



Bringing together students and alumni from across the Channel

The Franco-British Connections aims to:

- **Raise students and alumni' interest** in Franco-British affairs and their European environment
- Develop Students and alumni understanding about the learning environment of the future
- **Promote innovation** by allowing students to analyze issues together with practitioners
- **Act as a catalyst** by facilitating access to a network of recent graduates who have worked with institutional contacts in both France and Britain

A Letter from Jean-Pascal Sibiet, Chairman of the Franco-British Connections

The ongoing uncertainty about Brexit has raised a number of questions over the future of Franco-British relations. Despite all this, the bilateral relationship between our two countries remains dynamic and full of promise. The United Kingdom and France share an aspiration to continue their historical paths of deep engagement and cooperation in areas such as diplomacy, trade, defence, culture, security, climate change and counter-terrorism. Our strong ties have been forged by centuries of competition and decades of collaboration and will withstand the issues that divide us now.

Franco-British Connections nurtures the Franco-British synergy by investing in today's young generations. We strive to develop Franco-British relations at the university level by encouraging and helping students develop their own Cross-Channel projects. Today's students will be tomorrow's professionals and leaders. If we aspire to continue cultivating talents and technology together, it is therefore critical to raise students and alumni's interest in Franco-British affairs. Franco-British Connections acts as a catalyst by putting students in touch with alumni who have organised Franco-British initiatives and events in the past and by giving them access to our broad network of institutional contacts in both France and Britain.

The hard work and dedication of passionate students and alumni in both countries have resulted in a thriving number of successful events over the years. Coming from all disciplines, they have met, through Franco-British Connections, with field leaders, discussed policies and challenged preconceived ideas on Finance, Defence, Politics, Higher Education, and other domains. We are very proud of the social events that we have organised, ranging from three day summits, conferences, panel discussions, parliamentary debates and online essay competitions.

Very little would have been possible without outstanding speakers, debaters and long standing supporters such as the Allianz Cultural Foundation, the French Embassy in London and the British Embassy in Paris. They have helped us grow and helped us help newcomer students grow. We are also proud to announce stronger institutional ties with societies and institutions. Franco-British Connections has entered into new partnerships with the Association France Grande Bretagne and the Spark! Contest for 2017.

Of course, the journey is not over and much remains to be done - and with Brexit over the horizon, now is the time to work at strengthening Franco-British relations. So, if you have an idea but don't know how to get started, send us an email to contact@fb-connections.org. We would be delighted to help you develop your own Cross-Channel initiative.



Jean-Pascal discussing the Franco-British Young Leaders Programme with Prince William and the First Secretary of the Embassy during the Royal Visit to Paris

YOUNG LEADERS LAUNCH

[David Wahl](#)/ [Simon Day](#)/ [Olivier-Remy Bel](#)

We are proud to announce the launch of the 2017 Franco-British Young Leaders Initiative, a project coordinated by the Franco-British Council, under the leadership of Christian de Boissieu (co-chair), and incubated by the Franco-British Connections. Three members (David Wahl, Simon Day, Olivier-Remy Bel) began setting up the programme together with Embassy Counsellors and the Ambassadors H.E. Sylvie Bermann, H.E. Sir Peter Ricketts, H.E. Sir Julian King and more recently H.E. Lord Edward Llewellyn.

The Franco-British Young Leaders Initiative was announced by David Cameron and François Hollande at the March 2016 Franco-British Summit and makes its debut in 2017.

Each year, a group of emerging leaders from government, business, media, military, culture and civic society will join a transformational network, access areas of excellence on both sides of the Channel and be encouraged to implement learning into their practice. Major donors are Engie, EDF, Eurostar, Société Générale, Gide, Artémis, Covéa, London Stock Exchange and private donors.

At the same time, a group of French and British 20-30 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds who have demonstrated potential for future success will benefit from a unique mentoring opportunity from the emerging leaders.

The idea behind this programme is the belief that bringing together opinion-makers aged between 30 to 40 will foster a deeper mutual understanding and strengthen the centuries- old bilateral relationship. The programme aims to deepen Franco-British collaboration at the highest level and establish a give back/ give forward ethos at its core.

Jean-Pascal Sibiet was appointed in selection jury, co-chaired by Patricia Barbizet and Dominic Grieve MP.



