



# THE BRITISH CONSERVATIVE PARTY AT A CROSSROADS

An international, interdisciplinary and inter-university conference

**6-7 November 2025**  
**University of Tours, France**

Amphitheatre C – 1st floor - 3 rue des Tanneurs



AGORA

CERGY PARIS

UNIVERSITÉ

ADVANCED  
STUDIES

## PROGRAMME

Thursday 6 November 2025

**08:30:** Welcome and registration

**09:00: Words of welcome – Erick FALC'HER-POYROUX, Co-director of ICD (UR 6297)**

**09:10: In Memoriam – Agnès ALEXANDRE-COLIER**

**09:15: Opening Session**

**Chair: Catherine Marshall, Cergy Paris Université, France**

**Keynote Speaker: Emily JONES, University of Manchester**

*Impressions of Disraeli: Myths and the Making of Conservative Traditions*



**10:15:** Coffee Break

**10:30: Session 1 - Change and continuity**

**Chair: Nathalie Champroux, Université de Tours, France**

**Edmund Neill, Northeastern University, London, United Kingdom**

*Conservative Government Through a Thatcherite Lens: 2010-24*

**Anne Cousson, Université de Poitiers, France**

*The Conservative Party and the New British Bill of Rights: ideological evolutions and political priorities*

**David Jeffery, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom**

*The conservatism of Kemi Badenoch*

**12:00:** Lunch Break

**13:00: Session 2 - Populisms**

**Chair: Stéphane Porion, Université de Tours, France**

**Alma-Pierre Bonnet, Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, France**

*From Brexit to the 'culture wars': towards an anatomy of populist discourse within the British Conservative Party (2006-2024)*

**Rod Dacombe, King's College, London, United Kingdom**

*Conspiracy theories in contemporary Conservative politics in the UK*

**14:00:** Coffee Break

**14:15: Session 3 - Identity**

**Chair: Karine Tournier-Sol, Université de Toulon, France**

**Nicholas Startin, John Cabot University, Rome, Italy**

*Brexit as fact or fiction? The Conservative Party and declining Generation Z Support*

**Stéphane Revillet, Université de Bourgogne, France**

*Rishi Sunak's 'war on woke' during PMQs*

**Rima Saini, School of Law at Middlesex University, United Kingdom**

*Post-racial politics and the 'Brown Tory'*

**15:45:** End of the first conference day

Guided tour of Tours

## PROGRAMME

**Friday 7 November 2025**

**08:30:** Welcome and registration

**09:00: Opening Session**

**Chair:** Catherine Marshall, Cergy Paris Université, France

**Keynote Speaker:** Tim BALE, Queen Mary University of London

*The Conservative Party in an era of two-bloc politics*



**10:00:** Coffee Break

**10:15: Session 4 - Factionalism**

**Chair:** Stéphane Porion, Université de Tours, France

**Virgile Lorenzoni, Université d'Aix Marseille, France**

*From the conservative vanguard to a strategic and ideological crossroads: Thatcher-era think tanks and their relationship with the contemporary Conservative Party*

**Axel Bercq, Université de Toulon, France**

*Conservative intra-party groups and party renewal after the 2024 General Election*

**11:15:** Coffee Break

**11:30: Session 5 - Regions and territories**

**Chair:** Laurence Harris, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France

**Fiona Simpkins, Université Lumière Lyon 2, France**

*'Taking back control': Conservative unionism in Scotland after Brexit*

**Alan Convery, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom**

*Representing the Red Wall: Conservative MPs' Views and Representational Styles*

**12:30:** Lunch Break

**13:30: Session 6 - Policies**

**Chair:** Nathalie A. Champroux, Université de Tours, France

**Thibaud Harrois, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France**

*From 'liberal conservatism' to 'conservative realism': the Conservative Party's approach to foreign and defence policy*

**Lucie de Carvalho, Université de Lille, France**

*The Energy Policy of the Conservatives over their Last Five Years in Power*

**Laurence Harris, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France**

*Where is the alternative? Reconstructing an economic vision after the 2024 electoral defeat*

**15:00:** Coffee Break

**15:15: Round Table**

**David Jeffery and the CONSERVATISM STUDIES Group, Political Studies Association, London, United Kingdom**



**16:15:** Conclusive remarks

*Many thanks to our numerous partners!*