well as those who are politically active and prominent in the business communities, who should shoulder this historical responsibility by actively participating in efforts to achieve these goals. The recent developments in Middle East and North Africa suggest that it is feasible to reach such goals using common sense and peaceful approach.

Our principle mission is to identify and establish a network among Kurdish and non Kurdish scientists and key business personalities that will develop high quality research projects and scientific policies. Other major tasks include providing expertise in different fields to assist the development of Kurdistan’s institutions and Kurdistan Regional Government.

The vision of WKC is to define a research strategy to transform the ideas and knowledge generated from networking and lobbyist activities to bring about increased global awareness towards Kurdistan as a highly-developed nation—and to assist Kurdistan in becoming an active and successful part of modern society.

We wish you all a rewarding and enjoyable congress!

### **Operative Committee of the First World Kurdish Congress**



*Alan Dilani*  
Ph.D. in Architect/Public  
Health, International  
Academy for Design and  
Health Stockholm-Sweden



*Almas Heshmati*  
Ph.D. in Economics,  
Korea University, Korea



*Chia Madani*  
M.Sc. in Computer Science,  
Stockholm University,  
Sweden



*Carol Prunhuber*  
PhD. in Literature,  
Writer and Journalist

**Final Program and Call for Registration**  
**First World Kurdish Congress (WKC2011)**  
**Rotterdam - Netherlands, 7-9<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Day 1: October 7th (Friday), 2011**

**15:00-18:00** Registration

**19:00-22:00** Reception:

Welcome Dinner and Welcome Speech by WKC Organizing Committee and Leyla Zana



*Carol Prunhuber*  
Founding Member



*Leyla Zana*  
Founding Member

**Day 2: October 8 (Saturday), 2011**

**08:00-08:30** Late Registration

**08:30-09:00** Opening of the 1st World Kurdish Congress



Introduction of the Congress by *Alan Dilani*,  
*Harry van Bommel* Member of the Parliament and Opening  
Speech by *Leyla Zana*

**09:00-11:00** Session 1:

**Scientific Perspectives on Health, Education, Economy and Politics**



Chair: *Peter Herrmann*  
(University College of Cork, Ireland)



*Karianne Westrheim* (Chair of the EU Turkey Civic Commission -EUTCC- Norway)  
The EU Turkey Civic Commission and its Significance for the Kurdish Question in Turkey



*Serwan Baban* (University of Kurdistan Hawler, Kurdistan)  
The Role of KRG Higher Education Institutions in the Process of Nation-Building



*Alan Dilani* (International Academy for Design & Health, Sweden)  
Promotion and Prevention Salutogenic Approach to Health Infrastructure



*Almas Heshmati* (Korea University, Korea)  
Realities of Economic Development in the Kurdistan Region

Discussion

**11:00-11:30 Coffee Break/Poster**

**11:30-13:00 Session 2:**

**Medical Treatments in Kurdistan, Challenges and Possibilities**



Chair: *Rang Noory Shawis*  
(Sheffield Children Hospital, UK)



*Sultan Cetiner and Sertip Zangana* (Medical University of Liverpool, UK)  
Medical Education, Training and Developments in the UK System and its  
Relevance and Application to Kurdistan



*Deiary Fraidoon Kader* (Newcastle Gateshead Medical Volunteers, UK)  
Surgical Voluntary Work in Kurdistan



*Prasad Godbole* (Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, UK)  
The Experiences of Pioneer Healthcare in Kurdistan

Discussion

**13:00-14:00 Lunch**

**14:00-16:00 Session 3:**

**The Struggle of Kurdish People for Freedom**



Chair: *Carol Prunhuber*  
PhD. in Literature, Writer and Journalist , USA



*Hemin Hawrami* (KDP Foreign Relations)  
Analysis of the current political situation of Kurdistan within the Middle East



*Kathryn Cameron Porter* (President at Leadership Council for Human Rights, USA)  
Human Rights and the Kurds



*Peter Herrmann* (University College of Cork, Ireland and University of Eastern Finland, Finland)  
Struggle for Freedom and Human Rights – A Multifaceted Problem, Requiring a  
Single Answer



*Khalid Khayati* (Linköping University, Sweden)  
Kurdish Diaspora in Europe: From Victim Diaspora to the Practice of Long Distance  
Nationalism and Transborder Citizenship

Discussion

**16:00-16:30 Coffee Break/Poster**

**16:30-18:00 Session 4:**

**Education in Kurdistan and Future Projects**



Chair: *Saman Shali*  
(Academic and Business Consultant, Kurdistan)



*Mukadder Baran* (University of Hakkari, Turkey)  
The Impact of Sociolinguistics on Scientific Education: A Case Study in the City of Hakkari



*Badirkhan Sindi* (Editor-in-Chief al-Taakhi newspaper, Iraq)  
The Impact of Foreign Regimes on Kurdish Culture and Education



*Fereydoon Rahmani* (The Kurdish House, Canada) and  
*Media Royan* (Linköping University, Sweden), 2 Case Studies:  
Oral History Project on Kurdish Struggle and Kurdish Diaspora Elite

Discussion

**19:00-01:00**

**Cultural Performance by Prominent Musicians and Singers from Kurdistan**



Mikael



Najma Ghouami



Shehin Talabani



Chia Madani



Pedram Shahlai



Ardeshi Zeberdast

**Day 3: October 9th (Sunday), 2011**

**09:00-10:30 Session 5:**

**The Challenges of Mental and Social Health in Kurdistan and Prevention of Diseases**



Chair: *Alan Dilani*  
(International Academy for Design & Health, Sweden)



*Kamal Artin* (Kurdish National Congress, USA)  
Individual vs. Society, a Comparative Analysis



*Abdulbaghi Ahmad* (University of Uppsala, Sweden)  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health in Kurdistan



*Ata Ghaderi* (Uppsala University, Sweden)  
Promoting Health and Preventing Illness, Not Only Treating Severe Diseases: Designing an Effective Healthcare System in Kurdistan

Discussion

**10:30-11:00 Coffee Break/Poster**

**11:00-13:00 Session 6:**

**Business and Economic Development in Kurdistan, Culture and Health**



Chair: *Almas Heshmati*  
(Korea University, Korea)



*Saman Shali* (Academic and Business Consultant, Kurdistan)  
Doing Business in Kurdistan: A Risk Assessment



*Heja Sindi* (University of Kurdistan Hawler, Kurdistan)  
Challenges and Potentials of Developing a 'Kurdistanian Diaspora Intellectual Model and Policy': A Public Management Perspective



*Rang Noory Shawis* (Sheffield Children Hospital, UK)  
The Need for a Medical and Health Professional Council for Kurdistan



*Abdul Kadir Hadi Hasan* (Buckinghamshire NHS Trust, UK)  
Breast Cancer Screening Program for Kurdistan

Discussion

**14:00-15:30 Session 7:**

**The Future of Kurdistan in the Middle East and the Role of Women in Kurdish Society**



Chair: *Pary Karadaghi*  
(Kurdish Human Rights Watch, USA)



*Marianna Charountaki* (University of Exeter, UK)  
The US- Kurdish Relations



*Deborah Morgan-Jones* (London University, UK), Establishment of 'Greater Kurdistan' and Consolidation of National Identity: A Strategic 'Brand Building' Programme



*Soheila Ghaderi* (University Paris, France), The Role of Kurdish Women in the Struggle for Freedom and their Impact in the Contemporary Kurdish Society



*Gissou Nia* (International Criminal Court, The Hague), Challenges in Documenting Human Rights Violations against Kurdish Populations and Potential Legal Avenues for Redress

Discussion

**15:30-16:00 Coffee Break/Poster**

**16:00-17:30 Session 8:**

**The Impact of Culture and Music in Kurdish Society, the Kurdish Lobbyist and Challenge with Human Right**



Chair: *Alan Dilani* and  
*Almas Heshmati*



*Mazhar Khaleghi* (Founder and Chair of Kurdish Heritage Institute, Kurdistan)  
The Impact of Culture in Kurdish Society



*Ava Homa* (George Brown College, Canada)  
Recovery through Creative Expression



*Taha Barwary* (Former KRG Minister and Scandinavian Representative, Sweden)  
The Experience of Nordic Countries as Representative of KRG

**17:30-18:30 WKC General Meeting and Closing**

Chaired and final words by Alan Dilani and Almas Heshmati

**LEYLA ZANA,  
KURDISH MEMBER OF TURKEY'S PARLIAMENT**

Founding Member of World Kurdish Congress

She won in 1995 the European Parliament's Sakharov human rights award, and several other Kurds were elected to parliament in 1991, but lost their seats in 1994 after their party was outlawed for links with the PKK. In March 2003, Zana and her co-defendants were allowed a retrial after their original conviction was condemned as unfair by the European Court of Human Rights in 2001. Zana and three colleagues spent 10 years behind bars for speaking Kurdish in the Turkish Parliament and for collaborating with the rebels. She was the first Kurdish woman to be elected to Turkey's parliament. They were released in June 2004



**Mazhar Khaleghi**

**Founder and Chair of Kurdish Heritage Institute, Kurdistan**

Mr. Mazhar Kaleghi has been a musician since he was a child. He has recorded more than 150 pieces of Kurdish folk melodies with several types of orchestras, such as the Tehran Symphonic, Cultural Ministry and the Radio Tehran Orchestras. He left Iran after the 1979 revolution and continues to work with culture and music in London. Before leaving Iran he recorded an album of twelve songs for his people. Mazhar continued with music in exile and gave his oppressed nation hope and happiness in the hardest of times, when the Iraqi regime started to commit Genocide on the Kurds. The recorded folk music of Mazhar is an art link for three generations. You can find Kurdish literature, folk customs, modern and classical music among his recorded songs from the fifties. After the establishment of Kurdistan Regional Government he return to Kurdistan and founded the Kurdish Heritage Institute where are currently working with the culture of Kurdish people. Mr Khaleghi discuss the impact of culture and music in Kurdish society.



