



# Activity Report

2025



# Summary

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# A Statement from Alice Judell

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The year 2025 marked an important milestone for Noria Research, consolidating long-standing dynamics while more clearly affirming our commitment to **independent, rigorous and accessible research**.

The **Africas** Programme, launched in 2024, continued to take shape through field-based research projects, regular seminars and new academic collaborations. It has established itself as a space for dialogue and collective knowledge production on the political, social and environmental dynamics of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, the **Middle East and North Africa** programme experienced a particularly intensive year, with Edition of numerous analyses addressing the region's economic, social and political crises, in a context of polycrisis marked by conflict, austerity and authoritarian reconfigurations.

In 2025, we also made a strong commitment to the **dissemination and public engagement of research**. The second season of the Sous-Terrain podcast was released, furthering our aim of shedding light on the realities of fieldwork and to amplify the voices of early-career researchers. Alongside this, the production of English-language podcasts, open-access articles and a wide range of editorial formats enabled us to reach audiences well beyond academic circles.

**Training and support for early-career researchers** remained central to our work. Fieldwork grants, publication support and training activities continued to support demanding research trajectories, often conducted in politically and materially constrained environments. These efforts build on the collective work developed around La Fabrique de la thèse, whose editorial and audio extensions have continued to foster shared reflection on what it means to practise research today.

Finally, 2025 was a year of preparation and forward planning, with the design of new research and cooperation projects, notably on issues of governance, transparency and illicit financial flows in Central Africa. These activities reflect our determination to strengthen the social and political impact of the knowledge we produce.



In a global context marked by geopolitical instability, increasing pressure on academic freedoms and growing funding challenges across the non-profit sector, **Noria Research has continued its work thanks to the collective commitment of its team, partners, volunteers and supporters**, whom I warmly thank. More than ever, we remain convinced of the need to defend critical, independent and accessible knowledge.

Alice Judell, Director

# Presentation

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## 1. Our missions

Established in 2012, Noria Research is a French non-profit association (governed by the 1901 law), independent and closely affiliated with the academic community. Its headquarters are located in Paris.

Our mission is to convert data from field research into innovative and accessible analyses, aimed at informing public discourse and promoting a nuanced understanding of the political, social, environmental, and economic dynamics in the regions where we operate.

The association's activities are organized around three axes:

### 1

#### Research

**Conduct fieldwork and produce quality knowledge**

We undertake comprehensive fieldwork in collaboration with local researchers and organizations. In 2025, Noria Research operated active research programs in the MENA region and sub-Saharan Africa. Both programs focused their inquiries on political, social, environmental, and economic crises, along with their long-term implications.

### 2

#### Edition

**Spread knowledge differently and make it accessible to as many people as possible**

In alignment with our objective of enhancing accessibility to social sciences, we publish all our works open access. We innovate by creating new formats—such as podcasts, maps, and photo reports—to broaden the reach of research while upholding stringent academic standards.

### 3

#### Training

**Passing on the tools of the trade and training the researchers of tomorrow**

We assist emerging researchers by equipping them with the methodologies and resources essential for conducting fieldwork and generating high-quality research. In this manner, we play a role in cultivating the next generation of experts in the humanities and social sciences.

Through these three dimensions, Noria Research is dedicated to generating and disseminating high-quality knowledge to enhance the understanding of global issues and promote the democratization of knowledge.

# Presentation

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## 1. Composition

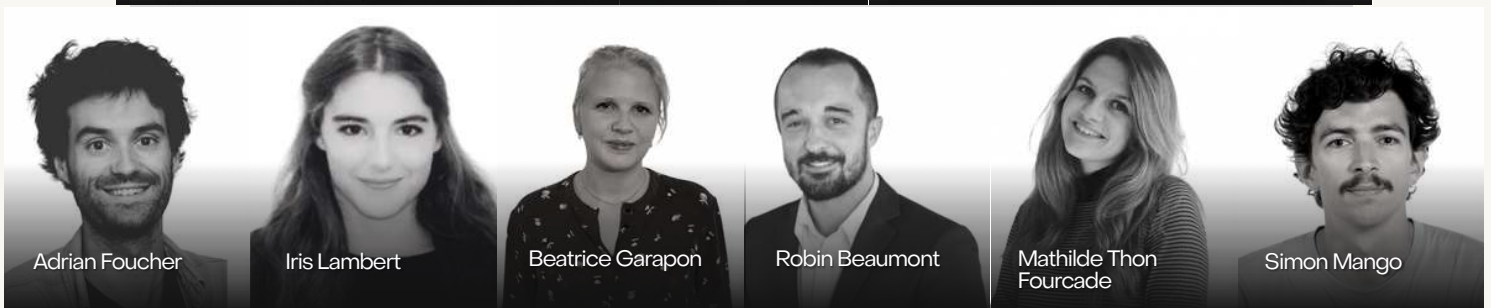
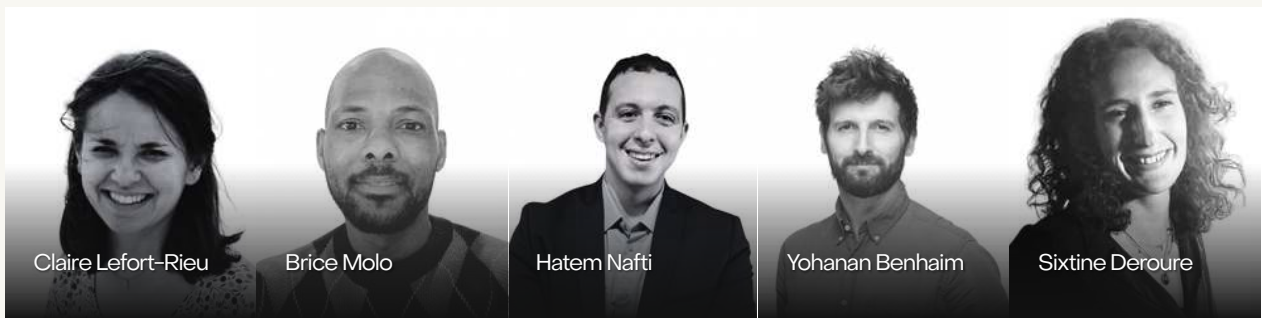
The association is overseen by a Collegial Board of Directors in close collaboration with two employees, whose roles in coordinating the diverse activities are integrated with the association's daily administrative, human resources, financial, and digital management. Furthermore, a team of 11 active volunteers and an extensive network of researchers support Noria Research's various activities.



