Research internship in social and cultural anthropology  
(Undergraduate/Master student)

*Ethnographic survey on the management of green spaces by the citizens of Khartoum and their evolution in the 20th century*

**Project: Green Citizenship in Khartoum**

This internship is part of an interdisciplinary survey entitled **GREEN CITIZENSHIP. URBAN EXPERIENCES IN THE TREATMENT OF NATURE (KHARTOUM, SUDAN)**. It is funded by CEDEJ Khartoum MEAE/CNRS USR 3123, the UMR SAGE 7363 University of Strasbourg and the Institut Français.

In these times of climate change and its increasingly visible consequences for the environment and societies, we investigate citizens’ actions to treat, conserve and manage nature in African cities, especially in the context of political and/or economic crises.

As is the case with many other urban contexts in the Global South, Sudan’s capital city of Khartoum is often described as unsanitary and overcrowded. Environmental degradation and an acceleration in the deterioration of its quality of life have been reported (Ille and Steel, 2021; Pantuliano et al., 2011). At the same time, with its particular ecology, and its location in a sort of oasis in the Sahel desert at the confluence of the White Nile and the Blue Nile (Lavie et al., 2021; Babiker, 1971), Khartoum has inherited a history of urbanisation that is marked by a great diversity of colonial and postcolonial projects (Assal, 2008; Davies and Abu Sin, 1991). The city is currently experiencing a political and economic crisis – which has worsened in the course of the past decade – that is weakening the social fabric and increasing the vulnerability of the urban population. In a context such as this, environmental issues are subject to political and economic crises and come in second place after existing public policies, international aid, the media and academic research.

There are therefore important gaps in the data needed to establish the state of urban ecosystems and their degradation with precision, and to design the actions that must be taken to address them, despite the fact that we now know that urban spaces have an important functional role to play in broader environmental dynamics (Muller et al., 2018).

The aim of the GREEN CITIZENSHIP survey is therefore to address the local environmental practices of urban dwellers in Khartoum. Private gardens open to the public, neighbourhood collectives for the preservation of green spaces, protected spaces and public or private reserves, are among the local practices that weave urban ecosystems in their own fashion. They are related to a variety of management logics (including religious beliefs, neighbourly ties and the marketisation of the environment) and contribute to the maintenance of life and the preservation of nature in the city.

With this survey, it is our intention to explore the environment-related actions that contribute to the construction and practice of citizenship by focusing on the opportunities for action available to individuals and collectives that relate to their immediate everyday environments. At the same time, we seek to question the notion of 'nature' by stressing its social and cultural character, and by considering it as a historical construction.
The internship involves the evaluation and documentation of the local practices for the protection of the urban environment employed by the inhabitants of the city. It is based on a multi-site ethnography. The objective is to compare different forms of management of urban green spaces (public, private, community, etc.) and their history in order to gain an understanding of the social, historical and physical factors that determine the sustainability and stability of the city’s green spaces.

**Tasks of the internship**

- to identify, document and characterise green spaces with various management typologies to be studied;
- to conduct observations and prepare descriptions of these spaces and how they function;
- to conduct interviews with the owners, employees, visitors, etc. who frequent these spaces. The interviews will focus on management methods, operation, history, and the like;
- to produce a document based on the results of the observations and ethnographic research, in the form of either an internship report (for undergraduates), or a Master’s thesis in anthropology (for Master’s students).

The candidate will benefit from close supervision of and feedback on his/her work from Dr Luisa Arango.

The candidate will be offered the opportunity to take French language courses at the French Institute in Khartoum.

**Profile**

An undergraduate student in her/his third year or a Master’s student in her/his first year in anthropology. The candidate should be fluent in both oral and written English. An interest in environmental and urban issues will be appreciated.

**How to apply**

Send a CV and cover letter to luisa.arango@cedejkhartoum.com

Candidates whose applications are selected will be invited for an interview.

For further information, please contact us.

**Employer:** CEDEJ Khartoum MEAE/CNRS USR 3123. Internship Manager: Luisa Arango

**Venue:** CEDEJ Khartoum, Khartoum 2, Sudan

**Level of study:** Undergraduate 3rd year / Master’s 1st year

**Duration of the internship:** 6 months

**Mission start date:** 10 March 2023

The internship is paid.