

45th Annual Conference | 45 colloque annuel
LONDON, 14.05-16.05.2024

HYBRID CONFERENCE

SECOND CIRCULAR



Aga Khan Library

Aga Khan Centre
10 Handyside St
London N1C 4DN
United Kingdom
Tel. +44 7750 2714
library-services@aku.edu
www.agakhanlibrary.org

N.B. For those attending online:
The conference link will be emailed to you a few days before the
conference. Attending the conference online is free of charge

1. Venue

The Aga Khan Library will host the 45th MELCom International Annual Conference at the Aga Khan Centre.

Aga Khan Centre
10 Handyside Street
Kings Cross
N1C 4DN

The Aga Khan Centre is located in the northern section of the Kings Cross area, behind the University of the Arts London - Central St. Martins (UAL-CSM) and very close to Coal Drops Yard.

How to get here via public transport

The Aga Khan Centre is a 10-minute walk from St Pancras International train station and King's Cross train and underground stations.

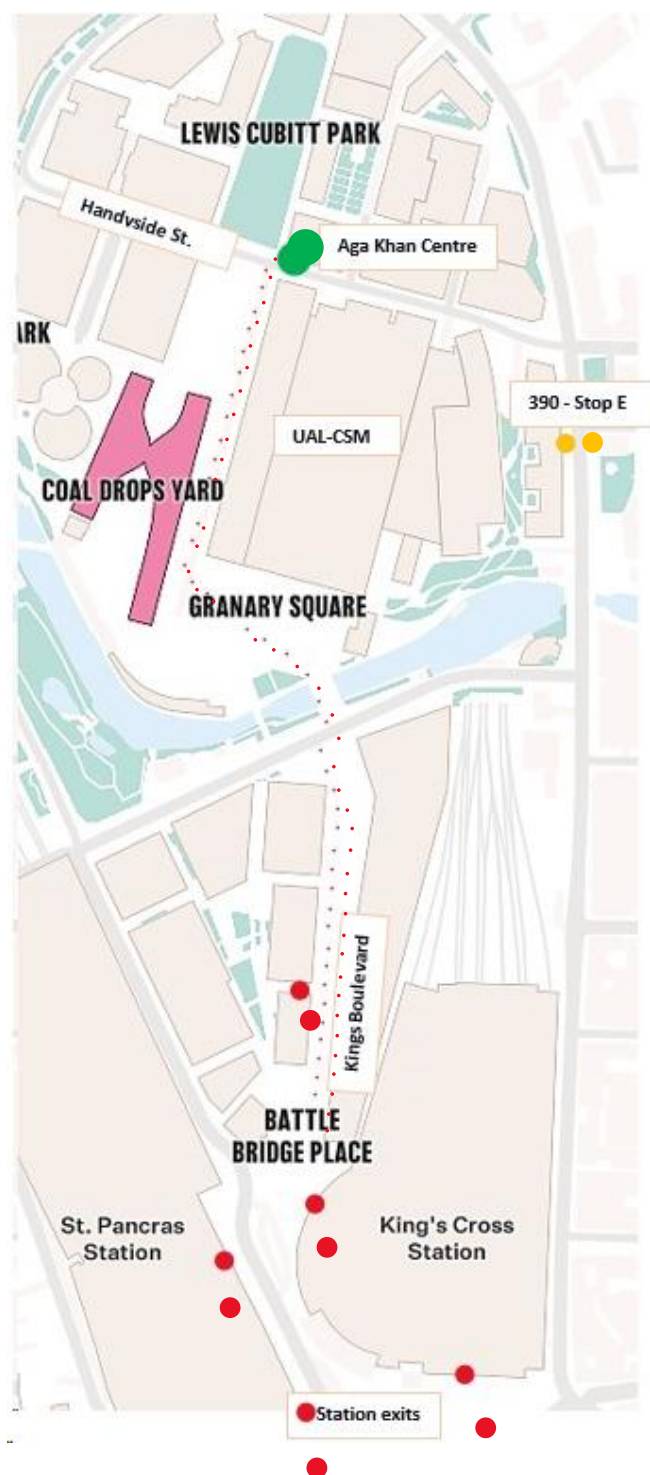
Leaving the stations and keeping King's Cross station always to your right, start your journey from **Battle Bridge Place**. We recommend you walk along **King's Boulevard**, a pedestrian route going north. At the end of King's Boulevard, on your left, you will see a clothes shop called *&Other Stories* and in front of you two pedestrian crossings over the canal towards **Granary Square**.