**Core team**



**Extended team**



# Presentation

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## 1. Our partners

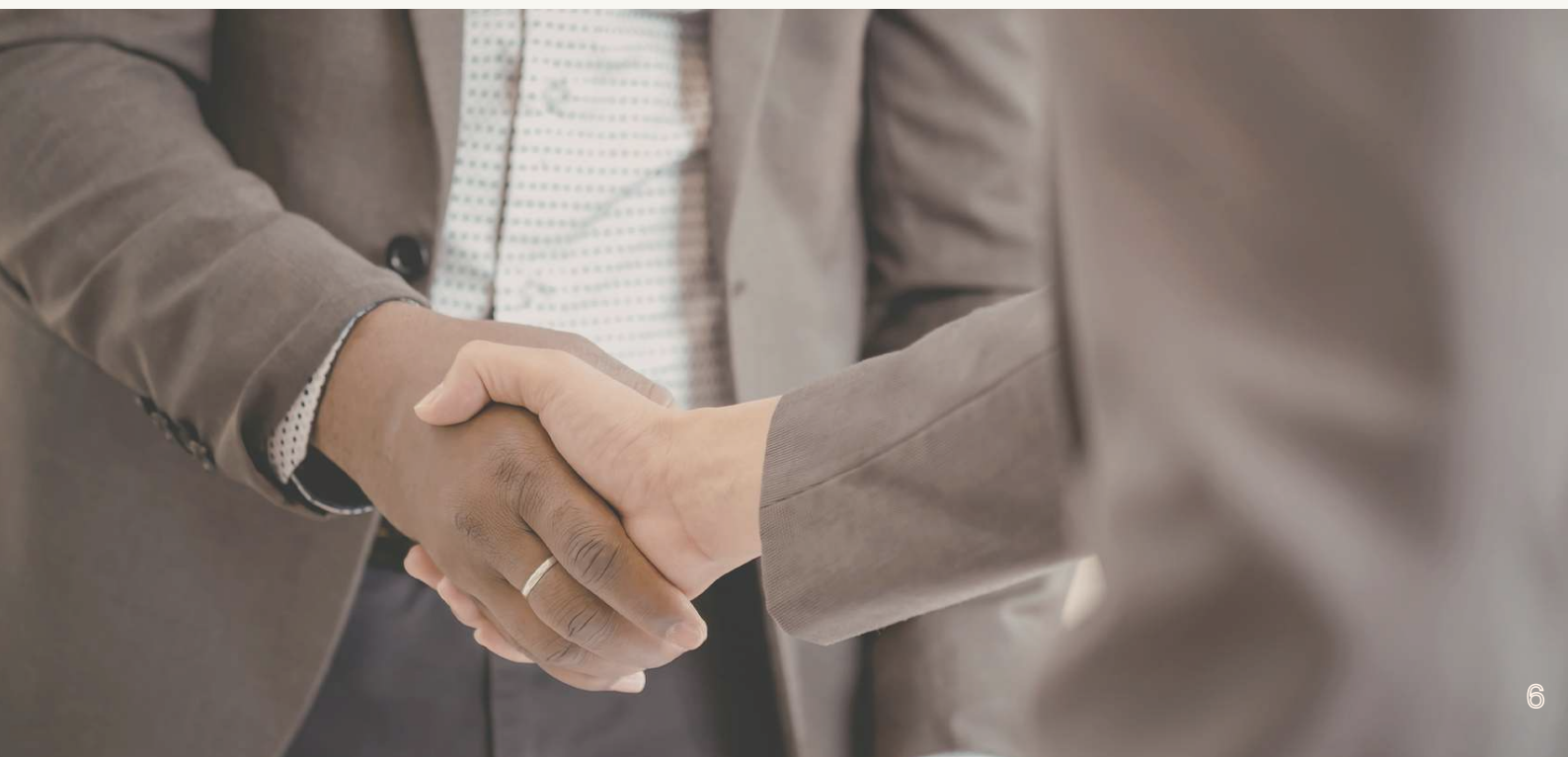
Noria Research collaborates with a range of organizations on several of its projects:

### OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

- The Euromed France Network
- Open Society Foundations
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
- Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy, Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Expertise France
- City of Paris
- Foundation of the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO)
- CNRS Scientific Interest Group (GIS)
- French Development Agency
- Karthala Press
- Central African Center for Geopolitical Research and Analysis (CCRAG)
- Consulting, Training, Research, and Studies Office (BUCOFORE)
- CERI - Sciences Po
- Mexico Evalua
- Institute of International Relations
- Elcano Royal Institute
- Center for Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, and Islamic Studies

### OUR MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS

- The Conversation
- Disclose
- Rachma
- Radio Campus Paris
- The Public Source
- Mediapart
- Animal Politico
- Orient XXI
- Al Manassa



# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Conducting fieldwork and produce high-quality knowledge

**We advocate for the advancement of research activities grounded in the local contexts of the regions we examine. Our efforts concentrate on significant themes pertaining to political, social, environmental, and economic crises, investigating their long-term effects and dynamics. In 2025, Noria Research operated two active research programs, one centered on Sub-Saharan Africa and the other on the Middle East and North Africa region.**



The majority of the research activities conducted were facilitated by the support of our financial partners, including the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Centre for Analysis, Forecasting and Strategy, the Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy, and the Open Society Foundations. In alignment with the principles of scientific and editorial independence that govern the activities of Noria Research, this financial support does not suggest any influence over research directions, methodologies employed, or the content of intellectual outputs.

