

Information and Call for Papers



Villes du Levant **Mémoire, Identité et Avenir Urbain** The Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris (venue host) in association with The Levantine Heritage Foundation Symposium



29 October 2026

On 29th October 2026, the Levantine Heritage Foundation in association with the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris is organizing an international conference, "Villes du Levant: Mémoire, Identité et Avenir Urbain" where presentations will mostly be in French but allowance is given for English for those whose native language is not French.

Topics of consideration for the proposals will include, but not be limited to:

- Cities defining the Levant: Beirut, Saida, Tyre, Haifa, Jerusalem, Damascus, Aleppo, Alexandria etc. Separate entities and rivals or a cultural collective?
- Cosmopolitan cities: the nature and evolution of Levantine urban identity.
- Memory, destruction and the politics of reconstruction in the Levant.
- Reflections of the Levant in literature and film.
- The future of Levantine cities and communities: resilience and renewal.
- The history of foreign communities in Lebanon and beyond – roles from education, business and legacies.
- Movement of people and ideas, establishment of immigrant and diaspora communities inside and beyond the Levant.
- Consuls, vice-consuls and consular agents / dragomans of the Levant.
- The role of social hubs in community definition, assimilation or separation: clubs, schools, cemeteries.
- Refugees in the Levant; pilgrims and travellers.
- Archives, libraries, photo albums and their role in collective memory: preservation versus losses incurred.
- Artistic interpretations from foreign visitors of the past to the new platforms and depictions today.
- Examination of trade routes, opportunities and deal makers from the Ottoman era to the present.
- The evolution of the various classes of Levant society over time.
- Urban memory versus rural memory in the Levant: similarities and contrasts.
- History of care and compassion in the Levant.

Proposals should include title and abstracts (limited to 400 words) and provide the name(s) of the presenter(s), institutional affiliations where applicable, mailing address, telephone number, and email address. Presentation duration is 20 minutes. The language of presentations will be French or English.

The deadline for sending the proposals is **15 September 2026**. All correspondence, including the proposals, should be directed to [contact\[at\]levantineheritage.com](mailto:contact[at]levantineheritage.com).

All proposals will be blind reviewed by members of the Conference Committee. Notifications will be sent to applicants on **30 September 2026**.

Unfortunately, there will be no grants for travel or accommodation offered to any successful candidate. We can however provide confirmation letters where the applicant wishes to engage with their institution for permission to attend / receive the grant / allowance from that institution.

The Levantine Heritage Foundation (LHF), UK, is a non-profit membership association, which promotes research, preservation and education in the heritage, arts and culture of the different ethnic and religious communities of the wider Levant region of the Ottoman Empire between the 17th and 20th centuries.

For further information please visit: www.levantineheritage.com

For enquiries for the conference please contact [secretary\[at\]levantineheritage.com](mailto:secretary[at]levantineheritage.com)



"View of Beirut", painting by Edward Lear, 1858.