

**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**

<b>10:00</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Keynote lecture</b> <b>Alternative approaches to studying the Middle East and North Africa: What can we learn from Algeria?</b> Zahia Salhi, University of Sharjah
<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>  <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  <b>Panel 1B: Historical resistances</b>  <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
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>

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**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

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**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

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**17:00 – 18:30**    **Drinks Reception**

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

**09:30** **Coffee & Tea**

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**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

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**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

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**11:30 – 12:00 Break**

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**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

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**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

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**13:30 – 14:30**    **Lunch**

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**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**

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**Close of conference**

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