



International Institute for the Study of Kurdish Societies

Newsletter

№1

Autumn 2016

at a Glance

A Note from the Director; About IISKS: Who are we?; IISKS First Biennial Conference 2017; Kaftan Dissertation Award for Kurdish Studies; Conferences & Workshops; New Publications; Interview; Kurdish Arts

A note from the Director

During the past decades, following the establishment of Russian, Caucasian and European institutions of Kurdish studies, several centers have appeared in the Middle East and United States of America with the aim of conducting research on Kurdish cultures and societies.



Unlike the pioneers who were mostly interested in anthropologic and linguistic issues, modern Kurdish scholarship seems to be inclined towards socio-political questions and, more particularly, towards the Kurdish question in Turkey. A cursory study of the major productions of Kurdish Studies and related disciplines would reveal an insistent desire to address daily sociopolitical issues on one hand and, on the other hand, a tendency to overlook significant aspects of Kurdish culture including literature and art, among them the religions of Iranian Kurdistan and Rojava.

Determined to get beyond the current trend of socio-politically oriented studies, the International Institute for the Study of Kurdish Societies encourages scholars from various academic disciplines to address fundamental questions in regard to a larger Kurdish geography, with the aim of developing a renewed interest in the study of a wider range of Kurdish issues, including arts, literature, language, and geography, among others.

The sociopolitical conditions of the Middle East somewhat explain the dominance of politics and social sciences in contemporary Kurdish scholarship. Overall negligence of other aspects of Kurdish studies, however, would be an irrecoverable loss. Thanks to the supports of experts, researchers, and professors from prestigious universities, IISKS has managed to shift the focus of Kurdish studies to areas that were eclipsed or entirely ignored in previous studies.

As part of the initiatives of IISKS, Journal of the Study of Kurdish Societies (IISKS) is prompt to receive your innovative articles. IISKS's biennial conference 2017, Frankfurt am Main is the forum for co-thinking and gathering of those people who engage in academic studies of Kurdish societies.

At the end, I would like to express my warm gratitude to my colleagues at the Department of Empirical Linguistics at Goethe University Frankfurt to host the Institute's biennial conference in September 2017.

Respectfully
The Director
Dr. Behrooz Chaman Ar



Call for paper

English, German and Kurdish

Call for paper

On behalf of the International Institute for the Study of Kurdish Societies (IISKS) at the heart of Göttingen, “the City of Knowledge”, we are delighted to announce the forthcoming First Biennial Conference of the IISKS. Conference 2017 aims to cover all disciplines related to the Study of Kurdish Societies. The Conference will take place in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, September 16-19, 2017, thanks to the cooperation of the Department of Linguistics and Cultural Studies at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University.

About Goethe University

In the rapidly changing and increasingly complex world of the 21st century, interdependence has become a fact of modern academic life. Cooperation with partners within Germany and abroad is part of day-to-day life at Goethe University, and international students and scholars add important new perspectives to both research and campus life. Goethe University has developed a global network of relationships with top higher educational institutions. The International Office is the primary hub for international activities at Goethe University, working closely with different Faculties, other administrative offices, and university officials.

