

Draft Programme**Algeria: Historical Struggles and Imagined Utopias
A British Academy Conference**

Thursday 28 – Friday 29 May 2026
London School of Economics and Political Science

**DAY ONE
THURSDAY 28 MAY 2026**

10:00	Registration & Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Keynote lecture Alternative approaches to studying the Middle East and North Africa: What can we learn from Algeria? Zahia Salhi, University of Sharjah
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Panel 1A: Honouring Hugh Roberts - and his scholarship on a diverse Algeria <i>Beyond victimhood and authenticity: Shawi women as theorists of identity in Algeria</i> Amira Toureche, Independent Researcher <i>Beyond separatism: Kabyle identity, political participation and the scholarly legacy of Hugh Roberts</i> Latefa Guemar, University of East London <i>Future Algerias: The collective publication of J'ai rêvé l'Algérie</i> Patrick Crowley, University of Galway <i>Remembering Hugh Roberts</i> Michael Willis, University of Oxford
	Panel 1B: Historical resistances <i>"I am a soldier like you": Resistance, solidarity, and agency among Algerians in the French army (1914-1918)</i> Claire Eldridge, University of Leeds <i>Reading and remembering the Emir Abdelkader: Holy warrior, horseman, humanitarian</i> Philip Dine, University of Galway <i>Beyond the Casbah: Mobilising for Independence in the Algiers shantytowns - the Cité Mahieddine and beyond, 1945-1962</i> James House, University of Leeds
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 Panel 2A: Maghrebi brothers, North African borders and solidarities

Discord between 'Maghrebi brothers': Algeria-Morocco interstate and intrastate conflicts, 1962-1964

Yu Lan, University of Exeter

The early formations of solidarity networks between Egyptians and Algerians in Cairo, 1945-1952

Farah Otozbeer, SOAS

Algeria and Morocco 1954 - 64: The transformation from resistance solidarities to geo-political rivalries

Martin Evans, University of Sussex

Trade, security, and geopolitics in the Maghreb - great Middle East interface: Algeria's strategic choices in a fragmenting global order

Vilen Mnatsakanyan, Russian-Armenian University

Panel 2B: Imagined futures: Justice, democracy and collective memory

Another Algeria is possible: Youth perceptions of struggle, justice, and utopia in post-Hirak Algeria

Hicham Baali, Independent Researcher

Enemies within: Law, violence, and the politics of forgetting in postcolonial Algeria (1962-2005)

Camyla Lakehal-Ayat, LSE

Narrating the republic that was promised: Literary resistance, state memory, and the politics of hope in post-Hirak Algeria

Elhadj Moussa BenMoussa, University of East London

Everyday engagement: Building civic capacity and social agency among Algerian youth

Yahia Benyamina, CRASC Research Centre, Oran & University of Helsinki

15:30 – 17:00 **Panel 2C: Cross colonial comparisons: Understanding Algeria through the lens of Ireland**

Bodies of resistance: Cultural nationalism and embodied oral traditions in Ireland and Algeria

Mairéad Ní Bhriain, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

Immigration through the lens of national archives: Comparing the Irish in England and the Algerians in France after Independence

Kamel Salmi, Sorbonne Nouvelle University

'Il ne faut pas faire de l'Algérie une nouvelle Irlande': A historical inquiry into an oft-repeated 19th-century slogan

Slimane Hargas, Université Paris Nanterre

"The Example of Valiant Little Ireland": The Irish Revolution in Algerian Nationalist thought

Donal Hassett, Maynooth University

17:00 – 18:30 **Drinks Reception**

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DAY TWO
FRIDAY 29 MAY 2026

09:30 **Coffee & Tea**

10:00 – 11:30 **Panel 3A: Economic histories: Socialist utopias, ideology and development**

Sayyid Qutb, al-Qiyam and Mouloud Qassim: Reconsidering discourses of Islamic Socialism in the 1960s & 1970s

Will Cochrane-Dyett, University of Oxford

Algeria and the Gulf: Between postcolonial autonomy and pragmatic interdependence

Gökhan Ereli, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Ankara

Technical assistance programs in post-Independence Algeria and diplomatic interaction with Swiss development policies in the early 1960s

Leila Hammouche, Independent Researcher

Algeria 1970s: History of development under constraint - The case of the Socialist villages

Farid Marhoum, University of Tlemcen

Seventy years after Independence: What growth regime for Algeria?

Abdallah Zouache, Sciences Po Lille

Panel 3B: Arts, trauma and postcolonial resistance

Cartoons in Algeria: A portrait of post-Independence society

Hamza Bachiri, Centre for Social and Cultural Anthropology Research

Music as utopia: Listening to Algerian Mâlûf and the interrupted future of coexistence

Lina Ounissi, University of Basel

Restorative responses to trauma: Music and ritual in Algeria

Tamara Turner; Indiana University, Bloomington

Ethics and aesthetics: Trauma and disability in Mosteghanemi's trilogy

Ikram Berkani, Coventry University

10:00 – 11:30 Panel 3C: Fanonian perspectives and decolonial feminisms

Women without faces: A comparative reading of L'Algérie se dévoile and La battaglia di Algeri

Haodong Bai, University of Cambridge

Towards an Algerian historical decolonial feminism: Core concepts for a contextualised theoretical framework

Khaoula Belghit, University of Brighton

Rewriting colonial afterlives: Intergenerational trauma in The Meursault Investigation and What the Days Owes the Night

Imen Boudekhana, University of Bechar, Tahri Mohamed

Towards the poetics of contemporary Algerian diasporic literature

Salma-Kaouthar Letaief, University of Bern

11:30 – 12:00 Break

12:00 – 13:30 Panel 4A: Digital activism, identity and belonging

Digital citizenship, socio-political aspirations, and the contested utopias of Algeria's post-Independence generation

Adel Chiheb, University of Jijel

Digital suppression and legal structures in Algeria: The impact of chilling effect law on the digital sphere

Farah Djabi, University of Catania

Staging the ordinary: Masculine performativities and café sociality in postcolonial Algiers

Youcef Hadjazi, Newcastle University

Reclaiming a marginalised past: Third-generation Harki digital activism, memory, and belonging in contemporary France

Rachid Sekkai, University of Portsmouth

12:00 – 13:30 **Panel 4B: Decolonising education: Postcolonial reforms and imagined utopias**

Shifting positionalities in cross-cultural educational research: Lessons from fieldwork in Algeria and England

Amina Abdat, University of East London

English as utopia? Reimagining Algeria's linguistic order

Hanane Benmokhtar, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales

Children of the Revolution: Educator improvisation and children's moral imagination in Algeria's refugee-hosting schools

Sarra Boukhari, University of Swansea

Imagining reform, encountering history: The structural depth of higher education transformation in Algeria

Nesrine Maouche, Conservatoire national des arts et métiers

Panel 4C: Economics and global perspectives

(De)colonisation and globalisation

Rabah Arezki, French National Centre for Scientific Research

A blueprint for bold reforms

Francis Ghiles, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

From political to economic sovereignty in the 21st century

Amir Lebdoui, University of Oxford

Algerian agricultural economy and food security: Effectiveness vs efficiency?

Elias Boukrami, Regent's University London & Issam Malki, University of Westminster

13:30 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 – 16:00 **Panel 5A: Histories and memories of Algerian women: Film screening & roundtable**

With filmmakers Nadja Makhlouf, Sarah El Hamed & Nassima Gessoum

Panel 5B: A Conversation with Francis Ghiles and Abderrahmane Hadj-Nacer

Close of conference
