

Ain Chock Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences

Organises

**The 1st National Conference on Moroccan-European Narratives of Encounter
under the title:**

**Rewriting History from Below
Imprints of (In)visible Moroccans Beyond Borders**



Conference Coordinators:

**Prof. Nouhaidi Aziz
Prof. El-Hajjami Mouhcine
Prof. Rouijel El Hassan
Prof. Ismaili-Alaoui Abderrahman**

**June 26th, 2024
Casablanca – Morocco**

Call for Papers

Background

One generally accepted view of historical reality is the one often presented (yet hardly ever contested) by European historians. Non-European narratives, however, remain of little, or no significance in academic circles, shrouded in secrecy and uncertainty while Eurocentric and elitist approaches to history keep monitoring the canon, and determine understanding of the encounter between Europe and the “Other” world. Morocco’s relation to Europe has gone down in the annals of history as no exception. Many accounts by Moroccan historians, diplomats, travelers, tradesmen, and visitors have been relegated to mere footnotes in the historical document. Ideologies of silence and obfuscation, predicated, as it were, on such exclusionary premises, have thus tightened their grip on other alternative, potentially more reliable versions supplied by vehement subaltern voices.

Yet unlike Spivak’s speechless subalterns, Moroccans were active individuals whose imprints of visibility can be traced in survived documents. Archives as well as literary works abound with compelling evidence that confirms how they were more than capable of pitching their voice to negotiate and create contact zones with their European counterparts. These Moroccans, who came from all walks of life, demonstrated resistance to the barriers that sought to maintain the supremacy of Christendom over ‘The Abode of Islam’. They contributed to the reconstruction of the Mediterranean as a geostrategic zone which harbors nations from different backgrounds. Their legacy reveals that they stood their ground firmly against acquiescing to muteness and invisibility. The same legacy, however, reveals that contemporary scrutiny of their encounter with Europeans casts significant doubt on the *bien-fondé* of the European recounted narratives. These narratives grant special favour to the European, and disregard Moroccan narratives. Admittedly, the history of the region and its population needs to be redrafted and counter-narratives to be told. History needs to be rewritten from below.

Conference Aims

This conference seeks to open up new critical and intellectual spaces to discuss how these Moroccans straddling the strait of Gibraltar back and forth managed to establish nonviolent and amicable bonds with the European Other. It intends to explain how Moroccan diplomatic delegations, ambassadorial emissaries, merchants, travellers, captives, slaves, middlemen, jurists, students, artists and acrobats left behind them imprints of visibility and brilliance. By tracing back these very imprints, this conference seeks to constructively redeem their historiography from the Eurocentric elitist narrativism.

Researchers, including PhD candidates, who are interested in retracing the (hi)stories of the Moroccan travellers who were shuttling between the two shores of the Mediterranean are invited to send their abstracts to conference organisers.

Themes:

- **History from below**
- **Re-archiving historical and cultural encounters**
- **De-enslaving Mediterranean historiography**
- **Re-tracking aspects of (mis)representation**
- **Subalternity and renegotiation**
- **Contact zone (re)creation**
- **Female travel narratives**

Presentations will be delivered in English, Arabic, or French. (15 minutes allotted to each contribution).

Important Dates:

Abstract submission deadline	May 10th, 2024.
Notification of acceptance	May 20th, 2024.
Conference Date	June 26th, 2024.

General Guidelines:

- We recommend that submissions to the conference align with the suggested themes.
- An abstract of 250 words along with a brief author biography should be provided before May 10th.
- Papers should be sent to one of the following emails: nouhaidi@outlook.com
mouhcine.elhajjami@univh2c.ma

Scientific Committee:

Prof. Mohamed Said Sefiani
Prof. Hassan Bourara
Prof. Moulay Sadik Maliki
Prof. Mounir Benyoussef
Prof. Bouchra Qorchi

Prof. Mouhamed Said Lahjouji
Prof. Halima Ouamouch
Prof. Ben Abou Jamila
Prof. Omar Akfou
Prof. Fettah El Ouardi

Organising Committee:

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Prof. El-Hajjami Mouhcine
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