

Conjuring Violence in Myanmar

Myanmar Conference, 04–06 June 2026

Hosted at Campus Condorcet, Paris

Organized by Myanmar-Institut e.V. & the Groupe Recherche
Birmanie

This conference proposes to explore the entanglements between violence, memory and mobilisation in and beyond Myanmar. We invite work that traces how memories and lived experiences of violence shape contemporary repertoires of contention—and, conversely, how mobilisation reconfigures what is remembered, narrated and made visible in public space. We are particularly interested in contributions that bridge historical depth with present dynamics, and that examine these processes across urban, rural and diasporic settings and within both political and religious fields.

In a context where the public mediation of the past is highly contested, we ask how collective action creates alternative channels for shared memories and catalyses social and political change. How do different actors mobilise around experiences of violence, displacement and loss? How do practices of remembrance intersect with aspirations for justice, recognition and belonging? And how are these dynamics reshaped by ongoing armed conflict, forced mobility, exile and digital surveillance?

Possible lines of inquiry include, but are not limited to:

- Continuities and innovations in repertoires of contention before and after the 2021 coup;
- Memory work (narratives, archives, memorials, places of remembrance) within and around social movements;
- Intersections of faith, ritual and politics in mobilising communities;
- Diasporic organising and transnational solidarities, and their feedback loops with activism “at home”;
- Online/offline media ecologies, surveillance and the ethics of researching contentious and violent settings;
- Generational, gendered, classed and ethnic differences in experiencing violence and participating in collective action;
- The role of mobility and immobility (displacement, exile, return, containment) in shaping both memory and mobilisation.

While the conference particularly welcomes papers that speak directly to this year's theme, we will also seek to accommodate high-quality contributions that fall outside the immediate thematic focus. The conference committee invites contributions from academics, researchers, graduate students and professionals engaging with Myanmar.

Conference details – Paris

The conference will take place from Thursday 4 June to Saturday 6 June 2026 at Campus Condorcet in Paris. It will be **in-person only**. The conference will open on Thursday 4 June for a PhD Workshop and continue with thematic panels on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 June. Participation in both the PhD workshop and the main conference will be free of charge. **Conference participation will be upon registration only** (contact the conference organizers).

Paper submissions for panels

To contribute, please submit:

- an abstract in English (max. 200 words), and
- a brief biographical note

by **15 March 2026** to:

Email: conference@myanmar-institut.org

We will send all notifications of acceptance by **early April 2026**.

We kindly ask all participants to arrange their own travel and accommodation. Please note that accommodation in Paris and the surrounding area can be expensive, and we strongly encourage early booking.

PhD workshop – 4 June, Paris

A workshop for up to 6 (aspiring) PhD students from and/or working on Myanmar will be held at Campus Condorcet on Thursday 4 June in the afternoon. The workshop is intended as a space to:

- present and discuss work in progress;
- reflect on methodological, ethical and positionality-related challenges when researching violence, memory and mobilisation;
- build networks of mutual support among early-career scholars.

To participate to this workshop please submit:

- a cover letter
- CV (1 page)
- Project/research description/paper of max 1000 words.

by 15 March 2026 to:

Email: conference@myanmar-institut.org

We will send all notifications of acceptance by early April 2026.

Follow-up Panels to the 16th International Burma Studies Conference (IBSC)

We are organizing a follow-up session in conjunction with the Conjuring Violence in Myanmar Conference to provide Europe-based Myanmar students—who presented online at IBSC DeKalb (10–12 October 2025)—an opportunity to share their accepted contributions in person and engage with scholars and students.

Interested IBSC participants should contact the IBSC organizers at burmastudiesconference@gmail.com and copy the organizers of the Paris conference at conference@myanmar-institut.org.

Please note: In addition to their IBSC paper, participants may also submit a new contribution to the Conjuring Violence in Myanmar Conference and present both papers, provided their new submission is accepted by the conference organizing committee. Participants may also choose not to present their IBSC paper and instead present only a new paper at the conference, provided that the paper is accepted. Participation is not exclusive.

Travel Grants

The Myanmar-Institut e.V. is able to offer three travel grants of up to EUR 400 each to support participation in the conference. Travel grants are available to conference participants based in Europe whose paper proposals have been accepted, and who do not have access to other sources of funding (such as institutional travel funds, scholarships, or project-based support) and for whom conference participation would otherwise not be financially feasible.

In the allocation of travel grants, priority will be given to applicants with a

connection to Myanmar, as well as to early-career scholars. Grants will be awarded on the basis of financial need and the relevance of the accepted paper to the conference theme.

The organisers are committed to promoting inclusive participation and reducing financial barriers to academic exchange. All applications will be assessed in a transparent and equitable manner, and the prioritisation criteria will be applied without exclusion on the basis of nationality, legal status, gender, ethnicity, religion, or institutional affiliation.

Travel grants are intended as a contribution toward travel costs and may not cover all expenses. Applications for travel grants should be submitted by 20 April 2026 to conference@myanmar-institut.org and should include a short statement of financial need (max. 200 words) and a brief indication of expected travel costs.
