CEDEJ KHARTOUM الخرطوم

Newsletter 8

July 2019

November 2019

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

A lot of hope has blossomed since the signing of the agreement in August 2019, between revolutionaries, civilians, and the TMC. The structures of the transition have been designed and implemented as the basis of crucial period for the next years to come. However, challenges ahead remain huge in terms of peace (especially in the long marginalized regions), economic reforms, and the reconfiguration of the political field. Our engagement as researchers concerns the way we can conceptualize, compare, interpret, in other words contribute academically to such historical processes. In such regards, we are building research programs in order to study the dynamics of social movements, to discuss the concept of "transition" in comparative perspective, and create academic spaces in order to discuss what democracy and democratization mean.

The detention in Iran of our colleagues, senior researchers from CERI-Sciences Po Paris, Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal (co-leader of the Observatoire de l'Afrique de l'Est), since June 2019, remind us of the importance to defend academic freedom, for which our community has been mobilized (see the support committee website here). We hope to see them soon and read from them again, and our thoughts also go to their relatives and families.

Jean-Nicolas Bach

Coordinator CEDEJ Khartoum
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A Perspective on Contemporary Sudans
Migration - Social Studies - Religion

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Calls

Call for papers: «**Environmental knowledge and nature(s) in Africa (dir. Luisa Arango & Emilie Lavie & Emilie Guitard**). This issue of the journal «Sources», forthcoming in 2021, places at the center of reflection those objects that have become research materials and have participated and, for some, still participate in the production, transmission and discussion of naturalistic and environmental knowledge in Africa and about Africa. Cf. the complete call for papers here

Support for fieldwork: we will circulate in the coming weeks a call aimed at supporting researchers and students from abroad who plan **field work in Sudan in 2020**. Details to be circulated soon (cf. our website) For 2020, prioritiy shall be given to field works related to the «transition», but other proposals will be considered as well .

Call for contribution coming soon: in order to explore the dynamics of **«transition» and «democratization» in Sudan**, a new program shall start in 2020. This research program shall last during the next two or three years and is based on three pillars: (1) sociology of social movements, (2) sociology of elections, and (3) a series of public conferences aimed at creatin spaces where academics, praticians, and broader publics can meet and discuss their views. Participants will be soon invited to submit a proposal (about 2500 words), a provisional budget, and a provisional agenda of their research.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Jan Zahorik

«**The Horn of Africa and former Czechoslovakia in the Cold War: Transfer of Knowledge and Socialist Modernity**»

5 December - 2pm - CEDEJ Khartoum

General Assembly

CEDEJ associate researchers and any colleague involved in our research programs and ativities in Sudan are invited to attend our next General Assembly

5 December - 5 pm - CEDEJ Khartoum

For those in Paris, don't miss the

International Conference

«Towards a New Social History of Sudan»

10-11-12 December 2019, Paris

Venue- University Of Chicago Center in Paris

Organized by Elena Vezzadini (IMAF), Anaël Poussier (Paris 1), Lucie Révilla (LAM Bordeaux), Jean-Nicolas Bach (CEDEJ Khartoum)

Presentation: The historiography of modern and contemporary Sudan has been shaped by its political history. Indeed, historians have often been called upon to respond to contemporary crises – civil wars, regime changes, international conflicts – often according to criteria of urgency, at the risk of falling into a certain presentism. In this context, social history, which often requires a slower and punctilious form of research, which does not produce ready-made solutions to the multiple crises in the country, and which put at the centre stage the lives of "ordinary people" has struggled to assert itself on the academic scene.

This conference, which is also a research program, aims to put "ordinary people", women and men, back at the center of Sudan's modern and contemporary history. From the outset, we wish to emphasize that the term "ordinary people" should neither hide nor flatten the teeming complexity of Sudanese society. We also wish to consider all the dimensions related to the history of "exceptionally normal" people: their daily lives, beliefs, horizons and desires, their interconnections and circulations, while never forgetting the diversity of the various actors, be it related to their social class or their origin.

Taking the social history of "ordinary people", including those of the marginalized peripheries, as a starting point for historical research opens up new perspectives, not only on the political history of the country, but also on the changes, breaks and crises that the country has gone through. This includes the understanding of great popular revolutionary episodes that have been pivotal for its history, such as the one that has been taking place since December 2018 and brought the end of Omar al-Bashir's regime (1989-2019). Registration and program link here.

Congratulations to...

... The **new Dean Faculty of Economic And Social Studies**, dr. **Yasir Awad**. It will be our great pleasure to continue and deepen our fruitful scientific cooperation with the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies and more broadly, with the University of Khartoum.

