Monthly Newsletter

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CEDEJ KHARTOUM الخرطوم

EDITORIAL

Chères et chers collègues,

Ces trois derniers mois ont été particulièrement riches en activités académiques au CEDEJ Khartoum. À la suite de la pause du Ramadan, le centre a repris sa programmation de séminaires, reflétant la diversité des recherches en cours ainsi que l'engagement continu de sa communauté scientifique.

La période a également été marquée par la tenue d'un atelier "To think – do – and practice research otherwise in times of uncertainty" organisé par Mariasole Pepe et Sara Hagalhassan, qui a offert un espace d'échanges et de réflexion collective.

Cette lettre d'information propose un aperçu de ces événements, mettant en lumière le dynamisme de la vie académique du CEDEJ Khartoum ainsi que les contributions de celles et ceux qui la rendent possible.

Bonne lecture !

Dear Colleagues,

The months of March, April and May have been marked by a dynamic series of academic activities at CEDEJ Khartoum. Following the Ramadan pause, the center resumed its programming with a rich lineup of seminars, reflecting the diversity of ongoing research and the continued engagement of its scholarly community.

This period also featured a workshop "To think – do – and practice research otherwise in times of uncertainty organized by Mariasole Pepe and Sara Hagalhassan, which provided an important space for exchange and collaborative reflection.

This newsletter offers an overview of these events, highlighting the vitality of CEDEJ Khartoum's academic life and the contributions of those who make it possible.

Happy reading!

In this newsletter you can expect

Editorial

Seminars

Workshop

Publications

CEDEJ KHARTOUM SEMINARS

CEDEJ Khartoum recently hosted a series of seminars by recipients of the 2025 CEDEJ Khartoum Open Grant, presenting research on key aspects of Sudanese society, history, and culture. The seminar series also welcomed other researchers working on Sudan, providing a platform to share findings, engage with colleagues, and contribute to ongoing academic and public debates.
These presentations reflect CEDEJ's continued commitment to supporting research and fostering scholarly dialogue on Sudan.

Armenians in Khartoum in the 1940s - Credit: Sudanahye

Wednesday February 25, 2026

Sudanahye: Sudanese-Armenian history and the colonial legacy in Sudan presented by ***Vahe Boghosian***

This seminar addressed Sudanahye, the Sudanese-Armenian Heritage Project, a multimedia research initiative documenting the history of the Sudanese-Armenian community. It highlighted the continuous Armenian presence in Sudan since the late 1800s, as a minority Christian community that thrived within the commercial sphere of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Following the Armenian Genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Empire beginning in 1915, the community expanded and, over the following decades, became an integral part of the social fabric of Khartoum and Omdurman. It secured a strong economic position and contributed to the establishment of key community institutions, including a school, a church, and a club.

CEDEJ KHARTOUM SEMINARS

At the time of Sudan's independence in 1956, the community numbered between 800 and 1,000 individuals, primarily based in Khartoum and Omdurman, with a smaller presence across other towns and cities in Sudan. Drawing on archival research, photo digitization, and the development of an oral history archive, the Sudanahye project has uncovered new perspectives on Sudanese history. The presentation explored what Sudanese-Armenian history reveals about the colonial legacy, addressing themes of race, class, and identity in Sudan, particularly in relation to Armenian and other minority communities.

The seminar, held during the month of Ramadan, was followed by an iftar that brought together CEDEJ grantees and researchers, offering a moment of convivial exchange alongside scholarly discussion. **Read more...**

Views of a gathering place for the Sudanese diaspora in Adjman

Wednesday April 8, 2026

Navigating Forced Displacement: Socioeconomic Challenges and Adaptation Strategies among Sudanese in the United Arab Emirates – Ajman presented by ***Hager Hassan***

This seminar explored the displacement of Sudanese migrants to the United Arab Emirates following the outbreak of war in Sudan, with a particular focus on Ajman. It examined the different stages of movement, as well as the factors influencing the choice of destination.