The analyses and opinions articulated in the publications are solely the responsibility of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Noria Research or its financial partners.

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Africa

We are bringing together researchers in humanities and social sciences to offer rigorous analysis based on in-depth empirical studies on Sub-Saharan Africa. These reflections help grow understanding of the major contemporary issues and challenges facing the African continent, fostering public debate and combating misinformation.



# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Africa

#### Research Seminar

Our monthly seminar seeks to foster dialogue and connect researchers from various disciplinary and geographical backgrounds, particularly—though not exclusively—around the five focal areas of the program: Colonial legacy and decolonial perspectives; Political dynamics and transformations; Conflicts and violence; Risks, health, and environment; Gender and societies. All sessions can be found [here](#).

#### The sessions of 2025 (Year 1: 2024/2025)

##### **Tuesday, January 7.**

Diane Alima CISSE, PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Ottawa, focuses on land grabbing and micromobilization surrounding Lake Guiers in Senegal. Discussion led by Marie Emmanuelle POMMEROLLE, lecturer in Political Science at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

##### **Friday, January 17.**

Noor TALAS, Ph.D. in Psychological Counseling and Guidance (Ataturk University – Erzurum, Turkey): Divides, Ruptures, Sutures: Navigating the Post-Colonial Legacy and Contemporary Political Positions in Mauritania to Address Impunity and Promote Awareness of Gender-Based Violence. Discussion moderated by: Lila DROUSSENT, PhD candidate in Philosophy (ENS Lyon) and Teaching Assistant (Jean Monnet University, Saint-Etienne).

##### **Thursday, January 23.**

Romain TIQUET, CNRS Research Fellow at the Marc Bloch Centre: Koutal Keur Ndiaye: Navigating Confinement, Economic Regulation, and the Marginalization of (Post)colonial Bodies (Senegal, 1930s–1970s). Discussion led by: Georges Macaire EYENGA, Postdoctoral Researcher (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research – WISER – University of the Witwatersrand).

##### **Monday, February 10.**

Paul-Crescent BENINGA, Executive Director of the Central African Center for Geopolitical Research and Analysis (CCRAG): Touadera's third term in the Central African Republic: navigating strategies of mobilization and opposition. Discussion led by: Roland MARCHAL, sociologist (Sciences Po Paris).

##### **Wednesday, February 19.**

Louise Klein, PhD candidate in social sciences at the École Normale Supérieure, focuses on legal reforms and jurisdictional policies in colonial and postcolonial Somaliland from 1884 to 2021. The discussion will be moderated by Mireille Manga Edimo, a researcher in political science and international relations at the University of Yaoundé II.

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Africa

#### Research Seminar

#### The sessions of 2025 (Year 1)

##### Thursday, March 13.

Tania TOUNGOUZ NEVESSIGNSKY, PhD candidate in International Relations at Université Libre de Bruxelles, will present on social movements opposing French postcolonialism in Senegal and Mali, focusing on the themes of "new," uniform, and "youth" mobilizations. The discussion will be led by Marie BOKA, political scientist and associate lecturer at Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny.

##### Monday, March 31.

Cai Chen, PhD candidate in Anthropology (Université Libre de Bruxelles): The Dissolution of Borders? The (De)construction of Individual Ethnoracial Boundaries within Sino-Congolese Couples Residing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Discussion led by: Laura Odasso, contract lecturer and researcher (CY Paris University).

##### Thursday, April 17.

Bertrand de SEISSAN, a researcher in religious studies and political advisor at the French Embassy in Nigeria: The designation of God among Hausa-speaking Christians, a decolonial controversy? Discussion led by: Fatiha KAOUES, research fellow at CNRS-GSRL (Groupe Société, Religions, Laïcité).

##### Monday, April 28.

Alène N. KANEZA, PhD candidate in political science (Université Libre de Bruxelles): International sanctions through the lens of colonization in Burundi. Discussion led by: Ntina TZOUVALA, Associate Professor (Australian National University).

##### Monday, May 12.

Delphine DURAND SALL, PhD candidate in anthropology at the University of Paris Nanterre, will present on the theme of gender dynamics and contested spaces in Guet Ndar, Saint Louis, Senegal. The discussion will be led by Rogers Orock, anthropologist and assistant professor at Lafayette College.

##### Thursday, June 26.

Gidlas Igor NOUMBOU, PhD in History (University of Douala), Postdoctoral Researcher (University of Lausanne): The Utilization and Practices of Terror during the Cameroon War (1956-1971). Discussion led by: Jérémy RUBENSTEIN, PhD in History (University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne).

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Africa

#### Research Seminar

#### The 2025 sessions (Year 2: 2025/2026)

##### **Tuesday, September 30.**

Fulbert NGODJI, PhD candidate in sociology at CEPED (Université Paris Cité) and researcher at the International Crisis Group (ICG): A text confronting two realms: what the debates surrounding the Pastoral Code in Chad unveil. Discussion led by: Leif BROTTM, Associate Professor of Global Development Studies at Grinnell College (United States).

##### **Wednesday, October 15.**

Jean-Emmanuel MINKO A BITEGNI, PhD candidate in political science at the University of Maroua, explores ecological vulnerability and biosis through a visit to the PHP banana plantations in Njombe-Penja. The discussion will be led by Mody DIAW, Postdoctoral Researcher at Sciences Po Bordeaux.