... **Clément Deshayes**, who **defended his PhD** in political anthropology (Paris 8 - LAVUE). «Lutter en ville au Soudan», 29 november 2019. We wish him a great journey in our community of researcher.

We also have the pleasure to welcome two new students who beneficiate from a **short term scholarships** from CEDEJ Khartoum, in support for the program «Being Arab, Muslim, and Sudanese» (AUF-PCSI), hosted by CEDEJ Khartoum and coordinated by dr. Barbara Casciarri (Paris 8-LAVUE) and dr. Mohamed A. Bakhit (University of Khartoum). **Abdaljbar Elhaj Mustafa** (University of Khartoum) and **Shereen Ibrahim Elnourn** (Univerisy of Bahri).

We also welcome our new accountant

David Micaleff, who arrived in Khartoum in September. We wish him and his family a very fruitful and peaceful and fruitful stay in Sudan

Last but not least, congratulations to **Anaël Poussier** who finalized a beautiful book as a restitution of the exhibition he prepared for the French Institute with **Harry Cross and Elena Vezzadini** on «Le Soudan dans la Première Guerre mondiale». This project was made possible by the French institute and its director **Fabrice Mongiat**, and the former executive General Secretary of the National Record Office M. **Mohamed Azraq**.

Ongoing Research Programs

«Being Arab, Muslim, and Sudanese»: this research program hosted in CEDEJ Khartoum and coordinated by dr. Barbara Casciarri (Université Paris 8 - LAVUE) and dr. Mohamed A. Bakhit (University of Khartoum) will continue in 2020. We are also very glad to share the first of a series of Working papers, by dr. Bakheit M. Nur, «Changing the State of Being. Muslim notions of life, death, and the hereafter in Western Sudan», October 2019.

Sudan Revolution Archives: As regards the events that have unfolded since 19thDecember 2018 which have led to radical alterations on the Sudanese political scene, a vast number of documents have been circulating, most especially on social media. Due to the fragile and fleeting nature of such mediums, Sudanese and foreign researchers have deemed it of the highest importance to record testimonies of the events that have taken place over the past four months (photographs and videos) as well as political statements of different orders (texts, drawings, signs, photographs, songs, videos, etc.) that have been circulating in Sudan before some of these documents are irremediably lost...

The «Observatoire de l'Afrique de l'Est» activities will reach their end on December 2019. But we will find a way to keep this project alive. Please find below and on the following link the latest Reports of the Observatory (CEDEJ Khartoum – CERI Sciences Po Paris):

B.C. Rogers

South Sudan: War, Peace Processes, and Regional Economic Integration

Note 16 - November 2019

One reason for the eventual failure of the original 2015 ARCSS, was because it was insufficiently rooted in the changed regional dynamics, and the economic interests that underpinned them. The subsequent 2018 Revitalised-Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) reduced overall levels of violence and sustained a process of sorts, precisely because it captured the right set of regional economic incentives.

Jérôme TUBIANA

La «transition» soudanaise vue des péiphéries

Note 15 - Octobre 2019

La période de « transition » en cours au Soudan semble, depuis le début des manifestations qui l'ont déclenchée, reproduire en grande partie la dichotomie entre centre et périphéries, où le « centre » historique se réduit à la capitale elle-même. La couverture médiatique et les discours militants ont souvent, consciemment ou non, reproduit un schéma plus ancien reléguant les citoyens des périphéries au rôle d'acteurs extérieurs ou de simples spectateurs condamnés à accepter les changements se jouant dans la capitale. Pourtant, les acteurs du centre savent que ce sont les guerres dans les périphéries qui ont provoqué sa chute...

Tanja MULLER

The Ethiopian-Eritrean Rapprochement After Year One: Cycles of Hope and Despair in Eritrea

Note 14 - September 2019

Résumé: The stalemate that followed the end of a two-year war between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 2000 was over when new Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed unconditionally offered the implementation of peace to Eritrea in July 2019. As a consequence of this rapprochement, many within Eritrea and observers from the outside expected political and economic changes to take hold in Eritrea. In this article I discuss how the first months after the peace agreement did result in a short-lived period of changing conditions of everyday life in Eritrea...

Jeanne AISSERGE

L'échec des politiques du Premier ministre Abiy Ahmed pour endiguer les conflits 'ethniques' en Éthiopie

Note 13 - Août 2019

Résumé: Les violences intercommunautaires croissantes en Éthiopie sont souvent attribuées aux activistes radicaux profitant de l'ouverture démocratique prônée depuis près d'un an et demi par le Premier ministre Abiy Ahmed. Cependant, l'examen critique et sur le terrain des politiques menées par son gouvernement révèle non seulement leur ambiguïté et leur non aboutissement formel, mais aussi le recours moins officiel à des pratiques inquiétantes...

