

ميكام
مركز ميريان
للادراسات المتقدمة
في المنطقة المغاربية



MECAM
Merian Centre
For Advanced Studies
In The Maghreb

Event week

(In)Equity in the Maghreb Perspectives for development

MECAM Spectrum

12-15 November, 2024

Venues

- **12 November** : Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales de Tunis
- **13-14 November** : Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches économiques et sociales
- **15 November**: MECAM – Merian Centre For Advanced Studies in the Maghreb

Organisation

Imene TRABELSI KHEFACHA, MECAM Fellowship Programme Manager



Merian Center for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb
(MECAM), HIDE 27, rue Florian
Borj Zouara (Bab Saadoun)| 1029 Tunis/ TUNISIE.

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Conceptual Note

From the period predating national independence to the golden age of post-colonial planning, to neo-liberal and Arab Spring moments, “development” and its cousins and relatives – equality, egalitarianism, justice, utopia, models – have appeared as orienting horizons, towards which practitioners and politicians have reached, gestured, or brandished as distractions. Post-2011, the doors to the economic kingdom, long seemingly closed by the denial of politics represented by the ensconcing of the ancient regime in the formidable castles of Carthage, Rabat, and Algiers, seemed open and discussions and the shape, contours, and texture of development, utopias, dreamscapes, and the way the present blocked them from reach, view, or achievability again seemed not only open but calling for more than equality. A rising call for equity found its way through the tunnels of people who demonstrated against decades of injustices.

MECAM’s November event week treats those issues and more through the themes of disparity, inequity, and future potential. It assesses how contemporary issues like the green transitions, apartheid and colonialism, northern-induced anthropogenic climate change, and the Green Revolution have warped and diverted the course of southern history. It also considers how forms of southern agency and resistance figure in reshaping that shaping: from migration strategies to resistance strategies in the agricultural sector to forms of knowledge preservation through oral and visual communications and mainstream and pop art.

This event week brings researchers from different disciplines and backgrounds in order to jointly discuss the nexus of equity and inequity in the Maghreb and how their understanding of the Maghrebi case can influence their perception of the neighboring regions. With the dichotomy of equity and inequity in the Maghreb and beyond, the event week’s panels and roundtables seek to examine the perspectives of development in the Maghreb through various lenses, historical, legal, political science, environmental, economic, regional, local, cultural, and artistic. MECAM’s fellows, scholars, and guests will attempt to explore, decipher, and decode the challenges, mechanisms, policies and potentials of Maghrebi societies, governments, and individuals’ strive for fairness against systemic disparities and long-held narratives of injustices and discrimination.

Research questions

- The event week raises questions to deepen the inquiry and foster a dialogue about justice in a contemporary context, such as
- What are the ethical implications of seeking equity over equality in the contemporary Maghreb?
- How did the historical injustices influence the contemporary perceptions of inequity and equity?
- How is the search for equity a decolonial discourse?
- In what ways can equity be measured effectively in the diverse contexts of the Maghreb?
- How do different philosophical and cultural traditions conceptualize the relationship between equity and justice?
- In what ways do empirical research and public perception shape policies aiming at achieving equity?
- What challenges does the Maghreb still run to effectively achieve equity?

Objectives of the Event-week

- Illuminate the Contours of Regional Disparities
- Show contemporary resistances
- Offer Theories for Thinking about Past and Present in the Service of a Better Future
- Theorize for equity in the Maghreb

The Programme

Day 1: November 12, 2024

Venue: "Fatma Haddad" room of the Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales de Tunis (FSHST)

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| 9:00- 9:45 | Inauguration and Exchange meeting with the Dean of the Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales de Tunis (FSHST) |
| 10.00- 11:30 | <p>Panel 1 (hybrid): Gender (In)Equity: Arabic Literary Representations of Women in Libya, Palestine, and Tunisia</p> <p>Chair: Khadidja Boussaid Keynote speaker: Amal Obeidi</p> <p>“Women in Magical Worlds: Ḥakawāṭiyya Mobilities in Palestinian Folktales” Presenter: Sanabel Abdel Rahman</p> <p>“Visibility and Invisibility in Tunisian Sufi Poetry: The Question of Women Sufi Saints” Presenter: Cyrine Kortas</p> |
| 11:30 - 13:00 | <p>Panel 2: Linguistic disparities Chair: Cyrine Kortas</p> <p>اللغة العربية في التعليم العالي الإسرائيلي بين الواقع والتحديات من منظور باحث تونسي " هالة بن مبارك The Arabic language in Israeli higher education between reality and challenges from the perspective of a Tunisian researcher” Presenter : Hala Ben Mbarek</p> <p>“The Linguistic Construction of Gender Disparity in the Tunisian TV show ‘Fekrat Sami Fehri’ on Elhiwar Ettounsi” Presenter: Najla Mosbahi</p> |
| 13.00–14.00 | Lunch break |
| 14.00-15.00 | <p>Book presentation Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron. “Droit contemporain des pays arabes”, Paris, Sirey, 2023.</p> |
| 15.00–16.30 | <p>Panel 3: Reading Gender (In)Equity of Women in the Maghreb Chair: Zouhour Ouamara</p> <p>I. A historical reading: “Women in Charge: Real Estate, Business, Family and Politics in Early 20th Century Southern Tunisia” Presenter: Nora Lafi</p> <p>“Codifier le genre en Tunisie entre réformisme et résistance à la tradition : l'exemple du code pénal de 1861” Presenter: Hend Guirat</p> <p>II. A legal reading: “The constitutional principle of equity, the status of women and the exception of unconstitutionality in the Maghreb” Presenters: Sana Ben Achour, Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron and Massensen Cherbi</p> |

Day 2: November 13, 2024

(Venue: The CERES)

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| 9:00- 09:30 | Inauguration with the Director of the CERES & Short Visit to the CERES library |
| 09:30 - 10:30 | <p>Panel 3 (following up): Reading Gender (In)Equity of Women in the Maghreb</p> <p>Chair: Cyrine Kortas</p> <p>III. A sociological reading "Genre et espace public : De l'appropriation de l'espace urbain dans un contexte Maghrébin"</p> <p>Presenter: Khadidja Boussaïd Discussant : Khaoula Matri</p> |
| 10:30- 12:30 | <p>Panel 4: Politics of Identity in Tunisia</p> <p>Islam, Democracy, and the Secular State: <i>Evolving Perspectives in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia</i></p> <p>Discussant panel: Sami Brahim, Kamal Essid, Zohair Ismail, Julius Dihstelhoff and Imad Alsoos</p> |
| 12.30-13.30 | Lunch break |
| 13.30-14.30 | <p>Panel 5: Diaspora and Justice</p> <p>Chair: Imad Alsoos</p> <p>"The Rachad Movement : An Algerian Opposition Movement Between Abject Victimhood and Attractive Resistance" Presenter : Thomas Serres</p> <p>"Franz Fanon, Abdelkader Djeghloul et la Discipline de la Sociologie en Algérie" Presenter : Murriam Davis</p> <p>"فرانز فانون، عبد القادر جغلول و مجال المعرفة السوسيولوجية في الجزائر" تقديم : مريم ديفيس</p> |
| 14.30-16.30 | <p>Round Table: Cultural (In)Equity</p> <p>Presenters: Massensen Cherbi, Aissa Kadri, Fatma Oussedik and Neila Saadi</p> |

Day 3: November 14, 2024

(Location: the CERES)

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| 9:00- 10:30 | <p>Panel 6: Climate Change and the Issue of Equity</p> <p>Chair: Max Ajl</p> <p>“The Pathways of the Green Transition in North Africa” Presenter: Mohamed Ismail Sabry</p> <p>“Local Knowledge and Local Seeds, a Way to Resist Climate Change” Presenter: Aymen Amayed</p> <p>“Oases in Tunisia: An Ecosystem under Threat, Global Challenges, Climate Change, and Local Fellahin Resistance” Presenter: Constanza Pizzo</p> |
| 10.30-12.00 | <p>Panel 7: A zooming-in economic and agricultural challenges</p> <p>Chair: Thomas Serres</p> <p>“Development with an Unresolved Agrarian Question: the Tunisian 60-year experience” Presenter: Heythem Guesmi</p> <p>“Rethinking Urban Food System Governance: The Case of Tunis City” Presenter: Emna Mornagui</p> <p>“Regional Equity in Tunisia - “Vue d’ensemble de la conception du développement territorial à Tataouine” Presenter: Nessrine Abbassi</p> <p>“Arbitrages institutionnels et politiques de développement économique dans le contexte des économies rentières : cas de l’Algérie” Presenter : Samir Bellal</p> |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch Break |
| 13.30 - 14.30 | <p>Panel 8: Archival research</p> <p>Max Ajl</p> |
| 14.30 | Transfer to the CDN |
| 15.00-16.00 | Visit to the Centre de Documentation Nationale |