### **Carol Prunhuber, Ph.D**

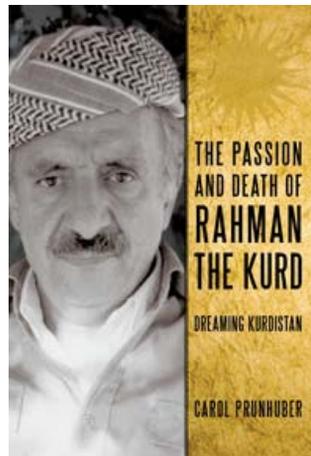
Carol Prunhuber holds a Doctorate de 3eme Cycle in Hispanic American Studies, 1984 and a D.E.A. (Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies)



1981 from the University of Paris. She holds a Master of Art in Literature at the Catholic University, Caracas (1979). She continued to work as a free lance journalist and was a Foreign Correspondent in Madrid in the 80's for the Venezuelan newspaper *El Nacional*. For several years Carol did press attaché work in Madrid for non-governmental organizations including the Peace and Disarmament Movement, summer courses for the University of Salamanca and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Agency for Cooperation and Development for Hispanic America. She served for several years as PR Director of a large, international non-profit organization in USA. Her first contact with the Kurds was in 1982 when she met Kurdish film director from Turkey, Yilmaz Güney who introduced her to the Kurdish plight. In 1983 she met the Iranian Kurdish leader Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou. Through the French agency *Gamma TV*, in 1985 she traveled to Iranian Kurdistan via Baghdad to film the struggle of the Kurds in Iran. She began to write about the Kurds in 1982 for the Spanish-speaking media. She has published several books, her most recent being *The Passion and Death of Rahman the Kurd: Dreaming Kurdistan*, 2010 which has been published in English, Spanish, Turkish and Kurdish. Carol has traveled extensively in Venezuela, America and Europe speaking on the Kurds of Iran at the House of Lords in London and the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. She is a founding member of the World Kurdish Congress.

### **Review of Carol Prunhuber's 'The Passion and Death of Rahman the Kurd' By Ava Homa, © Kurdistantribune.com**

Carol Prunhuber's book, *The Passion and Death of Rahman the Kurd*, is more than a biography; it offers deep insight into a nation and an ethnic group's history. Poignant and intelligent, this engaging book focuses on the inspiring life of one of the most influential Kurdish political leaders, General Secretary of Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), Dr. Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou. He fought for "Democracy for Iran, autonomy for Kurdistan" for years and in 1989 was assassinated by the Islamic Republic agents while negotiating Kurdistan's situation. The book offers much to a spectrum of readers, from those who have been part of Kurdish resistance to those who don't know much about the Kurdish cause... By putting Dr. Ghassemlou's life in its proper historical and social context, Prunhuber is able to explain the contradictions and compelling facts and details....What makes Prunhuber's book powerful is the way she understands Iran's Islamic Revolution and Kurdish history which is simultaneously part of and distinct from Iran's situation. The book can be found at Amazon.com



### **Peter Herrmann, Ph.D.**

Peter Herrmann, PhD (Bremen) studies sociology (Bielefeld), Economics (Hamburg), Political Science (Berlin) and Social Policy and



Philosophy (Bremen). Has taught at several Third Level Institutions across the EU and beyond. His main research interest concerns the development of methodology, in particular geared to merging questions of economics and law in a coherent way for which he develops further the social quality approach, emerging from his involvement in the work of the European Foundation on Social Quality of which he is senior advisor.

### **Struggle for Freedom and Human Rights – A Multifaceted Problem, Requiring a Single Answer**

The presentation will not follow the commonly taken track, suggesting a given and unquestioned definition and understanding of human rights, freedom and only a lack of implementation, based on lack of good will. Rather, the definition of human and freedom itself is by no means clear. Rather than allowing a reference to the very general moral values and standards, the definition of the rights depends on a power struggle that is concerned not with political power as such. At stake is the emergence and change of complex productive systems which require a careful 'synchronisation' of interests along at least three lines: political-economic structuration, mobilisation of political resources/rational choice and identity.

The challenge in finding an urgently needed answer on the violation of human rights has to focus on fully establishing and securing the rights of a people as right of self-determination not just in an individualistic perspective (the rights of a people and its citizens).

Instead, self-determination means the right of a people to determine a genuinely own understanding of the role it wants to play in the global economy. - Seen in this light, a Kurdish state, in which exact way ever it may be organised, means to secure such entity as space that secures a "process of relational appropriation": a space that allows people to develop their own economy and that also allows to develop economically. The meaning for the looked for answer is clear: first, immediate establishment of respect for the rights "within the regions"; second, the reconsideration of "interventionist" and "support programs" from international/global organisations: currently guided by a single modern of development and democracy, the relevant international organisations and their programs have to look for less authoritarian and more open strategies: open for new understandings of economic development and support.

### **Kariane Westrheim, Ph.D.**

Kariane Westrheim, Ph.D. is associate professor and deputy head of Department of Education, University of Bergen, Norway. She has been actively engaged in Kurdish issues for many years; as member of the Rafto Foundation, a Bergen based Human Rights Organisation which awarded Leyla Zana the Rafto Prize in 1994. Westrheim has been the chair of the EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC) since its foundation in 2004. She also conducts research on Kurdish questions where she mainly has focused on the educational contribution of the PKK and the organisations significance for the overall struggle of the Kurds.



### **The EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC) and its Significance for the Kurdish Question in Turkey**

The EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC) was formally established in 2004, just after the First International Conference on EU Turkey and the Kurds, in the European Parliament in Brussels. The conference was initiated by the pre-existing Rafto Foundation for Human Rights, Medico International, and Kurdish Human Rights Program to lobby for Turkish accession to the European Union (EU) as a way to help solve the Kurdish problem in Turkey. The founding organisations were actively engaged in the Kurdish question.

Over the years the EUTCC has also enjoyed the support of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left within the European Parliament. In addition, a number of internationally recognised individuals have lent their name to the Kurdish cause and serve as EUTCC patrons or as advisors at the Advisory Council.

As a member of the EU, Turkey would have to continue to implement the Copenhagen Criteria for EU membership that mandated a democratic Turkey. This would necessitate Turkey's granting full political, social, economic, cultural, and educational rights to its ethnic Kurdish population that constitutes some 20 percent of its total population. Thus the EUTCC monitors and conducts regular audits of the European Commission's performance in ensuring Turkey's full compliance with the EU Copenhagen accession criteria as defined within the meaning of the accession agreements.

The main way the EUTCC implements its mandate to further Turkey's accession to the EU is by holding probing annual international conferences at the EU Parliament. A great variety of government and private speakers from both Turkey and numerous Western states have spoken over the years at these conferences at which hundreds of interested parties have attended as well as a numerous members of the international media.

**Professor Sirwan Baban,  
Ph.D**



Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kurdistan-Hawler since August 2009. PhD in Applied Remote Sensing from the School of Environmental Sciences the University of East Anglia, UK, 1991, he then worked as a Research Assistant and Senior Research Associate in the School. Lecturer and later a Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography in the University of Coventry, UK. In 2000 he became Professor of Surveying and Land Information and later the Dean/Chairman, School for Graduate Studies and Research at the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, at the University of the West Indies. In 2007, became Professor of Environmental Geoinformatics and Head, School of Environmental Science and Management at the Southern Cross University, Australia, 2007. He founded and directed the GIS and Remote Sensing Research Utility (GRRU) group at Coventry University, UK from 1994-2000. Formed and directed the Center for Caribbean Land and Environmental Appraisal Research (CLEAR) at the University of the West Indies from 2000-2007. He established and directed the Centre for Geoinformatics Research and Environmental Assessment Technology (GREAT) at Southern Cross University, Australia, 2007-2009. Fellow member of several professional societies and Editorial Board for several Journals, he has served on the scientific and organizing committees for various international conferences .

**The Role of KRG Higher Education  
Institutions in The Process of Nation-Building**

The current system of higher education in Iraq, which is also used in Kurdistan, is rather outdated as the curriculum was developed decades ago initially for producing graduates for the public sector without any consideration for evolving market needs and competition. Hence the significant increases in student numbers being educated and trained under this system will not meet market needs and will almost certainly lead to waste of precious human capital in the form of unemployment. Evidently, recent graduates are finding it hard to find jobs in a competitive market place.

Kurdistan is experiencing a rapid rate of development and needs world class trained professionals (capable of leadership, problem solving and evidence based decision making) in the fields of science, technology and management. However, meeting Kurdistan's demand-and-supply of University graduates requires modernizing higher education institutions in terms of vision, mission, curriculum, teaching methods, research and research training priorities as well as university management.

This article will present an example of an international, independent public university, the University of Kurdistan Hewler, and in doing so it will attempt to answer three fundamental questions; 1. Can KRG Universities play a leading role in preparing modern professionals to meet demand based on Kurdistan's market needs? 2. Can KRG Universities play a direct role in the process of nation building and wealth creation? 3. Can 1 and 2 above be achieved in Kurdistan given the current political, economic and social realities?

**Keywords:** Higher Education, modernization, Kurdistan

**Professor Alan Dilani,  
Ph.D.**



Professor Alan Dilani is the founder and General Director of the International Academy for Design and Health (IADH). He is co-founder of the Journal "World Health Design" and founder and director of the international master program on Design and Health with the University of Portsmouth in UK. He has worked with several universities in the field of Design and Health developing "Psychosocially Supportive Design Program", both in Medical and Design institutions. He holds a M.Sc. in Italy and a Ph.D. in Health Facility Design from Stockholm. His research at Karolinska Institute, Medical University, developed a multidisciplinary research approach on "Salutogenic approach" to health. He has designed healthcare facilities and served as an advisor for several ministries of health. He lectures at Harvard University both in Public Health and School of Design and other universities. He is the author of numerous articles and books in the field of Design and Health. Dr. Dilani received the Award 2010 from US - American Academy.

