Editorial

We hope our Muslim friends and colleagues had a nice Eid celebration and we wish them the best for the coming year.

This has been a productive timeframe for research cooperation, activities and publication outputs. We are pleased to announce that the MoU between the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies (University of Khartoum), Les Afriques dans le Monde (Sciences Po Bordeaux), and CEDEJ Khartoum, which was first signed in 2012, has been extended for 3 additional years.

The Observatory of East Africa (an association CEDEJ Khartoum - CERI Sciences Po Paris) started publishing its regular reports again. The first, by Roland Marchal, discusses the recent election in Somalia and is available here.

CEDEJ Khartoum is now part of the new journal SOURCES, which is hosted by the French Research Institutes in Africa (IFRA Nairobi, CFEE Addis Ababa, SFDAS Khartoum, IFRA Ibadan, IFAS Johannesburg). The journal discusses original empirical material, gives direct access to first hand sources, and proposes innovative analyses on how the latter are used and perceived. Please do not hesitate to contribute, as Sudan-related sources and researchers must also be well represented.

Finally, we also would like to warmly thank Michel Wieviorka for his support to the French Institutes in Foreign Countries expressed in his report: “Les sciences humaines et sociales françaises à l'échelle de l'Europe et du monde” (French Human and Social Sciences in Europe and in the World). The report, which is co-authored with Jacques Moret, has been officially and publicly presented and submitted to the French Minister for Scientific Research, M. Thierry Mandon, on 28 March 2017.

Jean-Nicolas Bach, Coordinator CEDEJ Khartoum

A Perspective on Contemporary Sudans
Migration - Social Studies - Religion

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Upcoming events

We also hope that our colleagues fruitfully engage with the 7th European Conference on African Studies, to be held in Basel from 29 June to 1 July.

Matthew S. Benson, a PhD candidate in Durham University and associated to CEDEJ Khartoum, will be presenting his research on how taxation has shaped peoples’ experience of government during the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium, in a Joint Seminar held by CEDEJ and Khartoum University’s Faculty of Economic and Social Studies in July 2017 (date to be confirmed).

Dr. Azza A. Abdel Aziz, associate researcher at CEDEJ Khartoum, will present her work at the Conference on Contemporary Sudan held by the Institute of the Arab World (Institut du Monde Arabe) in Paris from 28 September to 1 October 2017. The seminar is on: “Un Autre Soudan” (Another Sudan). Here is the conference programme.

A seminar on Migration in Eastern Africa will be held in the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), on 21 September. With Azza A. Abdel Aziz, Associate Researcher CEDEJ Khartoum.

The Call for proposals for the next IPSA World Congress is now open until 10 October 2017. The Conference of the International Political Science Association will be held in Brisbane, Australia, from 21 to 25 July 2018, on the theme «Borders and Margins». 
News from our team

... Netsereab Ghebremichael Andom, who defended on 9th of May 2017 his PhD. Thesis on “Irregular Youth Migration from Post-Independence Eritrea to Sudan (1993-2013). Causes, Implications, and Trends”. His examination committee was composed of Prof. Munzul Assal (PhD supervisor), Prof. Leif Manger, and Prof. Abdel Ghaffar H. Ahmed.

CEDEJ Khartoum has been supporting Netsereab since 2015 as a PhD Student, a collaboration that shall continue. We wish our colleague a successful academic career full of happiness and publications.

... Katarzyna Grabska and Marco Speroni - Associate researcher at CEDEJ Khartoum and at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva (IHEID), Katarzyna Grabska coordinated from January 2014 to December 2015 the research programme ‘Time to Look at Girls: Adolescent Girls Migration and Development’ with Nicoletta Del Franco and Marina de Regt (with the support of the Swiss Network of International Studies - SNIS). This research programme resulted in the making of ‘2 Girls’ (2016), a documentary directed by Marco Speroni. ‘2 Girls’ focuses on the migration trajectories of two teenage girls in Bangladesh and Ethiopia, and received two awards in 2016, and received an additional two in 2017: Best Documentary Award at the International Film Festival in Tiburon, April 2017 Special Jury Mention in the International Documentaries category by the 7°Argentina FICIP - Festival International de Cine Politico.

