



Echoes and Overlaps in Arab and African Thought on Media and Culture: Forging New Directions for Research

#ICA26 Preconference

Room 4C AC Jordan Building, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town
June 3, 2026

About

This preconference examines “echoes and overlaps” in Arab and African thought on media and culture as a concrete step to address inequalities in knowledge production that have occluded Southern knowledges. Participants from diverse disciplines, locations, institutions, and linguistic contexts will explore Arab and African scholarship on media and culture as zones of exchange, excess, and experimentation from which to forge new theories. Adopting “echoes and overlaps” as an epistemology and a methodology, participants in this preconference take seriously the insights of theorists, thinkers, concepts, and ideas from Africa and the Arab world as well as knowledge produced and archived at African and Arab institutions, thereby disrupting Western colonial modernity’s continued imprint on our understanding of media and culture. Some also revisit the revolutionary potential of the “dreams of independence” that consolidated old and new solidarities and exchanges between African and Arab modernities. However, more than looking back to long-standing “echoes and overlaps,” the selected and pre-circulated papers show how these continue to live on, alive and well, in the contemporary writings of African and Arab scholars. This preconference is organized by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South (#IAS_NUQ) at Northwestern University in Qatar, the Center for Media, Religion and Culture at the University of Colorado Boulder, and the Centre for Film and Media Studies and Digital Media Sociology Lab at the University of Cape Town, with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York through the Arab Information and Media Studies (AIMS) project at #IAS_NUQ. It builds on the promising discussions that took place at #ICA25.

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Registration and Coffee

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Clovis Bergère, Northwestern University in Qatar

Nabil Echchaibi, University of Colorado Boulder

Marwan M. Kraidy, Northwestern University in Qatar

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Panel 1

Land and Sumud, South Africa and Palestine

Nic le Roux, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Hatim El-Hibri, George Mason University

Postcolonial Legacies and the Representation of Black Sub-Saharan Migrant Women in Moroccan Media: Reading Digital Ethnographies of Power and Resistance

Mariam Oulhiad, Cadi Ayyad University

Salience and Silence in News Sources: Who Defines Sudan's Genocide in Al Jazeera English?

Osman Osman, New York University

Respondent: Nabil Echchaibi, University of Colorado Boulder

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Break

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Panel 2

Cairo's Afro-Arab Intellectual Societies: Literary Salons and the Transnational Circulation of Ideas in the Early 20th Century

Yasmeen Alyeldeen and Donia Tarek, Canadian International College

Echoes and Overlaps of Youth in Williams Sassine's Chronique Assassine

Clovis Bergère, Northwestern University in Qatar

A "Possible Modernity": The Arab Self, Diaspora, and Cultural Rapprochement in the Waning Years of Third World Solidarity

Angela Haddad, Northwestern University in Qatar

Tahar Cheriaa: For a Decolonial Film Industry

Giovanni Vimercati, University of California, Santa Barbara

Respondent: Marwan M. Kraidy, Northwestern University in Qatar

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Panel 3

In Search of Hizb al-Kanaba: Mediated Publics and Political Alienation
Nermin Elsherif, Utrecht University

The Negation of Zero: Alienation, Refusal, and Confrontation in Arab and African Thought
Chafic Tony Najem, Northwestern University in Qatar

Algorithmic Bi-langue: Postcolonial Resistance and Visual Code-Switching in Contemporary Muslim AI Art
Sabah Firoz Uddin, Bowie State University

Post-global Culture: Rethinking Global Pop through Afro-Asian Circulations
Jaana Serres, University of Oxford

Respondent: Clovis Bergère, Northwestern University in Qatar

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Discussion and Closing Remarks

To explore other #IAS_NUQ events at #ICA26, including panels, presentations, and booth activities, scan the QR code below.