Day 4: November 15, 2024

(Location:MECAM - conference room)

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| 9:00- 12:00 | <p>Panel 9: Publication workshop</p> <p>Animated by Max Ajl Moderated by Imad Alsoos</p> |
| 12:00- 13.00 | <p>Panel 10: Migration</p> <p>Chair: Philipp Wagner</p> <p>“The Realities of Refugee Work Rights: Policy Gaps and the Consequences for Violence” Presenter: Heidrun Bohnet</p> <p>“Social Capital, Irregular Migration, and the Stratification of Access to Information” Presenter: Andrew Fallone</p> <p>“Systèmes de protection des enfants immigrés irréguliers en Tunisie post 2011” Presenter: Riadh B. Khalifa</p> |
| 13.00-14.00 | <p>Lunch Break</p> |
| 14.00–15:00 | <p>Book presentation</p> <p>Fatma Oussedik “<i>Avoir un ami puissant</i>”. <i>Enquête sur les familles urbaines. Alger - Oran - Annaba.</i> Koukou Editions, 2022.</p> |
| 15.00-16.00 | <p>De-briefing and concluding Remarks</p> <p>Animated by Julius Dihstelhoff</p> |

Bullet points

Panel 1: Gender (In)Equity: Arabic Literary Representation of Women In Palestine and Tunisia

“Women in Magical Worlds: Ḥakawātiyya Mobilities in Palestinian Folktale” by Sanabel Abdel Rahman

- Emphasizing the importance of folktales under settler-colonial contexts
- Underlining women’s roles in expanding collective imagination and world-building practices
- Offering routes to connecting Palestinian storytelling to fugitive feminism

“Visibility and Invisibility in Tunisian Sufi Poetry: The Question of Women Sufi Saints” by Cyrine Kortas

- Helping understanding the historical and cultural contexts that shape the (in)visibility of women Sufi saints
- Studying the strategies used to convey the (in)visibility of women Sufi saints through the intersection of gender, class, and religion, this is through an SFL reading of Sufi songs dedicated to Om Ezzeine Jamalia, the research
- Shedding light on the contribution of Sufi literature to the broader understanding of gender roles as either challenging or reinforcing traditional gender norms.

Panel 2: Linguistics disparities

" اللغة العربية في التعليم العالي الإسرائيلي بين الواقع والتحديات من منظور باحث تونسي " تقديم: هالة بن مبارك

- استقصاء للوضع القائم فيما يخصّ تدريس ومكانة اللغة العربيّة في الجامعات العبريّة
- المشكلات الأساسية والتحديات التي تواجه تدريس اللغة العربية في التعليم العالي
- التوصيات والمقترحات بشأن التغييرات الضروريّة في المديين، الفوريّ والبعيد.

“The Arabic language in Israeli higher education between reality and challenges from the perspective of a Tunisian researcher” : Hala Ben Mbarek

- Surveying the current situation regarding the teaching and status of the Arabic language in Hebrew universities
- Highlighting key issues and challenges facing the teaching of Arabic in higher education
- Setting recommendations and suggestions for necessary changes in the immediate and long term

“The Linguistic Construction of Gender Disparity in the Tunisian TV show ‘Fekrat Sami Fehri’ on Elhiwar Ettounsi” by Najla Mosbahi

- Revealing if the Tunisian program "Fekrat Sami Fehri" reinforce or challenge gender disparity in Tunisia.
- Exploring how visual and verbal language construct gender stereotypes.

Book presentation:

Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron. “Droit contemporain des pays arabes”, Paris, Sirey, 2023.

- Les systèmes juridiques des pays arabes se sont modernisés et sécularisés depuis le XIXe siècle, avec une influence notable du droit français.
- L’idée d’un droit musulman figé est déconstruite, révélant des transformations dans des domaines comme le droit constitutionnel, familial et pénal.
- L’analyse comparative des textes juridiques met en lumière la diversité des systèmes actuels des pays arabes et leurs évolutions.

Panel 3: Reading Gender (In)equality of Women in the Maghreb

“Women in Charge: Real Estate, Business, Family and Politics in Early 20th Century Southern Tunisia” by Nora Lafi

- Exploring the social role of women in Southern Tunisia before and during French colonization (starting in 1881) by examining archival records from the National Archives of Tunisia.
- Revealing women's active involvement in family businesses, commerce, and property ownership (residential, commercial, and agricultural), challenging traditional views on their roles.
- Highlighting how women's political insurgency against colonization was rooted in their significant societal roles, which colonial repression sought to eliminate.

“Codifier le genre en Tunisie entre réformisme et résistance à la tradition : l'exemple du code pénal de 1861” by Hend Guirat

- Montrer comment le code de 1861, situé dans un contexte bien particulier, pose le débat sur le statut juridique et social des femmes.
- Tenter d’analyser comment la période coloniale a été à la fois un moment de continuité (1913) et de rupture (1921) avec les énoncés de ce code. Seules les clauses relatives aux femmes retiendront notre attention.

“The constitutional principle of equity, the status of women and the exception of unconstitutionality in the Maghreb” by Sana Ben Achour (tbc), Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron (tbc) and Massensen Cherbi

- Questioning the constitutionality of personal/successor statutes in the three Maghreb countries
- Questioning the place of the Sharia in the hierarchy of norms in the three Maghreb countries and its interpretation.
- Presenting the various solutions envisaged to achieve genuine equality between men and women in the Maghreb.

“Genre et espace public : De l'appropriation de l'espace urbain dans un contexte Maghrébin” by Khadidja Boussaïd

- Questionner la sexuation des espaces, et discuter les stratégies d'appropriation de la sphère publique à Alger, avec un focus sur les mobilités féminines.*
- Questionner la notion d'espace public dans le cadre d'une étude comparative entre Alger et Tunis, avec un focus sur les pratiques masculines de la ville.*
- Discuter les techniques et outils utilisés et utilisables dans le cadre d'une approche qualitative.*

Panel 4: Politics of Identity in Tunisia

Islam, Democracy, and the Secular State: *Evolving Perspectives in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia* Tunisia: by Sami Brahim, Kamal Essid, Zohair Ismail, Julius Dihstelhoff and Imad Alsoos

- Can a Muslim be a democrat without an Islamic reference?
- Can democracy be fundamentalised within Islamic narrative?
- Is secularism an inevitable condition for democracy or could the latter emerge and evolve within Islamic ambient?
- Is democracy a separation between politics and religion or between politics and what is sacred?
- Is democracy achievable without Muslim civilisation within a majority-Muslim country?
- Can we separate democracy from the history of the nation that aims to make its state democratic?

Panel 5: Diaspora and Justice

“The Rachad Movement : An Algerian Opposition Movement Between Abject Victimhood and Attractive Resistance” by Thomas Serres

- Can a political activist identified as an “Islamist” claim to be the victim of injustice and be vindicated? What does this imply for the state?
- Should a social scientist integrate the feedback of their interviewees when the latter push back against their theoretical framework? How can they frame this conversation?

“فرانز فانون، عبد القادر جغلول و مجال المعرفة السوسيوولوجية في الجزائر” مريم هاله دابفس

- يتناول الكتاب "L'An V de la Révolution Algérienne" لفانون تحليل الثورة الجزائرية وتأثيرها على الحياة اليومية والتحولات الاجتماعية والعائلية التي تساهم في بناء الأمة بعد الاستقلال.
- كان هناك نقاش بين فانون ومسبيرو حول العنوان المناسب للكتاب، حيث اقترح فانون "حقيقة الوطن" لتعكس التحولات الجذرية للثورة، بينما فضل مسبيرو عنواناً أقل خطورة لتجنب منع نشره في فرنسا.
- نشر الكتاب بعد وفاة فانون تحت عنوان "سوسيوولوجيا ثورة"، مما أدى إلى إدماج فانون في مجال علم الاجتماع، ويطرح هذا القرار تساؤلات حول تصنيفه الجديد وتأثير النقاشات الفكرية في المغرب بعد الاستقلال.

