

Conference Series I Organised by The « Laboratoire de Sociolinguistique,
Dynamique des Langues et Recherches en Yoruba » (LASODYLA-REYO)
University of Abomey-Calavi Benin Republic (West-Africa)

WORKSHOP HAS BEEN POSTPONED
To October 27, 28, 29 2021

Theme: Epistemology of conceptual dynamics and scientific transformations in Africa: Multilingualism and the conquest of local, cultural and technological endeavors

Deadline extended for the call for abstracts (See bottom section)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to secure a strong participation from our english-speaking colleagues, the conference, initially scheduled for October 2020 has been postponed to October 27-29 2021.

Given the extended deadline, both the abstracts and the full text of the communication will be required from contributors. The full text for publication in the conference proceedings will be required once the abstract has been accepted. All abstracts already received will be taken into consideration. Reviewers decision for the latter will be sent out in due time.

The objective of this conference is to explore how interdisciplinary operates in Africa as well as to shed a new light on dominant concepts having underpinned major undertakings by African intellectuals during the decolonization era. We will also investigate how this has impacted the work of the younger generation of African intellectuals in its self-determination in the context of Western-dominated narrative on multiple development issues. In this thrust, Cheikh Anta Diop (1972) has been widely recognized as a major reference all over Africa. Thus, understanding how this thrust towards scientific discoveries and concepts *in situ* was pursued by ancient and new researchers is the main objective of this conference.

This conference is aimed at early-career as well as established researchers within academia or outside working in socio-linguistics, sociology-anthropology, philosophy, logic, epistemology and history of sciences and technology. Given its interdisciplinary nature, are welcome contributions from mathematicians, physicists, chemists, biologists and physicians whose work focus on «Science & Society».

The conference will identify and discuss tested practices as well as novel initiatives firmly grounded in local realities with the aim to consolidate a drive towards endogenous development based on local dynamics. These practices and initiatives being visible aspects of embedded scientific methodologies at work within African Natural Philosophy ultimately unveiling self-sustained and expanding development drive within Africa.

In addition to the above, mitigating the impact of euro-centric modern anthropology requires - from Africans - the formulation of more autonomous research topics. To cite a few illustrative examples:

- what can be learnt about the transatlantic slaves trade from *orisà* ?
- how did the *oloriṣà – voduno* organize themselves in such a way as not to participate in wars ?

- why did Kings at *Oyo* and *Agbomè* try in any mean to have tight control on the organization of *oloriṣà – voduno* ?

It is well known that aside from being completely marginalized, these topics did not interest missionaries and their mentees. One consequence from the above is the over-abundant literature on «*afro-christian syncretisms*» while little is known about “(inter) *afro-african syncretisms*”, started in Africa and actively expanded on slave ships and along all the slaves trade routes, completely outside places of christian religion contacts with Caucasians.

The meeting will also explore the interface between modern science and the occult in the African traditional unexpressed knowledge systems. One aim will be to rehabilitate African traditions starting by validating, via the scientific measurability and reproducibility method, various rational contents at work in these traditions. In other words, the conference will be **a platform for unveiling scientific methodologies** at work within African National Philosophy (also referred to as Traditions).

The current COVID-19 pandemic offers participants the opportunity to showcase their investigations. Particularly in relation to:

1. The perception of COVID-19 pathology in local languages and within traditional structures of knowledge diffusion ;
2. The past experiences of fight against pandemics in ancient times by Natives - with examples such as *Shanpona / Sapata* in Benin, Nigeria and Togo, the flu pandemic in Southern Rhodesia or the sleeping sickness in Congo under Belgium colonization ;
3. The treatments or innovative therapeutic approaches rolled against the COVID-19 pandemic or being speculated about within convents and endogenous institutions of knowledge transfer in Africa. This to show that the epistemological debate is not exclusively among the “experts” only.

NB: The following list of threads is indicative. Topics well within the theme of the conference are encouraged. Researchers and particularly the younger ones are invited to define their own research agenda for the consolidation of cultural foundation and towards the ongoing African Renaissance Project.

Axis 1: Multilingualism and production of new meanings within linguistic units in Africa

Axis 2: Cultural traces of science and technology: Appropriate technologies in context and studies on innovation in situ (*mathematics, biology-medicine, botanic, agriculture, environment, agro-chemistry, food security & culinary traditions, national languages & digital resources, nanotechnologies, engineering, etc*)

Axis 3: Ethics and moral in *Oriṣà / Vodun*: An audit of remains and transformations in *Oriṣà* practices, a Yoruba invention, in societies where it has been transferred (fon, ewe, akan, gur, songhai). *Oriṣà - Vodun* as counter-culture and resistance to slavery.

Axis 4: Science & The Occult: Open questions in physics, biology and psycho-pathology within cultural practices from the Gulf of Guinea (witchcraft, quantum mechanics, teleportation, cryptography, the unseen and the unexpressed, the rain-making, the remote healing, etc)

Axis 5: Oriṣà - Vodun and afro-african syncretism on the continent and in the Diaspora: A focus on the Yoruba-Fon & Bantu area (Circulation of writings, experts, medicines, techniques and organizational structures)

Coordination

Professor Moufoutaou ADJERAN
Professor Raymond C. ASSOGBA
Professor Aimé Dafon SEGLA

Local Organizing Committee (Loc)

M. ADJERAN Moufoutaou
M. ASSOGBA C. Raymond
M. SEGLA D. Aimé
M. ADJERAN Mathieu
Mlle BASSABI SAMA CHRISTOPHE Justine
M. IDOHOU Hubert I.
M. YAI K. Paulin

Abstract submission

- Abstract in Word forma (Maximum of 250 words + 5 references, APA standard)
Formatting (size 12, simple line spacing simple, TNR single paragraph).
Mail: laboratoiresociolinguistique@yahoo.fr

Attendance fees, proceedings publication, coffee breaks and tours

- *Africa, South America, Asia other than China & Japan.*
Faculty: 50.000 FCFA (75 Euros, 85 US Dollars)
Phd student: 20.000 FCFA (30 Euros, 40 US Dollars)
- *Europe, USA, Canada, China, Japan, Australia*
Faculty: 200 Euros (250 US Dollars)
PhD student: 100 Euros (120 US Dollars)

Accommodation and flights: At participants' cost

Important dates/deadlines

- Deadline for abstract submission and topics proposals for plenary sessions (Please specify the chosen Axis) : **31 january 2021**
- Notification of acceptance of abstratc: **15 February 2021**
- Reception of complete articles : **30 april 2021**
- Review et referee report : **10 June 2021**
- Resubmissoon of complete articles: **10 July 2021**
- Invitatoon letters to selected participants and key note speakers : **30 August 2021**

Venue: University of Abomey-Calavi

Date: *27, 28 & 29 October 2021.*

Excursion/Tour : Route des Pêches, Musée d'histoire, Temple des pythons, Tour de la partie finale de la 'Route de l'Esclave au Bénin, Ouidah''.