



Call for abstracts

The Cultural Studies Unit of Oujda Centre for Human & Social
Studies and Research

Organizes

A National Study Day On:
**Morocco Under Western Eyes:
The Representation of Morocco in
Western Travel Writings**

Date: Saturday. December 16th. 2017

Venue: CKKIIISO

Background

Morocco's geographic location made it an ideal destination for traders, adventurers, and tourists since its early history. However, travel writings were not exclusively produced by travelers and adventurers. Many narratives about Moroccan land and people were written by diplomats, military officials, and captives of both sexes. Additionally, Western narratives about Morocco do not include writings by Europeans who enjoyed geographical proximity alone. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries American tourists and diplomats started flowing to North Africa enjoying the welcoming infrastructure and facilities made available by the French and Spanish protectorate administration.

Whether old or recent, travel narratives about Morocco focused mainly on the representation of Moroccan culture, people, and landscape. Weighing by the balance of power, such narratives mainly adopted a degrading tone and highlighted what they considered "backward" Moroccan culture and people. One of the major features

of such travel accounts is ambivalence. Discourses of difference were -and still are- the main feature of travel narratives. Denigration of local cultures often gets blurred by a fascination with "exotic" ingredients of the land of the Moors which travelers are trapped in, either intentionally or unintentionally. However, despite their, oftentimes, biased tendencies, travel narratives about Morocco were also a means to make the country known to a large Western population and, hence, encourage more tourists to come and assess what used to be thought of as a hegemonic canonical and mainstream travel literature.

The aim of this conference is to give an opportunity to scholars of travel literature and/or colonial and post-colonial writings about Morocco to share their research projects in this field. Hopefully, the contributions will feature a variety of approaches and tendencies which take into consideration gender studies, social and cultural sciences, and historical insights into Western travel narratives about Morocco.

N.B. The primary language of the conference is English but contributions in French and Arabic are also welcome.

Guidelines for Submission:

Abstracts of 150-250 words with a title position-centered and five keywords should be sent to one of the following emails:

aelboubckri2@gmail.com

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Please note that the abstracts' submission deadline is November 25th, 2017. All abstracts sent after that day won't be considered for participation. Notification for Abstracts acceptance is December 1st.

Organising committee:

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Scientific Committee:

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