Round Table:

Cultural (In)Equity by Massensen Cherbi, Aissa Kadri, Fatma Oussedik and Neila Saadi

- Questioning the institutionalization of Amazingness in the Maghreb
- Questioning the use of Amazighness as heritage, at the risk of turning it into a museographic object
- Questioning the future of the French language in the Maghreb

Panel 6: Climate Change and the Issue of Equity

“The Pathways of the Green Transition in north Africa” by Mohamed Ismail Sabry

- The EU’s growing demand on renewables and decarbonization represents the cause that triggered various state and social actors’ interest-based activities in North African countries.
- The impact of these activities on the green transition pathways of North African countries was shaped by contextual conditions rooted in state-society relations.
- Green Transition pathways could be differentiated according to their extractivity/inclusivity and stability.

“Local Knowledge and Local Seeds, a Way to Resist Climate Change” by Aymen Amayed

- The historical context that accounts for this disparity between local, small-scale farmers and the industrial ones
- How are the small-scale farmers are fostering the hybridity of agricultural practices
- What state responses and policies are being followed?

“Oases in Tunisia: An Ecosystem under Threat, Global Challenges, Climate Change, and Local Fellahin Resistance” by Constanza Pizzo

- List the current challenges facing oases and their impacts on the ground
- Explore the implications of drawing on local knowledge, social capital, and ancestral practices when facing adversity
- Search for the ecological, social, and economic impacts of preserving a rural livelihood and communities

Panel 7: A zooming-in economic and agricultural challenges

“Development with an Unresolved Agrarian Question: the Tunisian 60-year experience” by Heythem Guesmi

- Why did the steady privatization of land tenure lead to a degradation of Tunisia’s economic and social fabric
- what potential routes could have been taken to integrate into the international market yet without exhausting neither the economy nor the people

“Rethinking Urban Food System Governance: The Case of Tunis City by Emna Mornagui

- The paper explores the emergence of urban food governance in Tunis, highlighting limitations such as reliance on external funding and power imbalances.
- It uses document analysis, interviews, and a focus group to assess Tunisia's current food governance strategy.
- The study identifies opportunities for a localized, inclusive, and sustainable governance model, addressing challenges within a rapidly changing political and institutional context.

“Regional Equity in Tunisia - “Vue d'ensemble de la conception du développement territorial à Tataouine” by Nessrine Abbessi

- Comprendre les réalités régionales - Sud Est de la Tunisie.
- Repenser les approches de développement territorial.
- Positionner l'exemple de Tataouine dans la nouvelle théorie du développement territorial.

Panel 8: Archival research

- Data Discovery and Preservation
- Analytical Approaches
- Ethical and Practical Considerations

Panel 9: Publication workshop

- Overview of the Publication Process
- Writing and Structuring a paper
- Peer Review and Revision Strategies
- Methodological implications

Panel 10: Migration

“The Realities of Refugee Work Rights: Policy Gaps and the Consequences for Violence” by Heidrun Bohnet

- Content-wise: how did the overlooking of the ground reality jeopardize the practical enforcement of refugee rights?
- Methodology-related: what are the methodological implications of relying on de facto refugee rights data?

“Social Capital, Irregular Migration, and the Stratification of Access to Information” by Andrew Fallone

- What constitutes social capital for people on the move?
- How can social capital act as an organizing principle for the economies involved in irregular migration in the absence of official regulatory oversight?
- How does access to social capital stratify among different groups?

“Systèmes de protection des enfants immigrés irréguliers en Tunisie post 2011” by Riadh B. Khalifa

- Étudier le paradoxe que suscite l’examen de la situation des enfants immigrés irréguliers dans un pays qui avait mis en place de mécanismes de protection.
- Question méthodologique : présenter le guide d’entretien et les contraintes de l’étude de la vulnérabilité des enfants migrants, notamment l’atteinte à leurs droits.

De-briefing and concluding Remarks

- Key Discussions Recap:** Summarize main themes and insights from the event-week, aligning with the objectives.
- Takeaways and Lessons:** Highlight key lessons, ideas, and actionable recommendations for future work.
- Next Steps:** Outline follow-up actions and invite participants to engage in future collaborations or initiatives.

Participants

Aïssa Kadri

Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Paris 8. A sociologist, he taught at the University of Algiers in the early 1970s. He was director of the Maghreb-Europe Institute at the University of Paris VIII.

Amel Obeidi

Associate professor of comparative politics at the University of Benghazi, Libya, with a keen interest in women's questions in the Maghreb. She is an associate researcher in the DFG-funded research project "Political in the Making" at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. Dr. Obeidi's publications reflect her scholarly focus on political culture, elites, security, and women's empowerment in Libya. Notable works include "The Impact of the Revolution and the Transitional Period on Women's empowerment Policies in Libya" and "From Forced Reconciliation to Recognition: The Abu Salim Case in Historical Perspective." Her research on "Identity in Libya: Orientations of Loyalty and Identification" and "Political Socialization in Post-Gaddafi Libya" further highlight her commitment to understanding the complexities of Libyan society, particularly in the context of political transition.

Andrew Fallone

Doctoral researcher at the University of Cambridge and an Affiliated Researcher at MECAM. His current research focuses on the stratification of people's ability to access social information while undertaking migration journeys. His work in Tunisia builds on seven months of fieldwork conducted in affiliation with the Regional Centre for Multidisciplinary Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (CRIM-UNAM). His recent professional work includes research with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).

Aymen Amayed

Tunisian agronomist researcher at OSAE and a political activist, engaged with multiple organizations and grassroots social movements. His main research is about environmental and ecological issues with a special focus on food sovereignty, equal access to resources and means of production, peasant rights, and climate and social justice in Tunisia and North Africa.

Charlotte Fielder

Charlotte is a senior researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) with a PhD from the University of Essex. She engages in research and policy advice

on peacebuilding and social cohesion in post-conflict countries as well as political transformation processes and the effectiveness of international support thereto.

Constanza Pizzo

PhD student at the University of Palermo in the program "Migration, Differences, Social Justice." Over the past three years, she has been conducting research activities in collaboration with the OSAE (Observatoire de la Souveraineté Alimentaire et de l'Environnement). Her main research focuses include food sovereignty, climate, social and environmental justice, and agricultural policies.

Cyrine Kortas

Assistant professor of English Literature at the University of Gabes, Tunisia. She is also a member of the Research Unit LAD at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Sfax. Her current research focuses on the influence of modernist English authors such as D. H. Lawrence on the rise of the modern novel in the Maghreb region; it explores the concept of the New Man in a selection of novels published in Tunisia and Morocco while introducing Sufism as a theory of analysis.

Emna Mornagui

currently the AfriFOODlinks Coordinator for the city of Tunis. Program focusing on transforming urban food systems in African cities. With a background as an agronomist, she has engaged in research on food sovereignty and climate justice, exploring the socio-ecological impacts of climate change. Emna's work bridges the gap between policy development and grassroots movements, with a particular focus on sustainable food systems in the Global South.

Fatma oussedik

Fatma Oussedik is an Algerian sociologist. She has conducted anthropological research in the M'Zab region. She is a professor at the University of Algiers and an associate researcher at the CREAD applied economics and development research center. Her recent publications include "Algerian feminism at risk in a postcolonial context" (2010), in *Revue Tumultes. Politique, esthétique, féminisme: Les formes du politique, les ruses de la domination et le sens des luttes féministes*, Paris VII, Paris. Coordination (in collaboration with Abdenour Bidar) of the issue: *Philosophie, Islam et sociétés musulmanes. Revue Diogène*, No 226, April-June 2009-Personal contribution: "à la recherche d'un État endormi".

Hala B. Mbarek

Hala BEN MBAREK is associate professor of modern Hebrew language and literature in the Department of Arabic studies at the University of Tunis. She is also general secretary of the Tunisian Society of Comparative Literature. Her research focuses on Hebrew and Comparative Literature ; the contribution of popular genres to the construction of modern Jewish identities ; the intersecting fields of modern multilingual Arab-Hebrew literatures of North Africa and the Middle East. She currently directs an Mecam funded research project:

Judeo-Arabic cultural heritage in Tunisia: A damaged identity and threatened linguistic diversity. She leads a team of approx 5 MA students. Her publications include her first book *العبرية للمبتدئين* (FSHST Press, 2016) and many articles in academic journals.

Heidrun Bohnet

An Associate Professor of Migration and Conflict Research at the University of Continuing Education Krems in Austria. She is currently leading the ERC Starting Grant project “MixedRivals”, which examines the perceptions of threat and inequality and the risk of violence between different migrant groups in North Africa. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Hend Guirat

An assistant professor in the Department of History at Tunis's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2014, she received her PhD after defending her thesis on “The Death Penalty in Tunisia under the Protectorate: Sentences Handed down by the French Criminal Justice: 1883-1955) at the EHESS (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, Paris. Her research focuses on the history of justice in the colonial and post-colonial periods and the various actors in the judicial hierarchy. She is also interested in gender and justice. She is a Medieval Arab-Islamic World Laboratory member at the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Tunis.