Deadlines and Calendar

18 OCTOBER 2016
Submission Announcement

15 APRIL 2017
Acceptance Notification

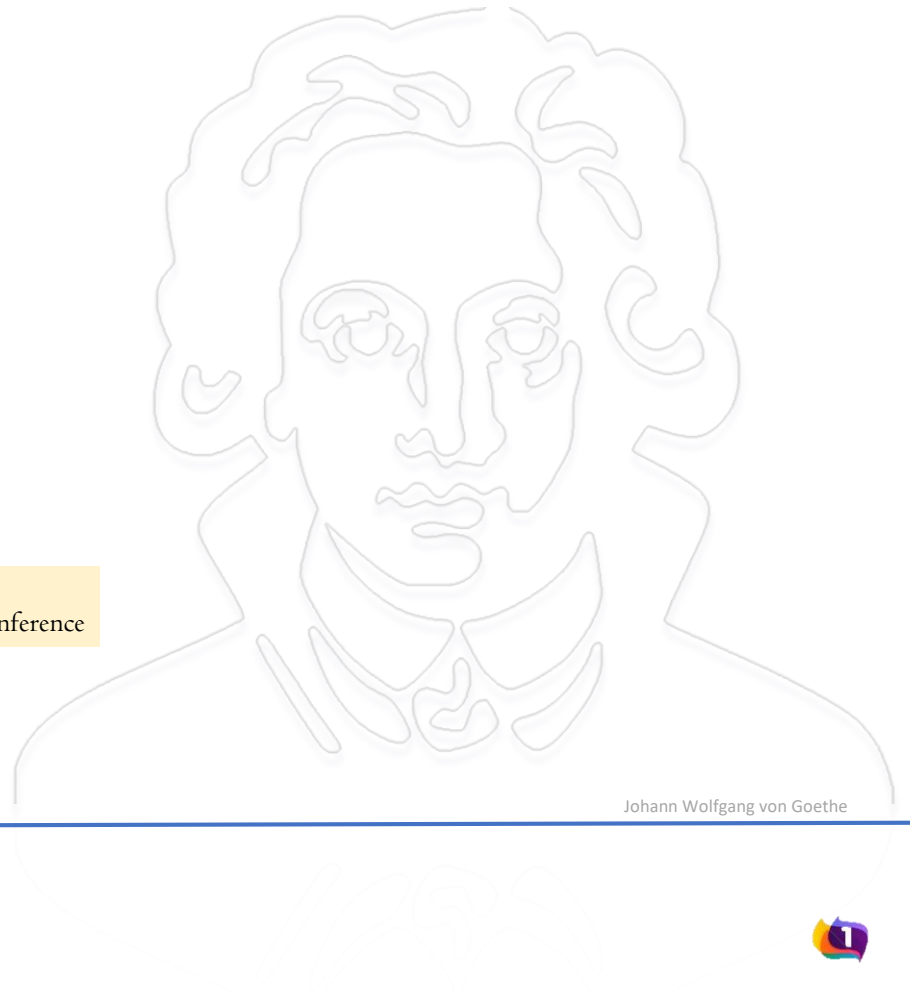
15 MARCH 2017
Abstract Submission Deadline

25 APRIL 2017
Final Registration Deadline

25 MARCH 2017
Pre-Organized Panels Submission Deadline

16 SEPTEMBER 2017
Reception and Opening Ceremony of the Conference

19 SEPTEMBER 2017
Closing Ceremony of the Conference



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

IISKS ACADEMIC COMMITTEE



Left to right:

Top: Prof. Dr. P. G. Kreyenbroek; Prof. Dr. M. Gunther; Prof. Dr. J. Jalil; Dr. M. Chyet; Dr. H. Ahmadzadeh

Middle: Dr. K. Matin; Dr. N. Zagros; Dr. J. Sheyskholeslami; Dr. L. Turgut; Dr. Kh. Omarkhali

Bottom: Dr. B. Sajjadi; Dr. P. Hooshmandrad; Dr. B. Elyasi; Msc.Eng. J. Chamanara; Dr. A. Tahir Ahmed; Dr. B. Chaman Ara

URL: <http://www.iisks.com/people/academic-committee/>

KAFTAN DISSERTATION AWARD 2017

IISKS invites applications for Kaftan outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award, 2017

Submissions Deadline: July 01, 2017

The best PhD dissertation on a theme of the Study of Kurdish Societies is chosen based on several criteria, including imagination, novelty of approach, clarity in stating the problematic, theoretical foundation, methodological rigor, efficient and intelligent use of primary source material, and quality of fieldwork, among others.

International Institute for the Study of Kurdish Societies may also recognize up to two runner-up dissertations with honorable mention and subject to budgetary considerations and the decision of the Academic Committee, may also help towards the publication of outstanding dissertations.

Dissertations must be nominated by the author's supervisor(s) and be accompanied by the Dissertation Committee's letter of acceptance. A digitized copy of the dissertation must be submitted by July 01, 2017 either on a disc to Secretary of the Academic Committee using the following email address: director@iisks.com



‡ Nawzad Kaftan ‡

Co-founder and Fundraising
Manager at IISKS

Interview

Dr. Bakhtiyar Sadjadi
The Head of Kurdish Language and Literature Department
at the University of Kurdistan - Iran

What is the significance of establishing Kurdish Language and Literature as a subject in Iran?

Kurdish Language and Literature is a significant heritage of Kurdish society. it sheds more light on the significant aspect of Kurdish society as well.

