

**FINAL PROGRAMME****Algeria: Historical Struggles and Imagined Utopias  
Conference**

Thursday 28 – Friday 29 May 2026

London School of Economics and Political Science

This conference would not have been possible without the support of the late Professor Hugh Roberts (1945–2025) who was a Visiting Professor at the LSE Middle East Centre until his passing. Roberts' pioneering scholarship on Algeria contributed to a better understanding of North African politics.

**DAY ONE****THURSDAY 28 MAY 2026**

<b>10:00</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building</b>
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Keynote lecture</b> <b>Algeria and the anxiety of decolonisation: Case studies in language and gender</b> <b>Room 1.04, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building</b> Speaker: Zahia Salhi, University of Sharjah Chair: Jessica Northey, Coventry University & LSE Middle East Centre
<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Panel 1A: Honouring Hugh Roberts - and his scholarship on a diverse Algeria</b> <b>Room 1.04, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building</b>  <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

---

---

13:30 – 15:00

**Panel 1B: Historical resistances**  
**Room 1.08, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

*"I am a soldier like you": Resistance, solidarity, and agency among Algerians in the French army (1914-1918)*

Claire Eldridge, University of Leeds

*Reading and remembering the Emir Abdelkader: Holy warrior, horseman, humanitarian*

Philip Dine, University of Galway

*Beyond the Casbah: Mobilising for Independence in the Algiers shantytowns - the Cité Mahieddine and beyond, 1945-1962*

James House, University of Leeds

---

15:00 – 15:30

**Break**

---

15:30 – 17:00

**Panel 2A: Maghrebi brothers, North African borders and solidarities**  
**Room 1.04, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

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

Yu Lan, University of Exeter

*Spaces of Possibility in Cairo: The Early Formations of Algerian-Egyptian Solidarity Networks, 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 - greater Middle East interface: Algeria's strategic choices in a fragmenting global order*

Vilen Mnatsakanyan, Russian-Armenian University

---

---

15:30 – 17:00

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

**Room 1.08, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

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

Hicham Baali, University of Laghouat

*From liberation to reconciliation: Analysing violence and the legal construction of the “enemy within” 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

**Panel 2C: Cross colonial comparisons: Understanding Algeria through the lens of Ireland**

**Room 2.05, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

*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*

Dónal Hassett, Maynooth University

---

17:00 – 18:30

**Reception**

**Great Hall, Ground Floor, Marshall Building**

---

**DAY TWO**  
**FRIDAY 29 MAY 2026**

**09:30**                      **Coffee & Tea**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

---

**10:00 – 11:30**        **Panel 3A: Economic histories: Socialist utopias, ideology and development**  
**Room 1.04, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

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

Will Cochrane-Dyet, University of Oxford

*Technical assistance programs in post-Independence Algeria and diplomatic interaction with Swiss development policies in the early 1960s*  
Leila Hammouche, Independent Researcher

*Seventy years after Independence: What growth regime for Algeria?*  
Abdallah Zouache, Sciences Po Lille

**Panel 3B: Arts, trauma, cultural heritage and resistance**  
**Room 1.08, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

*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, Colorado State University

*Cultural heritage, gender and anticolonial resistance – experiences from writing the Sand Roses*

Hamza Koudri, Independent Researcher

---

---

10:00 – 11:30

**Panel 3C: Fanonian perspectives and decolonial feminisms**  
**Room 2.05, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

*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**  
**Room 1.04, 1st Floor, Marshall Building**

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: Economics and global perspectives**  
**Room 1.08, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

*(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 Lebdioui, University of Oxford

*Algerian agricultural economy and food security: Effectiveness vs efficiency?*

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

**Panel 4C: Decolonising education: Postcolonial reforms and imagined utopias**

**Room 2.05, 2nd Floor, Marshall Building**

*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

---

13:30 – 14:30

**Lunch**

---

14:30 – 16:00

**Panel 5A: A Conversation between Abderrahmane Hadj-Nacer and Francis Ghiles**

**Room 1.04, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

---

14:30 – 17:00

**Panel 5B: Histories and memories of Algerian women: Film screening & roundtable**

**Room 1.08, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Marshall Building**

With filmmakers Nadja Makhoulf, Sarah El Hamed & Nassima Gessoum

---

**Close of conference**

---