

Workshop: The Challenges and Future Prospects of

Mosul and its Environs

February 23, 2019

Speakers' Biographies

Othman Ali, an Iraqi born scholar who is a Professor of Modern History and politics of Kurds at Salahaddin University in Erbil. He is currently a research fellow at the Middle East Institute at Sakarya University. He earned his masters and Ph. D degrees from the University of Toronto – Canada. He has written extensively on modern Kurdish history and politics in Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. Dr. Ali, has also co-authored, with the late Ahmed Essa, the Professor of Islamic Studies at Berkeley University in the US, a standard work titled *Studies in Islamic Civilization: The Muslim Contribution to the Renaissance published in 2010*, which has been translated into Turkish and many European languages.

Richard Falk is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of International Law and Practice Emeritus, Princeton University and currently a Distinguished Research Fellow, at Orfalea Center of Global Studies, UCSB. He was UN Special Rapporteur for Occupied Palestine, 2008- 2014. In 2017 Dr. Falk co-authored a UN report entitled “Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and Question of Apartheid” that generated controversy and widespread discussion. He is Senior Vice President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. In 2018 he was Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Institute of State Crime, Queen Mary’s University London, UK and Visiting Professor at International College, Torino, Italy. In 1972 he published *This Endangered Planet: Prospects and Proposals for Human Survival* (1972). His most recent book is *Revisiting the Vietnam War: The Selected Writing of Richard Falk*, ed. Stefan Andersson (2017). Other recent books are *Humanitarian Intervention and Legitimacy Wars* (2014), *Palestine: The Legitimacy of Hope* (2015), *Chaos & Counterrevolution: After the Arab Spring* (2015), *Power Shift: On the New Global Order* (2016); *Waiting for Rainbows* (poetry) (2016); *Palestine’s Horizon: Towards a Just Peace* (2017). In recognition of his work in the area of human rights, Euro Med Monitor has created an annual ‘Falk Award’ given to young refugees that overcome the challenges of their status. Falk has been annually nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize since 2009.

Ershat Hürmüzlü graduated from the Law School of Baghdad University. He received a diploma in Business and Insurance also from Baghdad University. Dr. Hürmüzlü worked in the Baghdad Radio and prepared programs on Turkish Literature. He also received a diploma in the German language from Murnau-Germany. He served as General Manager for several companies in the Middle East. Dr. Hürmüzlü published six books in Turkish, Arabic and English on Turkish History and Middle East Affairs and translated four books. Dr. Hürmüzlü was appointed as Senior Advisor of the President of Turkey for the Middle East in 2008, as well as acted as the special envoy for the President. During his seven- year tenure, Dr. Hürmüzlü gave many presentations at many conferences, published several papers in fifteen Arab countries as well as several European countries He was interviewed by numerous TV stations over 150 times. Dr. Hürmüzlü has been elected as the General Secretary of the International Arab-Turkish Dialogue Platform, which is an institution founded by a Ministerial Decree. He also writes for several Arab and Turkish Papers.

Dr. Alan M. Noory received his MA and Ph.D. degrees in Political Science from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, (US) in 2008 and 2012 respectively. He also received M.Sc. in Economics from Salahaddin University, Iraq in 1996. Dr. Noory has taught a wide range of courses in political science, sociology, business and law in multiple public and private universities in Iraq. He held multiple administrative positions in a private university in Iraq including as the Vice President of Academic Affairs. His main Research areas is the investigation of the role of modern Iraq's land tenure structure in generating mass violence, and support for identity-based violent political mobilization in post-2003 Iraq. His research Interests include, Iraq's Socio-Political History, Identity Politics in the Middle East, Land Tenure Conflicts, and the Economics of Civil Peace. He presented many papers in international conferences at the Middle Eastern Studies Association (US), Society for Anthropology of North America (US), and International Studies Association (US). He is a frequent political commentator with Iraqi and Arab TVs and newspapers.

Mehmet Akif Okur is a graduate of Boğaziçi University, Department of Political Science and International Relations. He completed his master's and doctorate at Gazi University, where he worked as an lecturer for many years. Currently, he is the Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Yıldız Technical University. His books include “Emperyalizm, Hegemonya, İmparatorluk: Tarihsel Dünya Düzenleri ve Irak’ın İşgali” (Imperialism, Hegemony, Empire: Historical World Schemes and Occupation of Iraq) and “Yeni Çağın Eşiğinden Avrasya’nın Kalbine Bakmak” (Looking to the Heart of Eurasia through the Threshold of the New Age). His main areas of research include Turkish Foreign Policy, US Foreign Policy, Middle East and History and Civilization Studies.

Michael Provence is Professor, Department of History, University of California, San Diego. He has been a visiting assistant professor in the AUB Department of History and Archaeology, an Alexander von Humboldt senior fellow at the Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, and a fellow at the Institut d’Etudes Avancées de Nantes, France. He was educated at the University of Chicago and the University of California, Berkeley, and spent long periods living in Damascus, where he studied at Damascus University, and Beirut. He has written two books, The Great Syrian Revolt, (2005, Arabic 2012) and The Last Ottoman Generation and the Making of the Modern Middle East, (2017), and many articles on the late Ottoman and colonial Arab East of the early twentieth century.
