



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Challenges of conducting research in Iraq and going against the traditional views

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Abstract

Iraqi historians and writers have long-standing views of the ancient roads and the archaeological sites associated with these roads. Their views have mainly come from historical and religious texts and the oral history of the local people over generations. As they are public figures and have a significant impact on the community, this has led them and the local communities in Iraq to have a prejudiced opinion about any attempt at modern research. There are two examples where the local community did not accept modern and academic research findings. Khandaq Shapur and the location of Al-Qadissiyah historical battlefield. These two landscape features have been separately and systematically studied, and the results of these studies have been published in academic journals. The authors of these papers have delivered workshops to the audience and community in Najaf and Karbala cities. However, the local community still holds different ideas about the name and location of these two very well-known features. The local community of these cities have their say in the government's plans for investing in heritage. That is why the view of the local community matters, but the question is how to convince them to change their opinions if academic research cannot.

Keywords

Local Community , Religious Establishments , Decolonization , Public knowledge

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