**The Salutogenic Approach to Health- The Search for Healthy Society**

While clinical practice focuses on treating illness, there's also a raft of research to suggest that the quality of build environment has a highly important role to our health and wellbeing. The World Health Organization defines health as "a state of complete physical, psychological and social well being, (Bio-Psycho-Social) and not only the absence of illness." Health can be divided into two different perspectives: the biomedical and the holistic. From a biomedical viewpoint, health is considered to be a condition without diseases. In the western world, the biomedical perspective has been the leading perspective and thereby created the medical care as business industry. The holistic viewpoint emphasises multiple dimensions of health, including the physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual and social well-being by creating psychosocially supportive design.

We are living in a post-industrial age in the knowledge (Google) society and healthcare should focus on providing "wellness" as well as treating illness. Research on Salutogenic direction highlights the impact of wellness factors that inspire the designer and planner toward healthy society to develop the condition that stimulate health and wellbeing and thereby promotion of health and prevention of diseases in all level of society. An increase in the consideration of Salutogenic design approach leads to social innovation and economical growths that requires interdisciplinary application of sciences such as Architecture, medicine, public health, psychology, design, engineering with culture, art and music! This presentation discusses the approach of such interpretation of Salutogenic approach to promote health and prevent non communicable disease by creating the context of healthy lifestyle. Key words: Salutogenic design, stress reducing, health promotion, psychosocial factors

### **Almas Heshmati, Ph.D.**

Almas Heshmati is Professor of Economics at the Department of Food and Resource Economics, College of Life Sciences and Biotechnology,



Korea University. He held similar positions at the Seoul National University, University of Kurdistan Hawler, Ratio Institute (Sweden) and the MTT agrifood research (Finland). He was research fellow at the World Institute for Development Economics Research (wider), the United Nations University during 2001-2004. From 1998 until 2001, he was an Associate Professor of Economics at the Stockholm School of Economics. He has a PhD. degree from the University of Gothenburg (1994), where he held a senior researcher position until 1998.

### **REALITIES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE KURDISTAN REGION**

This presentation is a summary of the book “The Economy of Southern Kurdistan”. There are a number of factors that are vital to the development of the Kurdistan Region. These include: the labor market policy; the mismatch of education produced and skills demanded; the economic development plan and policy of the regional government; development and reconstruction capacity building of the region; the highly desired inflow of foreign direct investment; adoption of an industrial development model and policy of the region; macroeconomic policy; and several other equally important factors. The objective is to investigate the current state of each of the factors listed above at the Kurdistan Region.

The research shows that there are no basic labor market statistics available that cover the Kurdistan Region. This does not allow to quantify the magnitude of unemployment and to analyze its socio-economic effects and to have a general view about operation of the labor market. A lack of qualified statisticians and data has been a limitation to facilitate research and policy analysis on the labor market. The regional government has no comprehensive economic development plan with description of its economic policy and policy measures to achieve its goals. The irregular stream of financial resources, that is oil revenues, is a binding constraint on the smooth implementation of publicly financed development projects. The introduction of a four to five year plan is necessary to have a clear picture of the flow of resources and their utilization in the achievement of targets. Foreign direct investment (FDI) is increasingly important to developing countries. The condition in the Kurdistan Region has not been optimal to attract much inter-regional investment flows. The characteristics of political economy, the industrial policy and investment in scientific and technological capabilities as a model for economic development are looked at.

**Dr. Rang Noory Shawis,  
M.B.**

Dr Rang Noory Shawis,  
M.B.Ch.B, FRCS Ed., M.M  
Ed. graduated from Mosel  
University, 1973.



In 1975 he settled in the UK and trained in pediatric surgery. He has been a consultant surgeon and a senior lecturer for over 25 years in the UK and UAE. Dr. Shawis was the first Royal College of Surgeon's - England Pediatric Tutor and had many appointments as a medical education and training expert, he has published over fifty articles. Currently he is certification and education panel member for the GMC. Dr Shawis involved in project in UK and Iraq related to training and health planning. He is the project leader for a state of the art children's hospital to be build in Erbil in Kurdistan Iraq. He will dedicate rest of his time to develop and enhance health of the country through his international network.

**The Need for a Medical and Health  
Professional Council for Kurdistan**

Most countries have regulatory body/bodies for the medical and allied health profession. In some countries there are separate bodies for each health profession such as in the United Kingdom: the General Medical Council (GMC) for medical practitioners, Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) for Nurses, General Dental Council (GDC) for Dentists and Health Professions Council (HPC) for other Health Professionals. In the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Singapore and South Africa the licensing bodies are national, while in the USA, Australia and Germany each state has a regulatory and licensing body.

The public and the medical profession in Kurdistan share a common interest in showing that doctors and allied health professionals provide a good standard of practice and care, and that patients are protected from medical and health practitioners who are not safe. The role of the regulatory body in Kurdistan- Iraq will be to see what works and where the gaps are. The strategy can be developed and refined in the light of experience and on the basis of evidence. Success in implementing this strengthened professionalism should secure the public's trust and safeguard their interest and the independence of the profession. As stated the primary objective is safeguarding patients' interests by practicing medicine and health care in a professional and caring way at the highest standard available putting patients' safety and interest first.

**Dr. Sultan Cetiner,  
MBBS, BSc (Honours)**

Dr. Sultan Cetiner is a junior doctor from the United Kingdom. She graduated from Barts and The London, School of Medicine and Dentistry in 2009.



She recently completed her basic Foundation Training in Liverpool. She is currently working on her Master's degree from the University of Liverpool, School of Life Sciences. She also holds a one year teaching contract with the University of Liverpool, Faculty of Medicine and works as a medical doctor at Aintree University Hospital in North Liverpool.

**Dr Sertip Zangana, MBBS**

Dr. Sertip Zangana is a junior doctor in the United Kingdom. He completed his medical degree at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in 2009. He then completed his first two years of basic Foundation Training in Liverpool. He currently holds a one year teaching contract with the University of Liverpool, Faculty of Medicine. He is also studying for a Master's Degree in Post Genomic Science. He works as a medical doctor at Aintree University Hospital in Liverpool City.



**Medical Education, Training and  
Developments in the UK System and its  
Relevance and Application to Kurdistan**

**Objective:** We suggest the United Kingdom (UK) medical programme as a model for Kurdistan.

**Background:** The structure of the UK medical education and training programmes and recent developments have revolutionized medical students' and junior doctors' training. Kurdistan's health care systems are divided across the boundaries of the nations which control it, making it difficult to coordinate health care initiatives. However, it is easier to apply these developments in the jurisdiction of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

**Methods:** We reviewed the UK medical education and training model including the associated General Medical Council (GMC) guidance. We considered the relevance and application of these to Kurdistan's medical systems.

**Discussion:** Over the last decade in the UK, several key developments in Medical Education, including Problem Based Learning and Communication Skills workshops, have enabled a shift from generic lecture based teachings, to more dynamic, flexible, personalised and self-directed learning methods. This provides students with insights into the practical applications of the knowledge they acquire and the attributes for team work. At the Hospital level, junior doctors' training has undergone developments in assessments and professional opportunities including structured participation in teaching and research through the advent of Academic Foundation Training posts. The new electronic-portfolio assigned to each doctor enables them to gain online access to a national curriculum outlining skills and attributes expected of them based on GMC guidelines. This enables the doctor to take a more dynamic and flexible approach in documenting their progress, reflecting on clinical experiences and gaining feedback.

**Conclusions:** The new teaching systems for medical students, the teaching and research opportunities for junior doctors and use of electronic portfolios with standardised curricula within the UK system could serve as a blue print for developments in Kurdistan's medical education and health care systems.

**Deiary Fraidoon Kader,  
MBChB**

Professor Deiary Kader is the Chair and founder of Newcastle/Gateshead Medical Volunteers Charity and Clinical Director of



NE-OASIR Research group. He is a Consultant Trauma and Orthopedic Surgeon at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead and Nuffield Hospital in Newcastle, UK. He holds a MBChB and is a Fellow member of the Royal College of Surgeon of Glasgow, Edinburgh and England. He is also a Fellow of the British Orthopedic Association and a member of the Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine, UK. He is the Associate Editor for JMCR Journal and is a reviewer for several journals and sits on the Editorial Board of Open Access Journal of Sports Medicine.

**Surgical Voluntary Work in Kurdistan**

Background: The war in Iraq has resulted in the displacement of vast numbers of doctors and health care professionals leaving a huge void in the number of suitably qualified and experienced surgeons.

Objectives: The purpose of the Newcastle/Gateshead Medical Volunteers (NGMV) is to work with the local charities to provide much needed orthopaedic assessment and surgical services to local people in Kurdistan. Our organisation aim to make regular visits to Kurdistan in order to provide timely assessment, surgical intervention and follow up services to patients with musculoskeletal problems.

Method: In the past year more than 30 members of our organisation, which is based in Newcastle/UK, have visited Erbil. Our first exploratory trip was in April 2010 during which we saw 40 patients and established link with various charities in Kurdistan. In our second and third trip in July and October last year we saw more than 600 patients and operated on 16 patients. In our latest visit in March 2011 we saw nearly 200 patients at the clinic and performed 32 intermediate and major surgical operations of the hip and the knee joint.

Conclusion: Our charity has been successful in providing much needed healthcare to Kurdistan region of Iraq. We hope to inspire more people to commit more time to similar kind of projects.

## **Prasad Godbole**

Prasad Godbole is a Consultant Paediatric Urologist in Sheffield, U.K. and Medical Director of Pioneer Healthcare Limited, an Independent Healthcare Company in the U.K. Prasad trained in paediatric urology at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in the U.K. before taking up his post in Sheffield. Prasad has published extensively in peer reviewed journals, written chapters in textbooks and edited 4 textbooks in Paediatric Urology. He is also active in ensuring safety and quality issues of healthcare provision and has recently been visiting Erbil, KRG with his team to provide voluntary surgical services to children of the region in cooperation with local surgeons. Prasad has also been active in setting up training for surgeons in the region and throughout the U.K. Prasad has been an Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) Instructor for the last 15 years.



