



*Faculté des lettres, UR.,
Anthropologie de la culture
arabo-méditerranéenne*



Pluridisciplinary International Conference

Island-dwellers, Language, Memory and Identity

26-28 September 2014
Island of Djerba (Tunisia)

Call for papers

At one level, island-dwelling can simply be defined as the fact of living on an island, or a group of islands, with its own characteristics in terms of population, lifestyle, languages, customs etc. However, the notion is actually far more complex, since it is multidimensional. Various disciplines, among them geography, economics, anthropology, biology, linguistics, demographics, take an interest in the phenomenon of island-dwelling, and so the approach of this conference is pluridisciplinary. We are expecting, however, papers that focus on issues such as the relationship between island-dwelling and language production, or island-dwelling and the creation of folk tales, or the development of the collective imagination. Since islands tend to be on a smaller scale than continents, our focus will be, as far as possible, on observing and analysing how phenomena such as being hemmed in or being on the periphery, being close to, connected to or isolated from the mainland affect artistic creation, oral traditions, language use, and the way that islanders see their cultural heritage.

There are numerous questions to be asked: do island-dwellers have specific characteristics, and if so, what type? Do these characteristics linked to island-dwelling have an effect on geopolitical issues, or on the development of an island-dwelling identity? Is being an island-dweller a marker of identity, and how is this displayed in terms of language, discourse and creativity? What kinds of discourse do island-dwellers develop about their islands, and the nearest mainlands? Does being an islander play a role in distinguishing 'them' and 'us'? What kinds of social representations of islanders can be found in travel writing? How is island identity expressed in the popular collective memory?

In the past islands were often perceived as closed territories, where the population lived in isolation, or was even self-sufficient. To what extent is this still true in an ever more globalised world where the digital revolution, the arrival of multimedia and the internet have radically transformed things and made the concept of borders meaningless? Does the notion of isolation still have any sense today? In addition to upheavals due to the digital revolution, other factors

such as immigration, legal or illegal, to and from islands, constantly show the porous nature of borders.

Taking all these aspects into account, we see island-dwelling as a multidimensional notion, and believe that exploring it from a range of disciplinary perspectives will help to define it better.

This conference will also be the opportunity for all those interested in the question of island-dwelling to collaborate in a range of areas, including scientific research, economic development and the development of cultural and touristic heritage.

Papers are invited on all aspects of the issue, including, but not limited to, the following questions:

- Island-dwelling and identity
- Island-dwelling, memory and oral traditions
- Island-dwelling, heritage and language use
- Island-dwelling and electronic communications
- Island-dwelling and immigration

The languages of the conference are Arabic, French and English. All papers must be accompanied by an abstract in English. Proposals will be assessed anonymously by the scientific committee.

Scientific Committee

Ibrahim ALBALAWI, Université du Roi Saoud
Mehmet-Ali AKINCI, Université de Rouen
Françoise ALBERTINI, Université de Corse
Fernando ANDU, Université de La Manouba, Tunis
Nouria BENGHABRIT-REMAOUN, Centre de Recherche en Anthropologie sociale et culturelle (CRASC), Oran (Algérie)
Elia Béatrice ASSOUMACOU, Université de Mahajanga (Madagascar)
Mohamed BETTAYEB, Université de La Manouba, Tunis
Murat DEMIRKAN, Université Marmara, Istanbul
Véronique FILLLOL, Université de Nouvelle Calédonie
Sonia GROCHAIN, Institut agronomique néo-calédonien (IAC)
Bernard IDELSON, Université de la Réunion
Mohamed JOUILI, Université de La Manouba, Tunis
Foued LAROUSSE, Université de Rouen
Fabien LIENARD, IUT Le Havre
Dawn MARLEY, Université de Surrey (Angleterre)
Monica MORAZZONI, Università IULM, Milano (Italie)
Olivier PULVAR, Université Antilles-Guyane
Armelle TESTENOIRE, Université de Rouen
Bachira TOMEH, Université de Rouen
Sami ZLITNI, IUT Le Havre

Organisation committee

Mohamed JOUILI, Université Tunis La Manouba (Président du comité d'organisation)

Foued LAROUSSI, Université de Rouen (Co-président du comité d'organisation)
Mahfoud MAHTOUT, Université de Rouen
Fabien LIENARD, IUT Le Havre
Houcine TOBJI, Conservateur du musée de Gallala, Djerba
Lasad SAID (Comité culturel national, Ministère de la Culture)
Chaker SASSI, Association tunisienne de prévention de l'immigration clandestine
Sami ZLITNI, IUT Le Havre

Association de sauvegarde de L'île de Djerba (Assidje)
Centre culturel méditerranéen (Djerba)

Avec le soutien de l'entreprise Architecture Aménagement LISSIRI (Rouen)

Conference fee

€100 (full fee)

€50 (graduate students)

The conference fee includes a cocktail reception, lunches and refreshments throughout the day.

Dates

First call for papers 10 December 2013

Deadline for proposals 1st March 2014

Response from organising committee 1st April 2014

Proposals

All proposals must include the following information:

Name

Forename

Institution (university, institute etc)

Postal address

Email address

Telephone

The abstracts, in the language of communication and in English, must not exceed 1000 characters (to include spaces).

Proposals should be addressed to :

mahtoutm@gmail.com

Social programme

The conference will have a social programme to include cultural and artistic items (folkloric island groups, outings, island music). Full details of the programme will be given nearer the time.