

CONFLUENCE
Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies

ISSN: 3085-5411
Journal Homepage: https://journals.imist.ma/index.php/confluence/index

Editorial

Volume 2, Issue 1 — January 2026

Confluence Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies

As *Confluence* enters its second year, we do so with gratitude and renewed intellectual energy. The journey since the inaugural issue has affirmed what we deeply believe: that scholarship at the intersection of disciplines, geographies, languages, and cultural forms is necessary.

This second issue continues to honor the journal's foundational mission. *Confluence* hosts conversations that travel across academic and cultural borders and foreground voices that challenge established canons and reflect on the pluralities of experience shaping our worlds. In this issue, we bring together twelve contributions. They span critical essays, an author interview, and book reviews. Each scholarly piece offers a unique lens into ongoing debates around identity, memory, representation, education, and language politics.

The issue opens with essays that revisit cultural crossings, aesthetic experimentations, and the legacies of transnational literary figures. Allen Hibbard gives us a compelling portrait of Brion Gysin as an "outsider within an outsider movement," and situates his experimental work in Morocco within broader Beat and countercultural currents. From there, Inass Isrhir and Sawsan Malla Hussein take us further into the realm of translation and orality. They analyze Paul Bowles's Moroccan collaborations with attention to untranslatability, voice, and performative storytelling. Jawad El Annabi then revisits *Orient Express* by John Dos Passos and reveals the ways the American modernist's Mediterranean travel writing anticipates critiques of empire and Orientalist spectacle.

Three articles turn to questions of memory and cultural identity and foreground marginalized voices and alternative archives. Chakib Amghar's close reading of Abdellatif Laâbi's carceral poetry shows the imprisoned body becoming a locus of memory and resistance in postcolonial Morocco. Ikram Ben Talha and Brahim Barhoun explore the construction of "Moroccan Female-Other Archives" by Fatima Mernissi and Mhani Alaoui via literary activism. They draw attention to the silences and resistances embedded in women's narratives. Chaimae Belahrache and Brahim Barhoun take up Mizrahi Jewish identity and deterritorialization in the work of Ronit Matalon and offer a critical intervention into Zionist historiography and Arab-Jewish memory.

Contemporary sociolinguistic and educational questions appear in three pieces that explore the intersections of language, pedagogy, and digital transformation. Fatima Azzahraa El Yamlahi examines the strategic use of Anglicisms in Moroccan brand naming practices and reveals the ways global prestige and local identity intersect in commercial discourse. Mustapha El Hadri revisits

two influential theories of syllable structure in Moroccan Arabic. He draws on data from the Northwestern dialect to highlight the limitations of existing frameworks. Ibrahim Ben Khajjou, Ibrahim Belmir, and Ahmed Ibrahimi round out this section with a wide-ranging review of digital learning ecosystems and call for human-centered, ethical frameworks to guide the future of AI-augmented education.

We are also pleased to feature an interview with Malian writer and publisher Samba Niaré, conducted by Niapégué Sanou. Niaré reflects on the creative and political responsibilities of writing in national languages, the role of women in Malian literature, and the continued work of decolonizing literary production from within the continent.

Two timely book reviews close the issue. Brahim Barhoun reviews *The Jewelers of the Ummah* by Ariella Aïsha Azoulay, a work that poetically and politically challenges colonial narratives separating Jews and Muslims in North Africa. Eric Calderwood offers a richly textured reading of Gonzalo Fernández Parrilla's *Al sur de Tánger*, a genre-bending reflection on Moroccan culture, memory, and literary representation.

The work gathered here represents the kind of critical engagement *Confluence* seeks to cultivate: scholarship that crosses boundaries and resists easy categorization. From poetic resistance and oral storytelling to algorithmic ethics and postcolonial re-readings, these contributions speak to what intellectual exchange can be when it remains open and rigorous. We are grateful to our contributors and peer reviewers for making this issue possible.

Disclaimer and Conflict of Interest Statement

The views expressed in the articles published in *Confluence* are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board or affiliated institutions.

This issue includes contributions from members of the editorial team, including the Editor-in-Chief. All such submissions were subject to the journal's standard double-blind peer-review process and evaluated independently to ensure fairness, objectivity, and the highest standards of scholarly integrity.

The authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

Brahim Barhoun
Editor-in-Chief
Confluence Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies
Abdelmalek Essaadi University
January 2026