##### **Friday, November 14.**

Samuel DAWAÏ, PhD in History (University of Ngaoundéré): From colonial prisons as facilitators of economic activity to post-colonial prisons as liabilities in Cameroon. Discussion led by Romain TIQUET, CNRS Research Fellow (Marc Bloch Centre).

##### **Wednesday, November 26.**

Maëlle GELIN, PhD candidate in History (Sciences Po Paris): A diasporic and decolonial cultural internationalism? The case of the African Society of Culture (mid-1950s – mid-1970s). Discussion led by Gérard AMOUGOU, lecturer in political science (University of Yaoundé II).

##### **Thursday, December 4.**

Enock GBONSOU, PhD in History (Paris Cité University): Liquids of Empire: Alcohol, Power, and Domestic Resistance in Colonial Dahomey (1890-1960). Discussion led by Elizabeth FRETWELL, Assistant Professor (Old Dominion University, USA).

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

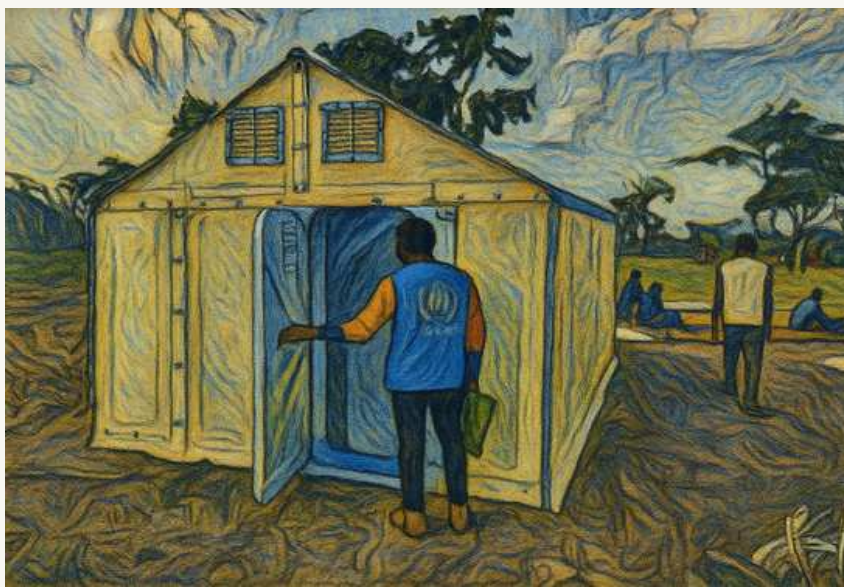
### Africa

#### Publications

##### **Corona from Below: An Ethnography of Daily Experiences During the Pandemic in Eastern Cameroon**

*by Claire Lefort-Rieu*

The article analyzes the outcomes of the pandemic in the peripheral regions of Eastern Cameroon to discern what the health crisis unveils regarding local social dynamics and how global policy is reshaped when it interacts with the realities of daily life.



##### **Archives and Research Ethics in African History: Insights Gained from Diverse West African Contexts**

*by Romain Tiquet*

The historian examines the ethical dilemmas inherent in historical research in West Africa, including access to psychiatric and police archives, the researcher's role, the issue of consent, and what he refers to as "breaking and entering."

##### **Sacred territories and secular disputes: the religious economy and agropastoral conflicts in southern Chad**

*by Fulbert Ngodji*

The article explores the frequently oversimplified classifications of herders and farmers, illustrating how conflicts in southern Chad are grounded in significantly more intricate social, religious, economic, and migratory dynamics. It highlights a conflict intertwined with rural restructuring, competition for resources, and the diminishing regulatory role of the state.

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Africa

#### Project: Addressing Illicit Financial Flows (IFF)

In 2025, comprehensive design and structuring efforts were undertaken for the project "Inform, Train, Act: Strengthening Transparency and Governance in the Fight Against Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in Chad and the Central African Republic." This phase concentrated on the preparation of the application dossier, the definition of the analytical and operational framework, and the establishment of partnerships with the Central African Center for Geopolitical Research and Analysis (CCRAG) in the Central African Republic and the Bureau of Consulting, Training, Research and Studies (BUCOFORE) in Chad.

Selected in 2025 and financed by Expertise France through the EU's SecFin Africa program, the project is set to officially commence in January 2026 and will span a duration of 18 months. Its objective is to aid in the combat against illicit financial flows in Chad and the Central African Republic by enhancing local expertise, fostering citizen vigilance, and promoting public advocacy for transparency and accountability.

The project is organized around three interrelated pillars:

- **Production and distribution of gender-sensitive knowledge**
- **Establishment of frameworks for dialogue among civil society organizations, journalists, and public institutions.**
- **Capacity development for emerging professionals**

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

The Noria MENA Program produces original research and policy recommendations on the region's most pressing challenges. We do so by leveraging the wide-ranging expertise of team members alongside a novel, internally-developed method for gathering and analyzing data.

With political economy as our primary interpretive lens, our efforts generate unique insights into issues related to conflict, social justice, economic development, and the climate transition.



# Our activities in 2025

## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

#### Project: MENA in the Polycrisis

This series of analyses investigates the issues of inequality, debt, unemployment, and sluggish growth within the MENA region. Access all publications related to this project [here](#).

#### **Reversing the Gaze: The Ineffectiveness of IMF Stabilization Policies in the WANA Region by Osama Diab**

→ The article analyzes the reasons why policies aimed at controlling inflation and reinstating macroeconomic stability in Egypt and Tunisia have produced contrary outcomes, proposing that a more pertinent approach may be derived from the strategies employed during the post-war era.

#### **The Political Economy of Divestment Campaigns Across the Atlantic by Richard Solomon**

→ This study of historical institutionalism examines student activism on campuses that, in the previous year, aimed to compel universities on both sides of the Atlantic to sever financial ties with Israel. Solomon evaluates the successes and failures of these mobilizations in relation to various factors, the most significant of which are national political contexts and university funding frameworks.



