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Remoboko

RELIGION, MORALITY AND BOKO IN WEST AFRICA:
STUDENTS TRAINING FOR A GOOD LIFE

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Religions on Campus: Coexisting Traditions, Reformulating the Secular and Life Projects

31.10. – 04.11.2022

Organised by LASDEL and Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient

Location: LASDEL, Niamey
<https://www.lasdel.net/>

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Religions on Campus: Coexisting Traditions, Reformulating the Secular and Life Projects

The history of the university in Africa - in both colonial and postcolonial contexts - is intricately linked to political projects and societal transformation processes. As such, this institution of higher education has not only served state-building initiatives; it has also nurtured aspirations of individuals and communities in search for better livelihood and wellbeing. This is particularly acute at the creation of most of the universities across the continent. While state centered on the university to devise development policies, visions of societal progress and public service, individuals and collectivities have also found in the institution an opportunity to build life projects, invest in social becoming and secure status. Thus, from its inception, and as an institution expected to train administrative cadres and offer public service, the university was shaped by political agendas and societal dynamics.

However, while universities fed promises of independence and development, precisely because of the relevance of higher education to social life and becoming, their campuses offered to many activists, both students and instructors, not only their first experience of ideological and political training, but also a site of contestations of established social norms, political regimes and orders. These contestations and the activism they inspired usually necessitated ideological formation and the acquisition and deployment of social organization skills. This is the case in times of political repression, but also when state policies, as is the case in the 1990s, failed to keep their promises of public education and employment.

Within this context, in more recent years, university campuses have also turned into major sites of religious encounter, entrepreneurship, activism and competition. The cultivation of religious identities - resulting in religion feeding activism and social organization - has become a major feature of campus life. A challenge to both the prevailing ideas of university and the organization of campus life, these developments offer a reformulation of the secular roots of higher education while repositioning the experience of being student in individual and social life projects. How do we make sense of these processes? What allows for such developments? What are the narratives, aspirations and hopes that drive the actors at the center of these dynamics? How are their activism affecting the expectations, experiences and governance of the university? How to characterize the experience of being student in that context?

More broadly, how are the attempts to reshape the campus as a moral space, rethink its curriculum as an instrument of life project, and reappropriate the main institution of higher education relate to the calls to decolonize it? How are students reconciling the appeal of religion and the calls to reform the university as they train to become social actors? How does the resort to religious discourse, identities and practices relate to current decolonial and social becoming aspirations? What is the moral regime and order that emerges in that context?

The papers to be presented in this workshop are expected to take on one or several of these questions, focusing on Islam, Christianity and Traditional African religions. Papers discussing Salafi and Pentecostal presence, encounter and coexistence on campus will be given priority. The workshop will take place in Niamey, Niger, from Oct 31st to November 4th, 2022.

Lundi 31.10/ Monday 10/31

08:30– 13:00

- Directeur scientifique du LASDEL
LASDEL Director
- Recteur UAM
UAM Rector

Pause / Coffee break

- L'accueil des nouveaux bacheliers. Les étudiants découvrent l'environnement académique
(Vincent Favier, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)
- 'Trop jeunes', 'immatures' et pas suffisamment engagés: entre déclin des associations confessionnelles et nouveaux défis du militantisme étudiant à Lomé et à Abomey-Calavi"
(Frédéric Madore, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)

13:00– 14:30

Déjeuner / Lunch

14:30– 17:00

Atelier 1

- Publier dans une revue de sciences sociales: processus, contraintes et stratégies
(Thomas Veret, Institut de Linguistique et Phonétique Générales et Appliquées (ILPGA), Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Mardi 01.11/ Tuesday 11/01

08:30– 13:00

Modération: Agnès Badou (LASDEL Parakou)

- Adoptons-nous afin de pouvoir faire passer le message de l'Évangile: l'évangélisation pentecôtiste à l'Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey (Bello Adamou Mahamadou, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)
- L'enseignement d'Almaghili (Mounkaila Abdou, Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey)
- Les formes contemporaines d'appropriation de l'Islam (Abdoulbaki Djibo, Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey)

Avec pause vers/ With coffee break around 10h30-11h

13:00– 14:30

Déjeuner / Lunch

14:30– 17:00

Atelier 2

- Discours des chercheurs et interprétations du chercheur: exigences méthodologiques et pièges idéologiques (Jean Pierre Olivier de Sardan, LASDEL)

Mercredi 02.11/ Wednesday 11/02

08:30– 13:00

- La pénétration du wahhabisme dans la partie ouest du Niger (Amadou Issoufou, Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey)
- Transformation of Islamic Scholarship/learning in Kano Nigeria: 1950-1995 (Muhammad Yakasai, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin)
- One University, Two Faiths: The Nature and Dynamics of Muslim-Christian Relations in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, 1977-2019 (Nadir A. Nasidi, Ahmadu Bello University)

Avec pause vers/ With coffee break around 10h30-11h

13:00– 14:30

Déjeuner / Lunch

14:30

Visite / Excursion

Jeudi 03.11/ Thursday 11/03

08:30– 13:00

- Influence de l'islam sur l'abolition de l'esclavage dans les sociétés touarègues et zarma-sonay dans l'Ouest du Niger, depuis le 19ème siècle
(Oumarou Moussa, Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey)
- La conversion religieuse dans ses formes et motivations sur le campus universitaire de Point-G à Bamako (Mali): des formes plus classiques aux plus inédites
(Sekou Sala Timbely, Faculté des Sciences Sociales (FASSO) de l'Université de Ségou)

Atelier 3

- Recherche documentaire en ligne et gestion de références bibliographiques avec Zotero”
(Frédéric Madore, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)

Avec pause vers/ With coffee break around 10h30-11h

13:00– 14:30

Déjeuner / Lunch

14:30– 17:00

Atelier 4

- Rédiger pour être publié: enjeux et défis
(Thomas Veret, Institut de Linguistique et Phonétique Générales et Appliquées (ILPGA) - Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Vendredi 04.11/ Friday 11/04

09:00 – 10:30

Atelier 5

- Academic publishing: personal reflections on a challenging practice
(Katrin Bromber, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)

Libre / Free

Soirée / Evening

Dîner de clôture / Dinner