

# Cities and Decolonization: Anti-colonial Struggles, Urban Protest, and Global Solidarities in the Twentieth Century

Wadham College, University of Oxford  
19-20 March 2026

## Venue:

Wadham College, Seminar Rooms 4 and 5, Parks Road, Oxford, United Kingdom

## Organisers:

Norman Aselmeyer (University of Oxford)  
Eric Burton (University of Innsbruck)



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## Programme

### Day 1: 19 March 2026

10.00	Registration
10.30-11.00	Welcoming Remarks and Introduction
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>ACTORS I: Gendered Politics of Urban Space in Colonial Africa</b> Chair: John Darwin (University of Oxford)
11.00-12.30	Sara Hussein (UCLA) <i>Anticolonial Solidarity from Cairo to Conakry: Afro-Asian Sisters Against Empire</i>
	Marius Kothor (Harvard University) <i>Nana Benz: Togolese Women Merchants and the Spatial Politics of Decolonization</i>
	Jennifer Hart (Virginia Tech) <i>Disturbances in the Gold Coast: Market Women, Global Trade, and the Politics of Decolonization in Post-War Accra</i>
12.30-13.30	Lunch

<b>Session 2</b>	<b>ACTORS II: Supporting, Surveilling, and Controlling Anti-Colonial Actors in Eurasian Cities</b> Chair: Alexander Sedlmaier (Bangor University)
13.30-15.00	Maria Ketzmerick-Calandrino (ZMO Berlin) <i>Postcolonial Spaces and Postsocialist Realities: Afro-Asian Mobility, and the Stasi in the Divided City of Berlin</i>
	Joseph Ben Prestel (Free University of Berlin) <i>Migration, Anti-Imperialism, and a Gap in the Wall: How Berlin Turned into a Centre of Palestinian Politics (1960s-80s)</i>
	Malika Zehni (IHR London) <i>Roads to Tashkent: Infrastructures of Anticolonial Mobility (1920-60)</i>
15.00-15.30	Coffee/Tea Break
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>TENSIONS I: Breeding Grounds of Rebellion: Neighbourhoods, Protests and Violence</b> Chair: NN
15.30-17.00	Chris Saunders (University of Cape Town) <i>Windhoek as a Hub of Decolonisation</i>
	Sophie-Jung Kim (University of Vienna) <i>Shanghai and Anticolonial Globalities: An Alternative History of the Korean Manse Movement</i>
	Wallace Teska (University of Cambridge) <i>"Morts pour le Droit": Law, Violence, and Anticolonial Protest in Daloa, Côte d'Ivoire, 1945-1950</i>
<b>Keynote Lecture</b>	
17.15-18.45	Su Lin Lewis (University of Bristol) <i>The Other Side of Power: Anti-Colonialism, Authoritarianism, and the Left in the Decolonising City</i>
19.15	Dinner

## Day 2: 20 March 2026

<b>Session 4</b>	<b>TENSIONS II: Decolonial Dilemmas: Institutional Contradictions and Fractured Solidarities</b> Chair: Jim House (University of Leeds)
9.00-10.30	Yasmina Martin (UC Riverside) <i>Frustrated Solidarities: South African Exile and Transnational Anti-Apartheid Organizing in 1960s Dar es Salaam</i>  Stephen Legg (University of Nottingham) <i>Spaces of Global Urban Historical Anticolonialism: Delhi's Comparative Governmentalities</i>  Natalya Benkhaled-Vince (University of Oxford) <i>A Colonial University in a Decolonised City? The University of Algiers and the Early Years of Algerian Independence</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee/Tea Break
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>VENUES I: Connecting Cities: Strategies, Logistics, and Rivalries across Urban Contexts</b> Chair: Jennifer Altehenger (University of Oxford)
11.00-12.30	Jocelyn Alexander (University of Oxford) <i>Making and Moving a Liberation Army in Zambian Cities: Zimbabwean Youth, Farmers, and Workers in the 1960s</i>  Immanuel Harisch (University of Vienna) <i>Trade Unionists in Africa's "Hubs of Decolonization": An Entangled Perspective from Léopoldville, Dar es Salaam and Lusaka (1960-1968)</i>  Clarence Chongo (University of Zambia) <i>A "Hub of Decolonisation": Lusaka, Liberation Movements and the Struggle for Black Majority Rule in Southern Africa, c.1960s-1980</i>
12.30-13.30	Lunch

<b>Session 6</b>	<b>VENUES II: Urban Politics: Re/Imagining City, Countryside and Nation</b> Chair: Norman Aselmeyer (University of Oxford)
13.30-15.30	Nora Lafi (University of Bayreuth) <i>War, De/Re/Colonization and Resistance: The Civic Sphere in Ghadames, Libya (1943-1953)</i>
	David M. Anderson (University of Warwick) <i>Forging the Nation: African Urban Politics in Nairobi, 1956-1966</i>
	Koni Benson (University of the Western Cape) <i>Reconfiguring Cape Town: Gender, Land, Movements, History</i>
	Maxwell Kwesi Asabere (West Virginia University) <i>Controlling the Cocoa Crisis: Colonial Interventions, Policies, and Urban Reactions to Cocoa Pests and Diseases in the Gold Coast (Ghana), 1930-1957</i>
15.30-16.00	Coffee/Tea Break
<b>Final Discussion</b>	<b>Roundtable: Cities and Decolonization in the Twentieth Century</b>
16.00-17.00	Chair: Eric Burton (University of Innsbruck) Reem Abou-El-Fadl (SOAS) Prashant Kidambi (University of Leicester) Hilary Sapire (Birkbeck) Alexander Sedlmaier (Bangor University)