#### **Debt, Energy, and Sovereignty: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives by Mona Ali**

→ This article examines the interconnections among debt, energy, and sovereignty. By juxtaposing colonial and post-war histories with current dynamics in Ukraine, Egypt, and Gaza, the author uncovers the continuities and disruptions that influence the present.

#### **Black Gold, Liquid Metal: The Political Economy of Gold in Sudan by Joshua Craze**

→ By analyzing the gold trade in Sudan, Joshua Craze elucidates the factors contributing to the increasing significance of this resource in recent years—politically, economically, and socially—and illustrates how it connects local and foreign actors within a predatory system.



© Jerome Tubiana

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

Project: MENA in the Polycrisis



© Al Jazeera English, "Demonstrations in Bahrain", 2011

#### **Citizenship, Rent, and GCC Development Models: A Regional Comparison by Melissa Langworthy**

→ Melissa Langworthy provides a sophisticated analysis of the interplay between citizenship, oil, and the social underpinnings of power in the Gulf region. She investigates recent developments in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman, assessing how shifts in economic models, alongside gender biases and diminishing oil revenues, influence political dynamics and public policy.

#### **Diversification and Personalization: The Strategic Role of the Public Investment Fund in Saudi Arabia by Alexis Montambault Trudelle**

→ This article examines the transformation of the Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF) into a pivotal tool of Vision 2030, transitioning from a passive fund to an assertive investor under the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. It illustrates how the PIF facilitates economic diversification while reinforcing power and bypassing conventional governance structures, thereby fulfilling both economic and political aims.

#### **Unpacking the Political Implications of Baghdad's New Central Bank Tower by Hoël Dizien**

→ He examines the role of monetary policy in shaping the post-ISIS Iraqi political economy. By leveraging historical elements and credit data, he underscores the rise of financialization and real estate speculation, along with forecasts of these dynamics for Iraqi society.

#### **Turning a Sinking Ship: Prospects for Change in Lebanon's Political Economy by Hossein Cheaito**

→ Using Lebanon's seemingly perpetual crisis as a foundation, Hossein Cheaito offers an analysis as the new Salam government commences its term. By linking historical context to contemporary issues, he reveals the power dynamics and financial machinations that have contributed to Lebanon's present stalemate.

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

Project: MENA in the Polycrisis

#### **Scarcity by Design: The Political Economy of Water in Jordan by Hussam Hussein**

→ Focused on water management in Jordan, Hussein's analysis underscores the political economy that contributes to the escalating water stress in the nation.

#### **Global Gaza: The Political Economy of Genocide by William I. Robinson**

→ A comprehensive examination of the international political economy surrounding the genocide in Gaza. Expansive in its approach, the article contextualizes the atrocities perpetrated by Israel in Gaza within the geopolitical and geoeconomic frameworks that facilitated their occurrence.



© Kashfi Halford, "No Man's Land: Gaza to Israel" (2008).

#### **Against FIFA 2030 or Dependent Capitalism? The Connection between GenZ Revolt and Morocco's Subordination in the Automotive Global Value Chain by Lorenzo Lodi**

→ An extensive analysis of the automotive industry in Morocco. By exploring the social and developmental aspects of what seems to be a success narrative, it establishes connections between the emergence of the automotive sector and the mobilizations that have recently impacted the country.

#### **Devalued Currency and Exhausted Resources: The Ecological Implications of Monetary Policy in North Africa by Osama Diab**

→ An examination of the ecological disparities inherent in trade relations between North Africa and Europe.

#### **Gaza's Reconstruction and the Settler-Colonial Logic of Elimination by Jad Baghdad**

→ The article provides a nuanced analysis of UN Security Council Resolution 2803, intended to direct the reconstruction of Gaza. It cautions against the potential risk of inadvertently facilitating the implementation of colonial-style alterations.

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

Project: MENA in the Polycrisis

Two reports were published in conjunction with this project in 2025:

#### **Hy Hopes: The Objectives and Challenges of Oman's Hydrogen Strategy by Piotr Schulkes**

→ Piotr Schulkes presents a comprehensive sectoral study on green hydrogen in Oman. Rich in detail and particularly insightful in its analysis, this work is indispensable for grasping these issues.

#### **Temporalities of Crisis: Egypt Today and Tomorrow by Colin Powers**

→ The report examines the recent economic crisis in Egypt and its future prospects. Despite significant investments, such as Qatari Diar's in Alam el-Roum, the economy remains precarious, grappling with ongoing and emerging challenges since 2022. Macroeconomic instability may persist, with repercussions for a population already profoundly impacted.



© Paul Kagame, "Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi addresses the Egyptian Economic Development Conference – Sharm el-Sheikh" (March 2015).

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

Project: Gender and Socio-Economic Transformations in the MENA Region

This series of analyses explores the influence of gender on contemporary dynamics, including austerity, deindustrialization, and social reproduction in the MENA region.

Access all publications related to the project [here](#).

#### **Social Reproduction and Citizenship Assets in Kuwait by Melissa Langworthy**

→ This article examines the relationship between citizenship in Kuwait and public "rents" (employment, benefits, subsidies) that sustain political stability while entrenching inequalities related to gender and immigration status. Recent reforms have further solidified these hierarchies, particularly impacting women married to Kuwaitis and restricting their rights to inherit citizenship.

#### **Invisible Hands: The Struggles of Female Agricultural Workers in Morocco by Ftouhi Hind & Lisa Bossenbroek**

→ Focusing on Morocco, the authors examine the myriad challenges encountered by women agricultural workers. They assert that policymakers must acknowledge the significance of these women to the Moroccan economy and society, and ensure the provision of safer and more dignified working conditions.