Heythem Guesmi

A Tunisian agricultural engineer and a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of Ghent University, Belgium. He is also a research fellow with the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Council for American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and an associated researcher at the Tunisian Observatory for Food Sovereignty and the Environment (OSAE). He worked in different local and regional civil society organizations on environmental rights, climate justice, and food sovereignty and contributed to Tunisian journals *Inhiyez* and *Nawaat*.

Imad Alsoos

A bachelor degree in English language and literature and a master degree in international studies from Birzeit University/Palestine, as well as a master degree in public law and international relations from the University of the Basque Country. In 2017, he earned his PhD from the Free University of Berlin, focusing on Hamas’s political discourse and organizational mobilization in Gaza. In 2018, he joined the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. In 2023-24, he joined the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb. His current research focuses on a comparative study of Muslim thoughts in Mashreq and Maghreb and then examines the way their interactions have influenced the development of Ennahda Party’s political thought.

Julius Dihstelhoff

Julius Dihstelhoff has served since May 2020 as Academic Coordinator for the international "Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM)" which is based in Tunis. He is also post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Politics at the Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS) at Philipps University Marburg. His research focuses on Political Islam and German foreign policy in the Arab world since the so-called Arab Spring, with a special focus on Tunisian transformation processes.

Khadidja Boussaïd

Khadidja Boussaïd holds a Ph.D. in Urban Sociology from the University of Algiers 2 and is a permanent researcher at CREAD (Research Center for Applied Economics for Development). She is part of a research team focused on the socio-economic dynamics of families, with a particular emphasis on the transformations of gender identities within Algerian households. Dr. Boussaïd is accredited to supervise research (HDR) and is a member of the LASADET Laboratory (Socio-Anthropological Analysis of Territorial Development). She is also an associate member of the Gender Studies Center (CEG) at the University of Lausanne, contributing to research on the intersection of gender, space, and power. In her postdoctoral work at MECAM, she will explore the topic of masculinities and public space, building on her previous and ongoing research on gender inequalities and access to public space.

Khaoula Matri

Maître-assistante au Centre d'Anthropologie, à la Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Sousse (Université de Sousse), et chercheure associée à l'IRMC. Elle est titulaire d'un DEA en sociologie sur les Représentations et usages sociaux du corps féminin vierge : la virginité en Tunisie. Sa thèse de doctorat s'intitule : Port du voile : représentations et pratiques du corps chez les femmes tunisiennes.

Massensen Cherbi

A post-doctoral researcher at MECAM (2023-2026) and associate researcher at GIGA, he works on the Algerian Hirak through issues of democratic transition and transitional justice, and more generally on constitutional issues in Algeria and the Maghreb, from independence to the present day.

Max Ajl

Max Ajl is a fellow at MECAM/University of Tunis, a Senior Fellow at the Department of Conflict and Development Studies at Ghent University, and a researcher with the Tunisian Observatory for Food Sovereignty and the Environment. He is the author of a recent book titled A People's Green New Deal, as well as an editor at Agrarian South and Journal of Labor and Society. A prolific writer, Max's work has appeared in Agrarian South, the

Journal of Peasant Studies, Globalizations, Review of African Political Economy, Middle East Report, and many other scholarly and popular journals, including the Guardian's Comment is Free, Boston Review, and Monthly Review. He researches climate politics, Tunisian national liberation, agrarian politics in the Arab region, and ecological planning, and Arab-North African intellectual history.

Mohamed Ismail Sabry

A Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. He is a former Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Merian Center for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) in Tunis, the Bremen University of Applied Sciences (HSB), and the Extractivism Project of the Philipps University of Marburg. He is also a Lecturer at different universities in Germany. He obtained his PhD in Economics from the Philipps University of Marburg, while his Bachelor and Masters degrees were obtained from the American University in Cairo (AUC). Dr. Sabry's academic fields of interests are Institutional Economics, Economic Development, Political Economy, and the MENA region. The focus of his research is on state-society relations, industrial policy, and the Green Transition. He published several books in English and Arabic and several academic papers in different peer reviewed journals.

Murriam Hela Davis

Muriam Haleh Davis is an Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she directs the Center for the Middle East and North Africa. She is the author of *Markets of Civilization: Islam and Racial Capitalism in Algeria* (Duke University Press, 2022) and the co-editor of *North Africa and the Making of Europe: Governance, Institutions, and Culture* (Bloomsbury Press, 2018). Previously, she has been a fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, and the IMéRA in Marseille. She is co-chair of the editorial committee for MERIP (Middle East Research and Information Project) and is co-editor of the Maghreb Page for Jadaliyya.

Najla Mosbahi

She holds a PHD in English Language and Linguistics and teaches English at the Military Academy in Tunis. Dr. Mosbahi earned her doctorate in this field, showcasing her profound expertise and commitment to advancing linguistic and media studies. Her research interests encompass a wide range of subjects, including media studies, film studies, critical discourse analysis, multimodality, and applied linguistics. Dr. Mosbahi has contributed significantly to these fields through her published research papers. Notable works include 'A Genre Analysis of the Film Children of a Lesser God' and 'Fearless Voices: A Systemic Functional Grammar Examination of Female Resilience in Halloween' (1978), which explores themes of female empowerment and resilience through a linguistic lens. In addition to her publications, Dr. Mosbahi is an active participant in both national and international academic conferences, where she shares her insights and collaborates with other researchers.

Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron

Director of research at the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD, CEPED, Université de Paris) and former co-director of the IISMM (Institut d'études de l'islam et des sociétés du monde musulman) at the EHESS.

Neila Saadi

Maître-assistante at the Institut Supérieur des Métiers du Patrimoine (University of Tunis), member of the laboratoire du Patrimoine (LR99ES23), and associate researcher at the Institut de recherche sur le Maghreb contemporain

Nessrine Abbessi

Nessrine Abbassi holds a PhD in Economics (awarded in 2022) from the University of Sfax-FSEG (Faculty of Economics and Management). Currently, she is a member of the economics and rural societies laboratory at the Institut des régions arides de Médenine (IRA, Médenine) & University of Gabes. Her PhD thesis focused on regional disparities and inclusive growth in Tunisia, utilizing a spatial econometrics approach. Prior to her doctoral studies, she graduated with a research master's degree in regional development economics from the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales de Tunis (ESSECT) in 2014. (She also previously held a position as a contract professor at the University of Gabes.)

Nora Lafi

She was a Senior Research Fellow at MECAM Tunis 2023 and a Privat Dozentin at Freie Universität in Berlin where she has been working as a Research Fellow at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient since 2004. She specializes in the study of the Ottoman Empire and of the societies of the Middle East and North Africa during the Ottoman and Colonial eras. She has been chairing from 2020 to 2023 the international research project HISDEMAB of the Leibniz-Association on the theme of political participation in the Arab world. She also co-chairs the Cities Compared project, part of EUME (Forum Transregionale Studien) in Berlin. She has published extensively on urban governance (*Esprit civique et organization citadine dans l'empire ottoman*, Brill, 2019) as well as on the historical anthropology of violence (*Urban Violence in the Middle East*, co-ed., Berghahn, 2015), on gender studies ("Finding women and gender in the sources", 2018) and on anti-colonial movements ("Longue-Durée Reflections on Anti-Colonial Movements", 2022).

Rachid Ouaisa

Rachid Ouaisa holds the position of Chair of the Department of Middle East Politics at the Centre for Middle East Studies (CNMS) at the Philipps-Universität Marburg. His research and teaching focus on North-South relations, the rise of fundamentalist movements, the EU's Mediterranean policy and rentier economies and systems of government in the Middle East and North Africa. He has many years of experience in international collaboration and cooperation projects. He was and still is the project leader of the BMBF-funded research

network 'Re-Configurations. History, Memory, and Processes of Transformation in the Middle East and North Africa". Since April 2021, he has been the German director of the MERIAN Center of Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) in Tunis. His recent publications include "Hartmut Elsenhans and Contemporary Algeria" (2018) and "Algeria's middle classes, rents, and political stagnation" (2018).