## **Pioneer Healthcare Limited- Experiences in Kurdistan**

Introduction: Erbil, the capital of the KRG, has a large number of medical professionals catering to the requirements of the population. Children's services however are restricted as a result of training, education, and equipment issues. Pioneer Healthcare Limited (PH) with a track record in training and education were therefore invited on a voluntary basis to provide an overview of existing processes, improvements that can be made and also to provide surgical expertise for children who have been unable to access this locally.

Methods: The first team, led by Mr Prasad Godbole (PG) arrived in Erbil in December 2010. The team included a Pediatric surgeon (Mr Rang Shawis- RS), a pediatric Urologist (PG), a pediatric anesthetist and a dedicated senior pediatric scrub nurse. Patients for surgery had been seen by RS prior to the visit and included a variety of specialist pediatric surgical and urological cases. The team assessed existing processes and made suggestions for improvement which were noted in the second visit in May 2011. Results: The entire local staff were extremely enthusiastic and helpful in making both visits successful. All staff were willing to learn new techniques and processes to ensure patient safety and to follow principles of good medical practice. In particular the suggestions for improvement were around:

1. Patient safety checklists- patient ID bracelets, WHO checklist preop, patient nursing charts
2. Regional analgesia in children
3. Theatre equipment- ordering, maintenance, safety aspects

Conclusion: PH has had a very fruitful experience in our visits to Erbil. The local professionals were excellent in their knowledge within the constraints of their training. Improvements suggested at the first visit were already in place for the second visit. Further improvements will happen over a period of time and will be assessed at the next visit in November 2011

## **Hemin Hawrami**

Hemen Hawrami is a visionary leadership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party's Foreign Relation Office. He is engaged entire his life on politic and how to serve the nation for freedom. After his graduate from the English department in Salahadin University in 1998 he continued tireless with his mission to serve the nation as political members of the party. He served in several positions in KDP departments, i.e. Media, Public Relation as well as Student Organization. For his quality of work and as creative thinker leadership was elected in the KDP's 13 Convention in December 2010 for the leadership council and was assigned to his current position as head of the Foreign Relation in June, 2011.



## **Analysis of the Current Political Situation of Kurdistan within the Middle East**

This paper is descriptive analysis of political party discussing mainly the strategic landscape of the Middle East and the position of our party in relation to the current developments of Middle East and how we as Kurds should realize the opportunities and take action with the interest of our National. Furthermore, to shed light on possible American withdrawal from Iraq as closed allied with our people in the region and its implications on our interests in Baghdad and the future of our relationship with other components of power in the capital of Iraqi federal. Further the developments on the border areas in Iran and Turkey and our understanding and position from a national point of view will be discussed.

In addition, describe the nature of our struggle and the transitional period from dictatorship to democracy and consolidation of the latter in Kurdistan along with the process of 'Nation Building' considering this process as a unique case story that no other nation has gone through.

We will further discuss such a 'Counter Terrorism and Radicalism, Democracy and Energy Security' as a crucial issues to transform Kurdistan as a strategic gate for the Middle East.

Finally how we in the Political Leadership in Kurdistan view our academics abroad, considering as intellectual capital of our nation to be part of the process of national building and provide international credibility to our struggle for freedom and progress to be part of modern society. We need an ongoing discussion to how integrate Kurdish and non Kurdish scientists in the process of political development for the best of our people.

### **Kathryn Cameron Porter**

Kathryn Cameron Porter has served as a congressional chief of staff, electoral campaign manager, non-profit executive and consultant, and US



presidential appointee. She currently serves as the Senior Advisor on Iran to Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois. She founded The Leadership Council for Human Rights in 2001. She is an applied anthropologist with an extensive background in political, cultural and social projects. Her efforts focus on women in peace-building, sustainable development, and creative strategies to bring about positive change.

Part of her work has focused on the Kurds in Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Syria. She was the catalyst for the formation of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1981, now the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. She has testified numerous times before Congress and International organizations including the UN, OSCE, European Parliament and Council of Europe. She serves on the boards of a number of national and international organizations

### **The Struggle of the Kurdish People for Freedom**

The long struggle of the Kurdish People continues to evolve as humankind's concept of human rights evolves. The Kurdish experience illuminates this evolution which is much in evidence in recent events.

This paper examines the historic and current elements of the modern view of Kurdish potential from the modernity of Iraqi Kurdistan to the barbarity of the treatment of Kurdish peoples in Syria. The dissonance can be traced to political and regional disparities which are discussed in this paper. Setting a course for stability and success for the future for all Kurdish people presents a map for possibility for all humankind. The hope evidenced in Kurdistan as people have become more confident and forward looking was simply impossible in previous decades. Kurdistan stands out as an island of relative peace and prosperity in a region still ablaze with violence and economic malaise. These realities much we recognized and acknowledged in the United States and other Western governments. The paper will discuss the political realities and irresponsibility implicit in non-action and ill-formed policy and the possible backward slide of human rights implicit for all peoples.

### **Saman Shali, Ph.D.**

Dr. Saman Shali has twenty-three years of Telecommunications Management experience. He has a gift for



troubleshooting and process productivity and profitability in the Telecom operations he has managed in both the USA and Iraq. Dr. Shali has managerial experience in both the technical and commercial sectors of the Telecom Industry. He was the President and CEO of a major Network Solutions Company in California, before returning to Iraq as General Manager for Kalimat until September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

As an author and former academic, Dr. Shali is a much sought-after speaker at universities and organizations around the globe. He currently serves on the Board of Directors at two prestigious Iraqi universities'. Dr. Shali is a founding member of Iraq Telecom & IT Association (ITIA). Dr. Shali is executive adviser for the Chairman of Kurdistan International Bank in the Kurdistan Region. Dr. Shali is a business consultant and Telecommunication expert.

### **Doing Business in Kurdistan: a Risk Assessment**

From 1991 to 2003 the Kurdistan Region suffered a double embargo. The first, from the United Nations, was imposed upon all of Iraq and the second was imposed by Saddam Hussein. To survive during this difficult period, the Kurdistan Region imposed a tax on trucks in transit through Kurdistan from Turkey to the rest of Iraq. It wasn't until the Allies' armed forces removed Saddam from power in 2003 that Kurdistan began to support itself with 17% of the national Iraq income which came mostly from the sale of oil.

The newly legal quasi-independent Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) began to develop a successful economy that included a stable government, security, economic support for its citizens and growth in investments. Trust began to grow as the banking system improved and international airports were built. Along with investment comes the birth of democratic values. Despite high insurance costs for private companies to invest in the Region, well over 1,200 companies have invested in the capital to date and eighteen consular offices have been established by national governments throughout the world.

Due to Saddam's regime systematically destroying over 4,000 villages, displacing hundreds of thousands of Kurds, the citizens of Kurdistan grew dependent on the government sector and lost the ability to produce the necessary items to live. There are risks associated with doing business in the Kurdistan Region. Corruption, security concerns, unemployment, nepotism and social injustice pervade the atmosphere and people are looking to the KRG to retransform the Kurdistan citizenry back into productive members of the community. This paper focuses on what the Government needs to do from a business standpoint to resurrect the Kurdish economic Region.

### **Mukkader Baran**

Mukkader Baran is finalizing her postgraduate studies in Chemistry and Sciences of Education at Education at Atatürk University of Erzurum. She holds a Masters degrees Chemistry and Sciences of Education at Marmara University of Istanbul, 2009 and a BSc at the same institution, 2007.



### **The Impact of Sociolinguistics on Scientific Education: A Case Study in the City Of Hakkari**

Against the background of the ongoing debate on bilingual education in Turkey, a useful contribution can be made by researches on all domains of social sciences relating to this question. In this context, this study focuses on the effects of bilingualism inside a monolingual education system on the success of students. For this research, we conducted fieldwork in what is arguably the city in Turkey where the bilingual situation is the most visible and where its impact is felt in the most acute way, namely the city of Hakkari, at the Easternmost extremity of the country, bordering Iran and Iraq. We specifically chose as the focus of our study scientific classes of higschool students between the ages of 15 and 18 and higschool teachers.

The objective was to obtain information on the students' demographic and socioeconomic background, as well as what their mother tongue was and to what extent they could be considered - and indeed considered themselves - bilinguals.

To this effect, we prepared a questionnaire consisting of 20 questions relating to the background of the students, as well as 11 extra questions and face to face interviews aiming at understanding their attitude to bilingualism and bilingual education. Also we apply a questionarie consisting of 10 questions and face to face interviews to teachers at aiming understand their attitude to bilingulism and bilingual education. The analysis of data was conducted using frequencies, t-test and ANOVA tests, after which the results were presented in a table.

**Dr. Badirkhan Badri  
Sindi, PhD**



Dr. Sindi holds a PhD in Education from the University of Wales, UK, 1979 and a B.A. in Education and Psychology from the University of Baghdad, 1966. He has been a lecturer in the University of Baghdad since 1979. He was a senior researcher in the Center of Educational and Psychological Researches in Baghdad, 1979-1983 and Director General in the Kurdish Culture Establishment. He has been a consultant for the Ministry of Education in Iraq and UNICEF. He has many publications on Education and Psychology. He is currently Editor-in-Chief for Al-Taakhi newspaper .

**The Impact of Foreign Regimes on Kurdish Culture and Education**

Dividing Kurdish Nation in parts has significantly affected Kurdish culture and education in which both were accordingly divided into four different segments. This has consequently led us as Kurds truly suffer from being four different and deformed societies.