Cross the canal and walk towards the left corner of the large brick building that houses some restaurants and cafes. At the corner, turn right and follow **Stable St.**, leaving **Coal Drops Yard** to your left. You will find the Aga Khan Centre at the end, besides **Lewis Cubitt Park**.

If you are coming by bus, the best option is Route 390. Alight at Stop E (Copenhagen St/York Way).

Further bus lines will drop you outside Kings Cross station, lower York Way, and Euston Road (10, 17, 30, 45, 59, 63, 73, 91, 205, 214, 259, 476)

For detailed travel information and to plan your journey around London, please visit the [Transport for London Website](#).



2. Papers and provisional programme

Day 1, Tuesday 14th May – Atrium, Conference Room, Aga Khan Centre

09:00-10:15	Registration and refreshments
10:30-11:00	Opening and Welcome
11:00-13:00	Session 1 : 20 minute papers & discussion
13:00-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-16:30	Session 2 : 20 minute papers & discussion
16:30-17:45	Library Tour
18:00-19:00	Buffet at AKC

Day 2, Wednesday 15th May – Atrium, Conference Room, Aga Khan Centre

09:30-10:00	Refreshments
10:00-12:00	Session 3 : 20 minute papers & discussion
12:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-16:00	Session 4: 20 minute papers & discussion
16:00-16:15	Short break
16:15-17:30	Visit to a library

Optional dinner appointment at 18:45 ; dinner at 19:00

Day 3, Thursday 16th May – Atrium, Conference Room, Aga Khan Centre

09:30-10:00	Refreshments
10:00-12:00	Session 5 : 20 minute papers & discussion
12:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-16:00	Session 6 : 20 minute papers & discussion
16:00-16:30	Refreshment break
16:30-18:00	Business meeting: reports, next conferences, etc. and Closing Session

Friday 17th May – Excursion: Day Trip around London (optional)

3. Conference and attendance fees

Registration: 50 euros for regular participants / 100 Euro for commercial participants / Free for students (upon presentation of a valid student ID)

Traditional dinner (optional): £45 drinks not included (See below)

Excursion (optional): maximum £65 (price TBC) inclusive of transport and entrance fee.

See below:

Apart from the conference registration fees, all other expenditures are optional. Please indicate on the firm registration form which activities you wish to participate in and the number of accompanying persons. **The registration fee will be collected in euros**, in cash during the conference registration morning. Owners of a bank account within the EURO-zone can pay via bank transfer to the following account:

Drechsler, Andreas/MELCom International, DE71 7705 0000 0303 0531 77 at Sparkasse Bamberg, Germany.

Please add as purpose of the payment the following: "Conference Fee London 2024", then send an email to andreas.drechsler@uni-bamberg.de with subject heading "Conference Fee London 2024" has been transferred to account n.DE71 7705 0000 0303 0531 77 at Sparkasse Bamberg, Germany". In the body of the message, please indicate your full name, affiliation and contact details (address, phone n. and email).

The fees for dinner and excursion will be collected in GBP, in cash during the conference registration morning. Please do try to bring exact change.

Please note participants who intend to come and pay via transfer in advance and are obliged to cancel their attendance will be reimbursed ONLY for the registration fee. The excursion and traditional dinner fee cannot be reimbursed. Similarly, those who sign up for dinner and / or excursion and cannot participate will be asked to pay for their part as dinner and excursion are pre-paid by the local organizers ahead of time according to the number of participants.

Non-euro zone participants are asked to check with their bank if a transfer is free; in that case, payment via transfer is preferable. Otherwise, they (as everybody else) can of course pay in cash at the registration. Cheques are NOT accepted.