The presentation highlighted the range of socio-economic challenges faced upon arrival, including structural constraints related to employment, residency, housing, education, and healthcare. At the same time, it documented various community-based adaptation strategies, such as engagement in informal economic activities, the mobilization of social networks, access to charitable support, and the role of local institutions in fostering resilience.

Held shortly after the Ramadan break, this seminar marked the resumption of CEDEJ's academic programming. **Read more...**

CEDEJ KHARTOUM SEMINARS

Wednesday May 6, 2026

Gender Inequality and Barriers to Marketing Agricultural Products Faced by Women Farmers in West Galabat, Gadarif State presented by **Bashir Ibrahim Abakar** (University of Gadaref)

This seminar examined how gender inequality restricts women farmers' participation in the marketing of agricultural products in West Galabat locality, Gadarif. The study explored how unequal power dynamics embedded within socio-cultural, economic, and institutional structures continue to shape disparities between women and men in agricultural markets.

The presentation highlighted several forms of inequality affecting women farmers, including the unequal burden of domestic responsibilities, negative community perceptions surrounding women's participation in agricultural marketing, limited land ownership and smaller cultivated areas, reduced financial and savings capacities, and the domination of agricultural markets by men.

As a consequence of these structural inequalities, women face numerous challenges in marketing agricultural products. These include producing and supplying smaller quantities of goods, participating less in sales activities, having limited influence within agricultural markets, lacking access to market information, facing difficulties competing with brokers and traders, and ultimately selling their products at lower prices. **Read more...**

Wednesday May 13, 2026

Resilience Strategies of Local Communities to Access Water in the Context of Armed Conflict in Sudan: A Case of Khartoum & Port Sudan presented by CEDEJ Khartoum grantee **Noha Hassan**

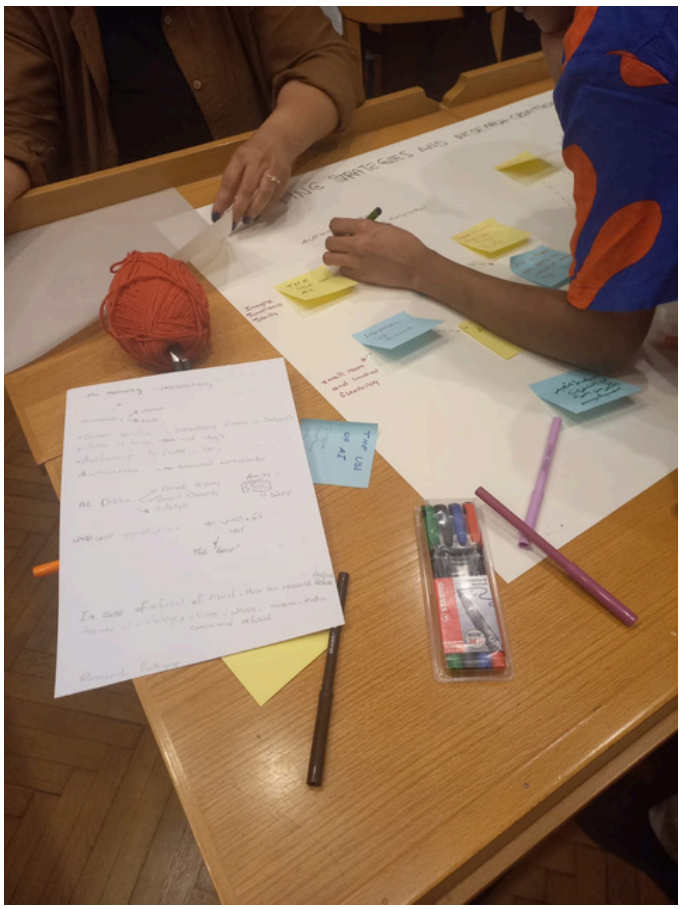
This seminar explored the impact of armed conflict on access to water in Sudan, focusing on the cases of Khartoum and Port Sudan following the outbreak of war in April 2023. The presentation examined how conflict has affected water resources, production systems, and distribution networks, while also highlighting the resilience strategies developed by local communities to maintain access to water under conditions of chronic instability.

