



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

School of Middle Eastern
& North African Studies

Spring 2015 Colloquium Series

The Other Iraqi Crisis



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Between October 1, 2006 and November 30, 2012, only 11,000 special immigrant visas (SIVs) were issued to Iraqis who worked for the U.S. government in Iraq, out of a possible 25,000. Drawing on data I collected between 2011 and 2013 in an anthropological study of 27 Iraqi refugees resettled with SIVs and 24 returned American veterans of the Iraq War living in New York, I reveal the bureaucracy associated with obtaining an SIV. I situate the narratives of the refugees and the veterans within contemporary discourses centering on the actions of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants to problematize and interrogate the positioning of Middle Eastern refugees as “risks” to the US economy and security.

**Friday, April 24, 2015
3:00pm, Marshall 490**

