

Universities and Society at the End of Empire and Beyond (UniSoc)

Universiteit Leiden, 5-6 November 2026

Organisers:
Anne-Isabelle Richard (Leiden University) and Berny Sèbe (University of Birmingham)
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Venue: Conference Room 2.60 Huizinga Building, Doelensteeg 16, 2311VL Leiden

Thursday 5 November 2026

9.00-9.15 Welcome Anne-Isabelle Richard and Berny Sèbe

9.15-10.45 Keynote
Joseph Morgan Hodge, University of West Virginia
Arthur Hugh Bunting and Institutional and Network Building at the University of Reading in the Age of Decolonization, 1956-1982.

10.45-11.00 Coffee

11.00-12.30 Roundtable 1 – Universities and post-war world-making
Chair: Vineet Thakur, Leiden University

Daniel Laqua, Northumbria University
Alice Byrne, Aix-Marseille University
Giles Scott-Smith, Leiden University
Evan Smith, Adelaide University

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.30 Workshop 1
Chair: Lauren Lauret, Leiden University

Wiebe Hommes, University of Amsterdam
Colonial legal education and the development of international law.

Sara Legrandjaques, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University
Quit India? The Enrolment of Indian Students in European Universities before and after Independence (1945-1950).

Wesley Maraire, University of Copenhagen
Watching Norway Watch Itself: Sixty Years of Partnership Under Scrutiny.

Lutz Wahnschaffe, European University Institute, Florence
(Un-)Making Global Student Communities: Mobility, Decolonization and the Transformation of Christian Academic Networks, ca. 1945-1975.

15.30-15.45 Coffee

15.45-17.15 Roundtable 2 – The colonial past and its legacies in present-day Universities
Chair: Alicia Schrikker, Leiden University

Jason Haynes, University of Birmingham
Larissa Schulte Nordholt, University of Leiden
Yvette Senghor, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar

19.00 Dinner

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Friday 6 November

9.00-10.30 Keynote
Ruth Bush, University of Bristol
Pluriversity in Practice: reflections from the Creative Lives of African Universities project.

10.30-10.45 Coffee

10.45-12.45 Workshop 2
Chair: Pieter Slaman, Leiden University

Sarah Limb, King's College London
Education and Empire: King's College London and Knowledge Production, 1920-1970.

Philipp Krauer, Monique Ligtenberg & Sarujan Theivendran, ETH Zürich
Training the Postcolonial World: ETH Zürich and the Remaking of Colonial Expertise in the Age of Decolonisation.

Elizabeth Marcus, Newcastle University
Law, Language and Cultural Imperialism: The Affaire de l'Ecole de Droit de Beyrouth, 1951-1959.

Jules Siran, University of Geneva
Contact Zones: Hungarian Technical Universities and the Postcolonial Nations (1950s - 1990s).

12.45-13.45 Lunch

13.45-15.15 Roundtable 3 – Approaches, Theory and Sources: Methodological Considerations
Chair: Isaac Scarborough, Leiden University

Nicolas Hafner, Graduate Institute, Geneva
Sourour Salhi, University of Annaba
Ruth Bush, University of Bristol
Joseph Hodge, University of West Virginia

15.15 – 15.45 **Beyond the workshops: Networks and Projects**
Anne-Isabelle Richard and Berny Sèbe