H.E. Lord Edward Llewellyn, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to France, David Wahl, Olivier-Remy Bel, Simon May and Jean-Pascal Sibiet, amongst other collaborators of the Franco-British Young Leaders Programme

POST-BREXIT DISCUSSION

[Jean-Pascal Sibiet](#)

On the 24th June 2016, Franco-British Connections invited Lord Julian Grenfell (former Chairman of the Select Committee on European Affairs) and Professor Sophie Loussouarn (Professor at the Université d'Amiens, the Université de Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle and a specialist on British Conservatives) at Sciences Po Alumni, to discuss the results "à chaud" of the Brexit referendum.

The discussion addressed the geopolitical and economic consequences of 'Brexit' and the threatened unity of the United Kingdom, amongst other issues.

TRANS-CHANNEL DEBATE

[Francesco Donini Ferretti](#) / [Albertine Aquenin](#) / [Shanica De Silva](#)

During the Post-Brexit Discussion, Franco-British Connections and the French Debating Association announced a Trans-Channel student debate to be held in both Paris and London regarding the Brexit, in cooperation with the Allianz Cultural Foundation.

The first debate took place in Paris on 22 November 2016, at the University of London Institute in Paris. During this event, six students were invited to debate the motion "This House Believes that the Brexit has left the U.K. a Divided Kingdom". Opposition won.

The second debate took place in London on 3 December 2016, at the Senate House of the University of London. For this event, four Paris students were invited to debate against their London counterparts. Given that the U.S. presidential election had recently shaken the world in continuation to the Brexit, the motion was broadened to "This House Believes that Tyranny of the majority is a price of democracy". Proposition won.

The debate was followed by a reception in a nearby venue, which allowed the students to network and make contacts across the Channel.

Franco-British Connections hopes to repeat this type of event in a future, with the aim of exploring the dynamics of Franco-British relations in the 21st century and stimulating discussion.



Please find the video of the Trans-Channel Debate organised in November/December 2016 in Paris and London [HERE](#).



Please find the video of the Post-Brexit discussion [HERE](#).

FRANCOPHONE DEBATING ASSOCIATION

[Marion Abecassis](#)

Franco-British Connections founded the Inter-University Francophone Parliamentary Debate Tournament in the United Kingdom in 2012, with the involvement of 5 London Universities: UCL, QMUL, LSE, King's and Imperial. Since this year, the baton has been passed to the Franco Débats UK association, which is now the body responsible for the organization of these tournaments. FDUK works under the auspices of the Franco-British Connections as well as the Institut Français, and in partnership with the French Societies of UK universities.

The "Débats Francophones" project is inspired from the British Parliamentary debate model and aims on initiating British and international students on this type of debates and public speaking in French. Since then, the project has evolved and it now count's with the participation of other prestigious universities outside of London, such as Cambridge, Warwick and Edinburgh.

FRENCH SOCIETIES MEET WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE TO THE UK

[David Wahl](#)

On the 13th of November 2015, French & Francophone Society presidents from around the UK were invited to a meeting organised by the Franco-British Connections with H.E. Sylvie Bermann, Ambassador of France to the UK.

Representatives from the societies from Cambridge, Imperial College, King's College, LSE, Oxford University, UCL, and the University of Manchester presented their plans for the year and discussed the view on Franco-British relations from the student perspective.

We hope to repeat this event every couple of years to promote better connections between the various stakeholders interested in linking students with France and the French speaking world more generally.



2015-2016 Inter- University Francophone
Parliamentary Debate Tournament Finale-
Queen Mary and Warwick students



H.E. Sylvie Bermann, David Wahl and French &
Francophone Society presidents

FRENCH AND UK PERSPECTIVES ON FINTECHS

[Florian Bercault](#)

FrenchSquare organised a conference in London on February 2017, on the implications of Brexit for the Francophone community, its economic fabric and the ecosystem of the FrenchTech London.

Various sectoral experts and senior executives were invited to discuss the expected impact of Brexit in their respective domains. Florian Bercault (Founder of Estiméo) was one of the guest speakers, representing the Franco-British Connections.



Florian Bercault at the FrenchSquare conference:
Spécial Brexit.

DIGITAL EDUCATION IN FRANCE AND THE UK

[Nicolas Khadivi](#) / [Marie Pélissier Combescure](#)

Franco-British Connections collaborated in the planning of a MOOC event which took place at the Residence of the British Ambassador, Sir Peter Ricketts, on the 22nd October 2015.