So as to study and analyze its outstanding literary texts _ written in all different accents of Kurdish language _ the undeniable everyday need for a highly related field specifically focusing on Kurdish Language and Literature _ differently and comprehensively _ made us establish and provide B.A. course to train some academically educated experts at the University of Kurdistan.

Who are the faculty members in the department?

Our Department first hired some professors _ in Persian Language and Literature, English Language and Literature, Linguistics, and Arabic Language and Literature _ since there were not any academically educated experts whose major was Kurdish Language and Literature or any other related field. However, for the first time we have gratefully hired Dr. Behrooz Chaman Ara _ Ph.D. in Iranian Studies exclusively focused on

Kurdiology, from the University of Gottingen - Germany.

How did you prepare the curriculum?

We have closely observed the provided curriculum in some leading universities and institutions _ for instance The University of Saint Petersburg - Russia _ which has been providing Oriental Studies for more than five decades, The University of Sorbonne - France which owns a valuable data-bank upon Kurdiology, The University of Krakow - Poland, and Uppsala University - Sweden _ so as to frame the most comprehensive and rich curriculum for a B.A. degree. Like other B.A. courses presented by M.S.R.T., it contains 136 credits. We do believe that our curriculum is much more comprehensive in comparison to the other universities. It is the second year we are accepting B.A. students in Kurdish Language and Literature at the University of Kurdistan; and we plan to accept M.A. students within the next two years as well.

How can international students apply for the course?

A number of international students in other fields at the University of Kurdistan have been accepted thus far;



Dr. Sadjadi

most of them are from Iraq and Turkey. Since the Kurdish Language and Literature is a new major, we have not had the chance to accept international students yet; although we are pleased to declare that anyone who is interested in studying Kurdish Language and Literature is warmly welcome.

Are you in communication with other institutions and universities?

We are pleased and honored to say that we not only get in touch with universities, institutions, writers, and poets in Iran, but also with other universities abroad.

What do you think of IISKS?

Establishing IISKS was a great event by which outstanding studies upon Kurdish society, in all aspects, would be achieved and we hope that much more will be done in future.

By: IISKS Newsletter Team

What's up Kurdology?



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Kurdish Studies Summer School
Kurdish Politics and Society: Contemporary and
Historical Perspectives
27-29 June 2016

A three-day intensive summer school focusing on Kurdish politics and society was held at the University of Leicester, 27-29 June 2016. It was organized by Dr Ipek Demir, Associate Professor in Sociology, University of Leicester.

The summer school was designed to engage postgraduate students (Master's and PhD), independent scholars, and recent graduates in the field of Kurdish Studies as well as community advocates in the politics, society and culture of Kurds. Five scholars of Kurdish Studies namely Dr Necla Acik (University of Manchester, Professor Christine Allison (University of Exeter), Professor Hamit Bozarslan (Director of EHESS), Dr Ipek Demir (University of Leicester) and Dr Ulrike Flader (University of Manchester) gave lectures based on their areas of specialization. Six specific areas were covered by the lecturers:

- Area 1: 'Kurdish Language, Literature, Popular Culture and Folklore in Kurdistan'
- Area 2: 'Coercion and Violence in Kurdistan and in the Middle East.'
- Area 3: 'The Contemporary Kurdish Movement: Key Questions and Developments'
- Area 4: 'Gender and Kurdish Studies'
- Area 5: 'Kurdish Diaspora'
- Area 6: 'Ethics and Challenges of Doing Ethnographic Fieldwork in the Shadow of the Kurdish Question'



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
School of Middle Eastern
& North African Studies

Kurdish Language and Culture Studies
Two-month summer abroad program, 2016
Center for Middle Eastern Studies

This ground-breaking Kurdish Language and Culture Studies (KLCS) study abroad program is

an intensive two-month summer program based in Istanbul, Turkey designed to engage participants in the language and culture of the Middle East's fourth largest ethnic group: the Kurds. Istanbul is sometimes referred to as the largest "Kurdish" city in world due to the size of its Kurdish population. The UA Center for Middle Eastern Studies will run this program in partnership with institutions in Istanbul and the Kurdish Studies Association (US) and is the first-ever Kurdish-focused summer study abroad program.

The program begins with a 4-day in-depth orientation after which students begin their coursework. The intensive 120 hours of language instruction offers a full year's worth of Kurmanji Kurdish. To facilitate language acquisition, participants are placed in homestays for the first month of the program and are also paired with local university students for one-on-one language practice. Weekly activities help students integrate culture and language learning.