Riadh B. Khalifa

An associate professor of Contemporary History at the University of Tunis and a member of the Research Laboratory of Economy and History of the Mediterranean (Faculty of Human and Social Sciences). He is editor-in-chief of the Tunisian Review of Social Sciences. His research interests focus on migration, asylum, and mobility in transitional contexts. Over the past decade, he published several books and articles in refereed journals as well as contributed to numerous chapters in collective works. He also made contributions to reports on migration and refugee issues for international organizations. Riadh Ben Khalifa serves as a scientific member of the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES), the Arab Institute for Human Rights, and the National Migration Observatory (Minister of Social Affairs). Additionally, he is a member of several migration networks.

Philipp Wagner

A doctoral researcher at the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. His research interests are renewable energy projects between the MENA and the EU, transregional infrastructure policies as well as socio-political participation. Supported with a study scholarship of the Heinrich Böll Foundation for a master degree in Applied Political Science, Phillip is affiliated with the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb to work in the field of climate protection and energy transition in think tanks and NGOs.

Samir Bellal

He graduated from the National Institute of Planning and Statistics (INPS) in Algiers and the University of Lyon 2. He has taught at numerous universities in Algeria. Currently, he is a professor of economics at the Mouloud Mammeri University of Tizi-Ouzou (Algeria). His research focuses on issues of economic regulation and institutional dynamics in the context of a rentier economy. He published "La crise du régime rentier – essai sur une Algérie qui stagne" (The Crisis of the Rentier Régime – Essay on a Stagnant Algeria) in late 2017 with Frantz-Fanon editions, and "Rente, populisme et question économique en Algérie – réflexions sur un système en crise" (Rentierism, Populism and the Economic Question in Algeria – Reflections on a System in Crisis) in late 2022 with El-Amel editions.

Sana Ben Achour

Professor of public law at the University of Carthage, specialized in colonial legal history, Sana Ben Achour is the president of the *Beity* association, devoted to fighting gender-based

discriminations, and a founding member of the *Association tunisienne des femmes démocrates* (ATFD), of which she was the President between 2008 and 2011. She is also founding member of the *Conseil national pour les libertés de Tunis* (CNLT) and sits on the *Ligue tunisienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme* (LTDH).

Sanabel Abderrahman

MECAM postdoctoral fellow whose research focuses on magical realism in Arabic literature. She completed her doctoral degree at Philipps-Marburg Universität and her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Toronto. She is interested in expanding her focus to cinema and the visual arts. She is a writer of fiction and essays.

Thomas Serres

His research spans the field of Middle Eastern studies, critical security studies, and comparative politics, combining an ethnographic approach with a conceptual apparatus inspired by critical theory. He is particularly interested in the effects of protracted and entangled crises (popular uprisings, “war on terror,” refugee crisis, neoliberalization) in North Africa and beyond. His first book, *The Suspended Disaster: Governance by Catastrophization in Bouteflika's Algeria*, was published in 2023 with Columbia University Press, expanding on a French edition initially released in 2019. He also co-edited the volume *North Africa and the Making of Europe* with Bloomsbury Publishing (2018).

Zouhour Ouamara

Assistant-professor in public law at the university of legal juridical and social sciences of Tunis- University of Carthage. She is a Security and Conflicts Analyst & CSOs Expert.

Abstracts

Panel 1: Gender (In)Equity: Arabic Literary Representation of Women In Palestine and Tunisia

“Women in Magical Worlds: Ḥakawātiyya Mobilities in Palestinian Folktale” by Sanabel Abdel Rahman

Women made up the majority of ḥakawāti/yyas (storytellers) of folktales in Palestinian cultural tradition. Often held in Palestinian villages with cinema-like settings by the aid of lanterns, men, women and children would gather around the ḥakwātyyas to listen to magical-realistic stories filled with instances of surrealism, absurdism, and the carnivalesque. In many of those folktales, women and girls would play protagonist roles and find ways to escape gender roles in rebellious and innovative ways.

This presentation explores the mobilities of the ḥakawātiyyas as well as their female protagonists in the medium of Palestinian folktales. By shedding light on their public presence, visibility, and myriad forms of fugitive mobilities, the presentation will address the central question: how do women’s imaginations play pivotal roles in their respective societies? Specifically, how do they counter the erasure of Palestinian memory and space by creating alternative, magical worlds? Can we think of the ḥakawātiyyas as mediators between the magical and real worlds- especially when the ‘real’ world is being distorted by the apparatuses of settler-colonialism?

I will rely on Farah Aboubakr’s research around folktales and their political impetus. I will also present Ibrahim Muhawi and Sharif Kanaana’s research around folktales, especially their pertinent introduction to *Qūl yā Ṭayr (Speak Bird, Speak Again)* collection of folktales. I will also reference Palestinian folktales such as ‘Tunjor, Tunjor’ and the ‘Little Nightingale the Crier’ to highlight the permeance of women protagonists and their mobilities in pre-Nakba folktales. I hope that this presentation will bridge the literary and folktale worlds between the Mashreq and the Maghreb while emphasizing the strong potency of popular tradition, and women’s active roles, in countering settler and postcolonial conditions.

“Visibility and Invisibility in Tunisian Sufi Poetry: The Question of Women Sufi Saints” by Cyrine Kortas

The theme of visibility versus invisibility has been inscribed in the general discourse of culture under many forms and through a plurality of diverse strategies. The positioning of the self and Other across the paradigms of gender, class, and religion has transcribed visibility and invisibility as clear-cut binary states of inclusion and exclusion, existence and non-existence. This paper aspires to critically revisit the politics and poetics of women Sufi saints’ visibility and invisibility as expressed in Sufi poetry. Marked by the prefix (in), the

study desires to look into this duality by focusing on Om Ezzeine Jamalia, who marked many Sufi poems and chants. By examining how women saints, such as Om Ezzeine Jamalia, have been represented in Sufi literature, this study aspires to contribute to a broader understanding of the complexities of gender equality and the role of religious discourses in shaping women's experiences and identities.

Panel 2: Linguistic disparities

“Linguistic marginalization in academia - The case of Arabic language in Israel - from a tunisian researcher perspective” Hela B. Mbarek

" اللغة العربية بين الواقع والتحديات في الأوساط الأكاديمية الإسرائيلية " هالة بن مبارك

تعتبر اللغة العربية في إسرائيل حالة فريدة من نوعها لها خصوصياتها. وفي ما يتعلّق بتدريسها في الأوساط الأكاديمية، فلقد شغل- ولا زال يشغل- تعليمها في المعاهد العليا والجامعات العبرية بال الكثير من التربويين، وأساتذة الجامعات العرب والمهتمّين بتطوير التعليم العالي في إسرائيل وسط إجماع الأغلبية على ضرورة تدريس اللغة العربية بالعربية. وفي هذا الإطار ينتزّل بحثنا الذي سيتضمّن استقصاء للوضع القائم في بعض جامعات إسرائيلية تمّ اختيارها لأهميّتها ومركزيتها على الساحة الأكاديمية الإسرائيلية مثل : جامعة حيفا، جامعة بن غوريون-بئر السبع، جامعة تل أبيب والجامعة العبرية في القدس. كنا سنحاول فحص اللغة العربية في إسرائيل من وجهة نظر اجتماعية لغوية، إزاء الوضع الاجتماعي السياسي المتغيّر، وإزاء اسقاطاته على العربية، واستناداً إلى ذلك، يخرج بتبصّرات في شأن الحيوية الراهنة للغة العربية في إسرائيل. حيث أنّه كلما كانت حيوية المجموعات الإثنية اللغوية أكبر، تزداد قدرتها على حفظ هويتها الاجتماعية الجماعية ولغتها الأم في مختلف مجالات الحياة. وفي المقابل، فإنّ المجموعات الإثنية اللغوية الأقل حيوية (أو التي تنقصها الحيوية) قد تفقد هويتها الجماعية المميزة ولغة الأم لديها، أيضاً.

“The Linguistic Construction of Gender Disparity in the Tunisian TV show ‘Fekrat Sami Fehri’ on Elhiwar Ettounsi” by Najla Mosbahi

This research project aims to investigate the linguistic construction of gender disparity in the Tunisian TV show "Fekret sami fehri" on Elhiwar Ettounsi. It analyzes visual and narrative elements that contribute to the perpetuation of Gender disparity and stereotypes. Drawing on the framework of Systemic Functional Multimodal Discourse Analysis by Kay L.O'Halloran (2008). The methodology involves collecting three representative episodes of the TV show Fekret sami fehri. The methodology includes also conducting interviews with Tunisian media experts to give their insights into Tunisian media and gender disparity.

Book presentation - Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron “Droit contemporain des pays arabes”, Paris, Sirey, 2023.

