



Today is June 10, 2015 Day Week Month All Events

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Contact Info:

James Hopkins
jhopkins@law.upenn.eduChelsea Fish
Chelsea.fish@law.upenn.edu

The Future of Iraq: A Fractured Nation and A Refugee Crisis

Time: 10:00am - 1:30pm

Location: Silverman 240A

Brendan O'Leary, University of Pennsylvania Lauder Professor of Political Science, an expert in Middle East politics, human rights, and a former constitutional consultant to the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government, will deliver a lecture on the current drivers of the crisis and the future of Iraq. He will be followed by a student-moderated panel of resettled refugees and former IRAP clients. Breakfast and Lunch will be served.

Twelve years and two wars later, the future of Iraq and Kurdistan seems more uncertain than ever. The U.S. invasion, ISIS, and multiple sectarian conflicts have left the fractured Iraq and left its fledgling government in turmoil, affecting the lives of millions. Will Iraq survive as a politically intact nation? What are the implications for the semi-autonomous northern region of Kurdistan? And what will become of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi and Kurdish refugees forced to flee their homes and livelihoods?

Agenda

10:00 – 10:30 – Breakfast

10:30 – 11:30 – *"The state of Kurdistan and the State of Kurdistan"*

Brendan O'Leary, Lauder Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, will provide an overview of the current state of Kurdish politics in Iraq, Syria and Turkey, with a special focus on the Kurds of Iraq. He will also review the state of Iraq's Constitution, ten years after he was one of the Kurdistan Regional Government's four key international advisors in its negotiation and design.

11:30 – 12:30 – *"Narratives from the Crisis: the Refugee Experience"*

Featuring Mohammad "Saber Rock" Naseeri, a decorated interpreter for the U.S. Army in Afghanistan who was resettled to the U.S. under the Special Immigrant Visa program; Manar, a transgender refugee who escaped the civil war in Iraq through Lebanon before resettlement to the U.S.; and Farah Al-Khafaji, an Iraqi entrepreneur whose life was threatened as a result of her engineering firm's work with the U.S. military.

12:30 – 1:30 – Lunch and Reception

Free!

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