**Problem statement:**

Due to dividing Kurdistan hence, ruled by four foreign regimes shortly the following problems occurred:

- 1- Deform and weakness in Kurdish language.
- 2- Many people cannot speak their mother tongue.
- 3- A lot of Kurdish people cannot master Kurdish.
- 4- As a result of 'brain washing', some people deny knowing Kurdish language and prefer using other languages
- 5- Four deformed cultures have occurred in Kurdistan.

6- Kurdish children in certain contexts are prohibited using their mother tongue while learning.

7- Kurdish pupils are faced with four different educational systems and philosophies.

8- Kurdish art is highly affected and deformed by the four chauvinism regimes for almost 90 years of ruling Kurdistan.

**Proposed Strategy:**

1- Establishing a higher commission that is responsible for implementing the rescuing strategy.

2- The Higher Commission works on being recognized by the UN (UNESCO) and subsequently struggles to address the critical status of Kurdish culture and possible extinction. This implies taking active steps and/or running a campaign in order to rescue and develop Kurdish culture.

3- Finding financial sources to sustain the fulfillment of the strategy.

4- Establishing an independent Kurdish TV that plays the role of a Kurdish school, Kurdish university and Kurdish socio –culture platform.

5- Opening the Central Kurdish Radio

6- Introducing the Unified Kurdish Dictionary

7- Opening the Kurdish House for Translation

8- Initiating Kurdish Academic Specialty fields such as: Kurdish history, Kurdish geography, Kurdistan environment etc.

**Fereydoon Rahmani,  
Ph.D.**

Fereydoon Rahmani is a Sociologist and social researcher and President of the Greater Toronto Kurdish House in Canada and the same time

Member of American Sociological Association & National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada.



**Oral History project on Kurdish struggle and politics**

One of the most important methods of research and analysis in social sciences and history is the use of oral history by collecting and studying information and factual materials or narrations. Today, this model has been proven itself as one of the most important and reliable way of scientific analysis for many social science disciplines from politics, ethnology and history to psychology and sociology. Using the audio and video systems to record the stories, narrations and memories of the people who were directly or indirectly involved or participated in some important past events or even have observed or experienced some episodes or occurrences which could be significance for the further analysis and research programs. These collections and records most of the time are of a significant meaning and important for future generations as well.

Implementing such a model of analysis on the Kurdish politics and history could be of a great importance not only in recording important people's life stories which could give us a better glimpse and outlook into the Kurdish political life and history but it will help establishing an extensive library of recorded documents and materials for future detailed analysis or research activities on Kurds and Kurdistan as well as on related events about the Kurdish struggle for freedom and democracy.

To succeed on such idea, we could propose a working committee to prepare a small media center arranging for interviewing/recording the long-time members, activists and old Peshmargas of different Kurdish organizations and political parties. To guarantee proper and reliable information and date gathering, it is suggested to take a wider spectrum of political parties from all four corners of Kurdistan into consideration unbiased and without prejudice. These could be any old time activist who is willing to put up enough time for our scientific endeavor and could share his life stories and experiences to a wider range of people for future academic and analytical use.

A preliminary committee of 5 people has just been planned to work on this project to work under my supervision (Mr. Fereydoon Rahmani). It has been suggested that Dr. Alan Dilani and Dr. Amir Hassanpour will be helping the project as advisory council members and at least two other journalist or researchers in Canada and in Iraqi Kurdistan (Erbil) will be supporting with the academic process of the research project. A media team of two could also be arranged for the purpose of the recording or editing the interviews. The project could be financially sponsored and funded through private sector or governments of diverse countries in North America and Europe as well as in Kurdistan.

## Media Royan, MA

Media Royan holds a MA in  
“**Globalization Environment  
and Social Changes**”

from Stockholm University,  
2011, an MA in Tourism  
and Urbanization, Istanbul

University, 1992 and a BA from the Department  
of Human and Economic Geography, Istanbul  
University, 1990.



### “**Kurdish Elite Diaspora Practicing Transnationalism**” Focus: Swedish Kurdish Elites

While in the past the main focus of migration studies was the investigation of influences of immigrants on the host society and their integration into the country of settlement, nowadays the transnationalism studies put much more emphasis on the other side which is the effects of living in diaspora on the origin society and the trans-border citizenship.

The cultural, social and political interactions and connections between Sweden as a country of settlement and Kurdistan (especially Iraqi Kurdistan) create a transnational social space where the Kurdish elites can play a major role in improvement of Kurdistan and where their adoption of a double or beyond the boundaries of a single nation-state identity make it possible for them to permanently define and redefine their position in Swedish society while simultaneously they participate in the general development of Kurdistan.

The general question of the study is: What are the characteristics that make the Kurdish elites contribution in Iraqi Kurdistan to be categorized as Transnational practice?

Followed by this question: How does the specificity of the Swedish political context influence the transnational practices among Kurdish diaspora?

Exploring the theoretical aspect of transnationalism, diaspora and immigration patterns create the theoretical part of the thesis and to find the answer, a semi-structured interview has been conducted and several Kurdish Elites from Sweden who either are involved or had been involved with different scientific, Political, educational and infrastructure projects in Iraqi Kurdistan answered a set of 16 questions. Interviewees were both female and male mainly at the age of +40 and from all four parts of Kurdistan. Life story strategy used to gather comprehensive data and the factors to be controlled or to be evaluated, determined and have been put into tables. Interpretation of the factors helps the researcher to make a conclusion when it comes to the factors making their practice to be entitled as transnationalism practice.

## **Kamal Artin**

Dr. Kamal Artin completed his medical degree in Zurich, Switzerland and his psychiatry training at the University of California in San Diego and Johns Hopkins University. He was an assistant professor of clinical psychiatry at the University of Southern California for two years and has been in private practice in Orange County, CA since 2003. While in Zurich he was a member of Swiss Kurdish Academic Society and Kurdish Cultural Center. He was also the host of Dangi Bey Dangan (Voice of Voiceless) in Zurich. In the US he joined Kurdish American Education Society (KAES) and Kurdish National Congress of North America (KNC). He is a former president of KAES and a former board member of KNC. He was elected as the new president of KNC on June 6, 2010. He has given talks at various cultural, political, and academic events and written over hundred articles, essays, and satires to promote the Kurdish cause.



The disturbances of mental life of individuals have been classified based on their nature such as disease, behavior, personality, and life story (1). Similarly, the nature of sociopolitical disturbances in a society could be classified based on their nature related to geographical location, governing style, cultural characteristics, and historical events. Many societies have witnessed significant sociopolitical disturbances under a single theory rule, absolutism. Thank to the efforts of democratic movements some of those societies have become free and some are in process of obtaining their freedom. On an individual level, some people with traumatic experiences of oppression are vulnerable to develop abusive behavior, especially if they are not connected to healing, supportive, and preventive health institutions (2). Such individuals, if not guided and healed, might create a society of abusers, as George Orwell described in his classic novel, Animal Farm. The purpose of this article is to discuss the factors that affect the mental health in general and in the Kurdish society in partic

## **Individual vs. Society, a Comparative Analysis**

The role of psychiatry among the medical and social sciences might still be unknown to many people in Kurdistan. People turn to a physician when faced with a dysfunctional organ in their body. They turn to a social scientist for challenges related to cultural, ideological, and governmental dysfunctions in the society. The psychiatrists, physicians of brain and mind, are the source to turn to when having difficulty that might have a physical or societal etiology. The society as the sum of individuals is not immune from the influence of its members who have difficulties with their feelings, thinking, or behavior. Such an influence might cause disturbances in culture, ideology, and government in a society. ular.

**Abdulbaghi Ahmad,  
Ph.D.**



Dr. Abdoulbaghi Abdulrehman Ahmad graduated from the College of Medicine - Mosel University 1978. He was the head of Kurdistan Student Union in Almerkeziye during his secondary school in Baghdad 1969-71. He did his Medical College in Mosel 1973-4 and soon after started a front clinic with Kurdish guerrillas (Peshmerge) 1974-5. He worked as the central physician in Kalar province in Iraqi Kurdistan 1979-82. In 1982 he settled in Sweden, trained in pediatrics, and obtained a specialist competence in child and adolescent psychiatry, Ph.D., and Associate Professor at the Uppsala University. He has published more than 100 works in the field of child mental health, mostly concerning children of Kurdistan. He currently works as Assistant Professor and Founding Director of the Department of Child Mental Health at the College of Medicine, Duhok University in Iraqi Kurdistan. Dr Ahmad has been among the founders of several Kurdistan professional associations, such as Kurdistan Medical Association in Sweden, Kurdistan Solidarity Committee in Sweden, the Swedish Program for Development in Kurdistan (Qandil), and the Kurdistan Academy of Science (KAS). Currently, he is assigned as IACAPAP Ambassador in Iraqi Kurdistan.

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health in  
Kurdistan**

Child mental health was investigated for the first time in Kurdistan during the Mass-Escape Tragedy (MET) of 1991. Several studies identified protecting and risk factors among children of Kurdistan both in the home land and in exile, forming a doctoral thesis at the Uppsala University in Sweden in 1999.

The collaboration between Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Uppsala University in Sweden and the University of Duhok in the Kurdistan region of Iraq resulted in establishment of the Department of Child Mental Health (CMH) at the College of Medicine, University of Duhok in 20 September 2001. It was to be the first academic unit in the Middle East specialized in child mental health education and research. Several experts have obtained master degree at the CMH, and three PhD research proposals are currently under consideration, concerning street children, Autism and Neuropsychiatry, respectively. Besides, this subject was introduced in the curriculum of medical students and community-based education and training programs for teachers, social workers and other people working with children in the region.

An increasing public awareness combined with the rapid social transition in the region is leading to new demands, particularly among the girls. Depending on salutogenic approach and using evidence-based methodology, three units are working with child and adolescent mental health in Duhok, the CMH for education and research, the Duhok Mental Health Center for diagnoses and treatment, and the private Metin Health House for curative and preventive maternal and child mental health system.

