



Call for papers

IFEA-Ifpo-University of Exeter Workshop

*Transformed Nations: State Policies in Kurdish-Populated Areas of Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Iran.
A comparative approach from a transnational perspective*

January 23rd, 2015 - French Institute for Anatolian Studies (IFEA), Istanbul



I. Presentation of the workshop

In 2013, the French Institute for Anatolian Studies (IFEA, Istanbul), the French Institute for the Near East (IFPO, Erbil) and the University of Exeter, with the help of Aix-Marseille University, launched a common research program aiming at understanding the redefinition of relations between States and Kurdish-populated areas in the current regional context characterised by an intensification of transnational dynamics.

A first workshop was organized in June 2014 in Erbil. It aimed at analysing local modes of government in Kurdish-populated areas with a special focus on the role of political parties' practices and ways to control territory.

The objective of the second workshop that will be held in Istanbul in January 2015 is to carry on this reflection while addressing the question of the production of State policies in Kurdish-populated areas in Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Iran. The production of State policy has often been described within a binary framework of analysis opposing the States' actions and the societies of these regions. On the contrary, this workshop intends to give room for contributions with sociological, anthropological, contemporary history, political geography, political science or public policy approaches taking into account the non-unitary nature of the State and the multiple interactions between state authorities and local population or elites, and the role of transnational dynamics in the policy-making process.

In doing so, the workshop also aims at distancing itself from any kind of nationalist narrative that could leave in the shadow the decisive importance of national, local and transnational contexts. The predominance of coercive and repressive State policies should not let us overstate the specificity of these regions regarding State policy-making even if other factors have to be taken into account. The current intensification of relations between the different Kurdish-populated areas of the region can indeed be considered as an opportunity to question the effect of increasing regional interdependency links on State transformation. The role and power of the State, the level of autonomy of the Kurdish-populated areas, the different kinds of policy-making processes and the patterns of conflicts vary across countries of the region. Nevertheless civil wars in Syria and in Iraq and the ambiguities of the Turkish or Iranian regimes on the Kurdish issue in their domestic and foreign policies are putting into question in every country both the evolving nature of State policies and of their sovereignty in this cross-border space.

This workshop will address the following questions:

- How can we analyse State policies as the outcome of a coproduction process between diverse types of central and local actors?
- What kind of social mutations can we observe within the state political actors?
- What are the impacts of transnational dynamics in the making of States policies?

More specifically, the workshop will gather speakers tackling issues such as:

- Social and religious policies
- Educational and linguistic policies
- Border policies
- Coercion and repression policies
- Interaction between States foreign and domestic policies in the Kurdish-populated areas
- States policies in conflict situations

II. Practical information

- ***About the workshop***

This workshop will be held at the French Institute for Anatolian Studies in Istanbul (IFEA), Turkey. The IFEA is located in Nur-i Ziya Sokak, 10 in Beyoğlu.

Papers shall be given in English. Participants' transportation and housing fees will be covered.

- ***Application instructions***

Abstracts should not exceed 1 500 characters and should be submitted in English by **the 1st of December** to the following email address: ifea.ifpo@gmail.com

Selected participants will be asked to submit the final version of their paper **by January 17th, 2015**. Papers are expected not to exceed 20 000 characters.

- ***Organizing committee***

Yohanan Benhaim (IFEA)

Arthur Quesnay (Ifpo)

- ***Scientific committee***

Jean-François Pérouse (IFEA)

Clémence Scalbert-Yücel (IFEA)

Boris James (Ifpo)

Myriam Catusse (Ifpo)

Olivier Grojean (CERIC)

Jordi Tejel (IHEID)

Yohanan Benhaim (IFEA)

Arthur Quesnay (Ifpo)

- ***Calendar***

- **December 1st, 2014**: deadline for submitting abstracts
- **December 10th 2014**: notification sent to participants
- **January 17th, 2015**: deadline for submitting papers
- **January 23th, 2015**: workshop in Istanbul

- ***Websites***

- French Institute for Near East (Ifpo): www.ifpoorient.org
- French Institute for Anatolian Studies (IFEA): www.ifea-istanbul.net
- University of Exeter: <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk>
- CERIC: <http://www.ceric-aix.univ-cezanne.fr/>