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NAWROZ UNIVERSITY
SIXTH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON HUMANITIES

THE BORDERS OF KURDISTAN AND ITS HISTORICAL PROVINCES

Formation, Demarcation, and Geopolitical Transformations

17 - 18 April 2027



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■ “Borders” — The Kurdish Conundrum

Since ancient times, peoples and communities have inhabited specific geographical areas. Throughout history, these lands have been known by their respective names, as documented by historians and represented on maps produced in different periods. Historical, geographical, and linguistic evidence has consistently affirmed this connection between peoples and their lands. Coastal territories have historically been associated with the peoples inhabiting their shores, while mountainous regions have been identified with the communities that settled in the mountains and valleys.

Throughout different periods of history, numerous states and empires emerged across the inhabited world. Yet peoples largely remained attached to their ancestral lands despite the rise and fall of successive empires. This continued until the modern era, particularly the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when nation-states first emerged in Europe and their model subsequently spread to other continents. Although the rise of European nationalism contributed to resolving certain political questions, it also generated significant problems, particularly when intertwined with the colonial era and European domination of other parts of the world.

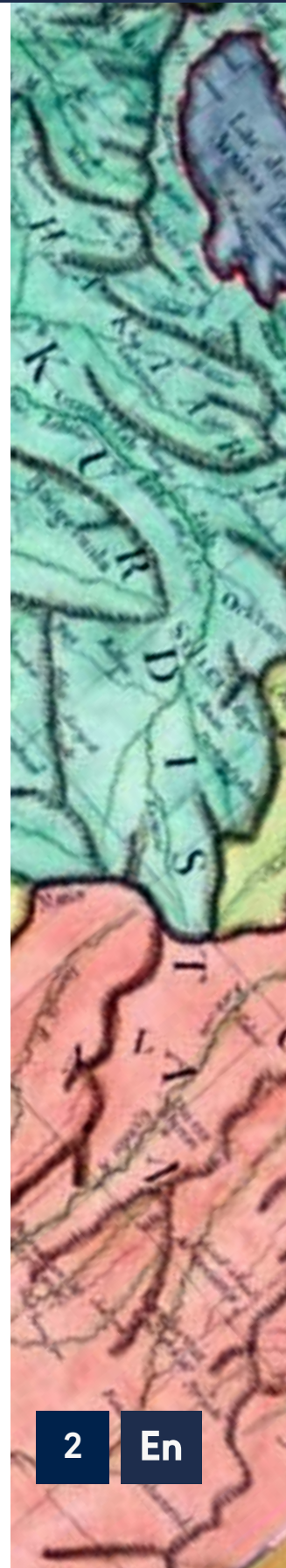
Kurdistan found itself at the heart of these historical developments following the re-drawing of the Middle East through the agreement known in modern history as the Sykes-Picot-Sazonov Agreement of May 1916. The complex political and military developments that took place within the Ottoman Empire during and after the First

World War, together with the consequences of this agreement, contributed to the emergence of new states in the region, including modern Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and others.

As a direct consequence of this agreement and the treaties that followed—most notably the Treaty of Sèvres in August 1920 and the Treaty of Lausanne in July 1923—Kurdistan was divided among four Middle Eastern states: Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. As a result, the Kurds found themselves divided by international borders within their own historical homeland.

The conference, entitled **“The Borders of Kurdistan and Its Historical Provinces: Formation, Demarcation, and Geopolitical Transformations,”** seeks to investigate the political, geographical, and linguistic boundaries of Kurdistan from a historical perspective to the present day. It also aims to shed light on the boundaries of Kurdish provinces and cities where the historical Kurdish presence has frequently been denied.

As a consequence of the policies pursued by the four states toward the Kurds and Kurdistan during the twentieth century, the name Kurdistan, as well as the names of many of its provinces, disappeared from political and administrative maps. These areas came to be identified as cities and regions belonging to the respective states and were often attributed to the national identities promoted by those states. Numerous examples of this process can be found across the four states among which Kurdistan is divided.



RDISTAN

tions

A light blue map of Rajasthan, India, with white outlines delineating its various districts. The map is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the text 'RDISTAN' and 'tions'.

