



Bread and Power: Food Politics, Contentious Dynamics, and Cultural Imaginaries in post-2003 Iraq

11-12 September 2025

Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali
Sapienza Università di Roma
Sala riunioni 1, 3rd floor
Edificio Marco Polo, *Via Circonvallazione Tiburtina 4*
(zona Scalo San Lorenzo, Roma)

Thursday, 11 September 2025

10.00-10.30 *Welcome Address
& Introduction*

**First Session - Food Politics in
post-2003 Iraq**

Chair: Gennaro Gervasio (Roma Tre
University)

10.30 – 11.00 - Part 1

Maria Cristina Paciello (Ca' Foscari
University of Venice) & **Daniela
Pioppi** (University of Naples L'Orien-
tale), *Towards a Political Economy
of Food in Post-2003 Iraq*

11.00-11.30 *Coffee Break*

11.30 – 13.00 - Part 2

Rossana Tufaro (Ca' Foscari University
of Venice), *The Other Side of Neolib-
eralization: Situating Food Politics
in the Muhasasa Ta'ifiyya*

Ansar Jasim (Freie Universität Berlin)
& **Haider Zamil** (Independent re-
searcher), *Re-reading Iraq's Agricul-
tural History through the Lens of
Food Sovereignty: Ruptures, Conti-
nuities, and Late-Forming Activism*

Discussant: Giuliano Martiniello
(Université Internationale de Rabat)

13.00-14.30 *Lunch Break*

**Second Session - Iraqi
Contentious Politics**

Chair: Laura Guazzone (Sapienza
University of Rome)

14.30 – 15.30 - Part 1

Ali Saheb (al-Ma'louma Center
for Research and Development,
Baghdad), *Civic Activism after the
2019 Uprising*

Gennaro Gervasio (Roma Tre Uni-
versity), *The Uprising and Beyond:
The Tishreen Parties*

15.30 – 16.00 *Coffee Break*

16.00 – 17.30 - Part 2

Fabio Merone (Roma Tre University),
*The Sadrism Political
Theology of Action*

Taif Alkhudary (University of Cam-
bridge), *Queering Resistance: To-
wards a Reconceptualization of
Counter-Politics in Post-2003 Iraq*

Discussant: Irene Costantini
(University of Naples L'Orientale)

20.00 *Social dinner*

Friday, 12 September 2025

Third Session - Seeds of Culture: Images, Poetics, and Narratives

Chair and Discussant: **Monica Ruocco**
(University of Naples L'Orientale)

9.30-11.00 - Part 1

Haytham Bahooora (University of Toronto), *Historiography and Post-2003 Iraqi Literature*

Ada Barbaro (Sapienza University of Rome), *Starving the Land, Feeding Imagination: Fragments of Non-Life in a maqāṣṣa by Muḥammad Khudāyyir*

Alessia Carnevale (University of Naples L'Orientale), *Environmental Narratives of the Iraqi Marshes: Policies and Imaginaries of a "Lost Eden"*

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00 - Part 2

Federico Pozzoli (Sapienza University of Rome), *"Wa-Akhalīṣ min al-tannūr?": Breadmaking, Labour, and Modernity in Iraqi Fiction*

Hanan Jasim Khammas (University of Michigan), *Hunger as Nationhood: Food Politics and Historical Memory in Contemporary Iraqi Fiction*

Final remarks

13.00-14.30 Lunch

This conference is funded by the European Union – Next Generation EU, as part of Mission 4, Component 1 (CUP C53D23000140006) within the PRIN project *‘We Want Bread, Not Bullets’: Iraqi Food Politics in Historical Perspective*.

We gratefully acknowledge the collaboration of Un ponte per... (UPP) for the organization of this event.

Saleh Kareem, Artist from Basra - Iraq