#### **Austerity in Egypt: Gendered Impacts and Disproportionate Harm by Shereen Talaat**

→ The article demonstrates that austerity measures in Egypt have gendered implications: they diminish women's economic opportunities, amplify their unpaid labor, and exacerbate their vulnerability, all while intensifying social inequalities.

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

Project: Gender and Socio-Economic Transformations in the MENA Region

#### **Entrepreneurial Bodies, Disciplined Subjects: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Whitening in Tunisia by Yasmine Akrimi**

→ This article explores the political economy of skin bleaching in Tunisia, providing a compelling and thorough analysis that underscores the array of factors that both promote and suppress this phenomenon.

#### **Systemic Violence and Social Reproduction within the Kafael System: Vietnamese Domestic Workers in Saudi Arabia by Angie Ngoc Tran**

→ Angie Ngoc Tran examined the challenges faced by Vietnamese migrant workers in Saudi Arabia. Through an analysis of the bilateral labor agreement designed to govern migration patterns, along with the recruitment, oversight, and protection mechanisms established, she presents a profoundly concerning portrayal, underscoring the exploitation that persists at the core of the relationship between the state and society in much of the Gulf region.



© 2023 recruitment image on the website of Thuan An Labor Recruitment Company

# Our activities in 2025

## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

Project: Critical Perspectives on Finance in the Global South

This project examines how contemporary financial dynamics—ranging from state financing to monetary policies, as well as access to credit for businesses and households—shape the social, economic, and political trajectories of countries in the Global South amid ecological and social crises and the reconfiguration of the international financial order. Access all publications related to the project [here](#).

#### **From al-Assad to al-Shara'a: Technocratic and Banking Networks Underpinning Syria's Financialization by Samir Legrand**

→ The article illustrates, from a historical standpoint, how Ahmed al-Shara'a delegated economic governance to the same group of reformers who had guided liberalization during Bashar al-Assad's administration in the mid-2000s.

#### **The Debts Constraining the Future of the Global South by Rajko Kolundžić**

→ The article examines global financial flows and uncovers a concerning reality: more capital is departing from the Global South than is arriving. Coupled with escalating debt, this disparity significantly threatens the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



© World Bank, "World Bank Headquarters 2013: World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings" (April 2013)

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

Project: Tunisia in Transition

The democratic transition in Tunisia, initiated in 2011, concluded in 2021 with Kais Saïed's "self-coup." This project examines the political economy of this disrupted transition, emphasizing the social, political, and economic factors that shape the post-2021 landscape. All articles pertaining to this project can be found [here](#).

#### **Sub-Saharan African Migrants in Tunisia: Geo-racialized Security and the Local Resurgence of Antiracism by Yasmine Akrimi**

→ The article elucidates the connections between the European Union's migration partnerships with the government of Kaïs Saïed and the resurgence of anti-Black racism in Tunisia.

#### **Tunisia's Opposition Following the Presidential Elections of October by Hakim Fekih**

→ The article provides a comprehensive analysis of the Tunisian opposition in the wake of Kaïs Saïed's re-election to the presidency.



#### **Social Reproduction in Tunisia: Gendered and Regional Perspectives by Dhouha Djerbi**

→ The article examines gender and territorial disparities in social reproduction within Tunisia.

#### **Sightlines Tunisia No. 1: Ruptures and Continuities in Saïed's Second Term by Hatem Nafti & Colin Powers**

→ The article offers a comprehensive overview of the political and economic landscape in Tunisia as the nation approaches 2025.

# Our activities in 2025

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## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

Project: Tunisia in Transition

#### **Sightlines Tunisia no.2: Judicial Repression and Economic Stagnation by Hatem Nafti & Colin Powers**

→ The article analyzes the legal cases that Carthage is presently undertaking against the political opposition, subsequently addressing the economic situation with a specific emphasis on public finances.

#### **Sightlines Tunisia no.3: Saïed's Ambitious activities Persist in Struggling by Hatem Nafti**

→ According to the latest data, he notes that Kais Saïed's two primary activities—criminal reconciliation and community-based enterprises—are currently stalled. With the president also overlooking economic concerns, this predicament condemns Tunisia to perpetual stagnation.

#### **Saïed and Meloni: Does Gaza Carry Any Weight? by Yanis Hassine**

→ The article analyzes Carthage's conflicting stances concerning Gaza.

#### **Breaking the Remnants of Intermediation: Saïedism in Late 2025 by Hatem Nafti**

→ The article examines the most notable developments of the summer. By emphasizing the intensification of the conflict between Saïed and the UGTT, the rapid depoliticization of national media, and the decline of the National Authority for Access to Information, Nafti underscores Saïed's persistent endeavors to dismantle all institutional frameworks that connect the state and society.

#### **Gabès: A Local Mobilization with National Implications by Hatem Nafti**

→ The article examines the social mobilization in Gabès, originating from industrial pollution, which assumed a national significance in 2025. It underscores the tensions among citizens, authorities, and the central government in Tunisia.



© NASA Johnson, "The sun's reflection glimmers on the Gulf of Gabès" (August 2, 2024)

# Our activities in 2025

## Research

### Middle East and North Africa

#### Podcast: Sultat al Mal – The Influence of Wealth

Sultan al Mal is an English-language podcast that explores the contemporary political economy of the Middle East and North Africa.

Presented by Colin Powers, the series showcases exclusive interviews. By emphasizing a range of themes including finance, trade, arms production, class relations, and climate, Sultan al Mal uncovers the fundamental issues influencing the MENA region.

In 2025, Noria Research produced ten episodes with financial backing from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

The series is available on all listening platforms, [here](#).