Matthew S. Benson is a PhD candidate in Durham University’s Department of History and has joined CEDEJ-Khartoum as a new Associate. His research combines descriptive statistics with an analysis of archival sources to examine how people have experienced, and shaped, public authority in South Sudan & Sudan by complying or contesting taxes in the country. This research builds on Matthew’s experience examining the links between tax and state-building in post-CPA South Sudan, and the political economy of tax reforms in post-conflict countries more broadly, with the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. It is also informed by field postings in South Sudan with Crown Agents and Sudan with Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Matthew has also conducted field research in Uganda and undertaken research assignments with the Overseas Development Institute, the World Bank, the UN Refugee Agency and Oxfam America.

Matthew is currently researching relevant files in the National Records Office.

We wish a warm welcome to Osama Abuzied, a new associate researcher of CEDEJ Khartoum. Osama Abuzied received his Ph.D from Kyoto University in Japan. His research focuses on international development and humanitarianism and covers an array of related issues. He has lectured at the University of Medical Sciences and Technology (UMST) in Disaster Management, Human Rights, Development Challenges, and Project Management.

Osama is also a blogger who strongly believes in community outreach; for example, he founded a Facebook group titled ‘Development Voices Now’ to function as a platform for development practitioners and those pursuing opportunity in this sector. His personal blog, ‘Osama Abuzaid’, combines his innovative writings and photography to address current social and geopolitical issues.

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... Stéphane Ancel, an active contributor of the Observatory of East Africa, has been recruited as a permanent researcher by the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) as an historian. This is perfect recognition of the beautiful work done by Stéphane since he defended his PhD.

Alice Koumurian, our project officer, left Sudan in June to continue to develop her professional career. We wish her the continued success, that she greatly deserves. Alice was working in CEDEJ Khartoum for the past two years and had been very actively following and initiating activities and projects. She also finalised a study on Syrians that arrived in Khartoum after 2011, which will soon be published as a report by the Observatory of East Africa. The CEDEJ team wishes her the very best for the new route she chose to take.

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On 6 April 2017, contributors of the ‘Observatoire de l’Afrique de l’Est’ met in Hendaya (Basque Country) in order to discuss future collaborations and publications in the framework of the renewed Observatory. The event, held in the famous castle built by Antoine d’Abbadie in the 19th Century, happened to be very stimulating and fruitful as it shall lead to future collaborations and scientific projects. Our warm thanks to this beautiful team and our sponsors (Nouvelle Région Aquitaine, DGRIS, LAM Sciences Po Bordeaux, CEDEJ Khartoum, IFRI, Hendaya city Council).

18H-20H - Conference, Auditorium, Hendaye
Kenya’s 2017 Elections: Democracy and Regional Politics
Dr. Justin Willis, Durham University
Dr. Hassan Mwakimako, Pwani University

Rencontre avec l’incertitude: Témoignages de migrants d’Afrique de l’Est
Dr. Azza A. Abel Aziz Yacoub, SOAS, CEDEJ Khartoum

Trois défis de gouvernance en Afrique du Nord-Est: Environnement, démographie, islamisme
Dr. Jon Abbink, University of Leiden

La Corne de l’Afrique: Une région en armes
Dr. Patrick Ferras, Chercheur indépendant, CSBA
Seminars in CEDEJ Khartoum

On 15 February 2017, at 4pm, Max Münch, a Master student of Anthropology at the University of Bayreuth, discussed the theories and methods he used during his fieldwork in a Quranic school in North Kordofan.

On 21 February 2017, CEDEJ Khartoum had the chance to be visited by Michel Wieviorka who exchanged with researchers about current research in social sciences in Sudan.

On 22nd February, Mahasin Yousif, a PhD candidate in history (University of Khartoum) supported by CEDEJ Khartoum since 2016, presented her fascinating reasearch: «Studying Obliterated History in Sudan: Methodological Challenges».

On 1st and 2nd of March 2017, Susanne Jaspars (Associate SOAS and CEDEJ Khartoum) organized a Workshop in CEDEJ Khartoum, in collaboration with the DDRA, entitled ‘Food Aid and Profit: An Historical Analysis of the Relation Between Food Aid and Governance in Sudan’. This Workshop consisted of discussions and feedbacks based on Susanne’s PhD research.

On 20 April 2017 Lucie Révilla presented her PhD research on: ‘Practices of social control and construction of public authority : comparative perspectives from Lagos to Khartoum’.