The 3-credit Kurdish Culture and Society course aims to engage students in current debates in Kurdish society with a focus on issues in Turkey, but also examining regional relationships with Kurds in neighboring countries. In addition to the intensive language and Kurdish studies courses, students participate in several academic excursions to regional sites. A longer midterm tour (conditions permitting) takes the students to the eastern cities of Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Doğubayazıt, Van, and Çatak (in Kurdish: Çewlig, Amed, Bazîd, Wan, and Şax). The program also includes lectures by local academics, business leaders, and politicians.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Kurdish Language Course
June 6 – July 29, 2016
IU Summer Language Workshop

Sorani Kurdish Curriculum. The proficiency-based Sorani Kurdish curriculum features 20 contact hours and weekly and twice-weekly language tables where students engage in conversation, meet native speakers, and learn more about target cultures. Students also participate in the Workshop's rich co-curricular program.

This is the second year that Sorani Kurdish has been offered at Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop. The course is supported by the Center for the Study of the Middle East at Indiana University. IU is one of only a handful of American universities ever to have offered a Kurdish language course, and it is the first university in the United States to offer a course in Sorani Kurdish.



Language Contact and Language Change in
Western Asia
10th to 12th March 2017

The conference "Language Contact and Language Change in Western Asia" focuses on multilingualism in Western Asia. Within Western Asia, we aim at focusing on the Kurdish-populated areas in the regions of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and the neighboring countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. In this area, several Indo-European varieties are spoken, including Armenian, Kurdish varieties, and Persian.

A number of non-Indo-European languages are spoken as well, such as Azeri, Turkic, Neo-Aramaic, and Turkish. Finally Georgian and other Caucasian languages are also spoken in the region. Most of the above-mentioned languages exhibit a suprastratum of Semitic, Iranian and Turkic languages due to their close contact for centuries.

Important dates:

15th December 2016 — Call deadline
(submission of abstracts)
10th January 2017 — Notification of acceptance



UNIVERSITÄT BAMBERG

Kurdish Language Autumn School (KLAS2017)
4th–15th September 2017

Set in the heart of the beautifully-preserved medieval city of Bamberg, this two-week Autumn School offers intensive language courses in the main varieties of Kurdish, plus a mix of workshops and seminars by leading experts in the field of Kurdish linguistics. *KLAS2017* is hosted by the Institute for Oriental Studies at the University of Bamberg. Sorani and Kurmanji will be offered at two levels for the full duration of the course, while shorter courses in Hawrami and Zazaki will also be available. Details of the programme will go online shortly. Additionally, participants may choose from a variety of afternoon workshops, for example close reading of literary and academic Kurmanji, selected topics in sociolinguistics, or comparative Kurdish morphosyntax. Participants in the language courses will be eligible for earning European Credit Transfer points.

IISKS Opening Ceremony

Jun, 03. 2016



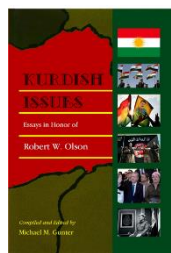
Conference: Kurdish Futures In and Outside of
Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Iran: Fresh Hopes or
New Tragedies?
26th – 28th June 2017
Centre for Kurdish Studies
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University
of Exeter
Background and scope

Following the success of the last two previous
Kurdish studies conferences here in 2012 and
2015 at the University of Exeter Centre for
Kurdish Studies, the next conference event will
be held over 2.5 days: 26th – 28th June 2017.
The theme for this event will be: Kurdish Futures
In and Outside of Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Iran:
Fresh Hopes or New Tragedies?

The deadline for proposal submissions is 16th
Jan, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. GMT



Kurdish Bibliotheca



Kurdish Issues: Essays in Honor of Robert W. Olson
Compiled and Edited Michael M. Gunter
Mazda Publishers, 2016
ISBN: 978-1568593104

This volume contains 13 essays, written by a group of distinguished scholars, on the most important issues facing the Kurds today. Subjects covered include politics, economics, ISIS, and number of issues that will be of interest to scholars, practitioners, and the intelligent lay public. Moreover, in delving into the nuances of such themes as ethno-nationalist origins, self-determination, US-KRG relations, democratic autonomy, ISIS, Kobane, the Kurdish Diaspora, Ataturk and Bourguiba, among others, these essays will definitely stand the test of time. The volume is dedicated to Robert W. Olson, a distinguished and recognized pioneer in the study of the Kurdish people and their relations with the neighboring countries, especially Turkey.