1# A New Day for Lebanon? (Part 1)  
With Hossein Cheaito and Jad Baghdadi

2# A New Day for Lebanon? (Part 2)  
With Hossein Cheaito and Jad Baghdadi

3# Libya in 2025 (Part 1)  
With Jalel Harchaoui

4# Libya in 2025 (part 2)  
With Jalel Harchaoui

5# Taxing, spending and debt in Sisi's Egypt  
With Amr Adly and Salma Hussein

6# State capital relations and the road ahead for Egypt  
With Amr Adly and Salma Hussein

7# Iraq goes to the polls (part 1)  
With Tamer Badawi and Robin Beaumont

8# Iraq goes to the polls (part 2)  
With Tamer Badawi and Robin Beaumont

9# Ahmed al-Sharaa's Syria: A Political Economy (Part 1)  
With Richard Solomon and Benjamin Fève

10# Ahmed al-Sharaa's Syria: A Political Economy (Part 2)  
With Richard Solomon

# Our activities in 2025

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## Training

**Passing on the tools of the trade and training the researchers of tomorrow**

**We provide training and support for emerging researchers, equipping them with the skills essential for a career in research and the art of inquiry within the humanities and social sciences. Our program offers the tools and methodologies required for thorough field investigations and the generation of high-quality research.**



# Our activities in 2025

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## Training

Fieldwork grants in the humanities and social sciences.

In 2018, Noria established field grants to assist young researchers and ensure their independence. These grants are designed for unfunded doctoral students of any nationality. Beyond merely facilitating international mobility, our grants provide comprehensive support for researchers, encompassing everything from fieldwork to the dissemination of their findings in multiple languages.

In 2025, Noria provided four grants of 1,000 euros each to support young researchers engaged in challenging fields, those whose work fosters robust methodological reflection, and individuals pursuing original publication projects to advance their research.

## The laureates of this year



**Cansu Gurkaya**, "A Social History of Auroville from the Perspective of the Local Tamil Population"



**Nicola Lamri**, "The Italian Left and the Algerian War: Navigating the Memory of Resistance and the 'Invention of Decolonization' through Support Networks, Intellectual Exchanges, and Evolving Political Identities (1954-1965)"



**Ahmad Fahim Abdullatif**, "Weaving Together: The State and Empire, the Afghan Army and Its Reconfigurations Since the Late 19th Century"



**Luce Mobame**, "The 'Ritual Crime' in Gabon: Towards a Religious Anthropology of the Body as 'Strong Matter'"

# Our activities in 2025

## Training

### Podcast: The Making of a Thesis

This series delves into the various dimensions of PhD life and the academic landscape. Designed as an unconventional guide, it supports both early-career researchers and those aspiring to enter the field.

Collectively conceived, the podcast amplifies the voices of researchers reflecting on their doctoral experiences. Drawing from the book *La Fabrique de la thèse: Guide collectif d'un exercice personnel* (published by Karthala Editions in 2024), each episode presents curated excerpts that illuminate the realities of doctoral studies and impart valuable insights.

The series provides doctoral students with reference points to effectively navigate the thesis process and advance in the realm of research, while fostering a collective reflection on the insights gained from this experience both within and outside the university.

This series was authored by Simon Mangon, Cécile Jeanmougin, Camille Abescat, Théotime Chabre, and Béatrice Garapon.

Sound Design: Aunt Agatha from Paroles Paroles.

La Fabrique de la thèse is a podcast created with the support of the City of Paris.



**Discover all episodes across your preferred listening platforms: [here](#).**

**The podcast series is additionally accessible on [Radio Campus Paris](#).**





# Our activities in 2025

## Edition

### Standalone publications

We encourage researchers, especially those at the beginning of their careers, to submit proposals for publications, including when it is their first experience publishing. Through a range of formats – interviews, fieldwork reports, or analytical pieces – these contributions highlight original data collected in the field, helping to develop solid arguments while remaining accessible to a non-specialist audience.

#### **Election Day in Turkish Schools: Interactions Among Political, Bureaucratic, and Civil Actors by Necati Mert Gümüş**

→ Schools, intended to be neutral environments, are transformed into genuine political arenas during elections. Amid tensions, citizen surveillance, partisan strategies, and civic mobilization, the electoral process evolves into a democratic battleground.

#### **Ceasefire, Dissolution of the PKK: Abdullah Öcalan and the Peace Process in Turkey by Iris Lambert**

→ In February 2025, Abdullah Öcalan, the longstanding leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), issued a call for a ceasefire and the disbandment of his organization. This surprising declaration has the potential to transform the political and security dynamics of the region. Mathilde Thon-Fourcade engaged in a discussion with Iris Lambert to examine this pivotal announcement and its implications.



# Our activities in 2025

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## Edition

Podcast: Sous-Terrain, Season 2

Noria Research introduced the Sous-Terrain series in 2023, a podcast that uncovers the intricacies of fieldwork in the social sciences. This original audio content showcases social science researchers, their endeavors, and their fieldwork narratives from across the globe. Following the release of 10 episodes, the inaugural season wrapped up in early 2025.

Building on our previous success, Noria resolved to produce a second season. In line with our mission to provide an insightful behind-the-scenes perspective on fieldwork and to amplify the voices of emerging scholars, Season 2 of Sous-Terrain features two researchers from diverse backgrounds in each episode, collaborating on a related topic or area of study. Through audio excerpts from their respective fieldwork, they share their experiences, methodologies, challenges encountered, and the lessons learned.

This innovative format seeks to enhance the accessibility of research and animate fieldwork through auditory and narrative elements. By highlighting the endeavors of emerging scholars, we aspire to foster a deeper comprehension of knowledge creation within the humanities and social sciences.