Syrians in Khartoum: On 7 May 2017, Alice Koumrian presented her research on ‘Sudan as a destination country? Syrians in Khartoum since 2011’. The study will soon be published as a paper of the Observatory of East Africa. Vivian Hartlief also gave a presentation the same day of her Master Thesis (Utrecht University) on ‘Syrian Refugees and their Livelihood in Khartoum’.

Joint seminars CEDEJ - University of Khartoum

Michel Wieviorka gave a presentation on 22 February on ‘Social Sciences in Change’ at the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies.

Susanne Jaspars, Monday 6 March, Faculty of Economic and Social Studies: ‘Food Aid, Power and Profit: An historical analysis of the relation between food aid and governance in Sudan’

Other Conferences

Alice Franck (Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne) et Raphaëlle Chevrillon-Guibert (Chercheure IRD), associées au CEDEJ Khartoum, discussed on 15th March ‘La situation politique au Soudan’, à l’IREMMO (Paris). Moderator: Jean-Paul Chagnollaud, President of de IREMMO.


Griet Steel participated to a Workshop on ‘Land and Sustainable Development in Sudan: A New Perspective» (Khartoum), 22nd of March 2017, organized in collaboration with the Land Academy Netherlands, Sudanese Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Information, Ministry of Strategic Planning.

Lucie Révilla is a PhD student in Political Sociology affiliated to Sciences Po Bordeaux/LAM. She adopts a comparative perspective (Khartoum-Lagos), focusing on the following topics: the construction of social authority in popular areas, the role of grassroot organizations (“traditional” and governmental) in urban local governments, their effects in terms of production of order and everyday justice at the scale of the neighborhood. From a bottom-up approach, she studies how popular areas are governed in two major African metropolises, raising some issues such as: Which diversity of actors is revealed? How these areas are ordered and how the social relationships are shaped by the inhabitants in relation to the state? What does power relationships tell us about the urban governments? She particularly compares the overlapping of local authorities between traditional rulers (baale and balogun in Lagos; ‘omda, nazir and shyukh in Khartoum) and local governmental organizations (Community Development Associations in Lagos, popular committees in Khartoum).

Clément Méléard is a student in Geography at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. Under the supervision of Dr Alice Franck (Paris 1) and Dr Raphaëlle Chevillon-Guibert (IRD), Clément is studying artisanal gold mining in Sudan. The substantial loss of the Sudanese oil revenue, following the split with South Sudan in 2011, has led the country to direct its economy towards its gold potential. This new field brings together different cross-cutting issues that still need to be explored.

Max Münch, a student in Anthropology at the University of Bayreuth. For his Master’s thesis, he conducted three months of fieldwork in a Quranic school in Northern Kordofan. In an immersive process, the research was based upon the multi-sensorial focal points of didactics, socialization and embodied knowledge. He participated in the daily learning routine to get access to the social and experiential ways of teaching, learning and knowing.

Vivian Hartlief is a Dutch MA student. During her bachelor studies Liberal Arts and Sciences, she specialised in two scientific fields: Religion Sciences and Environmental Sciences. These two specialisations laid the foundation for her MA in International Development Studies, which she obtains at Utrecht University. For this MA study she chose to conduct her research in Sudan. The general topic for her research is the Syrian community living in Khartoum and the challenges they face in regard to creating a sustainable livelihood.

Transient Students & Researchers

Lucie Révilla is a PhD student in Political Sociology affiliated to Sciences Po Bordeaux/LAM. She adopts a comparative perspective (Khartoum-Lagos), focusing on the following topics: the construction of social authority in popular areas, the role of grassroot organizations (“traditional” and governmental) in urban local governments, their effects in terms of production of order and everyday justice at the scale of the neighborhood. From a bottom-up approach, she studies how popular areas are governed in two major African metropolises, raising some issues such as: Which diversity of actors is revealed? How these areas are ordered and how the social relationships are shaped by the inhabitants in relation to the state? What does power relationships tell us about the urban governments? She particularly compares the overlapping of local authorities between traditional rulers (baale and balogun in Lagos; ‘omda, nazir and shyukh in Khartoum) and local governmental organizations (Community Development Associations in Lagos, popular committees in Khartoum).

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