

**Press Release – 24 January 2020
KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED**



On the Eve of Brexit Day, Theodore Zeldin to Share his Views on Europe

Opening the Night of Ideas, 30 January at the Institut français in London

Philosopher and historian Theodore Zeldin is joining the Night of Ideas as keynote speaker, on this pivotal moment in British and European history.

Initiated by the Institut français in 2016, the **NIGHT OF IDEAS** is a project staged simultaneously in Paris, London and worldwide, taking place on Thursday 30 January 2020. In London, it has become a major Franco-British event, exploring the latest ideas behind issues central to our times.

Catherine Colonna, French Ambassador to the UK will launch the Night of Ideas, introducing the main themes of this edition before giving the floor to **Theodore Zeldin**. They will be joined by more than fifty leading experts, including philosophers **Gaspard Koenig** and **Pascal Bruckner**, artists **Yinka Shonibare** and **Marguerite Humeau**, Royal Geographical Society director **Joe Smith**, or **Aldo Faisal**, Professor of Neurotechnology at Imperial College London.

Crossing French, British and European perspectives, this new edition will **engage audiences in free debates** with the theme **ALIVE** as the common thread to tackle **contemporary issues**.

What does being alive mean today? At a time when **nature is threatened** and **technology seems all-powerful**, we'll question, collectively, **the borders of our humanity** and rethink what was once taken for granted.

The NIGHT OF IDEAS is organised by the Institut français, the Higher Education, Research and Innovation Department and the Cultural Department of the French Embassy, in partnership with Imperial College London, King's College London, the Royal Geographical Society, Bristol Festival of Ideas, York Festival of Ideas, the Goethe-Institut, Gallimard, HEC and the Alliance Française network in the UK, with the support from the Institut français Trust and Patron's Circle.

Night of Ideas: 30 January 2020

Venue: Institut français du Royaume-Uni

Before the Night: 24 – 29 January 2020

Info & bookings: www.nightofideas.co.uk

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