

THE FIRST ERBIL EXCHANGE

July 9-16, 2017

Application Deadline I May 1/Deadline II June 1, 2017

25 slots only/Rolling acceptance

The Exchange is an effort by Mideastwire.com and its partners to promote professional and academic enrichment through a variety of small group, direct engagement conferences in the Middle East and North Africa. During their stay, typically lasting five days to one week, participants from around the world listen to and question leading intellectuals, activists and politicians representing an array of different points of view in a specific country. The first Exchange was launched in June 2008 in Beirut, Lebanon. Now, nine years on, more than 550 people from 51 different countries have attended 35 different Exchanges in the region.

The Erbil Exchange is co-hosted by the French Think Tank Noria (www.noria-research.com), and Mideastwire.com. During the seven days in July, participants from all over the world will listen and engage local politicians, civil society figures and analysts. The aim is to provide direct and intensive insight from several differing perspectives into Erbil and Iraqi Kurdistan in general, as well as when it comes to the disputed areas between the Islamic State, Erbil and Baghdad.

For more information visit: www.thebeirutexchange.com

Request an application via info@mideastwire.com

The seven-day Erbil Exchange program rests on two tracks:

Professional & Academic – Participants will attend a series of lectures led by prominent academics, analysts and activists from Erbil and the wider region. Themes will include, among others:

- The hegemony of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP);
- The KDP-Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) relationship inside the Kurdish Regional Government(KRG);
- The rise of the political opposition
- The relationship between the KRG and Baghdad;
- Kirkuk and the disputed territories;
- The political game around the Islamic State;
- The political dynamics of the battle for Mosul;
- Gender and politics in Kurdistan;
- NGO and the clientelist game;
- The place of Minorities in KRG and the Kurdish sectarian system;
- Shi'i militia structures;
- The PKK and the Struggle for Sinjar;
- Kurdish Iranian parties in KRG;
- The Kurdish political parties and the Syrian Civil War.

Dialogue with Leaders – Participants will have the opportunity to meet, listen and engage leading social, political and economic actors from across the spectrum in Erbil and Iraqi Kurdistan.

INVITED INDIVIDUAL & INSTITUTIONAL SPEAKERS (Partial List Only)

NOTE: Accepted applicants will receive the full list of confirmed speakers one month prior to the opening of the Exchange, as well as readings pertinent to the sessions:

- The Kurdish Democratic Party
- Hesmat Rejat, Director of the ex-PDK office in Mosul
- Hemen Hawrami, Head of the Office of Foreign Relations KDP
- Sheikh Shamo Shekho Namoo, MP at the Kurdish Parliament
- Khasro Goran, Ex-Deputy Governor of Ninewa
- The Barzani Foundation
- The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
- Saadi Ahmed Pire, Member of the Political Office of PUK
- Khaled Shwani, PUK Member
- Adnan Mufti, PUK Political Office Member
- Rizgar Ali, Head of PUK-Erbil
- Halo Penjweeni, Head PUK-Mosul
- The Goran Party
- Awad Amin, Independent Kurd (ex-Goran)
- Kurdistan University
- Duhoc University
- Salahadin University
- The American University of Kurdistan
- Bayar Dosky, American University of Kurdistan
- Sheikh Adjmi, Hawija
- Hatem Tai, Political Analyst (Kirkuk)
- Atheel al-Nujayfi, Mosul
- Amar Kaya, Advisor of ex-Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaffari
- Riyaz Sarikahya, President of the Turkmeneli Party (Kirkuk)
- Chevan Hussein, Leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party for Syria (PDKS)
- Khaled Domlee, Journalist
- Jabar Qader, Director of Hawler Newspaper

Program Format

The Erbil Exchange will be held over seven days at the conference room of the Dedeman Hotel in Erbil and will open with an orientation and security briefing at 6pm on July 9. The Exchange will close by 2pm on July 16, although from July 10-15 we will generally convene from 9am until 7pm, including in locations outside of the conference hotel in Erbil. In order to promote small group dynamics, the number of participants will be capped at 25. Sessions themselves will be conducted on an individual rather than a panel basis for all speakers and will generally allow ample opportunity for question time (translation into English will be provided when necessary). All sessions will also be held under strict Chatham House rules, although we customarily work with our speakers to approve any quotes/references that participants may need for their own work.

Costs:

Participation Fee – \$900; Reductions are available for alumni of our previous programs and those participants who register for more than one Exchange.

Accommodation – \$100 for a single room per night at the Dedeman Hotel under our group booking only (breakfast, taxes and airport pickup are included). Shared double rooms are also available upon request and are priced at \$60 per participant (we will arrange for sharing with other participants).

Airfare – \$700, approximate from the European Union.

About the Co-Directors:

Arthur Quesnay is Assistant Researcher and PhD Research Fellow in Political Science at the ERC-funded Sociology of Civil Wars program at the Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris 1) since 2015. He was previously (2010-2014) a Junior Research Fellow in Iraq at the Institut français du Proche-Orient (IFPO). His doctoral thesis focuses on sectarian conflicts in Northern Iraq, where he conducted extensive fieldwork since 2009. He has also conducted parallel fieldwork in Libya (2011-2012) and Syria (2012-2013 and 2016) with insurgent groups. Taken together, his work highlights social and political transformation through the Middle East Civil Wars. As co-director of Noria MENA Programme, Mr. Quesnay calls for social scientists to adopt new methodological and

conceptual approaches to understanding these extreme situations and for combining micro and macro analyses.

Robin Beaumont is a PhD candidate in Political Studies at the Paris-based École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). A former student at École Normale Supérieure (ENS, Paris), he joined the European Research Council-funded program WFAAW in 2014, and is currently based in Amman, Jordan, as an associate to the French Institute for Near Eastern Studies (Ifpo). His research explores the reconfigurations of Shia political authority in post-2003 Iraq through a study of the structure of, and relationships between, the religious field (marja'iyya), the Iraqi State, and the various Shia militias.

Nicholas Noe is co-founder of the Beirut-based news translation service Mideastwire.com covering the Middle East media and the co-director of The Exchange program.

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