



## Invitation

Thursday, 16 February 2017, 5 pm

### The New Iraqi Protest Movement (2015-2016): From Identity to Issue Politics and Beyond

Lecture by **Dr Faleh Abdul-Jabbar** (Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies Beirut)

#### Venue

Zentrum für Literatur-  
und Kulturforschung (ZfL)

Schützenstraße 18  
10117 Berlin

In multi-ethnic and multi-religious Iraq, political protest used to crystallize largely around demands of different communities for their own share in political power and representation. Since the end of July 2015 a new protest movement has emerged. Diverging from earlier identity-based politics, this movement refocuses politics on corruption and poor provision of public goods. While such protests have been spreading in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and also in Sunni provinces, the movement is most strongly felt in Iraq's Shiite or predominantly Shiite provinces, signaling a regression in the politicization of Iraqi Shiite identity; a historically old religious-cultural identity, which was gradually politicized by Islamic parties.

In his lecture, Faleh Abdul-Jabbar argues that this movement has the potential to change the reference points of political action and power relations in Iraq. The lecture is based on field research conducted between August 2015 and June 2016. Research presented includes a public opinion survey of around 3000 questionnaires, filled by residents from Bagdad, Basra, Najaf, Karbala, Hilla, 'Imara and towns in Diwania.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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**Faleh Abdul-Jabbar** holds a PhD in political sociology from Birkbeck College, London University. Currently, he is based in Beirut and heads the Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies. He is the author of a number of renowned publications on Iraq and the Middle East, *inter alia* the *Shiite Movement in Iraq* (2003). His research interests cover various fields such as the sociology of religion, sociology of nation building and state formation, tribes and modern socio-economic formation, and cultural discourses in Iraq and the wider Middle East. His latest publications are *Conditions and Horrors*, the *Cultural Roots of Violence in Arabic Culture* (in Arabic, 2014), *The Dilemma of political uncertainties in Iraq* (2009), *The Dilemma of Political identity* (2010) and *Post-Marxism in the Middle East* (in Arabic, 2010).

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