The use of digital technologies is nothing new in the world of Higher Education. Today, the use of MOOCs is increasing. The event brought together key French and British players to bring their understanding together with recent users of MOOC, and discuss questions such to what extent can MOOCs become soft power tools or support development; how are new digital education tools reforming the classical teacher-student model; and what lessons can be drawn from the British and French experiences., amongst others.

Guest speakers included: Mathieu Nebra (Founder and CEO of OpenClassrooms), Simon Nelson (CEO of FutureLearn), Andrew Hogg (Director of Education at Total), Aurélien Krejbich (Director of the Centre for Europe, Sciences Po). Tim Gore (Director of University of London Institute in Paris) moderated the discussion.

H.E. Sylvie Bermann, Ambassador of France to the UK, at the London School of Economics- A French Perspective on the Future of the European Union

[Louis Marty](#)

On the 13th of March 2015, the Franco-British Connections organised a public discussion with special guest H.E. Sylvie Bermann. The event was chaired by Professor Maurice Fraser, former Head of the LSE European Institute, and jointly organized with the LSE French society and the LSE European society, with the kind support of the LSE European Institute and the Franco-British Council.

Over 120 students from the LSE, King's College, UCL and Oxford attended this public event that took place in the Wolfson Theatre of the London School of Economics (LSE).

The Franco-British Connections team would like to express our deep sorrow over the passing away of Professor Maurice Fraser on the 12th February 2016.



Left-to-right: Professor Maurice Fraser, H.E. Sylvie Bermann, Ambassador of France to the UK and Louis Marty

(D) ÉCRIRE LE MONDE

[Fabien Aufrechter](#)

On the 7th of November 2014, Sir Michael Edwards, Yann Moix and Dominique Fernandez met at La Sorbonne to discuss their globe-trotting and peculiar relationship with the world-, focusing on how these are conveyed in their literary pieces. Students followed the pilgrimage of these three writers through the United Kingdom, North Korea, Italy and Egypt. The conference was followed by an aperitif and informal discussion with the audience.

The event was coordinated by Débattre en Sorbonne, in partnership with the Franco-British Connections.

FRANCO- BRITISH CONFERENCE ON DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY

The Franco-British Council, the Franco-British Lawyers' Society and the Franco-British Connections organised a day seminar on the impact of Magna Carta and the Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen on our societies through history. The event was held at Lancaster House on the 11th of June 2015.

Guest speakers included: Lord Sumption, H.E. Sylvie Bermann, Professor Etienne Picard, Keith Vaz MP, Professor Robert Tombs, Rt Hon Lady Justice Arden, Judge Bernard Stijn, Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP, Jean-Paul Costa and Shami Chakrabarti.

AFGB'S 100th ANNIVERSARY

The Association France-Grande Bretagne celebrated its centenary anniversary with a gala dinner held at the Cercle de l' Union Interalliée in Paris, on November 3rd 2016.

The celebration opened with a dialogue between Pierre-André de Chalendar, president of Saint-Gobain and Sophie Pedder, the Paris representative of The Economist, on the theme: *France, Grande Bretagne... et maintenant?*. 180 participants attended the gala dinner presided over by former French Ambassador to the UK Patrick Hénault, Secretary of State Axelle Lemaire, H.E. Sylvie Bermann and Susan le Jeune d'Alleeershecque. Jean-Pascal Sibiet, Chairman to Franco British Connections, proudly represented the Association amongst other representatives of local AFGB associations.

CORDIALE DEBATE PRIZE 2014-2015

[Maeva Guyot/ Florian Bercault](#)

The Cordial Debate Prize was created by the Franco-British Comparative Project, a founding project of the FB-Connections, in order to promote debate and the exchange of ideas between academics, students and young alumni of both counties. The initiative paid homage to the Entente Cordiale, which symbolises the close relationship between France and Great Britain. The Prize rewarded the best essay on the following subject: 'This house believes that Europe benefits from Britain and France having different legal systems'.

The Jury for this edition was: Christophe Premat (MP for French citizens living in United Kingdom and Northern Europe), Claire Legras (First Counsellor, Embassy of France in the United Kingdom), Catherine Palmer (President of the Franco-British Lawyers Society UK and Wales), Duncan Fairgrieve (Professor of Comparative Law at Paris Dauphine PSL) and Dominic Grieve (MP, former Attorney General).



