

Call for Proposals

The Social Sciences and the Dynamics of Change and Continuity in Morocco

Multidisciplinary conference organized by Al Akhawayn
University in Ifrane, Morocco
23-24 May 2015

Morocco is a country that has historically been marked by complex layers and coexistence between different histories, cultures as well as a dynamic interplay of different processes of modernization. This has often raised series of intellectual debates about the relationship between “modernity” and “tradition” or “contemporaneity” and “authenticity” which in different ways have raised the *problematique* of “change” and “continuity” in different spheres of Moroccan society. The dichotomous nature in which these concepts often clash with each other is itself open to debate because it does not capture the complexities and nuances of our socio-economic, legal, political and cultural realities. This dichotomy is also revealing about the heuristic and methodological weaknesses that are common to the conceptual lenses through which the social sciences have looked at Moroccan society.

This conference intends to build upon the success of the first conference on the social sciences in Morocco and the issue of interdisciplinarity in order to raise new and theoretically more sophisticated questions about the dynamic relationship that exist between “change” and “continuity”. The purpose of the conference is to engage critically with this dichotomy and to try to problematize in all possible ways the relationship between

“modernity” and “tradition”, “change” and “continuity” in order to go beyond it as a conceptual framework of analysis.

Depending on the scholarly interest and disciplinary orientation of the participant, we would like, for example, to raise questions about the extent to which different articulations of “modernity” in various spheres of our society form in effect an antithesis to “tradition” or how to the contrary they supplant it. How does the concept of “invention of tradition” help us understand different socio-cultural and political problems? Is the dichotomy of “modernity” and “tradition” part of a colonial conceptual construct? What kind of continuities and discontinuities manifest themselves in Morocco? Depending on the nature of the different disciplines, the conference on the "Dynamics of Change and Continuity" will relate to many dimensions of Moroccan society including but not limited to society, language, culture, economics, law, environment and history. In the spirit of the 2014 social sciences conference organized at Al Akhawayn University which encouraged a multi-disciplinary approach, we invite papers from fields as diverse as history, anthropology, sociology, political science, international relations, media studies, legal studies, geography or linguistic studies. The goal will be to investigate the important dynamics of change and continuity in Morocco in order to challenge the conceptual dichotomies that are implicit in such an academic and intellectual undertake.

The conference organizers call for proposals on the following themes. The organizers know full well that these and similar issues have been and continue to be discussed in numerous

academic venues, and they remain open to proposals on themes not listed here.

- Human development
- The changing patterns of economic development
- The effects of information and communications technologies
- Legal studies
- The challenges of education in Morocco
- The tribe and socio-economic changes
- Moroccan Politics between change and continuity
- The youth and cultural changes
- Morocco's changing security environment (the Maghrib, the Sahara, the Sahel, the Mediterranean)
- Patterns of changes and continuities in Morocco's Environment
- International politics in a globalized world
- Conceptual changes and continuities in the social sciences
- Urban space: mechanisms and form of growth
- Treats of ecological spaces
- Rural and urban Socio-spatial mutations

Conference presentations can be delivered in Arabic, French or English. Doctoral students are also encouraged to present their research. Researchers are asked to submit a 500-word abstract to the Steering Committee for review by January 15, 2015. Acceptance notices will be sent by February 28, 2015. To register for an oral presentation, a panel or a poster, please access the appropriate link below or copy and paste the link in an internet search engine.

Oral presentation

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12IAV7Cz3eAbh8yg4K5GZJt5dTEsAOLmBzRmsTfoWd9Q/viewform>

Poster

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xQTeFKdBcNIYItL-gTnqhJm1lJuCjztpvtEPRE9aQZc/viewform>

Panel

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OPoVzoXotxrDJCcf7xME-tFNhskQghckJYq_mX4xHdM/viewform

In addition, Al Akhawayn University will organize a pre-conference training day on the theme "Editing and publishing scientific articles" on May 22, 2015. To register check the appropriate box in the online application.