Souvent regroupés sous la catégorie de " droit musulman ", les systèmes juridiques des pays du monde arabe se sont engagés depuis le XIXe siècle dans un processus de modernisation de leur droit et de leurs institutions. S'ils se revendiquent d'une même culture juridique islamique, l'étude des textes en vigueur et l'analyse de leur organisation judiciaire révèlent en réalité un processus d'étatisation et de sécularisation occulté par cette catégorisation générique de leurs droits. L'appareil étatique s'est en effet approprié la production de la norme juridique - autrefois revendiquée par les savants musulmans - et s'est également

emparé de l'espace judiciaire en remplaçant les tribunaux religieux par des juridictions civiles. Le droit français a souvent servi de modèle à ces processus de codification et de réorganisation des institutions. Alors que la charia est généralement considérée comme le principe constitutif et immuable du droit des pays musulmans, cet ouvrage s'attache à déconstruire cette vision d'un droit figé et homogène. Il s'appuie sur le corpus de textes actuellement en vigueur pour analyser les transformations traversées par les systèmes juridiques de ces pays depuis le début du processus de codification. Il débute ainsi avec l'étude des évolutions du droit et des institutions dans l'Empire ottoman et en Égypte au XIXe siècle, point de départ des transformations dans les autres pays de la région. Articulé autour d'une comparaison du droit des pays arabes, ce manuel s'attache à étudier leurs évolutions dans des domaines où la normativité islamique est réputée continuer à exercer une influence prépondérante : le droit constitutionnel, le droit de la famille, le droit pénal, la protection des droits fondamentaux ou l'organisation des juridictions. S'appuyant sur la traduction et l'analyse comparative des textes constitutionnels, législatifs et de la jurisprudence dont il reproduit de larges extraits, cet ouvrage rend compte de la réalité de la structure et du fonctionnement des ordres juridiques actuels des États arabes dans toute leur diversité, en éclairant l'analyse textuelle d'une mise en contexte historique, politique et sociologique. Un glossaire arabe/français et un lexique français/arabe de terminologie juridique viennent compléter la translittération en arabe des termes techniques tout au long de l'analyse.

Panel 3: Reading Gender (In)equity of Women in the Maghreb

“Women in Charge: Real Estate, Business, Family and Politics in Early 20th Century Southern Tunisia” by a Nora Lafi

This research, presented in the framework of collective reflections in gender studies on notions of inequality and equality, seeks to define the social place of women of the Southern areas of Tunisia before and during French colonization, which started in 1881. Examining a specific archival corpus of the National archives of Tunisia (Series A, E and courts records) allows one first to question differently the female's involvement in family businesses and second to evaluate the properties of these women through. The archives of the colonial system of sequestration, indeed, provide, due to the intrusive precision of repressive processes, abundant information on what women targeted as rebels owned and on what were their activities. The picture that this analysis draws is one of an active involvement of women in commercial activities, with roles as shop managers or sales managers. Women also owned properties, both residential, commercial and agricultural. What the archives also illustrate is how decisions by women to take part in political insurgency against colonization were made on the basis of this active role in society. That is the role that colonial repression aimed at canceling.

“Codifier le genre en Tunisie entre réformisme et résistance à la tradition : l'exemple du code pénal de 1861” by Hend Guirat

À la veille de l'établissement du protectorat français (12 mai 1881), la Tunisie n'était pas un désert juridique. L'ère des Tanzimat, ouverte par la Sublime Porte, siège du Califat ottoman, a – entre autres – touché une élite tunisienne gagnée aux idées réformistes. C'est dans ce contexte que fut célébrée en grande pompe une série de réformes. Le Code de droit pénal et de droit coutumier (qanun al jinaya wa ahkam al-'orfia) promulgué le 26 avril 1861 devait désormais servir de base à la juridiction tunisienne. Le texte – composé de 664 articles – mentionna la femme dans plusieurs passages : femmes victimes, femmes témoins ou femmes coupables y occupent une place de choix. Promulgué dans une société fortement attachée aux normes de la tradition, le code de 1861 porte en lui les stigmates de cette société : la vie d'une femme n'a pas le même prix que celle d'un homme (la pratique de la diya) ; le témoignage de la femme vaut la moitié de celui de l'homme, etc. Le nouveau qanun, réfuté en bloc par les oulémas de l'époque, sera de courte durée.

“The constitutional principle of equity, the status of women and the exception of unconstitutionality in the Maghreb” by Sana Ben Achour, Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron and Massensen Cherbi

The fortieth anniversary of the Algerian Family Code (1984) provides an opportunity to question whether the principle of equality between men and women is still relevant in Algeria and, more generally, in the Maghreb. While Tunisia's 1956 Personal Status Code equalized the personal status of men and women, unlike the Algerian Family Code, despite the 2005 ordinance, and the Moroccan Moudawana, despite its 2004 amendment, inequality of inheritance remains a common feature of the three central Maghreb countries. However, the Moroccan Constitution of 2011, as well as the Tunisian Constitution of 2014 and the Algerian constitutional revision of 2016 have introduced the exception of unconstitutionality, which now allows anyone to challenge gender inequality in a court of law, having regard to the principle of equality between men and women, which is recognised in all three countries of the region. Such an exception nevertheless raises questions about the unknown nature of Islam as the religion of the State and that of national constants in Algeria and Morocco, as well as 'the fulfillment of the vocations of authentic Islam' since the new Tunisian Constitution of 2022. This kind of questioning raises more general issues about the place of Sharia law and its interpretation in the three Maghreb countries mentioned above.

“Genre et espace public : De l'appropriation de l'espace urbain dans un contexte Maghrébin” by Khadidja Boussaïd

L'espace public au Maghreb est marqué par des dynamiques sociales complexes ; où nous observons une sexuaction spatiale et un marquage genré des lieux et des places dans un contexte urbain. Dans un premier temps, Cette présentation fait état d'un travail déjà

effectué sur le terrain algérois, concernant les inégalités d'accès à l'espace public et la mise en place de stratégies d'acteurs et d'actrices pour s'approprier l'espace public, voir l'invention de nouvelles spatialités. Dans ce premier temps, l'accent a été mis sur les mobilités et stratégies des femmes revendiquant un droit à la ville. Dans un deuxième temps, l'espace public sera questionné dans un contexte comparatif entre Alger et Tunis, afin de développer certains éléments d'analyse sur la sexuation des espaces en interrogeant le -masculin- dans sa pluralité sur les façon d'être et de faire dans l'espace public comme sphère, et les espaces urbains en particulier donnant lieu à une matérialité de représentations et de pratiques.

Panel 4: Politics of Identity in Tunisia

Islam, Democracy, and the Secular State: Evolving Perspectives in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia by Sami Brahim, Kamal Essid, Zohair Ismail, Julius Dihstelhoff and Imad Alsoos

This panel explores contemporary Muslim thought on democracy and the secular state in post-revolution Tunisia. The traditional question—"Is Islam compatible with democracy?"—previously implied that democracy was a means to gain power within an Islamic framework, with the Islamization of the state as the ultimate goal. In post-revolution Tunisia, however, the question has taken on more diversified approaches. Some perspectives aim for the Islamization of the state or society while also embracing democratic values, while others advocate for a separation of politicians' religious beliefs from their official duties. This post-Arab Spring diversification calls for deeper exploration to understand frameworks for the compatibility of democracy and Islam. Under what social, political and cultural systemic conditions can (political) islamic thought be democratic today, and what philosophical perspectives do scholars offer?

Panel 5: Diaspora and Justice

"The Rachad Movement : An Algerian Opposition Movement Between Abject Victimhood and Attractive Resistance" by Thomas Serres

This presentation looks at the trajectory of former Algerian opponents belonging to the movement Rachad, and their denunciation of state exactions perpetrated during the civil war of the 1990s. In so doing, the talk introduces the notion of "abject victimhood," to think about the legal and political challenges faced by actors once associated with an Islamic insurgency. Moreover, it shows how the production of abjection and that of victimhood are both entangled and conflicting, as the former serves to restore state power, while the latter supports revolutionary claims. This discussion also interrogates the epistemological violence of the category of "abject victim" itself and reflects on the possibility of integrating alternative conceptions proposed by members of Rachad themselves into the analysis.

This work is based on semi-directive interviews conducted in person and remotely with members of Rachad and other Hirak activists, as well as a collaborative approach aiming to include their feedback in the theoretical conversation.

