

# Visiting Speaker Series

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

## Kawa Hassan, MENA Program, East-West Institute, Brussels

### *"Neither Reform, Nor Revolution: Kurdistan's Crippling Paralysis"*

Wednesday, 18 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.



After almost a decade of boom from 2005 to 2013 thanks to its share of the federal budget, foreign and domestic investment, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) faces its most severe economic crisis since 1991. The triggers for this economic malaise are the following: a dramatic drop in oil prices, the influx of 1.8 million Iraqi IDPs and Syrian refugees and the war against ISIS.

Yet the root cause of the crisis lies in politics rather than economics. When oil prices were high, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)

structurally mismanaged the oil and gas sector. It lacked a vision and plan to utilise properly oil incomes and diversify the economy.

The presidential and parliamentary paralysis continue. The ruling parties, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), acknowledge the need for and have announced reforms.

I argue they are incapable and unwilling to implement real reforms since meaningful change will impact vested interests of ruling elites and their cronies.