The Mukri Variety of Central Kurdish: Grammar, Texts, and Lexicon
Ergin Öpengin
Publisher: Dr Ludwig Reichert Verlag, 2016
ISBN: 978-3954901326
This book is a grammatical description of the Mukri variety of Central Kurdish

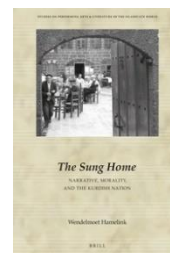
accompanied by a collection of spoken texts and lexicon. Central Kurdish or Sorani is a variety of Kurdish, a West Iranian language, spoken in Iraqi Kurdistan and northwest Iran by about 5 million people. The Mukri dialect of Central Kurdish is spoken by about one million people in the cultural-historical region of Mukriyan in northwest Iran, with the city of Mahabad at its center. The book is divided into five chapters as Introduction, Grammatical Description, Annotated Texts, Parallel Texts and Translations, Lexicon. The introductory chapter describes the language and the speech community, Central Kurdish dialectology, previous research on Mukri and Central Kurdish, the fieldwork and the text corpus of the research.



Islam and Competing Nationalisms in the Middle East, 1876-1926
Kamal Soleimani
Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN: 978-1-137-60129-2

Opposing a binary perspective that consolidates ethnicity, religion, and nationalism into separate spheres, this book demonstrates that neither nationalism nor religion can be studied in isolation in the Middle East. Religious interpretation, like other systems of meaning-production, is affected by its historical and political contexts, and the processes of interpretation and religious translation bleed into the institutional discourses and processes of nation-building. This book calls into question the foundational epistemologies of the nation-state by centering on the pivotal and intimate role Islam played in the emergence of the nation-state, showing the entanglements

and reciprocities of nationalism and religious thought as they played out in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Middle East.



The Sung Home. Narrative, Morality, and the Kurdish Nation
Wendelmoet Hamelink
Publisher: Brill, 2016
ISBN: 9789004314818

The Sung Home tells the story of Kurdish singer-poets (dengbêjs) in Kurdistan in Turkey, who are specialized in the recital singing of historical songs. After a long period of silence, they returned to public life in the 2000s and are presented as guardians of history and culture. Their lyrics, life stories, and live performances offer fascinating insights into cultural practices, local politics and the contingencies of state borders. Decades of oppression have deeply politicized and moralized cultural and musical production. Through in-depth ethnographic analysis Hamelink highlights the variety of personal and social narratives within a society in turmoil. Set within the larger global stories of modernity, nationalism, and Orientalism, his study reflects on different ideas about what it means to create a Kurdish home.



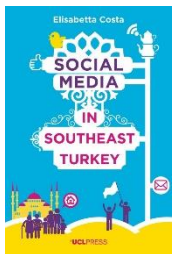
Iraqi Kurdistan in Middle Eastern Politics

Edited by: Alex Danilovich

Publisher: Routledge, 2016

ISBN: 9781138204478

The changes brought by the Arab Spring and ensuing developments in the Middle East have made the Kurds an important force in the region. Tel-Aviv and Washington place high hopes on Erbil to facilitate their dealings with Baghdad, Damascus, Teheran and Ankara. Kurds living in Turkey, Syria and Iran have been inspired by the successes of their brethren in Iraq who managed to gain significant independence and make remarkable achievements in state building. The idea of a greater Kurdistan is in the air. This book focuses on how the Kurds have become a new and significant force in Middle Eastern politics. International expert contributors conceptualize current developments putting them into theoretical perspective, helping us to better understand the potential role the Kurds could play in the Middle East.



Social Media in Southeast Turkey: Love,

Kinship and Politics

Elisabetta Costa

Publisher: UCL Press

ISBN: 978-1-910634-54-7

This book presents an ethnographic study of social media in Mardin, a medium-sized town located in the Kurdish region of Turkey. The town is inhabited mainly by Sunni Muslim Arabs and Kurds, and has been transformed in recent years by urbanisation, neoliberalism and political events. Elisabetta Costa uses her 15 months of ethnographic research to explain why public-facing social media is more conservative than offline life.

