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SOCIETÀ PER GLI STUDI SUL MEDIO ORIENTE

**TITOLO/TITLE:**

**Sradicamento, identità, assimilazione: l'evoluzione della condizione curda nel Medio Oriente contemporaneo**

**Uprooting, identity, assimilation: the evolution of the Kurdish question in contemporary Middle East**

**PROPONENTE/I – PROPONENT/S:**

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**ABSTRACT (1500 parole/words):**

Da decenni la presenza nell'area mesopotamica di una consistente popolazione curda priva di uno stato e, in molti casi, di istituzioni amministrative autonome costituisce un elemento di conflittualità politica e sociale al centro delle dinamiche regionali e internazionali. Negli ultimi anni "i Curdi" e "il" o "i" Kurdistan sono stati oggetto di speranze politiche, movimenti di massa e armati, progetti territoriali, alleanze e strumentalizzazioni militari o simboliche.

Tuttavia, chi sono oggi, effettivamente, i Curdi? Quali condizioni politiche, culturali e sociali vivono? Quali dinamiche di identità collettiva sperimentano?

A fronte di queste ampie domande, il panel intende offrire una chiave di lettura originale che mette a fuoco le complesse forme di aggregazione, disgregazione e assimilazione all'interno delle società curde. Lungi dall'essere un corpo "etnico" o "linguistico" inerte, il Kurdistan è teatro di scontri violentissimi, che contrappongono sia i movimenti curdi agli stati regionali, sia classi sociali, partiti politici, gruppi culturali e religiosi in seno alle stesse comunità curde.

I proponenti invitano l'invio di contributi che affrontino la dialettica aggregazione/frammentazione nella società curda, secondo molteplici prospettive disciplinari e in tutte le regioni popolate da comunità curde in Medio Oriente.

Saranno privilegiati contributi dedicati alle evoluzioni recenti, con la finalità di aggiornare la riflessione accademica su una popolazione continuamente sottoposta a tentativi di ambigua esposizione simbolica e di rimozione o negazione storica. Dalla sommersione di Hasankeyf alla distruzione di Sur e Nusaybin, dal massacro di Shingal alle occupazioni militari di Afrin e Serekaniye, dalla fuga da Kirkuk alle esecuzioni capitali e alle manifestazioni di piazza da Teheran a Kirmaşan, assistiamo a dinamiche di sradicamento geografico, archeologico e culturale che si accompagnano a pratiche di espulsione fisica, distruzione di siti archeologici e repressione di norme consuetudinarie.

Quali dinamiche inverse di coesione fanno da contraltare a questi tentativi di sradicamento? Con quale successo le comunità religiose, i partiti politici, i gruppi sociali, i movimenti femministi, le istituzioni culturali del Kurdistan riescono a praticare l'idea e la realtà di una comunità nazionale coesa oltre la pluralità di "comunità nazionali" occupate e disperse?

For decades, the existence of a large Kurdish population in Upper Mesopotamia without a state or even autonomous administrative institutions has represented a source of political and social conflict with

wider regional and international ramifications. In the past few years, ‘Kurds’ and ‘Kurdistan’ have been the object of political projects, mass and armed movements, alliances, and military action.

But who exactly are the modern-day Kurds? In which political, cultural, social conditions do they live? What dynamics affect their experience of collective identity?

To answer these questions, this panel aims at developing an original interpretative framework to understand the complex dynamics of Kurdish societies. Far from being a static ethnic or linguistic body, Kurdistan is today the theatre of violent conflicts between Kurdish movements and regional powers but also between classes, political parties, cultural and religious groups within Kurdish society itself.

We thus invite papers addressing both the cohesion and fragmentation of Kurdish society, from different disciplinary perspectives and regarding all regions inhabited by Kurdish communities in the Middle East.

We will prioritize contributions focused on the most recent developments with the aim of updating our understanding of a people that is often subject to symbolic exploitation, erasure, and historical denial. From the flooding of Hasankeyf to the destruction of Sur and Nusaybin, from the massacre of Shingal to the military occupation of Afrin and Serekaniye, from the retreat from Kirkuk to executions and protests in Tehran and Kirmaşan, we are witnessing dynamics of geographic, archaeological, and cultural erasure that are accompanied by physical expulsion, destruction, and repression.

Through which forms of solidarity and identity building? To what extent are religious communities, political parties, social groups, feminist movements, and the cultural institutions of Kurdistan able to realize the idea and the reality of a ‘national community’ which transcends the plurality of occupied and dispersed national ‘communities’?

### **Languages of the panel: Italian – English**

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#### **PROFILO ACCADEMICO DEL/DELLA/DEI/DELLE PROPONENTE/I – SHORT BIO OF PROPONENTS**

Nicola Degli Esposti is a research fellow at the University of Padua and a Visiting Fellow at the Middle East Centre of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He holds a PhD in international relations from LSE and works on the politics and political economy of the Middle East.

Sevgi Doğan took her doctorate degree from Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. She is conducting the research on gender balance in illiberal democracies, focusing on Turkey, in the University of Siena. She is a collaborator in the internationalization office at the Scuola Normale Superiore as the person responsible for the SAR (Scholars at Risk Network) in Italy.

Alessandro Tinti is a post-doctoral research fellow at La Sapienza University of Rome. He holds a PhD in international relations from the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa. Ethnographic in approach, his doctoral work explored oil politics in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Proponents are all founding members of the Italian Network of Kurdish Studies.  
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