فرانز فانون، عبد القادر جغلول و انضباط علم الاجتماع في الجزائر - مريم ديفيس

كتب المفكر المشهور فرانز فانون ثلاثة كتب. و من بينها "L'an V de la révolution algérienne" الذي فسّر من خلاله الثورة الجزائرية. و يحلّل هذا الكتاب الواقع اليومي للبلد أثناء الثورة والتغيرات التي تسببت في النضال ضد فرنسا. حسب فانون "صحيح ان الاستقلال يحقق الشروط الروحية و المادية اللازمة لتحول الإنسان من جديد إلى ما كان عليه. غير أن التبدل الداخلي و تجديد البنيات الاجتماعية و العائلية هي أيضا التي تفرض، مع احكام القانون صعود الامة و تفتح سيادتها." [1] عندما نشر هذا الكتاب في ١٩٦٨، وضع الناشر الفرنسي الثوري عنوانا جديدا، و هو "سوسيولوجية ثورة" و هو العنوان الذي استعمله المترجم السوري ذوقان قرقوط في الترجمة العربية التي ظهرت في ١٩٧٠.

وقد دار نقاش بين ماسبيرو و فانون حول العنوان الأصلي. ثم تغيّر بعد وفاة فانون، و قد ألقى النقاش الضوء على أهمية انضباط علم الاجتماع بعد الاستقلال. إقتراح فانون "L'An V de la Révolution Algérienne"، لكن هذا الخيار كان في نظر ماسبيرو خطيرا جدا من شأنه ان يشجع الحكومة الفرنسية على منع تعميمه. فاقترح ماسبيرو عنوان "ولادة الوطن"، و لكن فانون فضل "حقيقة الوطن" الذي يشير إلى التحولات الجذرية التي وصفت الثورة. و من خلال الرسائل المتبادلة التي وجدتها في الأرشيف، أدركت أنّ فانون لم يستعمل مصطلح علم الاجتماع في سياق حديثه عن العنوان. فكيف نفسّر إسناد هذا العنوان في كتابيه بالنسختين العربية و الفرنسية بعد وفاته؟ و هل تأثر هذا القرار بالنقاش الفكري في المغرب بعد الاستقلال؟

أفضى ظهور الكتاب بهذا العنوان إلى إدماج فانون، و لو متأخرا، في مجال علم الاجتماع. وهذه الظاهرة تطرح أسئلة إضافية: كيف نُفسّر هذا التصنيف الجديد لكتابة فانون؟ و كيف يعكس هذا المفهوم النقاشات الفكرية في المغرب بعد الاستقلال؟ في هذه المحادثة سأحلل كيف لعب انضباط علم الاجتماع دورا حاسما في الستينات و السبعينات و شارك في بناء الدولة الاشتراكية في الجزائر. في نفس الوقت، كان وضع فانون معقدا كما سنرى نتيجة هويته و خلفيته الفكرية.

Round Table:

Cultural (In)Equity by Massensen Cherbi, Aissa Kadri, Fatma Oussedik and Neila Saadi

Looking at cultural inequities in the Maghreb means looking at the minority cultures in the region. For a long time, Berber/Amazigh culture and language were officially ostracised because they were not recognized in local constitutions. Although there have been gradual changes since the 1990s, first in Algeria, then in Morocco, and more recently in Libya, Tunisia remains one of the few countries in the region to ignore any Amazigh dimension in its Basic Law, which raises questions about its use as a heritage in political discourse and in civil society. As well as being the heritage of all Algerians and Moroccans, the Amazigh question also raises questions about local realities, such as the Mزاب, where there is still an Ibadite religious minority. In contrast to Tamazight, the French language has gone from being an official and dominant language under colonial occupation to being ostracised, now in the minority and competing with English. This raises questions about the future of this language in the Maghreb, which Kateb Yacine described as a 'butin de guerre'.

Panel 6: Climate Change and the Issue of Equity

“The Pathways of the Green Transition in North Africa” by Isamil Sabry

This presentation investigates the pathway governing the green transition in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including green hydrogen schemes and with a focus on Tunisia and Morocco. The theoretical framework builds on the literature on policy coalitions, while the methodology depends on process tracing and qualitative data collected during field trip visits. The European Union’s growing demand on renewables and decarbonization represents a largely exogenous cause that triggered certain mechanisms through the activities of various state and social actors. Contextual conditions through the activities of various state and social actors then shaped the impact of these activities on the resulting pathway. The main sets of collective actors that are considered are the state, businesspeople, labor, and civil society organizations, where each of these sets consist of different actors that are carved out based on their interests (or risks) from the green transition. This work identifies different possible pathways that characterize the transition and differentiate between them in terms of their extractivity/inclusivity and stability. Based on this theoretical perspective, the work will analyze the pathways of Tunisia and Morocco. The presentation will end with a brief reflection on the pathways of other MENA countries.

“Local knowledge, local seeds: a way to resist climate change” by Aymen Amayed

During the colonial era, the French colonizers focused on the dispossession of the agricultural means of production. Land dispossession was obviously the first step for agrarian colonization and as with any other empire, the French pushed towards a capitalistic way of production. The Hybridization of seeds was part of the different processes used to implement this type of agriculture. Backed by agricultural research which was key to developing new hybrid seeds, these crossings gave birth to many new hybrids that were used in the country to “feed” the core and the international market. In parallel, the hybrid introduction produced the need for more arable land, water resources, and agricultural input so in other words more dispossession. After colonization, similar patterns of dispossession transformed into more subtle processes that created more dependency of the Global South to the North. In the following years, hybrid seeds took a significant place as a key component of capitalistic agriculture and for controlling the global south agricultural production. In Tunisia, many movements (especially after the 2011 uprising) were pushing towards regaining the local seed use and the local knowledge that was lost due to the introduction of hybrids. Their claims are animated by two different motives: Delinking with the North cutting the dependency and two regaining this knowledge to resist climate change in our country. How different actors, especially small-scale farmers, are fostering this process and which state responses and policies in this context are being followed is the focus of this paper.

“Oases in Tunisia: An Ecosystem Under Threat - Global Challenges, Climate change and Local Fellahin Resistance” by Costanza Pizzo - University of Palermo

With the rise of neoliberal development policies and the modernization drive pursued during the Green Revolution, Tunisia's agricultural system has undergone a profound transformation. The relationship between farmers, nature, and agricultural production has been compromised and shifted towards an industrial orientation. Moreover, these changes are closely interconnected with another global phenomenon, namely the advancing risks associated with climate change, which are already altering agricultural production and disproportionately affecting rural communities and traditional ecosystems such as those found in the oases. Specifically, the interplay between agro-industrial and water policies and the risks related to climate change—such as decreased and increasingly irregular rainfall, rising temperatures, and prolonged drought periods—has dramatically impacted and reshaped the Oases territory and production. However, despite these challenges posed by the interconnectedness of the issues mentioned above and the consequent effects on land and agricultural work, the Oases systems have always represented poles and examples of resistance, through the propagation and preservation of their local knowledge and the importance of social capital. This paper aims to explore and document the balance of oasis ecosystems and the agriculture of its fellahin, highlighting current challenges and their impacts on the ground. Additionally, it will demonstrate how, by drawing on local knowledge, social capital, and traditional practices, oasis farmers have demonstrated their ability to adapt and resist adversity. This resistance serves as a testament to the importance of preserving and supporting traditional agricultural systems for their ecological value and their role in sustaining rural livelihoods and communities.

“Development with an Unresolved Agrarian Question: the Tunisian 60-year Experience” by Heythem Guesmi

The French colonization of Tunisia was fundamentally agrarian in purpose and nature. Therefore, the establishment of an independent state hinged on the urgent resolution of the agrarian question. Initially, the planning of the post-colonial Tunisian economy was collectivist, primarily focused on cooperativism in agriculture, as well as in emerging industries and macro-managed trade and services. This was followed by a liberalization phase in the 1970s, characterized by a gradual yet steady privatization of land tenure, agricultural production, and supply chains. This process deepened as Tunisia was increasingly integrated into the international market, which resulted in a degradation of the country's economic and social fabric. The agrarian question has remained a thorn in the waist of Tunisia's economy, continually raising issues of food security, the absorption of surplus labor, political sovereignty, and ecological concerns. In this discussion, we will first outline the historical development of post-colonial Tunisia, with an emphasis on various

attempts to address the agrarian question. We will then explore alternative routes that could have been taken.

