

Visiting Speaker Series

The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies is
pleased to present a talk by esteemed academic

Dr Cengiz Gunez, The Open University

"Kurdish Resurgence in the Middle East and its Regional Impact"

Wednesday, 11 January 2017, 5.15 pm

LT1, IAIS Building, Streatham Campus, Exeter EX4 4ND

Tea & Coffee to be served from 4.30 pm in the Common Room,
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

All are welcome – no registration required.



This talk will examine the Kurds' rise as regional actors in the Middle East and the impact this is having on the regional order. Kurdish political activism has reached a new height in the beginning of the 21st Century with Kurdish movements in Iraq, Turkey and Syria establishing themselves as important political actors to become a significant force in the domestic politics of these states.

The consolidation of Kurdish autonomy in Iraq and the establishment of a Kurdish *de facto* autonomous region within Syria is adding to the Kurds' growing influence in the region and enabling Kurds to forge stronger relations with regional and international forces.

As the Middle East is undergoing a tremendous process of transformation and with the conflict and civil war in Syria and Iraq continuing to ravage the power and authority of these states, a question to be asked is will the Kurds be a new force in the region? Will an independent Kurdish state emerge in the Middle East?

Cengiz Gunes completed his PhD at the Ideology and Discourse Analysis Research Programme, the Department of Government, University of Essex. Currently he works as an Associate Lecturer at the Open University, UK.