**Professor Ata Ghaderi,  
Ph.D.**



Professor Ata Ghaderi was born in Mahabad, Iran, in 1967. From 1990, he started his studies in psychology in Sweden, and earned his MS and Ph.D. at Uppsala University at 1996, and 2001 respectively. After post-doc studies abroad, he became an associate professor of clinical psychology in 2003 at Uppsala University and accepted a position as a senior lecturer until the end of 2010. Currently, he is a professor of psychology at the same university. As of September 2011, he is the author of 40 peer-reviewed paper, 2 editorial papers, 3 books and 8 book chapters. He is also ad-hoc reviewer for more than 25 journals, associate editor of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and a member of editorial board of several other journals.

**Promoting Health and Preventing Illness, Not Only Treating Diseases: Designing an Effective Healthcare System in Kurdistan**

**Objective:** To increase awareness about the role of prevention in designing an effective healthcare system in Kurdistan.

**Background:** Treatment of psychological and psychiatric disorders will never be more cost-effective than prevention. Nevertheless, much more resources are spent on treatment than prevention, mainly due to short-term plans with a budget of no more than 2-4 years, allowing focus on almost only treatment of severe disorders. Industrial countries are now investing significantly more on prevention than earlier, and current body of knowledge provides a golden opportunity for Kurdistan to design a more integrated system of health care focusing not only on the treatment of diseases and disorders, but also on preventing illness and promoting health.

**Methods:** Review of literature based on randomized controlled trials (RCT), as well as our own ongoing RCTs on prevention of different psychological disorders and conditions (e.g., depression, anxiety, eating disorders, suicide ideation, etc.) as well as studies on promotion of health (e.g., parent management training).

**Results:** The current body of knowledge shows that a significant number of prevention programs are effective (in terms of efficacy and effectiveness) in promoting health and preventing illness as well as disease.

**Conclusions:** Prevention interventions should be integrated into the healthcare system in Kurdistan to build a sustainable and cost-effective system that promotes health and prevents illness in addition to treating diseases. For Kurdistan, initial steps might be using radio, TV and other media to implement general preventive programs, which aim to increase awareness and establish healthy habits and behaviors. Indicated preventive programs aiming at specific behavioral change on group or individual level should be provided as part of the healthcare system. Long-term healthcare plans with adequate budget, well-trained professionals, availability of relevant educations, and a scientific methodology with careful evaluation and follow-ups are necessary building blocks of such a system.

## **Heja Sindi, Ph.D.**



Professor Heja Sindi teaches at the Department of Business and Management Sciences, at the University of Kurdistan Hawler, Kurdistan. He holds a PhD in Business Administration, 2005 and is a Fellow of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, at Syracuse University, USA, 2009. Was Head of Department of Commerce & Banking Sciences, at the University of Dohuk, 2006-2007. Advisor to different public and private sector organizations in Kurdistan and international organizations like USAID and United Nations he has also managed his own NGO.

Is a Member of the Iraqi Economists Association, Baghdad and member of the Kurdistan Economists Syndicate. His latest research has been on Human Resources Management in Kurdistan Hospitals, presented at The International Congress on Reform and Development of Health Care in Kurdistan Region-Iraq, 2011.

### **Developing a 'Kurdistanian Diaspora Intellectual Model and Policy': A Public Management Perspective**

**Problem Statement:** The lack of a well defined policy on Kurdistan Region's level to embrace the intellectual capacity of the Kurdistanian Diaspora has led to mal-utilization of this capacity/resource on the aggregate level. However, only poor and probably personal networking or interaction has led to some relocation practices of this capacity into the public and private sector structures in Kurdistan. Not to mention, a non few number of these attempts could even be described as barely successful due to different administrative and cultural reasons.

**Objective Statement:** To investigate the challenges and potential of developing a model and a policy to well utilize the kurdistanian Diaspora capacity in case of a utilization strategy.

**Theory (Literature review):** This paper will adopt a public management approach and organizational theories which will pave the road for the subsequent methods and analysis section. This section will introduce general organizational concepts of both public and private sector then take the material into a more Kurdistan applied streamline relevant to the Human resources, administrative laws, job analysis and descriptions, compensation schemes and other career development prospects in Kurdistan.

**Data Collection and Analysis:** A number of relevant data collection and survey tools are used based on a rational understanding and relevancy of the stated problem and objectives, these would be: Content Analysis for texts /documents, interviews with samples of Diasporas who have gained KSA (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities) and samples of involved local employers. Substance of these tools will be emphasizing on the challenges and potentials of relocating the Diaspora in the organizational culture and how can the Diaspora effectively contribute in developing the region via such structures characterized as being 'old bureaucratic silos' Benchmarking best practices of other countries and communities will be considered with possible adaptations.

**Expected Results and conclusion**

1. A list of defined potentials and challenges associating the experiences of individual Diaspora relocation into different public and private bodies and structures inside the region
2. a draft policy paper for how to attract and sustain the kurdistanian Diaspora capacity and intellectual capital.

**Dr. Abdulkadir Hadi  
Hasan**



DR ABDULKADIR HADI  
HASAN consultant  
radiologist and chief of  
clinical radiology at  
Buckinghamshire health  
care NHS Trust- UK.

Formally clinical director  
of Buckinghamshire Breast screening programme  
since 1997. He held a similar position in Scotland  
plus senior lecture position in Ninewells Medical  
School- Dundee. His main interest is breast cancer  
and breast cancer screening. Dr Hasan contributed  
to postgraduate education in Kurdistan since 1993  
and holding Honorary assistant professor of  
Radiology with Salahadin University since 1994.  
Hesupervised two PhD degrees and several MSC  
degrees in clinical radiology in Hawler and  
Sulaimania universities. Currently, he is a  
memmber of Kurdistan Board of Medical  
Specialization - radiology section. Dr Hasan born  
in Rawanduz 1955, Graduated from Mosul  
University Medical college 1978. He moved to  
Britain 1985 and obtained his Ph.D at the  
department of Surgery Glasgow University  
1988 Then FRCR from Royal college of  
Radiologists in London 1991. Dr Hasan is also  
active member of excutive board of KMSF-UK.

**Breast Cancer Screening Program for  
Kurdistan**

**INTRODUCTION:** Although there is no accurate  
data about the prevalence of Breast Cancer in  
Kurdistan due to lack of a formal cancer registry  
system, many practicing senior doctors believe  
that its incidence is on the rise. More importantly  
the current diagnostic approach to this condition is  
not structured, random and fragmented. The  
therapeutic options are limited and disorganised.  
Majority of women suffering from this condition  
receive less than satisfactory treatment.

**AIMS & METHOD:** An expert team of breast  
surgeons, oncologists, pathologists and breast  
screening expert looked at the cultural and  
demographic structure of Iraqi Kurdistan and  
designed an ideal programme for Kurdistan based  
on the modern standards in Europe. Project  
describes the rationale behind breast cancer  
screening programme, the advantages and risks.  
Multidisciplinary team has designed a detailed  
administrative, diagnostic and therapeutic  
structure for the programme.

**RESULTS:** We get a great public health  
programme for the women of Kurdistan which  
will be a model service in the Middle East. The  
project will create new jobs for young generation  
of medics and nurses plus great opportunity for  
research in Kurdish health service

**CONCLUSION:** Kurdish women shared the  
struggle of the nation over the past dark years and  
now the society is in a position to reward this  
sector their basic health rights.

## Dr. Pary Karadaghi

Dr. Pary Karadaghi is the Executive Director of Kurdish Human Rights Watch (KHRW).

Dr. Karadaghi is noted for outstanding leadership, particularly regarding refugees and Iraqi women's equality, medical care for families and children, and socially and economically self-sufficient refugees and communities. Under her leadership, KHRW's mission is to empower refugees in the United States to become visionary leaders and contributing members of society. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from Bucharest School of Medicine, Romania in 1984. She served as a consultant to Georgetown University on Kurdish and Iraqi issues in 1992. She completed post-doctoral studies in Grenoble, France and a post-doctoral research fellowship at Georgetown University in 1989.

Dr. Karadaghi has authored several research papers published in the *Journal of Psychiatry* and other journals, including *Assessing War Trauma in Refugees Properties of Comprehensive Inventory*, *Comparative Studies of Refugees' Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Vietnamese, Iraqi and Kurdish Refugees*, and *The Kurds: Refugees in their Own Land, in Amidst Peril and Pain: The Mental Health and Well-being of the World's Refugees* (American Psychological Association). Her research experience and post-doctoral fellowship in the mental health of refugees has helped in providing refugees and immigrants who have suffered trauma with adequate services. Dr. Karadaghi is currently working on a research study with Wayne State University, Michigan on the impact of war and trauma on Iraqi refugees in the US. 08).



Dr. Karadaghi frequently gives presentations on Kurdish and Iraqi people and refugees' plight and future on television news, Public Radio, CNN, Nightline, the Voice of America, and other media. She also gives public lectures and workshops to further educate the public on statelessness, internally displaced persons, Iraqi, Iranian and Kurdish refugees.

Dr. Karadaghi's many awards include the Top Ten Nationwide Most Resourceful Women Distinction Award (1992), the Tides Foundation Award for Human Rights (1992), the Shaler Adams Award on Human Rights (1993, 1995), the Women of Distinction Award in Human Rights (2001), Leadership Award in NGO Humanitarian Work in Iraq (2003, 2005, 2007) and the Human Rights Award from the Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraq (20

**Marianna Charountaki,  
Ph.D.**

Marianna Charountaki completed her PhD in the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter.

Now an independent scholar working in Athens, Greece, her research interests range from International Relations and foreign policy analysis to the international relations of the broader Middle East. In 2010 she published *The Kurds and US Foreign Policy: International Relations in the Middle East since 1945*.



**US- Kurdish Relations in the Middle East since 1945**

The paper is based on the book “*The Kurds and US foreign policy: International Relations in the Middle East since 1945*” which investigates the role of the Kurds in US foreign policy from World War II until the Iraqi War (March 2003) and its aftermath.