4. Accommodation

Due to high demand, we kindly ask you to make your hotel booking as soon as possible. It is recommended that you cross check the hotel offerings on different booking websites that may offer you better pricing and options.

All the hotels in the list are within a 30 minute walk from the Aga Khan Centre.

St Pancras Inn

54-58 Caledonian Road,
N1 9DP

<https://www.stpancrasinn.com/>

+442045129171

Kings Cross Inn Hotel

9-11 Euston Road,
NW1 2SA

<https://www.kingscrossinnhotel.co.uk/>

020 7833 9510

Carlton Hotel

Birkenhead Street,
WC1H 8BA

<https://www.carltonhotellondon.com/>

020 7837 6655

Argyle Square Hotel

21-22 Argyle square,
WC1H 8AS

<https://www.argylesquarehotellondon.co.uk/>

020 7837 1418

Crestfield Hotel

2-4 Crestfield Street,
WC1H 8AT

<https://www.crestfieldhotel.co.uk/>

+44 (0)20 7837 0500

Swinton Hotel

18-24 Swinton Street,
WC1X 9NX

<https://www.swintonhotel.com/>

+44 (0) 207 8371451

Premier Inn London King's Cross Hotel

26-30 York Way,
N1 9AA

<https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/greater-london/london/london-kings-cross.html>

+44333 321 1277

Point A Hotel London Kings Cross – St Pancras

324 Gray's Inn Road
WC1X 8BU

<https://www.pointahotels.com/our-hotels/kings-cross/>

+44 (0) 0745 127 7559

Travelodge London Central Euston

1-11 Grafton Place, Off Eversholt Street,
NW1 1DT

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/344/London-Central-Euston-hotel>

+44 (0) 8719 846332

Travelodge London Kings Cross Royal Scot

100 Kings Cross Road
London, WC1X 9DT

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/269/London-Central-Kings-Cross-Royal-Scot-hotel>

08719 846272

Euston Square Hotel

152 - 156 North Gower Street,
NW1 2LU

<http://www.eustonsquarehotellondon.com/>

+44(0) 20 7387 0287

5. Transportation from the airport and around London

From the Airport:

Depending on the airport you arrive at, there are several options of continuing your journey. The airports are well connected by trains, coaches and taxi services. The most frequent, economical and convenient would be the train options, followed by coaches. Taxis can be convenient but would be a good option for groups travelling together.

See the [Transport for London website](#), for more details on London airports and rail connections.

In London:

London is very accessible via public transport, with frequent buses, tube and over ground train options. Plan your trips with the [Transport for London journey planner](#). Or you can download this easy-to-use app: https://tfl.gov.uk/maps_/tfl-go

A variety of tourist maps can be downloaded from here: <https://londonmap360.com/london-tourist-map>

Also, official Transport for London maps can be found on their website. <https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/images/visitors-guide-map.jpg>

A visitors guide to London: <https://content.tfl.gov.uk/london-visitor-guide.pdf>

N.B. When using the public transport in London, you do not need to buy separate tickets or week/day passes. As long as you use the same contactless card, the fares are capped per day and per week. [Pay as you go caps - Transport for London \(tfl.gov.uk\)](#)

6. Where to have lunch and dinner

The library is surrounded by a number of places to eat and drink, so there are many cafés and restaurants nearby.

A comprehensive list of suggestions can be found on this link: <https://www.kingscross.co.uk/eat-and-drink>.

A selection of options are also listed below:

[FIRIN](#)

140 York Way, London N1 0AX
A traditional wood-fired Turkish cuisine.

[Dishoom](#)

5 Stable St, Kings Cross, London N1C 4AB
A taste of old Bombay in the Victorian brick arches at King's Cross.

[Arabica](#)

7 Lewis Cubitt Walk, London N1C 4DT
Modern Middle Eastern Restaurant in King's Cross

[Hoppers](#)

4 Pancras Square, Kings Cross, London N1C 4AG
This restaurant serves Sri Lankan family-style feasts and seafood grills.

[Lina Stores](#)

20 Stable St, Kings Cross, London N1C 4DR
Retro styled mint green Italian restaurant and deli for antipasti, pasta and desserts.

