



Launched by the Institut français in 2016, the NIGHT OF IDEAS is a project staged simultaneously in Paris, London and worldwide, taking place on Thursday 28 January 2021. A major Franco-British event, the NIGHT OF IDEAS previously featured leading figures such as Nicolas Hulot, Thomas Pesquet, Timothy Peake, Posy Simmonds, Yinka Shonibare, Ken Loach, Anthony Grayling or Maggie Aderin-Pocock.

For the 2021 edition, the Institut français du Royaume-Uni, the Higher Education, Research and Innovation Department and the Cultural Department of the French Embassy are putting together a thought-provoking programme of debates, performances and screenings. Crossing French, British and European perspectives, the next edition of the NIGHT OF IDEAS will engage audiences in free debates with the theme TOGETHER as the common thread to tackle the latest ideas behind contemporary issues. At a time when our salvation depends on the distance we put between each other, when countries are redefining their borders, when our way of life jeopardises the whole biosphere, do we have to reinvent new ways of being close to one another and to the world? If we wonder how we can face today's crises, the answer is perhaps: together.

The NIGHT OF IDEAS invites us to question what “together” means today:

Does it mean belonging in society through newly shaped solidarities? Experiencing new ways to communicate with each other? Do we need to define a new “us” beyond traditional boundaries, may they be geographical or human? To defend free speech against ideological conformism and radicalism? Caring for others, speaking together, living with one another, or looking at others. This is what “together” means. Sharing feelings and moments, confronting visions and ideas.

Let's join a night of debates and ideas onsite or online with writers, philosophers, artists, scientists and citizen-activists to discuss new ways of being together and close to each other.

In the run-up to the NIGHT OF IDEAS, a film season, BEFORE THE NIGHT, will echo the different themes and the LITTLE NIGHT will invite pupils from British and French schools to reflect on main topics.

Join us for a night of debates and ideas.

BEFORE THE NIGHT

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 27 January

Debate

Old Empires and New Umpires

18:30 – BEFORE THE NIGHT - Ciné Lumière

A half-century of post-colonial studies has enshrined the idea that empires have essentially undermined societies around the world and left psychological scars that may never heal. Contemporary anti-imperialists construe colonial empires as historical singularities that mankind has a moral duty not to replicate. Yet, aren't we witnessing a rebirth of imperialist temptations whose *raison d'être* seems more acceptable only because they are the product of new regional powers?

Pierre Singaravélou, Historian & Professor of contemporary history, Sorbonne University

Samir Puri, Senior Fellow, Singapore's International Institute for Strategic Studies

Olivette Otele, Professor of history of slavery and memory of enslavement, University of Bristol

Chaired by **Natalya Vince**, Historian & Reader in North African and French Studies, University of Portsmouth

NIGHT OF IDEAS

Thursday 28 January

PROGRAMME

Master of ceremonies: **Marc Bena**

Live drawing by **Chris Riddell**

Welcome Remarks: **TOGETHER**

17:30 – Ciné Lumière

Catherine Colonna, French Ambassador to the UK, will launch the Night of Ideas 2021. This new edition will focus on what does “Together” mean today.

Debate

Feeling for Others

18:05 - 19:05 – Ciné Lumière

The health crisis we are experiencing has produced new practices of sociability, a need for more inclusiveness and a call for compassion. What are the new solidarities that have emerged? To what extent can feeling or caring for others change our way of life?

With

Cynthia Fleury, Philosopher & Psychoanalyst

Sandra Laugier, Professor of philosophy, Sorbonne University

Christie Watson, Former Nurse & Author

Chaired by **Rachel Cooke**, Journalist & Columnist for *The Observer*

Debate

Looking at Others

18:05 -19:05 – La Médiathèque

History of art can be read as an objectification of women. In this aspect, the “female gaze” we can now experience in some contemporary works of art is a real revolution, literally giving voice to the voiceless. But as we fight against old and rooted stereotypes, isn’t there a risk of creating new ones?

With

Fatos Ustek, Curator, Author & former Director of the Liverpool Biennial

Carolin Emcke, Journalist & Author

Céline Sciamma, Screenwriter & Film Director

Camille Morineau, Art Curator, Historian, Co-founder and Director of AWARE

Chaired by **Lucy Kerbel**, Author & Founder of Tonic Theatre

Debate

Lonely Together

19:10 - 20:10 – Ciné Lumière

Social media bring individuals together, opening them up to the world while enclosing them in bubbles of mimetic identification. Digital networks can increase social withdrawal, but it has also proved to be a unique way to combat lockdown loneliness. Can we be emotionally connected in the digital world?

With

Fay Bound Alberti, Author & cultural Historian, University of York

Manuel Arias Maldonado, Professor of political science, University of Malaga

Clémentine Lalande, CEO of *Once* online dating app

Chaired by **Tim Markham**, Professor of journalism and media, Birkbeck College

Debate

Different Together

19:10-20:10 – La Médiathèque

Racial discrimination has been an awful part of European history. Successive waves of national emancipation and progressive laws have slowly built a theoretically inclusive society of equals, regardless of race or origin. However, aren't Africa and the people (wrongly or duly) associated to it still objectified in European discourse, be it artistic or political?

With

Reni Eddo-Lodge, Journalist & Author of *Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race*

Eric Baudelaire, Artist & Filmmaker

Pap NDiaye, Author & Professor of history, Sciences Po Paris

Chaired by **Nadia Latif**, Lecturer in anthropology, Smith College

Debate

Living with One Another

20:40 - 21:40 – Ciné Lumière

Now that the UK is not a member of the EU anymore, maybe it's time to question the European identity. Is the idea of "nation" back on tracks or are there new forms of social cohesion, a new sense of belonging and citizenship? Where do younger generations place their hopes? What do we mean when we say "we" on a political level?

With

Stephen Clarke, Director for relations with citizens in the Directorate-General for Communication, European Parliament

Robert Tombs, Historian & Author, Cambridge University

Ulrike Guérot, Head of the department for European policy and the study of democracy, Danube University Krems

Louis William, Author & COO of *One Year No Beer*

Chaired by **Matthew Parris**, Journalist & Columnist at *The Times* and *The Spectator*

Debate

Speaking to Each Other

20:40-21:40 – La Médiathèque

The social fabric is being ripped apart by violent forms of intolerance. The increasing number of conflicts born of intellectual oppositions often lead to radicalisation that affects us all. How can we produce a genuine debate of ideas while avoiding intolerance, exclusion or ideological conformism? Is free speech still a right?

With

Lionel Shriver, Author of *We Need To Talk About Kevin*

Kamel Daoud, Author and Journalist for *The Quotidien d'Oran*

Thomas Chatterton Williams, Author & cultural Critic

Anastasia Colosimo, Professor of political theology, Sciences Po Paris

Chaired by **Philippe Sands**, Professor of law, UCL

Closing Concert

22:00 - 22:30 – Ciné Lumière

Line-up to be announced