Starting from the hypothesis of whether there is such a thing as a US–Kurdish relationship, it identifies a) which Kurds were connected with the United States, b) whether the United States has so far developed any Kurdish policy, with the aim of revealing the implications of this inter-relationship both into theory and in practice and finally c) the stages of any observed inter-relationship.

Placing the Kurdish Issue at the center of the analysis, the Kurdish Issue’s dual nature is revealed by paying particular attention to the role of the Kurds as a ‘non-state’ actor in their regional and international relations, especially in the link with the US.

Thus, the paper explores the extent of the Kurds’ impact on regional and international politics as well as the extent to which their interaction with the United States over developments in the area transformed them into a considerable player in their own right. On this basis, light will be shed on Kurdish relations with the regional states of residence as well as with the US. Such relations are still in an ongoing process, with the dynamic though of affecting regional and international foreign policies and politics, i.e. as a significant force behind the implementation of US foreign policy strategy in the region.

Final conclusions and future prospects suggest that non-state actors have a more important and more direct role in the dynamics of International Relations (and not just of states’ foreign policies) than has generally been recognized in the IR literature.

## **Deborah Morgan-Jones**

Deborah Morgan-Jones is an Affiliate member of the London Middle East Institute/SOAS. M.A studies; Humanities/Open Undergraduate studies; Applied Theology (BA Hons) Regents

Theological College/University of Wales. Graduate; Visual Communications and Media (BA Hons) University of Brighton. She has worked for International Brand & Marketing Consultancies. British Association of Counsellors & Psychotherapists trained Counsellor. An active Community and International Missions worker from 2008-present.



### **Establishment of ‘Greater Kurdistan’ and Consolidation of National Identity: A Strategic ‘Brand Building’ Programme**

Brand components being people as the greatest asset and culture, tradition, history, beliefs, vision, values, mission and resources forming the remainder.

Where are we now? Where do we want to be?  
How do we get there?

Objective to align vision, mission and values of key stakeholders, opinion formers and opinion makers. Brand consultants to gather internal and external perceptions of ‘Where are we (Kurdistan) now?’ with consideration to Political, Economic, Sociological, Technological factors. Using qualitative (peer group workshops) and quantitative (questionnaires) research methodology with stakeholders including activists, business and domestic communities, government, education, economists, media, religious groups and sociologists, to highlight disparities between the ‘actual’ and the ‘perceived’.

Vision Statement to be formed from research and built into strategic plans with emergent tactical programmes. Appointment of International lobbyists and PR Consultants to forge relationships with International community and media. The Nation exists in the hearts, minds and ideology of the Kurds with no geographical statehood. A passionate solidarity born out of a culture of marginalisation and suffering will necessitate skilful direction in the transition to a national identity of dignity, pride and world-class. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats need to be identified. Is a ‘locally adjusted’ Kurdistan as an overall brand with sub-brands possible? Currently a Nation within Nations already owning distinctive identities. Historically clans, traditions, ‘successor’ and hegemonies have prevailed in leadership methods but contemporary styles will be necessary to implement the shared Vision. Internal buy in is the foundation of a robust brand. External launch would aim to attract exceptional professionals, employees, educationalists, consultants, advisors, inward and external investment. Tourism will be a major economical factor and marketing opportunity to secure growth and build identity in the global marketplace. The brand essence will need to be coherently communicated to all audiences with key messages and distinction.

**Soheila Ghaderi-  
Mameli, Ph.D.**

Soheila Ghaderi-Mamel,  
Ph.D. in "*History of  
International relations*"  
University Paris I  
Panthéon-Sorbonne, 1997.

Her thesis subject was:  
"Which borders for the  
Middle East? Borders of the Contracting States  
born of Asian part of the Ottoman Empire 1913-  
1939."

Independent Researcher in international Relations  
of the Middle East. She participates in  
international conferences and awareness  
campaigns on the situation of Kurdish, Iraqi,  
Afghani, Iranian and French women. She  
currently works for the Association des Cités du  
Secours Catholique, Director of Social Centre for  
Women with Children, Arnouville. She worked  
for France Libertés, Fondation Danielle  
Mitterrand, Paris, 1998-2006.



**The Role of Kurdish Women in the Struggle  
for Freedom and their Impact in  
Contemporary Kurdish Society**

The Kurdish national movement appeared at the  
end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th  
century and its principal aim is the creation of an  
independent Kurdish State. The role of education  
in the mother tongue was considered as major in  
the building of the nation. The women, as mothers  
and teachers, became the agents of transmission of  
the Kurdish language to the children. The  
instruction of women and girls took place in the  
context of national education. During the 20th  
century, Kurdish women took part in the national  
struggle for freedom. They supported the national  
conflict and participated in the nation's war  
against the oppressive regimes. They have been  
considered supporters not players.

In the late 20th century, Kurdish women took  
arms and participated actively in the armed  
conflict alongside Kurdish men. Does Kurdish  
« feminist nationalism » contribute to the struggle  
for women rights in Kurdistan? Should it be  
considered as negative in the process of  
"liberation" of Kurdish women?

The realisation of Kurdistan is the greatest  
challenge facing the Kurds in the first half of the  
21st century, while Kurdish women are facing  
several levels of oppression: national, social,  
religious, sexual and patriarchal. How do we  
evaluate Kurdish women's role and place in this  
challenge? What special problems are they  
facing? Is Kurdish society ready to engage  
reforms in its mentality and rules to make women  
equal to men?

The recent events in the Arab countries have  
shown that in the Islamic and traditional societies,  
there is no place for women and their claim for  
equal rights as recognised by the Human Rights  
Declaration and the United Nations charter. If  
Kurds decide to be part of the international  
democratic society, the new challenge for them is  
to recognise women rights on the basis of  
universal values.

## Gissou Nia

Gissou Nia obtained a bachelors degree in Political Science from the University of California – Los Angeles in 2003 and completed her *juris doctorate* degree at the Rutgers School of Law – Camden in 2006.



From 2007 to 2010 Ms. Nia worked on war crimes trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, The Netherlands. Following her tenure at the Tribunal, Ms. Nia worked as a legal analyst at the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center based in New Haven, CT. In that capacity, she interviewed 70+ Kurds subjected to human rights abuses by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ms. Nia currently works on one of the "Ocampo 6" cases -- involving allegations of post-election violence in Kenya in 2008 -- at the International Criminal Court. She has written extensively on issues of international criminal law and Iran's human rights record. Her writings have appeared in academic works published by Oxford University Press, Intersentia, and Sweet & Maxwell and on CNN.com's opinion page and the Huffington Post.

### **Challenges in Documenting Human Rights Violations against Kurdish Populations and Potential Legal Avenues for Redress**

The documentation of human rights abuses affecting systematically victimized populations presents a raft of challenges for researchers and investigators working in the field. Some of these challenges—such as the exigencies of working in a politically charged environment, the breakdown of state and civil institutions that specialize in record-keeping, and the difficulties in obtaining the trust of survivors to share their account of events—are common to almost all victimized groups in conflict and post-conflict situations

However documenting the plight of the Kurdish population in the Middle East presents specific and discrete challenges in the information-gathering exercise. These challenges can largely be attributed to i) the unique geographical and political status of the Kurds in the region and the resulting lack of unbiased state institutions geared to preserving history; ii) cultural practices stemming from a history of oppression that have traditionally discouraged record keeping, or at a minimum have not supported it; iii) linguistic challenges that make a shared common history difficult to record in a credible and consistent manner and other socio-political factors specific to the Kurdish context.

The lack of readily available public source information, as well as the contradictions and gaps in accounts of the human rights violations perpetrated against the Kurdish population in Iran following the 1979 Revolution demonstrate some of these challenges and the effects on the information-gathering exercise vis a vis the Kurdish plight. Raised awareness of these issues and increased resources dedicated to preserving witness accounts and historical records is paramount in safeguarding the rights of the minority Kurdish population in the rapidly transforming Middle East region.

In addition to information-gathering, another important component of protecting the rights of the Kurdish minority populations in the transitioning states of the Middle East region is adequate representation and participation in transitional justice mechanisms, international criminal proceedings, and other potential avenues for legal redress under principles of “universality” in national jurisdictions. For example, the relatively limited focus on the injustices perpetrated against the Kurds in the case against Saddam Hussein at the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal should not be repeated. While crimes committed against the Kurds prior to the year 2002 do not fall under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, Kurdish civil society groups and human rights institutions should be alive to the possibility that abuses against Kurds in the ongoing Syrian context may potentially be brought before the Court in the event of a United Nations Security referral.

## **Ava Homa**

Ava Homa is author of *Echoes from the Other Land* which was just nominated for the world's largest short story award: 2011 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. Ava is a



Kurdish-Canadian, writer-in-exile, with two Masters' degrees one in English and Creative Writing, another in English Language and Literature. *Echoes from the Other Land* has a running theme of resistance by modern Iranian women under an oppressive regime. The stories are told on a universal scale, depicting human endurance, desire and passion. Ava's writings have appeared in English, Kurdish and Farsi journals, as well as the *Windsor Review* and the *Toronto Star* newspaper. She was a writer in Iran, and university faculty member. In Toronto, Ava writes and teaches Creative Writing and English at George Brown College.

## **Recovery through Creative Expression in Kurdistan**

"The pen is mightier than the pill," (Bower, 1999) Alfred Lange, a clinical psychologist in Amsterdam has published studies of working with people who had used structured writing to overcome trauma and symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (Lange 1994, 1996). Painting, music and handicrafts have proven to help reduce anxiety and promote positive psychological emotions. By stimulating mind, creative expression creates pleasure and satisfaction in the patrons. These effects can help individual with what Antonovsky names Sense of Coherence (SOC). Individuals with higher SOC will come up with the best coping strategies to deal with stressful situation (Dilani 2011).