Marie Padilla (Cercle), Cordial Debate 2015, with Jean-Pascal Sibiet (Founder of the Franco British Comparative Project)



Left-to-right: panel with Sir Michael Tugendhat, Michael Butcher and Sylvie Goulard at Lancaster House

COMMEMORATIVE CARTOONS

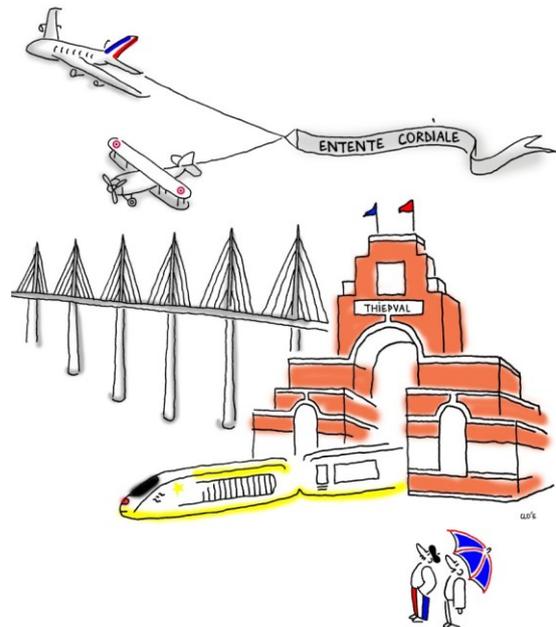
400th Anniversary of William Shakespeare's death

[Marion Abecassis](#)

2016 marked 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare. Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre- eminent dramatist. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. The Franco- British Connections team created a cartoon to commemorate this.

Centenary of the Battle of the Somme

The Franco- British Connections team created a cartoon to commemorate the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme in 2016. The Battle of the Somme, fought by the armies of the British and French empires against the German Empire is the largest battle of the First World War on the Western Front. The cartoon honours the Entente Cordiale, paying homage to Anglo- French relations in the past century. The cartoon was created by drawing Crit Cloe Floirat.



PUBLICATIONS

Over the past years, members of the Franco- British Connections team have written and published a number of articles and editorials. All publications can be accessed in our website.

Recent publications include:

- Le Brexit : une opportunité pour les jeunes Britanniques et pour la France.
By Louis Marty and Jean-Pascal Sibiet. Accessed [HERE](#).
- Opinion: Génération BREXIT, quel avenir pour la jeunesse britannique?.
By Jean-Pascal and Florian Bercault. Accessed [HERE](#).
- Never Ending Rivalry or looking closer at the European youth from a Franco-British Perspective.
By Jean-Pascal Sibiet. Accessed [HERE](#).



2017

In May 2017, Eugenia Esteve, Florian Bercault and Jean-Pascal Sibiet met with Romain Bail, Mayor of Ouistreham and Vice-President of Caen la Mer Coastline and Tourism. One of France's youngest mayors presented his € 14m Franco-British Visitor Centre project. More than 1m Brits land in Ouistreham every year.

Very near Sword beach, the Franco-British Visitor Centre in Normandy will be dedicated to Franco-British relations. The museum aims to introduce visitors to the strengths and paradox of the Franco British relationship from the Middle Age to the present day.



Left-to-right: Jean-Pascal Sibiet, Eugenia Esteve Vegas, Romain Bail, Mayor of Ouistreham and Florian Bercault

2016

Jean- Pascal Sibiet, Chairman of the Franco- British Connections met with a number of politicians (Senators) in 2016 to discuss the FBC mission. These informal meetings mainly discoursed upon how to foster youth exchanges and young leaders across the Channel. Despite Brexit the resolutions were optimistic.



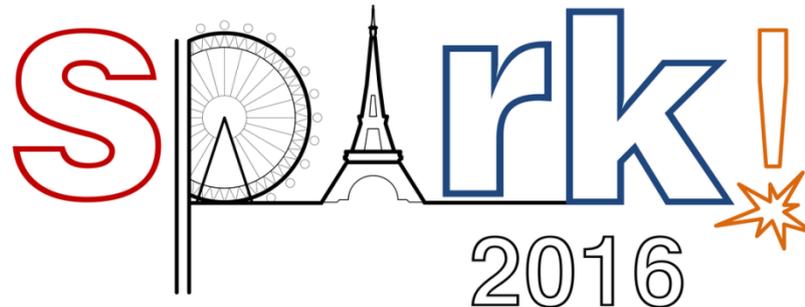
Jean- Pascal Sibiet and Senator H el ene Conway-Mourret
(Former Ministre d el egu e des fran ais de l' tranger)



Jean- Pascal Sibiet and Senator Olivier Cadic

SPARK! CONTEST

[Nicholas Morris/](#) [Jean-Pascal Sibiet](#)



Franco-British Connections is happy to announce our decision to enter into a partnership with the Spark! Contest for 2017.