[Mildred's](#)

200 Pentonville Rd, Kings Cross London N1 9JP
Vegetarian and vegan restaurant, eat-in or takeaway.

[Pizza Union](#)

246-250 Pentonville Rd, London N1 9JY

[IBERIA-Georgian Restaurant](#)

294-296 Caledonian Rd, London N1 1BA
Georgian Cuisine

[Kimchee](#)

2 Pancras Rd, Kings Cross, London N1C 4AG
Contemporary Korean restaurant.

[Wildcard](#)

1 Granary Square London N1C 4AA
Cosy coffee shop with indoor seating and an outdoor terrace, serving hot drinks, delicious soups, sandwiches and pastries.

[Café BAO](#)

Pancras Square, Kings Cross, N1C 4AG
Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. BAOs, Rice Boxes, BAO Bakery Goods and bubble tea are all available for takeaway.

[Itadaki Zen](#)

139 King's Cross Road London, WC1X 9BJ
Japanese restaurant focused on organic, vegan meals, hosting workshops on sustainable food.

[Franco Manca](#)

Unit 1 62-68 York Way, Kings Cross, London N1 9AG
Offer fresh sourdough Neapolitan pizza.

[Ekachai](#)

66 York Wy, London N1 9AG
A varied menu of Southeast Asian street food is the main draw of this bustling, family-run venture.

7. Traditional dinner

The traditional dinner will take place on **Wednesday 18th of May** at [Shakeshuka Restaurant](#), the first Palestinian restaurant in London, to experience some authentic tastes of Palestine in the vibrant streets of Marylebone. Further details will follow in the 3rd and final circular.

8. Excursion

This year's excursion will be to London's Kew Gardens, followed by a Thames River boat cruise from Kew Gardens to Westminster **on Friday 17th of May**. The day will include an official tour of Kew Gardens (60-90 minutes).



Image 1 Aerial view of Palm House at Kew Gardens / credit RBG Kew.

Immerse yourself in the sights and scents of London's breath-taking Kew Gardens. A UNESCO-listed venue, the Royal Botanic Gardens offers a plethora of rare plants and flowers across 326 acres (121 hectares).



Image 2 Plant family beds in the Walled Herb Garden and the Temple of Aeolus at Kew Gardens / credit RBG Kew.

Walk around and discover an 18th-century, 10-storey Chinese pagoda, or a Japanese gateway amongst the lawns and gardens. Or stroll along the Treetop Walkway to view some of the gardens' 14,000 trees, and visit magnificent structures like the Royal Kew Palace and the Palm House – one of the largest surviving Victorian glasshouses.



Image 3 Yoshi Cherry Tree at Kew Gardens / credit RBG Kew

Provisional itinerary for the day:

08:30 Assemble outside the Aga Khan Centre
10:00 Arrive at Kew Gardens
16:30 Depart for the river cruise
18:00 Alight at Westminster Pier

9. Climate and time

Late spring weather in London can be sunny but also rainy and chilly. Temperatures can range between 16°C and 9 °C in May, the average temperature being 13,3 °C. There are on average 17 rainy days in this month. We recommend packing for potentially chilly and rainy weather. Layering is recommended!

The time zone is UTC +1 (Greenwich Mean Time)

10. Currency and tipping

Contactless payment options are widely available in retail stores, restaurants and also on public transport.

The official currency is the UK sterling (£).

There is no special rule about the acceptable amount to tip in the UK. It is not uncommon to pay a rounded-up amount or to tip around 10%.

11. Health

The general advice from NHS.UK and GOV.UK is that visitors are not entitled to healthcare from the NHS, however medical treatment will be provided if deemed clinically urgent or immediately necessary, but payment will be required.

Visitors from the EU can use a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued by their home country to access healthcare, if they fall ill or have a medical emergency.

The UK government advises visitors to the UK to take out travel or health insurance with the necessary healthcare coverage for their needs. This is particularly important for pre-existing health conditions.