After years of being exposed to violence: unearthing mass graves, witnessing loved ones die in a chemical attack or being abducted by government soldiers, the surviving but traumatized Kurds need creative expressions in form of literature and art to help youth and adult equally to recover stressful experiences. The freedom and release individuals can find in creative expression is an affective form of therapy. Mental health care professionals agree that one of the most helpful ways to work through mourning is to express grief in a creative form to represent inner experience, develop awareness and support personal change. Adding creative expression workshops to Kurdistan schools, libraries and community centers help transform lives, instill happiness and above and beyond that enrich Kurdish art and culture.

Keywords: Creative Expression, Trauma, Sense of Coherence, Art Therapy, Writing Therapy

## **Taha Barwary**

### **Taha Barwary, former Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government**

Mr. Taha Barwary is from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Mr. Barwary has dedicated his entire life to the struggle of the Kurdish people. His special area of interest is the empowerment and involvement of young people and their aspirations and development as the key for a prosperous Kurdistan. Mr. Barwary was a member of the Iraqi National Congress from 1992-2002, the Iraqi opposition network group against the regime of Saddam Hussein. He has been representing KDP in Sweden for many years. Studying political science at Stockholm University. He became the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Representative to the Nordic countries from 1999-2009. In 2006, he was named the KRG's first ever Minister of Sports and Youth (MOSY).



### **The Experience of the Kurdistan Regional Government Nordic Representation**

This summary describes the successful experience, challenges, and opportunities of the Kurdistan Regional Government Nordic Representation.

Mr. Taha Barwary served as the KRG representative from 1999-2009. During these years the representation office focused mainly on areas such as; political, diplomatic, consular, public diplomacy, and lobbying.

The most successful achievement of the office was the very promising cooperation between the Nordic states and the KRG in many areas such as politics, education, capacity building, women rights and culture.

The concept of the annual Kurd Gala was one of the outstanding projects that attracted many Kurds and other guests as awards were given each year to the most outstanding Kurd and Friend of the Kurds. The event was promoted and strengthened first in Sweden with great media attention, and was later implemented in Norway and Denmark.

Another huge success of the KRG Nordic Representation was reaching out to the Kurdish youth through a network that was created by young Kurdish people in Sweden with support of the KRG Nordic Representation. The KRG Nordic Representation became a neutral meeting place, a Kurdish "embassy" that gave attention to the interests of young Kurdish people, regardless of political and religious affiliation.

During the KRG Nordic's ten years of work developments rapidly improved in the Kurdistan Region. At the same time, the many challenges that the KRG Representation offices worldwide experienced lessened as ties between the Region and many of the world's countries, among them the Nordic countries, clearly strengthened. This enabled even more bilateral relations and policy exchanges than previously possible.

## Bayar Dosky, Ph.D.



Dr. Dosky is a lecturer and researcher in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Duhok and Researcher at the Research Center in Erbil. He has a Ph.D. in Modern History —Middle East specialty— from the University of Mosul. Also holds an MA in the same specialty from the University of Duhok. He has published: *British Policy Towards Turkey and its Impact in Kurdistan*, in Arabic and Kurdish (2006, 2010), *Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan: Two Hesitant Neighbors*, in Arabic and Kurdish (2008, 2009), *Kurdish Question in U.S. Policy Towards Turkey* (2009), and *Immoral Partnership: U.S., Turkey & War on PKK* in Arabic (ready for publication). He has published numerous articles on Kurdish issues and Turkish Affairs.

### Education as an Instrument of Policy: The Case of Turkey and KRG"

"Ignoring Kurds" has been the official policy of Turkey until the 1990's. However, dramatic developments have pushed Turkey to change its policy. Currently, Turkey still has important problems with Kurds in Turkey; but the relation with the Kurds in south Kurdistan has been developing day by day- as a honeymoon in Turkish-Kurdish relations. How and why has this happened? This paper will review the subject of new Turkish policy trends towards the KRG, analyzing the educational and scientific dimensions of that policy with the increasing numbers of Turkish schools, universities and educational institutions in the cities of the region. It will discuss also the dimensions of this process, whether it was planned as part of the containment policy of Kurdish nationalism, through the dissemination of education of the Turkish language and culture which has continued for a century instead of using military means. Or are they only a result of the policy of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) initiative of "openness" towards the Kurds.

## Simko Destan, MA



Simko Destan is finishing his MA in History, Society and Territories of the World, Near and Middle East, specialty Kurdish in Paris at INALCO (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales). He has a BA in Languages, Culture and Societies of the World, section Eurasia from the same university. His work focuses on the medieval period of Kurdish history, and in particular the Ottoman-Safevid period. He is also a translator and corrector at the monthly newspaper *Le Monde diplomatique Kurdi*.

### From Margins to Center: Symbolic Representations of Kurds by Others and by Themselves, and the Rise of Kurdish Self-Awareness

The purpose of this article will be to show how Kurds were always, throughout their history, represented as a group on the margins of imperial, transnational societies. This trend was, in particular, further reinforced during the Islamic Middle Ages period of history, when it was firmly established, a fact which is accounted for in numerous works by Islamic historians and geographers. Whilst physically on the margins of the empire, they were thus symbolically construed as being on the margins of Islam and Islamic society.

It is generally agreed that in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, a kind of « Kurdish proto-nationalism » has emerged in some parts at least of Kurdistan. Informing our discussion by an analysis of a prominent Kurdish book of the time, Mîr Sharaf's *Sharafnama*, we will discuss how this gave momentum to a rise in the sense of Kurdish awareness amidst Kurdish elites of the time. Indeed, it can be viewed as an attempt to replace the Kurdish representations by others with a Kurdish self-representation that moves the Kurdish group from the margins to the center, both physically and symbolically. Analyzing Kurdish history in this new light by emphasizing the margins/center dichotomy can give rise to a new understanding of Kurdish history, as well as the history of the region. Finally, the permanence and reemergence of these old representations of Kurds by their Turkish, Persian and Arabic neighbors in the 20<sup>th</sup> century will also be discussed. We will thus demonstrate the need for a new recentring of Kurdish self-representation, and conclude our paper by examining some ways and methods by which Kurdish social scientists could help this recentring to take place.

## **Boyan Hadzhiev, Ph.D Student**



Boyan Hadzhiev is a PhD student and assistant professor in the University of National and World Economy in Sofia. He graduated with masters degree in "National and International Security" from the Defense Academy in Sofia.

His thesis was "Iraqi Kurdistan - Factors of Stability". During his bachelor studies in "International Relations", he wrote about the scope of Kurdish struggle for independence. His focus are Kurdish history and contemporary development of Kurdistan. In 2010 he spoke about Kurdish problems at The Annual Conference "Security and Defense Policy – Current Problems of National and International Security" in the Defense Academy "G.S. Rakovski" in Sofia.

### **A Lesson from the Bulgarian Transition: The Consequences of Belittling the Educational System**

The Bulgarian transition has been relatively successful from a political point of view, but has had many economic and social problems. Bulgaria experienced severe economic difficulties in the transition, such as high inflation, banking crisis, growing domestic debt, structural reforms delay, privatization moved slowly bound by corruption and bureaucracy, poor business climate and investment capital shortage. We were unable to build a dialogue between different political forces to achieve a consensus on a long-term policy in dealing with problems. The policy makers pursued short terms results without long term vision and strategy. In this complex economic situation and the efforts to cope with economic hardships, the education system seemed to be forgotten. It turns out to be a major factor for the poor results over the long term successful policy.

Problems in the education system include:

1. Lack of strategy, clear vision and stability. The crisis manifests in reform suspension and in the absence of public debate.
2. The education system didn't get a national recognition as a priority. The role of education has been underestimated as a factor for the development of the Bulgarian state.
3. The necessary financial resources for the development of education system have not been ensured.
4. The attempts for legal basis improvement remained sporadic, they weren't turn in a working process.
5. No social mechanisms for quality control of education were established.

Failure in maintaining quality education system had a huge impact on the rising unemployment and emigration. Bulgarian politicians were unable to understand that the duly, accountable policy towards the young people is vital. It was perhaps the crucial blunder in the Bulgarian transition.

## **Shareef Shareef, Bsc**



Shareef holds a BSc in Physics from Mousel University, Iraq, 1990 and an MSc in Digital Communications Networks from London Metropolitan University, 2005.

He worked as an expert in ICT Centre at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 2007. He joined the School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering at the University of East London as a part time lecturer and a Ph.D. student in 2009. His research focuses on E-government. He has published various papers and participated in reviewing various conferences. He is a member of professional bodies in his area of specialisation, such as IET. He became a Fellow of Higher Education Academy in the UK in 2011.

### **Cultivating Transparency and Trust by Adopting E-Government Model in Regional Governments in Developing Countries: The Case of Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI)**

Shareef Shareef, Hamid Jahankhani, Elias Pimenidis, and

Johnnes Arreymbi

Information and communication technology can be considered as a vital enabler towards the development of any society. With the majority of countries across the globe having embraced new technologies and having connections to the internet and the World Wide Web, more and more governments nowadays (be it national or local) look at engaging these technologies in an effort to improve the way they offer services to citizens. Some do so in order to enhance the channels through which they communicate and interact with their citizens, while others look forward to improving the efficiency of delivery of services and consequently introduce savings in the utilisation of resources that could be diverted in creating additional value adding initiatives. However, most of the developing countries endure from lack of transparency, accountability, and trust. E-government has the potential to reduce corruption by improving the services to their citizens, as a consequence will increase trust in government. This paper aims to propose an e-government stage model for regional governments in developing countries. It describes the implementation process from fundamental, social inclusion, and towards integrated government. This is accomplished by analysing various e-government stage models in literature to identify its limitations and success factors. The research findings revealed that most of e-government models might not be suitable for regional government in developing countries, as their readiness not as those in developed countries. In addition, there is lack of general frame of reference for e-government model. This is because, most of e-government stage models are not comprehensive, and each model is suitable for a particular state's objectives.

**Keywords:** KRG, KRI, E-government stage model, social inclusion, integration.