Drawing on qualitative research methods, including observation and in-depth interviews conducted with various actors in the study sites, the research demonstrated that the war severely damaged production stations and distribution infrastructure, while also contributing to the pollution of water sources. In response to these challenges, local communities developed and negotiated new strategies to secure access to water during periods of conflict and scarcity.

The seminar further reflected on the sustainability of these community-led responses and emphasized the importance of such findings for policymakers, development agencies, and peacebuilding practitioners working to design context-specific interventions aimed at strengthening water security and long-term resilience in conflict-affected settings. **Read more...**

“TO THINK – DO – AND PRACTICE RESEARCH OTHERWISE IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY”

A CEDEJ KHARTOUM WORKSHOP



Wednesday April 29, 2026

CEDEJ Khartoum recently hosted the workshop “To Think, Do, and Practice Research Otherwise in Times of Uncertainty”. Organized by geographers Mariasole Pepa (University of Padua) and Sara Hagalhassan, the workshop brought together Sudanese researchers and artists for a collective reflection on alternative ways of producing and sharing knowledge.

Through a collaborative mapping atelier, participants explored the intersections between academic research and artistic practices, creating spaces for dialogue, experimentation, and new forms of engagement in contexts shaped by uncertainty and displacement. The workshop highlighted the value of collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to documenting and understanding contemporary Sudanese experiences.

PUBLICATIONS
BY CEDEJ KHARTOUM GRANTEES

Grantees are offered the opportunity to publish a blog article about their research topic on the CEDEJ Khartoum Hypotheses website. Below are the two most recent contributions.

Spaces of Longing: A Visual Mapping of Resemblances between Cairo and Sudanese Cities in the Memories of Sudanese Refugees by **Rania Hassan Mohamed**
Memory, for displaced communities, is not merely a recollection of the past; it is a mode of survival. Since the outbreak of war in Sudan in April 2023, hundreds of thousands of Sudanese have fled to Cairo, seeking emergency refuge in a city that is geographically near yet emotionally distant. For these refugees, the question of "place" becomes more than a matter of physical geography; it becomes a negotiation with loss, longing, and the urgent need to reconstitute continuity in the midst of rupture. ***Read the article...***

Navigating Forced Displacement: Socioeconomic Challenges and adaptation strategies among the Sudanese in the United Arab Emirates – Ajman by **Hager Hassan**
The purpose of this study is to examine the socio-economic challenges faced by Sudanese migrants in Ajman and to analyze the adaptation strategies they employ, with particular emphasis on the role of community-based institutions, including the Sudanese Cultural Club and local bazaars, in facilitating social and economic adaptation. ***Read the article...***

PHD IN ANTHROPOLOGY

The Price of Art: Toward a Political Anthropology of Painting in Sudan's Third Revolution by **Yacine Khiar** (Paris 8 University)

The PhD thesis in anthropology "Le prix de l'art. Pour une anthropologie politique de la peinture dans la troisième révolution soudanaise", defended by Yacine Khiar on March 30, 2026, marks an important contribution to the study of art and political transformation in contemporary Sudan by exploring the transformations of Sudanese visual art during and after the December 2018 revolution.

Based on fieldwork conducted in Khartoum, the thesis examines how murals, graffiti and other artistic practices became central forms of revolutionary expression, while also highlighting the emergence of new artistic networks and spaces. It further reflects on the relationship between political engagement, artistic production, and the economic realities shaping the art world in Sudan.

Through this work, Yacine Khiar contributes to ongoing discussions on cultural production, revolutionary memory and the anthropology of art in Sudan. **Read more..**