The Spark! Contest invites current and former students to produce innovative thinking on a topic related to Energy, under Franco-British supervision. It is a two-round contest overseen by Energy industries, and sponsored by EDF, Rolls-Royce, Assystem and Atkins.

The aim of the Contest is to foster a Franco-British community of Energy and bring young talents closer to the existing Franco-British energy industry. The Spark! Contest wants to prove that young minds can be brilliant, and aims on providing greater equal opportunities and diversity within the industry, and promote greater respect for the environment. The winning candidates will be awarded with visits, internships, scholarships, introduction to senior stakeholders, and lots more.

THE REUNION OF ASSOCIATION FRANCE- GRANDE BRETAGNE AND FRANCO- BRITISH CONNECTIONS

This reunion results from a meeting between Patrick Hénault, former French Ambassador to the UK and President of Association France-Grande Bretagne, and Jean-Pascal Sibiet, Chairman of Franco-British Connections, on the occasion of the celebration in 2015 of the 900th anniversary of the signature of the Magna Carta. The two of them realised that the two societies had common objectives, much to say to each other and therefore much to do together, and decide to pair off.

The associations have a different public and so a different internal culture. One is a combination of mostly retired leading professionals and government officials, with a sprinkle of ex-London expats, academics and anglophiles at large, who regularly meet up for talks, visits to exhibitions, theme trips and cultural events generally, while the other is made up of young professionals on the field, scattered all over the world but technologically connected.

The prospect is to stage events together, weigh in on the Franco-British dialogue through a mutualisation of the two networks, a common website and publications online.





Jean-Pascal Sibiet



Florian Bercault



David Wahl



Albertine Aquenin



Nicholas Morris



Francesco Donini Ferretti



Marion Abecassis



Nicolas Khadivi



Shanica De Silva



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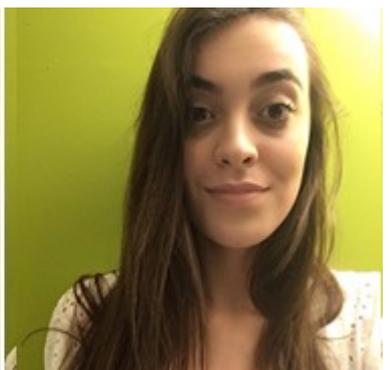
Marie Pélissier-C



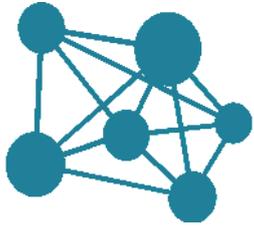
Fabien Aufrechter



Maeva Guyot



Eugenia Esteva Vegas



Alliance with **France Grande Bretagne**
Partnership with **the Spark Contest**
Incubator of **Franco British Young Leaders**
Adhoc events with **French Debating Association**



1200 Guests for Freedom of Press, Defence, Innovation, Research communication, Energy supply, Cultural differences, Finance, New order of the Old Continent, Future of the EU, Democracy and Liberty, Higher Education, (D)écrire le monde, Mocc and Digital Education, Brexit and Independence Referendum



Olivier Cadic, Axelle Lemaire, Cédric Villani, Lord Winston, Sir Howard Davies, Lord Julian Grenfell, General Gratien Maire, Laurent Burin des Rozières, Bernard Emié, Sylvie Bermann, Yann Moix, Sir Michael Edwards, Dominic Grieve, Lord Jonathan Sumption, Sir Michael Tugendhat, Simon Donaldson, Anthony Giddens, Michael Butcher, Dominique Hernandez, Sir Peter Ricketts, Sir Peter Westmacott, David Valls-Gabaud, Stephen Clarke and many more



Cordial Debate Prize online essay competition:
Legal systems (2014-2015):
Marie Padilla (1st), Charlotte Matthews & Ambroise Fahrner



Lancaster House – Résidence de l’Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne—Collège Franco Britannique—British Council France—LSE—Institut français de Londres –ESSEC—King’s College—Goodenough College—Sorbonne—Sciences Po – House of Lords –Assemblée nationale—Imperial College—IEP de Lille – ENS Lyon—ULIP—Senate House, and more



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