

# IRAQ After 2003

When Trauma Becomes Art.  
Myth, History, and Literature

23 - 24 September 2021  
Rome

Dipartimento  
Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali

Edificio Marco Polo  
(Circonvallazione Tiburtina 4)  
3° piano, Sala riunioni 1

Keynote Speaker  
Sinan Antoon

Zoom link: [uniroma1.zoom.us/j/83836688774](https://uniroma1.zoom.us/j/83836688774)



Manuscript, gouache on paper by Dia Azzawi (1980).

## Scientific committee

Ada Barbaro (*Sapienza, Roma*)

Gennaro Gervasio (*Università degli studi RomaTre*)

Ibrahim Al-Marashi (*California State University San Marcos*)



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23<sup>rd</sup> September

09:30 – 10:00 **Institutional Greetings**

**Franco D'Agostino (Head of Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali)**

10:00 – 11:40 **The Literary Field – Poetry**

**Chair: Isabella Camera d'Afflitto**

- **Simone Sibilio (Ca' Foscari, Venezia)**  
Poetic Transfigurations of Baghdad. New imagery and aesthetics in Iraqi poetry after 2003
- **Mariangela Masullo (Università di Macerata)**  
Diaspora and resistance through poetry
- **Arturo Monaco (Università di Catania)**  
The Search for Solitude of the Iraqi Poet in Exile 'Abd al-Qādir al-Ġanābī
- **Fatima Sai (Università di Bari)**  
Catabasis, or surviving the trauma – Iraqi performance art and performative poetry

**Coffee break**

12:00 – 13:15 **The Archeological and Ancient Field**

**Chair: Lorenzo Verderame**

- **Franco D'Agostino (Sapienza, Roma)**  
The Flood as Historical Turning Point in Ancient Near Eastern and Islamic Traditions
- **Amelia Blundo (Sapienza, Roma)**  
12th/13th Century Iraq as a land of architectural experimentation: an example of landmarks for collective memory
- **Michelina Di Cesare (Sapienza, Roma)**  
Trauma, Memory and Oblivion in the History of the Mosque-Palace Complex of Kufa

*Conference convenor:*

**Ada Barbaro**

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Lunch break

15:00 – 16:15 **From the Field**

**Chair: Daniela Pioppi**

- **Marta Bellingreri (Freelance Journalist/Independent Researcher)**  
Tarkeeb in Baghdad: Young Iraqi Artists Walking the "most dangerous city in the world"
- **Sara Manisera (Freelance Journalist)**  
Iraq without water: the fight of the Iraqi youth for their rights
- **Ismaeel Dawood (Un ponte per)**  
Towards the Iraqi elections: the point of view of local civil society and Human Rights Defenders
- **Laura Silvia Battaglia (Freelance Journalist/Director)**  
Shooting in Baghdad: how the Iraqi filmmaking industry profits from its best talents abroad

16:30 – 18:00 **The Field of Contemporary History and Politics (1)**

**Chair: Gennaro Gervasio**

- **Ibrahim Al-Marashi (California State University San Marcos)**  
Iraq, Trauma, and the Two Horsemen of the Apocalypse: War and Pestilence from Cholera to Covid-19
- **Michael P. Brill (Princeton University)**  
The History of Ba‘thist Iraq: Between Politics and Memory
- **Alessia Carnevale (Sapienza, Roma)**  
Shooting from within: the documentary film in Iraq after 2003



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**09:30 – 11.00 The Ancient and Medieval Field**

**Chair: Monica Ruocco**

- **Leonardo Capezzone (Sapienza, Roma)**  
“Whoever will read my account will not believe it”. On the misfortune Of Baghdad
- **Marco Ramazzotti (Sapienza, Roma)**  
The libraries of Babel and the literary tradition in Babylon
- **Licia Romano (Sapienza, Roma)**  
Reception and use of Heritage in Iraq after 2003: A View from the (Archaeological) Field
- **Lorenzo Verderame (Sapienza, Roma)**  
Ancient Mesopotamia: from the Iraq Museum to the World Heritage

**Coffee break**

**11:30 – 13:00 The Field of Contemporary History and Politics (2)**

**Chair: Ibrahim Al-Marashi**

- **Laura Guazzone (Sapienza, Roma)**  
Notes on The Historiography of Contemporary Iraq
- **Gennaro Gervasio (Università degli studi RomaTre)**  
Beyond Sectarianism: Workers in Iraq’s ‘October Revolution’
- **Schluwa Sama (University of Exeter)**  
The Production of Values in Iraq



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24<sup>th</sup> September

Lunch break

**15:00 – 16:30 PhD roundtable. The Literary Field – Fiction**  
**Chair: Sinan Antoon**

- **Hanan Jasim Khammas (Autonomous University of Barcelona)**  
Bodies That Matter: Corporeality in Contemporary Iraqi Fiction
- **Federico Pozzoli (Università di Milano)**  
'Kun Ḥayy<sup>an</sup> -Mayyit<sup>an</sup>'. Impossible 'I's in Postwar Iraqi Fiction
- **Antonio Pacifico (Université Jean-Moulin Lyon 3)**  
Contemporary Iraqi Fiction and Politics: What Happened to Literary Commitment After 2003?

**16:45 Keynote Speech: Sinan Antoon**

**Iraq Afterwar(d)s: Epistemic Violence and Collateral Damage**

**Introduction: Ada Barbaro**

**Final remarks**

قلهفي والشجو والصبابة  
والجوى ووجد الفؤاد  
إن هي إلا ظلال النور  
واخبرني بكربي وخبياي  
بعيدا عن ناموسك  
كيف لا أهدر الزمن

Franco Battiato (1945-2021) *L'ombra della luce*. Baghdad, December 1992

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