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■ Conference Objectives



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1. To identify the geographical, political, administrative, and linguistic boundaries of Kurdistan throughout different historical periods and examine the major changes they have undergone.
2. To trace changes in the political borders of Kurdistan from the emergence of the Kurds in recorded history to the present day.
3. To examine the boundaries of Kurdish states, emirates, principalities, and other political entities established in Kurdistan, and to investigate their role in maintaining the continuity of the Kurdish presence in Kurdistan.
4. To shed light on the role of the empires and major states that ruled Kurdistan and examine the administrative measures and territorial divisions they introduced during different periods of their rule.
5. To examine the major treaties and agreements that contributed to deepening the political and administrative division of Kurdistan.
6. To analyse historical documents addressing these issues and assess their value in substantiating or challenging claims concerning the political boundaries and the geographical and demographic presence of the Kurds in the region.
7. To examine the impact of political policies and wars in Kurdistan and how they contributed to changes in its political and administrative boundaries, leading to the present situation.

1. Highlight migration and displacement as continuous and deeply rooted phenomena in Kurdish history, documented through reliable historical evidence and records.
2. Examine the different variations of these phenomena across time, whether religious, sectarian, or regional in nature, with a focus on the national and ethnic dimensions that became more transparent in the 20th century.
3. Study the emergence and development of Kurdish communities outside Kurdistan, shaped by displacement, especially in areas inhabited by neighboring ethnic groups, and analyze whether these communities assimilated or maintained their cultural identity.



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4. Investigate internal Kurdish migration, particularly among Kurdish tribes who moved across Kurdistan without ties to a fixed locality, treating this as part of their historical and geographical space.
5. Analyze how Kurdistan's ethnic, religious, and sectarian diversity contributes to the complexity of migration and displacement whether as driving factors or as outcomes of these demographic and social shifts.

Conference Themes

Under the main title "The Borders of Kurdistan and Its Historical Provinces: Formation, Demarcation, and Geopolitical Transformations," the conference encompasses a number of interconnected themes intended to provide a comprehensive and multidisciplinary examination of issues related to Kurdistan's borders and historical provinces.

- 1. Historical and Geographical Theme:** This theme examines the historical and geographical development of Kurdistan's borders, the emergence of Kurdish states, emirates, principalities, and administrative provinces, and the major changes that their boundaries underwent during different historical periods.
- 2. Legal Theme:** This theme focuses on the legal dimensions of the borders of Greater Kurdistan through an examination of international treaties and agreements that contributed to redrawing its borders, the resulting division of its territories, and their incorporation into different states. It also addresses the legal and constitutional frameworks governing areas associated with the historical and geographical territory of Greater Kurdistan, including areas subject to Article 140 of the Constitution of the Republic of Iraq of 2005, as an example of the consequences of border redrawing across Greater Kurdistan.
- 3. Political Theme:** This theme examines regional and international policies that contributed to drawing the borders of the region in light of the political and strategic interests of states and influential powers, as well as the extent to which national and cultural dimensions were taken into consideration in the process of border demarcation. It also explores major political perspectives and positions concerning the borders of the region in the aftermath of the Sykes-Picot Agreement and considers the future of Kurdistan's borders in light of contemporary international politics.
- 4. Social and Kurdish Identity Theme:** This theme investigates the impact of political and administrative borders on Kurdish social life, particularly their effects on Kurdish and Kurdistan identity and on the social and cultural ties among Kurdish communities that became divided by the borders of different states.



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■ Submission Guidelines

Nawroz University welcomes researchers and academics interested in the conference theme and invites them to submit research papers in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Papers must address the main theme of the conference or fall within one of its specified thematic areas.
2. Papers may be submitted in any of the following languages: **Kurdish, Arabic, English, Turkish, or Persian.**
3. Abstracts must not exceed **500 words** and should include **five keywords** reflecting the content of the paper.
4. Full papers must not exceed **10,000 words.**
5. Research papers must follow recognised academic standards and use the **Harvard referencing style** for citations and references.

■ Important Dates

Stage	Date
1. Deadline for abstract submission	01 .11. 2026
2. Notification of abstract acceptance/rejection	15 .11. 2026
3. Deadline for submission of full papers	25 .01. 2027
4. Notification of full-paper acceptance/rejection	25 .02. 2027
5. Conference dates	17-18 .04. 2027

■ Fees and Expenses

The conference will cover all accommodation expenses for accepted participants during the conference period.

Participants will be responsible for their own travel and transportation expenses to and from the conference venue.

■ Contact Information

For correspondence, abstract submissions, or enquiries regarding the conference, please contact:

Email: hum.conf6@nawroz.edu.krd

Phone: +964 (0) 750 804 3406

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