**Discover all episodes across your preferred listening platforms: [here](#).**  
**The podcast series is additionally accessible on [Radio Campus Paris](#).**

The image shows a circular opening in a piece of brown corrugated cardboard. Through the hole, a white background is visible. On this white background, the text 'SOUS TERRAIN' is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, 'SAISON 2' is written in smaller, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom of the white circle is an orange icon of a vintage-style microphone with sound waves on either side.

**SOUS  
TERRAIN**

**SAISON 2**



# Our activities in 2025







## Edition

Podcast: Sous-Terrain, Season 2

### The project partners



### The episodes of 2025

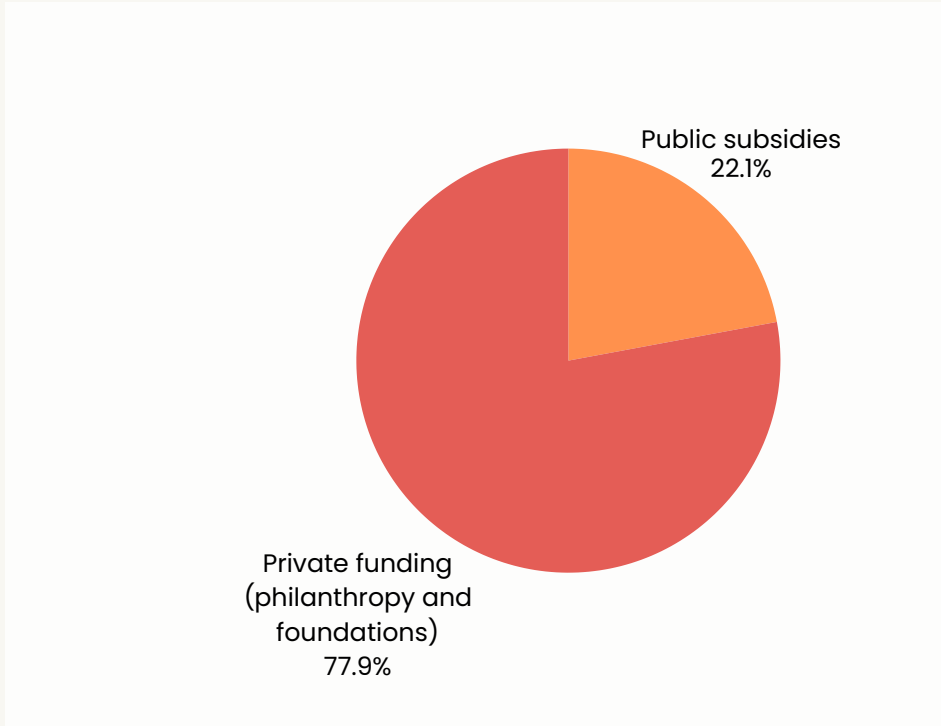
-  **1# Palestine – Israel: Inquiry in Occupied Territory**  
With Caterina Bandini and Clémence Vendryes
-  **2# Police Unionism: Navigating the Obligation of Discretion**  
With Audrey Pluta and Marin Guenot
-  **3# Mayotte: An Investigation into a Marginalized French Department**  
With Sarah Bronsard and Tanguy Mathon Cecillon
-  **4# Examine individuals charged with SVS**  
With Mallaury Bolanos and Simon Protar
-  **5# Access to resources in constrained contexts: Composing military histories in sub-Saharan Africa**  
With Pauline Cherbonnier and Abdoul Wahab Cissé
-  **6# Social classes and inequalities at the European level: Analyzing health mobility**  
With Marton Angyan and Eva Renaudeau

# 3. Finances

## Our financial statement

### Revenues

Total revenue for 2025: €234,915 \*



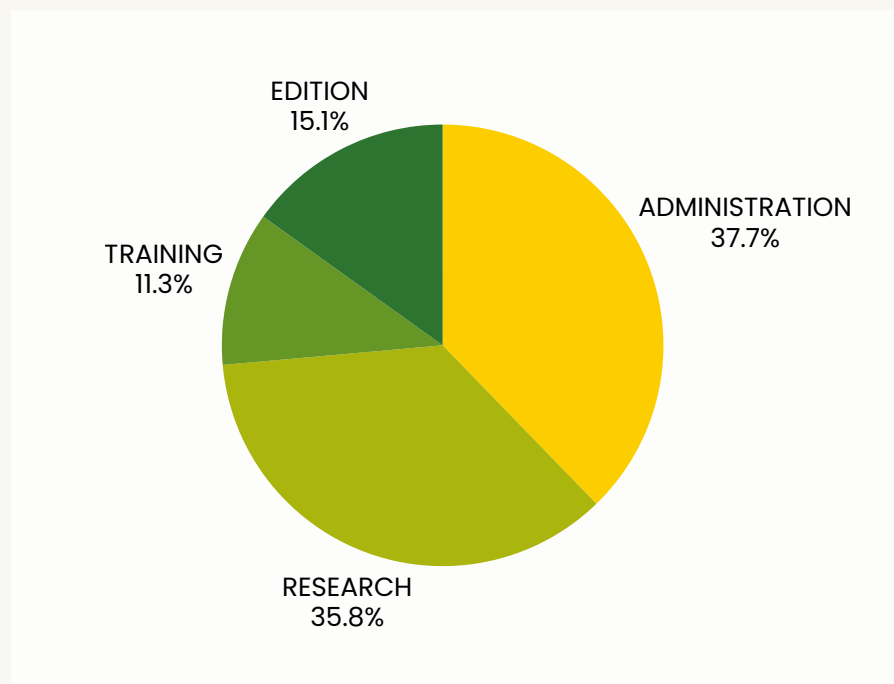
### Expenses

Total expenditure for 2025: €234,915 \*

Expenses are allocated among the three pillars of Noria Research:

- Research
- Edition
- Training

The Administration department encompasses the daily administrative, human resources, financial, and digital management of the association.



\* Provisional balance sheet not consolidated as of Edition date.