

Call for Abstracts

2nd International Conference on "Rebuilding War Societies: Challenges and Perspectives"

Venue	University of Basrah, Basrah, Iraq
Organisers	University of Basrah, Center for Iraq Studies (CIS) at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, and Felsberg Institute (FI)
Date	17-21 November 2017
Application Deadline	15 August 2017

Many societies are currently shaken by violent conflicts, while others struggle with the additional consequences of past armed struggles or regional and global spill-over effects. A growing number of sources stress the fact that violence is continuously on the rise. Post-conflict does not always correspond with post-violence: on the contrary, the process of rebuilding war societies often has to take place during the course of an ongoing violent conflict. Under these circumstances, it is not only the "faces of war" that are changing, but also the challenges of rebuilding war-torn societies.

Three years after the official proclamation of a new Islamic Caliphate by Al-Baghdadi in Mosul and the subsequent direct control of territorial entities in Iraq and Syria by ISIS, the region has fallen victim to a new dimension of violence and destruction. In Iraq, these phenomena are taking place parallel to an ongoing and heated debate about the future political structure of the country, in which the question of unity has become one major object of discussion. When we consider Syria, we can see that a similar process has already been enacted there. The rebuilding of Iraq and Syria poses enormous challenges to all parties and actors involved and non-violent perspectives still seem hard to detect.

This international and interdisciplinary conference is a continuation of the 2016 conference on "Rebuilding War Societies: Continuities and New Beginnings" in Sulaimania / Kurdistan Region of Iraq. It aims to create a better understanding of these complex challenges of rebuilding war societies in post-conflict constellations and situations of ongoing violence. Special attention will be given to the particular situation in Iraq, while at the same time the conference organisers intend to broaden knowledge and perspectives through the presentation of international country case studies and comparative approaches. As a working basis, rebuilding is defined as an all-encompassing transformation process of structural and societal change, while reconstruction is understood as the rehabilitation of previously destroyed, damaged or non-functioning structural components as well as the rehabilitation of societal cohesion.

The conference organisers seek papers from both scholars and practitioners exploring various perspectives with regard to rebuilding war societies, including (but not limited to):

- societal challenges
- the role of the military
- economy, ecology and resources
- the role of higher education
- cultural heritage
- moderation of political conflict
- historical cases of re-building experiences

Possible Panels:

Section 1: Focus on Iraq

- Failed state? Fragile state? One state? Three states? Thinking Iraq's future

- Rebuilding Iraq and Syria after ISIS
- A look at history: benchmarks of destruction and milestones of development in Iraq and the larger region
- Dealing with a violent past: Overcoming the aftermath of disaster and destruction during and after the Saddam regime
- The Legacy of the Bremer Administration: reduction of military personnel, combatants and irregular armed forces

Section 2: Regional and global challenges and international country case studies

- The role of education in rebuilding war societies
- The legal framework: transitional justice and establishing the rule of law
- Downsizing military personnel and reconfiguration of armed forces
- The destruction of sustainable livelihoods and the challenges of ecological rehabilitation
- Non-violent political economy
- De-escalation, pacification, negotiation and reconciliation

Authors dealing with single or multiple case-studies are especially encouraged to respond to this call.

Presentations shall not exceed 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion. Each panel will close with a concluding discussion of 30 minutes. The language of the conference will be Arabic and English. Translation will be provided.

Researchers from academia and practitioners are invited to submit the title, a short abstract of their research paper (of no more than 500 words) and a CV no later than **August 15, 2017, to: silvia.nicola@fibw.eu**. Selected authors will be notified by *September 15, 2017*. Accommodation, board and support for obtaining the visa are provided by the organisers. Transport and insurance issues are the responsibility of the participants. Selected papers will be published.

For queries please **contact**: Silvia Nicola, Felsberg Institute for Education and Academic Research (FI), Germany, **E-Mail**: silvia.nicola@fibw.eu