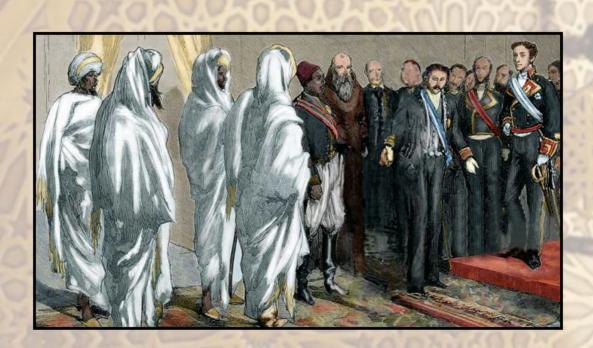


### Ain Chock Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences

#### **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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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by Moroccan historians, diplomats, travelers, tradesmen, and visitors have been relegated to mere footnotes in the historical document.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 retracking 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 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.	
Notification of acceptance	May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.	37
Conference Date	June 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.	SI.U

#### **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 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Papers should be sent to one of the following emails: <a href="mailto:nouhaidi@outlook.com">nouhaidi@outlook.com</a>
  <a href="mailto:mouhaidi@outlook.com">mouhaidi@outlook.com</a>
  <a href="mailto:mouhaidi@outlook.com">mouhaidi@outlook.com</a>

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