Jean-Nicolas BACH

Ramadan de sang. Le Soudan entre révolution et négociation. Décembre 2018-Juillet 2019

Note 12 - Juillet 2019

Résumé: Cette note revient sur les moments forts de la révolte, de décembre 2018 jusqu'à l'accord de juillet 2019 entre la coalition civile et le Conseil militaire de transition. Au centre des événements se situe la période du sit-in illustrant la diversité des revendications populaires, le désir d'expression politique mais aussi des pratiques du pouvoir...

National Record office

We are very grateful for the visit of Ms. **Marion Hascoët** from the Direction Générale à la Mondialisation, Paris, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the **National Record Office in Khartoum** who hosted us for a fascinating visit of the Sudanese National Archives. Special thanks go to M. **Mohamed Azrag (executive General Secretary)** for hosting us at this occasion.

We also would like to thank **Jean-Pierre BAT** for the presentation he offered to a delegation of the National Record Office in CEDEJ Khartoum, about the French Cooperation regarding Archives abroad, and especially in Africa and the Middle East, 28 October 2019.

Seminars & Workshops

Abir Nur, "Between ideology and pragmatism : interpretations of female "empowerment" within the Sudanese General Women's Union», 3 November 2019 , CEDEJ Khartoum

Aden Omar Abdillahi, "Fréquenter un club religieux informel salafiste à Djibouti : quelle influence sur les jeunes femmes ?", 31 octobre 2019, CEDEJ Khartoum.

The latest Workshop for our «Routledge Handbook on the Horn of Africa» gathered in Addis Ababa on 21-22 November 2019 the co-editors of the Handbook (to be published in 2020), Jean-Nicolas Bach, Stéphane Ancel, Azza A. Abdel Aziz, Emanuele Fantini, Patrick Ferras, Hassan Mwakimako, Clélie Nallet, Aleksi Ylönen. Great progress were made in order to gather and select the 65 papers of an ambitious project.

We thank the director of the French Centre for Ethiopian Studies, **Marie Bridonneau**, and her team, notably **Clément Ménard**, for hosting this fruitful meeting!

Workshop. First workshop of the PICS project, entitled '**The languages of the Sudan: a typological and areal crossroad**'. The workshop will be held at the University of Khartoum (department of linguistics),12 November 2019. Organized by Nicolas Quint (CNRS-LLACAN) and Abeer Trefi (University of Khartoum) with the support of the University of Khartoum and he French Embassy (program PICS).Complete program here

Abdaljbar Elhaj Mustafa, "Colonial and postcolonial politics of religion and ethnicity: Making capitalist economy of local elites in Kassala, Eastern-Sudan», 2 October 2019

Lucie Revilla ,«A Revolution in the Neighborhood? The battle for local power has begun», 4 September 2019.

Amani Mohamed El-Obeid ,«Sufism and middle-class in Sudan», 30 July 2019.

Transient Students & Researchers

Aden Omar Abdillahi, IEPS, CERD Djibouti

Abir Nur, Master Sudent, EHESS

Jean-Pierre Bat, (History) CAPS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Barbara Casciarri, Maîtresse de conférence - HDR (anthropology), LAVUE-Université Paris 1

Alice Franck, Maîtresse de Conférence (Geography), Paris 1 Sorbonne

Katarzyna Gabska, Assistant Professor (gender, development, migration), IISS, The Hague

Mai Hassan, assistant professor (Political Science) at the University of Michigan, LSA

Enrico Ille, Researcher (anthropology-History), Lost Research Group

Hisae Kato, PhD Candidate (development studies), SOAS

Stefano Manfredi, Researcher (Linguist), SEDYL - CNRS

Khadidja Medani, PhD Candidate (Geography), Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Zachary Mondesire, PhD Candidate (History), UCLA

Nicolas Quint, Researcher (Linguist), LLACAN - CNRS

Anael Poussier, PhD Candidate (History), University Paris 1, Panthéon Sorbonne

Lucie Révilla, PhD Candidate (Political Sociology), Les Afriques dans le Monde, Sciences Po Bordeaux

More on our team here

Former Newsletters are available online Here

Wafa Adam & Peter Ted Kai, our Research Assistants

Institutional affiliations

UMIFRE Unités mixtes des instituts français de recherche à l'étra

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