Yet, at the same time, social media has opened up unprecedented possibilities for private communications between genders and in relationships among young people – Costa reveals new worlds of intimacy, love and romance. She also discovers that, when viewed from the perspective of people's everyday lives, political participation on social media looks very different to how it is portrayed in studies of political postings separated from their original complex, and highly socialised, context.



Kurdish Shanama: Rostam and Sohrab

Edited by: Behrooz Chaman Ara

Mang Publication, Iran

ISBN: 9786007748695

Kurdish Shanama as part of the heritage of Kurdish epic literature consists of series of interwoven stories focusing on the mythical history of the noblest heroic clan of Iran namely Sam and his grandson, Rostam. In this book, author has brought to attention numbers of written and oral versions of the tragic story of Rostam and Sohrab by addressing their structural and contextual specification in detail. Kurdish epics and their sub divisions, the issue of edition and its difficulties, manuscripts and writing tradition in Gurani are among those questions that have been of interest of the present book. This is the first volume of the editions of Kurdish Shanama Project. The Kurdish Shanama project comprises circa 18 volumes including Haft lashkar (Seven Armies); Rostam and Isfandiyar; Barzu Nama (Book of Barzu); Faramarz Nama (Book of Faramarz); Rostam and Babr-i bayan and etc. that will be published by Mang Publication.



Uneven and combined development: 'the international' in theory and history

Edited by: Anievas, Alexander and Matin, Kamran

ISBN: ISBN 9781783486816

The concept of 'uneven and combined development' was originally coined by Leon Trotsky to theorise Tsarist Russia's distinctive experience of modernity and revolution. But it has re-emerged over the last decade or so as a burgeoning research programme within International Relations (IR) and historical sociology. It has been critically and creatively deployed in two main areas: the provision of a sociological foundation to international theory overcoming the chronic schism between 'sociological' and 'geopolitical' modes of enquiry; and, relatedly, in superseding prevailing Eurocentric approaches in the social sciences. This volume is the first to provide a sustained reflection on the idea of uneven and combined development as the intellectual basis for a non-Eurocentric social theory of 'the international'. It does so through a series of empirically rich and theoretically informed analyses of socio-historical change, political transformation, and intersocietal conflict over the longue durée. The volume thereby aims to demonstrate the unique potentials of uneven and combined development in overcoming IR and historical sociology's shared inability to theorize the interactive and multilinear character of development.

Saywan Saeedian



was born in 1972 in Mahabad (Iran). He went to primary school and high school in Mahabad. He has worked as an artist since 1995. He continued his artistic education in Teheran, Sine and Bikan, and after that studied visual art at the school of fine arts of the University of Sulaymania.



Fourteen exhibitions were organized for him in Teheran, Mahabad, Sine, Qezvin, Sulaymania and Erbil. He was the director of a number of conceptual installations. He also was the artistic director of four cinema films and documentaries, and the director of the short film *Ew sêva ku...* (the apple that...). For 11 years he lived in South Kurdistan as a refugee. He has worked on over 300 book designs and dozens of logos, posters and CDs.

Over the last years he has focused on sculptures in his artistic career. Three of his sculptures have been installed in the city of Erbil. His sculpture named "Anfal" has a height of 10.5 meter. He is not only an artist, but an author. He writes short stories. A collection of his poems entitled *li çaverwantîyahîç de* (expectations out of nothing) was published in the Kurdish Sorani. He also translated a number of books.

A primary and fundamental project on which he has worked for 11 years named *Sêva Mexekrêj* (The Clove Apple). *Sêva Mexekrêj* is one of the cultures that was forgotten by most Kurds. This official project became known as the first present of the Kurds and became symbolic and identity marker of Kurdistan. Saeedian has lived in Diyarbakır (Turkey) since 2014. Currently, he has run his own sculpture workshops. In addition to his artistic career, he continues to work as a writer.

Mardîn



Mardîn has often been considered an open-air museum due to its historical architecture. Most buildings use the beige colored limestone rock which has been mined for centuries in quarries around the area. The whole city has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site under the "Mardin Cultural Landscape". [more](#)



International Institute for the Study of Kurdish Societies



www.iisks.com



newsletter@iisks.com



IISKS-International-Institute-for-the-Study-of-Kurdish-Societies



Theaterstr. 10

Postal code: 37073

Goettingen, Germany



+49 (0) 551 37074 930