

**The Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France
Annual Conference
Wed-Fri 4-6th Sept 2019**

The University of London Institute in Paris and the American University of Paris
invite proposals for papers and panels on the following topic:

The Transnational City

Gathering in Paris to mark its 40th anniversary, the ASMCF annual conference invites proposals that critically examine the transformation of the French-speaking world through the lens of the ever-greater influence, density and diversity of urban centres in the world. Since the creation of the ASMCF, the world's overall urban population has grown exponentially and certain cities, including Paris, have confirmed or consolidated their pre-eminence, becoming geo-political actors beyond the sphere of the nation state, in parallel and potentially in competition with other international organisations. Changing and accelerating patterns of migration have also transformed the demographics of contemporary cities, complicating post-colonial dynamics with new forms of neo-colonial relations of dependency and exchange. Meanwhile, within the national sphere, the relative dynamism of urban centres has led some commentators to point to newly stark configurations of inequality that have had significant impact not just on domestic politics (the rise of far-right and nationalist movements, and also growing independence movements led by cities), but also on varied dimensions of cultural production.

Reflecting this anniversary moment in the history of the ASMCF, the conference committee also welcomes papers that will address how the growth of the transnational city has impacted on the objects and structures of research in modern and contemporary French Studies, and to what extent this reflects changes in the landscape of higher education. Relatedly we ask panelists to engage with how the increasing cultural and linguistic diversity within cities has transformed the teaching and production of French language and culture. To what extent have the connections between transnational cities relegated older networks of French-language influence and association? How has the role of historical, cultural and symbolic capital contributed to the emergence of the city as transnational 'scene' (festivals, biennials, sporting events, museums, policy conventions)? What forms of cultural expression particularly reflect the increasing complexity and significance of urban life, and how have these drawn on and adapted earlier cultural forms?

The committee particularly invites contributions that deal with:

- Perceptions and representations of multilingualism
- Language and dialect contact
- Urban/rural relations in the age of the transnational city
- The role/place of global cities in the face of new global crises : climate change, neoliberalism, new technologies of communication and surveillance
- Gender and public space in the transnational city
- Post/colonial relations and the transnational city
- The city and estrangement
- Urban ethnography
- Frontiers within and around the city

Deadline for proposals to thetransnationalcity@gmail.com by 15 March 2019
Responses will be communicated by 10 April 2019



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**THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY 55**
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