“Rethinking Urban Food System Governance: The Case of Tunis City” by Emna Mornagui

Urban food system governance has become an increasingly common question, particularly in Northern cities, and several cities in the Global South, driven by international organizations, are engaging in similar processes. It is within this context that the city of Tunis embarked on this initiative in 2019, during a period marked by decentralization reforms. This partnership with the FAO facilitated the implementation of several municipal projects focused on food, including the current initiative on multi-stakeholder urban food system governance. This process raises significant discussion points, such as international pressure to adopt models that do not align with local specificities, compromising their long-term sustainability and limiting the ability to develop actions grounded in local realities. It also highlights the tensions between international regulatory frameworks, corporate influence, and the competing needs of national and local stakeholders. Examining the role and mandate of local public authorities in driving food system transformation, as well as how this mandate originated, is crucial to understanding its implications for governance.

Panel 7: A zooming-in economic and agricultural challenges

“Regional Equity in Tunisia - “Vue d'ensemble de la conception du développement territorial à Tataouine” Nessrine Abbassi

Les changements globaux actuels que nous connaissons sont nombreux : la mondialisation, les migrations, les guerres, les catastrophes naturelles et les risques climatiques. Ces enjeux amènent chaque pays à repenser les approches qui conduisent à des pratiques sociétales adaptées, à l'échelle locale, à la compréhension des réalités contemporaines et à la mise en œuvre d'initiatives sociales et solidaires qui contribuent à construire des communautés locales plus justes et plus inclusives. En prenant l'exemple de Tataouine, notre objectif est de déterminer comment les expériences identitaires, comme celle de Sharek à Tataouine, peuvent être positionnées dans la théorie du développement territorial et faire face à l'injustice sociale et économique.

Arbitrages institutionnels et politiques de développement économique dans le contexte des économies rentières : cas de l'Algérie - Samir BELLAL

L'expérience montre que les compromis institutionnels ayant accompagné les politiques de développement mises en œuvre dans les pays du Sud au lendemain de leurs indépendances n'ont pas permis l'émergence d'économies activement insérées dans la division internationale du travail, mais ont plutôt fortement contribué à consolider le caractère rentier de l'activité économique dans ces pays.

Notre travail se propose d'aborder cette question en soulevant quatre thématiques principales qui reviennent souvent dans le débat académique à savoir:

1. Le statut conféré à l'échange marchand dans ces économies ;
2. La problématique du taux de change des monnaies nationales ;
3. Les formes de mise au travail dont le rapport salarial est l'expression dominante ;
4. La question des choix budgétaires de l'Etat ;
5. La gestion de la contrainte monétaire.

Ces cinq thématiques seront, en premier lieu, abordées en envisageant séparément les configurations institutionnelles respectives des cinq rapports sociaux fondamentaux que sont la concurrence, l'insertion internationale, le rapport salarial, la monnaie et l'Etat, à travers le Budget. Et, en second lieu, en tenant compte du principe de complémentarité qui lie ces dernières entre elles.

L'analyse que nous proposons se réfère aux enseignements de l'économie institutionnelle et plus particulièrement à ceux de la théorie de la régulation. L'analyse doit nous conduire à développer les arguments soutenant la nécessité d'une reconstitution radicale du contexte institutionnel domestique dans une configuration permettant une réhabilitation durable des activités productives et une insertion plus active dans la division internationale du travail. Une telle reconstitution doit porter sur la réhabilitation du rôle régulateur des prix dans l'allocation des ressources, un traitement économique de la problématique du secteur public industriel, une orientation des dépenses publiques vers le soutien de l'activité économique et surtout, une gestion plus active de la question du taux de change. Il va sans dire que si ces orientations en matière de changement institutionnel sont économiquement justifiées, sur le plan politique, elles sont porteuses de risques d'instabilité ou de contestation dont il convient de tenir compte.

Panel 8: Archival research

Panel 9: Publication workshop

Panel 10: Migration

**“The Realities of Refugee Work Rights: Policy Gaps and the Consequences for Violence” -
Dr. Heidrun Bohnet**

Previous studies have often relied on de jure refugee policy data, overlooking the complex realities on the ground. Using new de facto refugee rights data from Africa, this paper examines how practical restrictions on work rights impact conflict. The findings reveal that implementation gaps significantly increase the risk of violence. Therefore, ensuring the practical enforcement of refugee rights is crucial for preventing conflict.

“Social Capital, Irregular Migration, and the Stratification of Access to Information” by Andrew Fallone

The amalgamated sum of all information and contacts that people on the move have access to is best conceptualized as migration-related social capital, ranging from traditional media sources and the advice of family members to videos posted on social media and word of mouth from other people on the move. Access to such migration-related social capital is mediated by network brokers and gatekeepers. Although the absence of official regulatory oversight often engenders depictions of irregular migration as an anarchic combination of illicit economies and opportunistic actors, examining the role of social information for people on the move illustrates its ability to function as an ersatz form of decentralized governance. Access to social capital can enable individuals to more accurately anticipate and prepare for challenges they may encounter while undertaking irregular journeys, potentially mitigating some of the inherent information asymmetry and insecurity that a lack of equitably accessible alternatives to irregular migration forces people to endure while in transit. Yet, not all people can access this migration-related social capital in the same way, with evidence of a stratification of access based on people’s intersectional identities, including gender, financial resources, age, and country of origin. Understanding the way in which the information shared through social capital provides an inbuilt organizing logic to irregular journeys emphasizes the need for migration policies to account for the impact they may exert on the broader information landscape.

“Systèmes de protection des enfants immigrés irréguliers en Tunisie post 2011” - Riadh B. Khalifa

La Tunisie fait partie des pays qui ont ratifié la Convention relative aux droits de l’enfant et ses protocoles additionnels. Elle est considérée par ailleurs comme un pays phare dans ses efforts d’harmonisation de la législation relative à l’enfance aux standards internationaux. Cependant, l’ambiguïté des textes juridiques qui restent peu explicites quand il s’agit de l’extension des droits à population migrante contribuent à la vulnérabilité de ces derniers lorsqu’ils se trouvent en situation irrégulière. Les organismes de défense des droits de l’homme et les instances indépendantes de lutte contre le racisme et contre la traite des personnes font état de nombreuses atteintes aux droits des enfants et des migrants en général. La politisation de la question migratoire a créé une hostilité officielle à l’égard des immigrés subsahariens, ce qui n’était pas sans conséquence sur les enfants qui subissent souvent le sort de leurs parents.

Book presentation

Fatma Oussedik “Avoir un ami puissant”. Enquête sur les familles urbaines. Alger - Oran - Annaba.

Les familles algériennes ont connu des mutations rapides et profondes, qui ont transformé la société. Afin de maintenir un statu-quo, la réponse apportée à chaque crise a été fondée sur un césarisme. En effet, et dès l’indépendance du pays en 1962, l’Etat algérien postcolonial a inscrit son action dans une logique empruntant à la fois au jacobinisme et au Bonapartisme de l’Etat français, et à son organisation centralisatrice autour de la figure du Raïs, sur laquelle s’est construit le nationalisme arabe... Il s’est alors interdit d’entendre les réalités diverses et complexes des familles algériennes. C’est de cette culture qu’est né un pouvoir qui s’épuise. Pour l’auteure, le mouvement social est comme une spirale qui se régénère, face à un pouvoir immobile dans ses réponses. Se voyant en péril, cet État fait l’économie d’une réflexion qui prendrait en compte les caractéristiques sociales, économiques et politiques d’une Algérie qui se relevait d’une douloureuse expérience coloniale, mais qui n’en possédait pas moins une histoire, marquée par une idéologie de la libération. Dans cet ouvrage, l’auteure s’interroge sur les fondements des liens familiaux à partir de la question : « comment, et avec quoi, fait-on famille en Algérie ? ». Associant la recherche de traces à partir de documents, à des entretiens approfondis de terrain, elle tente de répondre à cette interrogation à partir de l’analyse de trajectoires familiales dans 3 villes d’Algérie : Alger, Oran, Annaba. Ces entretiens ont aussi montré les points d’appui dont des familles ont pu, ou peuvent encore, bénéficier, dont « un ami puissant ». Le récit se fait l’écho des ruptures, des blessures que les familles algériennes ont dû affronter au long de leur histoire en se donnant comme objectif ultime de «durer».

De-briefing and concluding Remarks session:

Summary of Key Discussions: Recap the main themes and insights from the event-week, including critical points raised by speakers and participants, and how they align with the event's objectives.

Lessons Learned and Takeaways: Highlight the most valuable lessons, innovative ideas, and potential solutions discussed, along with actionable recommendations for future research, collaboration, or policy development.

Next Steps and Future Actions: Outline the proposed follow-up actions, upcoming events, or initiatives, and invite participants to continue their engagement through future collaborations or projects.

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