The Legacy of the Algerian War:
Between History, Memory and Representations

L'héritage de la guerre d'Algérie:
entre histoire, mémoire et représentations

March 22 and 23, 2012
An International Symposium

Organized by the Department of Modern Languages.

Special Exhibit by Algerian artist, Ilham Mendjeli Lakehal

Florida International University
MARC Pavilion
March 22 and 23, 2012
languages.fiu.edu
The conference will interrogate the legacy of the Algerian War 50 years hence. The Algerian War acts as a metonymy concentrating colonial conflicts as it appears in the movie by Gillo Pontecorvo, *The Battle of Algiers* (1966). Through Pontecorvo’s film, the Algerian war permanently represents the event of the war, the violence of colonialism and anti-colonial struggles in general. It is not only the War of Algerian or French people, but has also become a symbol, maybe a myth, allowing for reflection and discussion on anticolonial struggles. As outlined by French historian, Benjamin Stora, there is a resistance to acknowledge that the Algerian War – as other wars in the history of independent movements – has only a bilateral history, imposing the need to deconstruct a linear understanding of memory and a rigid writing of history as informed by national borders. Perhaps the work of fiction could help by displacing borders of historical discourse as reinforcing nations.
Thursday, March 22 – MARC Pavilion

12:30 p.m.  Registration

1:30 p.m.  Welcoming Remarks

Nicol Rae, Professor of Politics and International Relations and Senior Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

John F. Stack, Jr., Executive Director of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

Pascale Bécel, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Modern Languages

Maya Boutaghou, Assistant Professor of French and Women’s Studies

Session I – Battles of Memories/Batailles de mémoires

1:45 p.m.  Chair: Aurora Morcillo, Professor of History (FIU)

1:50 p.m.  “Wars of Memory: On Rachid Bouchareb’s Hors la loi”
Anne Donadey, San Diego State University

2:20 p.m.  “Saint Michel ou Lucifer? Les retours par bouffées d’une mémoire encombrante”/ “Saint Michel or Lucifer? Sporadic Flashbacks of a Burdensome Memory”
Carla Calargé, Florida Atlantic University

2:50 p.m.  “Reframing the Reparative: Testimony and Historiography in Boualem Sansal’s L’enfant fou de l’arbre creux (2000)”
Lucy Brisley, The Queen’s College, University of Oxford
3:20 p.m.  Question and answer session

3:45 p.m.  Coffee break

4 - 5:30 p.m.  **Keynote speech**

4 p.m.  **Chair: Jean Rahier**, Associate Professor of Anthropology (FIU)

4:05 p.m.  “A Specter Haunts France: the Algerian War”
**Réda Bensmaïa**, Brown University

6:00 p.m.  **Reception and cultural event at The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum**

7 p.m.  **Introduction by Béatrice Dubell**, film director

7:05 p.m.  Documentary screening: *Le puits/El Bi’r* (2010) by **Béatrice Dubell**

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**Friday, March 23 – MARC Pavilion**

8:30 a.m.  Breakfast

**Session II – Narratives/Fictions and Reparations - Récits/Fictions et réparation**

9 a.m.  **Chair: Santiago Juan-Navarro**, Professor of Spanish (FIU)

9:05 a.m.  “Rehearsing 17 October 1961: The Role of Fiction in Remembering the Battle of Paris”
**Alison Rice**, University of Notre Dame
9:35 a.m. “Amnesia and Revelation in Algerian Contemporary French-speaking Theatre: *Au loin, les caroubiers* by Fatima Gallaire and *Mémoires à la dérive* by Slimane Benaïssa”

**Elisabeth Castadot**, Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS; Research Fellow, University of Louvain

10:05 a.m. “La représentation des migrants de Calais et le spectre de la guerre d’Algérie”/“The Representation of Migrants in Calais and the Specter of the Algerian War”

**Leïla Ennaili**, Central Michigan University

10:35 a.m. Question and answer session

11 a.m. **Coffee break**

**Keynote speech**

11:15 a.m. **Chair: Rebecca Friedman**, Associate Professor of History (FIU)

11:20 a.m. “Revolutionary Beacon: The Legacy of the Algerian War in Europe and Beyond”

**Martin Evans**, University of Portsmouth

12:45 p.m. **Lunch at the Faculty Club (Graham Center)**

Session III – Against Silenced Memories in France /Contre les mémoires silencieuses en France

2 p.m. **Chair: Ulrich Oslender**, Assistant Professor of Geography (FIU)

2:05 p.m. “La guerre d’Algérie sur le sol français (au cinéma)”/“The Algerian War in France (through Movies)”

**Joëlle Vitiello**, Macalester College
2:35 p.m. “Les historiens de la guerre d’Algérie à la télévision française”/“Historians of the Algerian War on French TV”
**Anaïs Guilpin**, Université Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne

3:05 p.m. “Le Manifeste des 121: genèse et postérité”/“121 Manifesto: Genesis and Posterity”
**Catherine Brun**, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3

3:35 p.m. Question and answer session

4 p.m. **Coffee break**

**Session IV – Trajectories Toward A Reconstruction /Itinéraires vers la reconstruction**

4:15 p.m. **Chair : Maya Boutaghou**, Assistant Professor of French/ Women’s Studies (FIU)

**Alexandra Gueydan-Turek**, Swarthmore College

**Pierre-Jean Le Foll-Luciani**, Université de Rennes 2

**Ahmed Boubeker**, Université Paul Verlaine Metz

5:50 p.m. Conclusion and discussion
Co-sponsored by African and African Diaspora Studies, the College of Arts & Sciences, the Department of History, Middle East Studies, the School of International and Public Affairs, the Women’s Studies Center, the Center for Islamic Studies, Le Cercle Français, the Modern Languages Graduate Student Organization, Pi Delta Phi, the FIU Council for Student Organizations, the Consulate General of France, the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence, and the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables.