



Panel's title : .. *Beyond the "North-South":New territorialities between Africa and Asia.....*

Titre du panel : . *Au-delà du Nord-Sud : Nouvelles territorialités entre l'Asie et l'Afrique*

Coordinator (Affiliation, University...) : ...Kae AMO.. (EHESS-FFJ, IMAF)

Language : Français / English (both)

Topics : (Arts, Politics, History, Migration)

Panel presentation :

Over the last two decades, relations between Africa and Asia have been increasing, starting with the significant increase of trade between the two regions and the investments of Asian countries across the African continent. Economic relations play an important role. But there are many other factors to these new African-Asian relations. Social, political and cultural interactions continue to increase between the two continents, the trend being encouraged by globalization.

The purpose of this panel is to discuss this new socio-political, economic and cultural exchanges that extend across the two continents, based on geopolitical, macro or micro- economic, sociological or ethnographic approaches. That leads to a reassessment of the new methods and frameworks on social sciences that face these phenomena which transform these two territories (Africa and Asia), with or without passing through countries of the global north. How do these new Africa-Asia relations change the paradigms of social sciences? How could we review, deconstruct or reconstruct today the epistemological and methodological approaches developed through centuries of legacy of African and Asian studies in Europe, established in the colonial and postcolonial contexts?

This reflection allows us to open different perspectives, shifting our view from the "center" (Europe, America...) to the "peripheries" (Asia, Africa...) and, through this approach, trying to go beyond the division and opposition between *center* and *periphery*, *North* and *South*.

Résumé du panel :

Au cours des vingt dernières années jamais les relations entre l'Afrique et l'Asie n'ont été aussi intenses qu'aujourd'hui, à commencer par l'accroissement significatif des échanges commerciaux entre les deux régions et les investissements massifs des pays asiatiques aux quatre coins du continent africain. Les rapports économiques jouent donc un rôle primordial. Mais les relations entre Afrique et Asie ne se réduisent pas à cela. Les interactions sociales, politiques et culturelles ne cessent de s'intensifier entre les deux continents et populations ; une tendance favorisée par le phénomène de mondialisation. L'objectif de ce panel est d'étudier les nouvelles mouvances sociopolitiques, économiques et culturelles qui traversent l'Asie et l'Afrique en s'appuyant sur des travaux géopolitiques, macro ou micro-économiques, sociologiques ou encore ethnographiques. Il s'agit également de réfléchir sur les nouvelles méthodes et théories de recherches en sciences sociales face à ces phénomènes qui traversent les deux territoires en passant ou non par les pays du " Nord " .

Comment la nouvelle présence asiatique en Afrique modifie le paradigme des recherches en sciences sociales? Comment pourrions-nous déconstruire ou reconstruire les approches épistémologiques ou méthodologiques établies à travers les siècles d'héritage de recherches en sciences sociales sur l'Afrique et sur l'Asie, fondé essentiellement dans les contextes colonial et postcolonial ? Cette approche nous permet d'ouvrir les différentes perspectives, en déplaçant nos regards du " centre " (Europe, Amérique...) vers les " périphéries " (Afrique, Asie...) et, `a travers ce déplacement du regard, essayer d'aller au-delà de ces découpages et oppositions entre centre et périphérie, Nord et Sud

Key words : Afrique-Asie.. ; Nord-Sud.. ; Asia-Africa relations ;



Participants :

1) **Name(s) (Affiliation) :** Yumiko Yamamoto. (EHESS-FFJ.)

Communication's title : The urban mobility of Abidjan metropolis and Japanese investment in urban transportation in Africa

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

Since several decades, Africa has seen a drastic acceleration of urban growth. The urban population is increasing by 5 to 7% a year that is twice faster rhythm than the world population. 400 million Africans are living in the urban area and that represents 40% of the population, against 3% fifty years ago. 1.2 billion people are expected to be in the urban areas in 2050, or 60% of the total African population (Jeune Afrique, June 7th, 2015). Such acceleration of urbanisation needs an appropriate adaptation in infrastructure, urban transportation and water supply. However, there is a lack of studies on urban mobility in African cities. Also, while Japanese interests in African economic development are growing, Japanese participation in African urbanisation is not very well known. Thus this article discusses on the urban mobility of Abidjan, one of the most populated cities in Africa and its relation with Japanese investment. Based on the qualitative and quantitative data, this study interests on the major urban characteristics of Abidjan, its impact to the urban transportation and the public transportation offers and its accessibility. Also, it analyses the characteristics of Japanese investments in Abidjan's urban transport.

Key words : ..urban transport . ; Japan-Africa cooperation.. ; mobility... ; ...

2) **Name(s) (Affiliation) :** . Frédérique LOUVEAU.. (.Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis du Sénégal (UFR CRAC)/ LPED (AMU-IRD).)

Communication's title : .. Local issues of African followers of a global Japanese religious movement

Titre de la communication : .. Enjeux locaux d'adeptes africains d'un mouvement religieux japonais global

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

My paper would like to highlight the way in which a Shinto Japanese religious movement meets the local social and political stakes of the african followers who convert to it. Sukyo Mahikari was founded in Japan in 1959 by Yoshikazu Okada and has established itself on all continents in a remarkable contemporaneity. In all countries, where he has followers, this movement is controversial being labeled "sect". Thus, becoming a follower of this religious movement is costly : the followers are excluded from both their faith community and their families even though they always claim to belong to their original confession, with followers counting as much among Muslims than the Christians. However, individuals are converted because they find both personal benefits and the possibility of having an individual and collective political weight. This is the case in Senegal, for example, which has a very large majority of Muslims, and where the State is built with Islam, which plays an important role and where religious pluralism is not very developed. To



understand this shift from religious to politic, I will show that the way of the followers is first marked by a personal quest for the cure of a mysterious and persistent disease, then I will highlight the fact that behind conversions motivated by Healing, there are stories of witchcraft that reveal deeper social and political issues.

Résumé :

Ma communication voudrait mettre en évidence la manière dont un mouvement religieux japonais shinto rencontre les enjeux sociaux et politiques locaux des adeptes africains qui s’y convertissent. Sukyo Mahikari a été fondé au Japon en 1959 par Yoshikazu Okada et s’est implanté sur tous les continents dans une contemporanéité remarquable. Dans tous les pays où il a des adeptes, ce mouvement est controversé étant taxé de « secte ». Aussi, devenir adepte de ce mouvement religieux est coûteux : les adeptes sont exclus à la fois de leur communauté croyante, et de leur famille même s’ils se disent toujours appartenir à leur confession d’origine, les adeptes se comptant autant parmi les musulmans que les chrétiens. Pourtant, des individus se convertissent car ils y trouvent à la fois des bénéfices personnels et une possibilité d’avoir un poids politique individuel et collectif. C’est le cas au Sénégal, par exemple, qui compte pourtant une très grande majorité de musulmans, et où l’Etat s’est construit avec l’islam qui y joue un rôle important et où le pluralisme religieux n’est pas très développé. Pour comprendre ce glissement du religieux au politique, je montrerai que le parcours des adeptes est d’abord marqué par une quête personnelle de guérison d’une maladie mystérieuse et persistante, ensuite je mettrai en évidence le fait que derrière les conversions motivées par la guérison se trouvent des histoires de sorcellerie qui dévoilent des enjeux sociaux et politiques plus profonds.

Key words : ..mouvements religieux ; globalisation... ; ... ; ...

3) Name(s) (Affiliation, University...) : ...Kae AMO.. (EHES-FFJ, IMAF)

Communication's title : Asian humanitarian workers in Africa: The cases of volunteers and NGO staffs in Senegal.....

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

Based on case studies of Japanese interventions in Senegal, this contribution aims at examining the relationships and controversies existing between the different actors involved in the world of humanitarian assistance and development aid in Africa. These include: scholars (researchers, experts, students...), NGO workers, agents and volunteers from governmental organizations (JICA, Japan International Cooperation Agency) and international organizations (UNICEF, Oxfam...).

Today, all these actors regularly work on the same field at the same time. Academics as well as local and international NGOs have contributed to the development of Africa, creating knowledge about local societies, suggesting if not sometimes helping build new development aid strategies, while producing know-how that is very often collected with the support of members belonging to these local communities.

Local NGOs play a critical role in these relationships. Part and parcel of Senegalese society and managed by Senegalese people, they are not only contributing to the economic and social development of their country, but they are also playing the role of “fixers” for foreign scholars and agents, helping them link with other local actors and groups living in the different regions of Senegal.

However, the presence of various Japanese stakeholders, be they academics, NGO workers, government or private companies representatives, may confuse Senegalese citizens because despite they actually



work in the same areas and often deal with the same kind of issues; education, health, poverty or good governance, each group develop their own strategies and have their own political and philosophical views. If the purpose of NGOs or that of government agencies is summed up in the word "action" that leads to direct interventions on the field, the scholar's objective is the result of his/her academic research. Scholars work to build, or to discover, a new knowledge that will contribute to the academic community of developed countries, even if in some cases, the results of their research may have a practical interest for to the local society.

What are the roles of humanitarian workers on the field of development? What are the perceptions of local people vis-à-vis these different actors? How these different actors construct a every-day relations in Senegal?

Based on the observations and interviews with actors of local and Japanese NGOs, and also with JICA volunteer staffs, this paper attempts to highlight the methodological, epistemological and ethical problems to understand the complex relationships between the local people and humanitarian actors.

Key words : .NGO ; Humanitarian work ; Japanese cooperation in Africa ; ...

4) Name(s) (Affiliation, University...) :Pooja Jain. (EHESS-FFJ Science Po.)

Communication's title : . A Perspective on the Racial Imaginary in the Global South

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

This paper shall explore and analyse the imaginary of race in shaping the international co-operation between India and Senegal. This study is an off-shoot of my PhD research on the development partnership between India and Senegal. My doctoral thesis was a pointer to the hierarchies implicit in aid and development. I argue that the explicit hierarchies between donors (givers) and recipients (receivers) intertwine with perceptions on race. Indeed, race and the fight against racism are integral to the discourse on South-South Co-operation (hereafter, SSC) which presents itself as an alternative to the vertical asymmetries of aid. This study shall analyse the past and present of the discourse on racial solidarity in the global South. To this effect, I shall analyse these elements in the official declarations on SSC that shall be complemented by a focussed case study on India and Senegal.

Key words : ..Racial imaginary. ; global south ... ; ... ; ...

5) Name(s) (Affiliation) : Kadidiatou Gazibo (Université de Tahoua, Niger..)

Communication's title : ..Investment of Asian countries in Africa : Risk and opportunity

Titre de la communication : Investissement des pays asiatiques en Afrique : Risques et opportunités.

Language : Français / English :

Résumé :

Ces dernières années, nous pouvons constater un intérêt croissant des pays asiatiques pour le continent africain. Cela se manifeste par l'accroissement significatif des échanges commerciaux entre les deux régions et d'autre part, les investissements massifs des pays asiatiques (Chine, Corée, Inde, Japon...) aux quatre coins du continent africain. Toutefois, selon beaucoup d'acteurs asiatiques, aussi bien publics (Etat, Organismes internationaux) que privés (entreprises, bailleurs de fond privé), il existe des



"difficultés" en général liées à l'investissement dans les pays africains notamment en ce qui concerne les ressources humaines (manque des personnels qualifiés), les différences culturelles ou linguistiques mais aussi les questions de santé et de sécurité. Parmi ces "difficultés", la question sécuritaire reste le cœur des préoccupations des acteurs asiatiques. C'est ainsi que lors du TICAD V tenu en Nairobi en aout 2016, la résolution des conflits et la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent étaient considérées par les acteurs asiatiques comme un objectif primordial. Quelle analyse peut-on faire de la situation sécuritaire des pays africains, en relation avec les conflits politiques ou militaires et l'extrémisme islamique transnational ? Comment répondre à ces situations d'insécurité et quelles contributions peuvent apporter les pays asiatiques ? En s'appuyant sur les cas de l'Afrique de l'Ouest francophone, mais aussi en comparaison avec d'autres régions et pays du continent, nous tenterons de mettre en lumière la situation actuelle des pays africains face à ces défis des violences militaires ou politiques.

Key words : investissement. ; relations économiques... ; Afrique-Asie... ; ...

6) Name(s) (Affiliation) : . Alessandro Jedlowski.. (.University of Liege..)

Communication's title : Post-imperial affinities in film production: Discourses and practices of collaboration between the Nigerian and the Indian film industries

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the readjustment of the global political landscape which followed it, South-South economic interactions have multiplied. While these networks have existed for centuries, the scale of the exchanges taking place along them has reached unprecedented levels over the past two decades. Within this landscape, media industries have come to occupy a relevant position, at the crossroad between soft power and hard economic interests. If, over the past two decades, numerous studies analyzed the South-South circulation of media products, numerous aspects of the ongoing interactions remain under-researched. In what concerns Africa in particular, several scholars have investigated the reception of non-Western media products by local audiences (Fair 2010; Krings 2015; Larkin 1997; Shain 2002; White 2002), but scant is the number of those who analyzed South-South interactions from the point of view of media practitioners, and particularly in relation to production and training (but see Pfaff 2004).

In this paper I intend to contribute to this emerging field of scholarship by analyzing the discourses and practices of collaborations that have emerged between the Indian and the Nigerian film industries over the past few years. India and Nigeria have a centuries-long history of reciprocal relations, accentuated by their common experience under the British Empire. This experience produced a number of affinities which have been seen as one of the possible causes of Bollywood films' success in Nigeria (see Larkin 2002: 750; Adamu 2007), as well as the ground for many other cultural, political, and economic interactions which took place after the independence of the two countries (Kura 2009; Subrahmanyam 2006). These "post-imperial affinities" have imposed themselves to the scholars working on the film industries in the two countries, who have implicitly or explicitly acknowledged them in their analysis. Behind the numerous similarities and convergences, however, there are important differences between these two industries which, until today, have conditioned the outcome of most attempts to make Nollywood and Bollywood effectively collaborate. By analyzing specific examples and the experiences of a few southern Nigerian and Indian film professionals who attempted to develop transnational collaborations, this paper investigates the ambiguities of the affinities existing between Nollywood and Bollywood and interrogates the prospects for the creation of effective interactions between them.

Bio: Alessandro Jedlowski is a Belgian Research Fund (F.R.S-FNRS) post-doctoral fellow in anthropology at the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle of the University of Liège (Belgium). His main research interests include African cinema, media and migration, urban culture, and South-South cultural and econom-



ic interactions. His current research analyses the political and economic dimensions of film production in the Nigerian video film industry (Nollywood) and compares them with those of other video-film industries emerging around the African continent, and particularly in Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire. He published several essays on this topic in international journals and edited collections, and he is the co-editor (together with Ute Röschenhaler) of a recent special issue of the Journal of African Cultural Studies on China-Africa media interactions.

Key words : Nollywood ... ; ... Bollywood ; ..Film industries. ; Asia-Africa...

7) Name(s) (Affiliation) : .Eloi Ficquet.. (..EHES..)

Pas de communication : discutant de la séance...

8) Name(s) (Affiliation) : .Rémy Bazenguissa-Ganga (..EHES..)

Pas de communication : discutant de la séance...