

MERC Newsletter



أخبار جامعة القاهرة

Annual Conference

**Women and the public sphere in the Arab World
Empowerment and Participation in Social Sciences**

Workshop

**Information Technology (IT)
applied to the Development of Social Sciences
in the Arab World**

October 2007, N°2



**Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches
Economiques et Sociale**

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FOREWORD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE... !

Like the hourglass that empties one half so that the other half would be filled, is the relationship between the deteriorating quality of scientific work and the increasing need for evaluation or the improvement of material, technical and moral conditions of evaluations. Again like with the hourglass, the question on the ethics of scientific research becomes more urgent with the increasing association between science, money and politics and other things that are hard to list here. The essence of the matter is that there are several issues related to the improvement of the performance of research and social science in the Arab world today, the most important among which (without underestimating the importance of the others) is the status of scientific evaluation. This is not only a question of the review of publications, books and journals, but also and essentially the evaluation of the evaluation systems themselves. The link between the two is undoubtedly one of the constant review of the criteria upon which the quality of scientific products is judged in a regional academic climate characterized by excessive sensitivity to criticism and evaluation.

A worthwhile hypothesis needs to be investigated. It assumes that the most salient sign of sensitivity to evaluations and criticism in social sciences is probably the limited number of critical readings and references, and as a result the limited dialogue, even among members of the same research institution or university. In other more accurate words, in our universities today no one reads the work of others, or at least they rarely do. It is a horrible case of autism that might nominate our social sciences, in the most optimistic and realistic scenarios, for early retirement.

The above discussion was on the level of texts, books and research, but what about authors and researchers? If we move from the general framework of a topic to its practical aspects which concern the profession of scientific research as referred to by Max Weber a century ago, we observe that the evaluation raises other issues of no less importance, related to the ethics of research, and the ethics of researchers and their responsibility for what they write. The latter does not function within a neutral framework that is free of pressures. In fact it opens the door for the misuse of results of scientific research and perhaps also the mal- production of research as a profession. The critical situation of the research environment in the Arab world needs to be handled realistically and modestly.

The proverb goes: people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. Who among us has not been subject to situations that affected his/her commitments towards the neutrality and ethics of scientific research? As long as the research is undertaken by the researcher and the latter is part of society, this is inevitable. The sociology of the research community or the study of the microcosm of the work of laboratories is in itself an important research topic. For that reason, in reaction to the suggestion made by an academic institution to organize a seminar on the ethics of social science research, MERC has decided to seize the opportunity to capture the ethics and terms of constructive scientific competition.

Scientific evaluation as a topic of seminar, cannot but be one chain in a series of activities related towards including evaluation in the core activities of the program i.e. in the research competition. In this connection, and in consultation with the selection committee, a formula for the evaluation of projects has been developed. Instead of screening proposals in one step, now proposals are screened over two steps to first produce a short list then a final one.

Last but not least is the training program and the extent to which is raises the quality of research and capacities of researchers. The first training round consisted of two sessions. The first included training on statistical analysis of data using the SPSS and the second on qualitative analysis of data using TROPES. This training not only provided a varied agenda for training, but also diversified the targeted audience by including participants from among young researchers from Mauritania, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Syria. These training sessions will gradually develop to include workshops for specialized writing for grant winners who will have the opportunity to share their ideas and research projects over a direct dialogue with senior researchers.

This is another way of saying once more that the appropriate evaluation of scientific research is not confined to engagement with text or with writing, but is rather related to the ability to re-write and train on new methods of research in an environment that is not always convenient for the research or the researcher. This sounds a simple task, but actually it makes the expected difference !

Abdelwahab Ben Hafaiedh

Women and the public sphere in the Arab World Empowerment and Participation in Social Sciences

In cooperation with the Arab Women Organization in Cairo and the Syrian Family Board in Damascus, MERC organized a round-table discussion on the “Women and the Public sphere in the Arab World: Empowerment and Participation in Social Sciences” in July 2007. The meeting took place in Bloudan near the Syrian Lebanese borders. The topic of the meeting falls within MERC interests that recognize the importance of the empowerment of Arab women and the development of research on public sphere.

The meeting’s main concept paper is based on the assumption that even though the Arab countries have made relative achievements on the level of the participation of women in public life, the region’s

Study of Arab Unity in Beirut through the organization of seminars on the topic.

Politically, assigning women political or parliamentary quota through the application of the quota system is still questioned in terms of its effectiveness and viability. Its success has been proven in some countries, but not so much in others. Several case studies were discussed in the seminar to expound this point.

It is important to assess the numerous papers presented in the seminar and other studies that have addressed the participation of women in the media,

as a public sphere (See the list of studies initiated by KAWTER the Center for the Training of Arab Women). The relative recent



Islah Jad
- Palestine -



Boushra Kanafani
- Syria -



Abdelkhalek Abdallah
- UAE -



Wadouda Badran
- Egypt -

general attitude towards female participation in public life is passive. This passivity is reflected on the civil and social level of citizenship (obtaining full civil rights), as well as on the economic level (high rates of unemployment among females) in a context that is characterized by weak public participation for both men and women. Studies addressing these issues are still scanty despite the large efforts undertaken by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunis and the Center for the

developments in the area of media and the rise in number of satellites have resulted in some improvements although not to the level aspired for. In addition, only a few studies have been conducted in this area. Women journalists mostly work as press correspondents or in entertainment programs and rarely do they engage in صحافة الرأي. This is also manifested in the limited number of women in the written press. The few cases where women made appearance on satellites and in electronic journals have been

addressed in the papers presented during the seminar.

The problematic of the seminar raised a number of issues pertaining to concepts and in particular the concept of public sphere. The importance of this concept in the context of local research strategies in the Arab World and Turkey goes back to the large program undertaken in 2000 by the Social Science Research Council under the title “Public Sphere in North Africa and the Middle East” which amassed a large number of studies on the subject from various countries of the region, that are now considered important references on the topic.

Between 2000 and 2007 several changes took place on the theoretical and practical levels, Until recent times, most of the studies used the theoretical underpinnings provided by Jurigen Habermas to discuss reality and actual life. An important number of studies has proved that it is more useful to move clockwise from reality towards theory building. This is what Islah Jad (Egypt – Palestine) suggested. She also affirmed the importance of going beyond Habermas’s theory to describe the local public sphere with all its specificities.

-What is being produced now on women and the public sphere and to what extent does it cover all the issues on the subject?

-To what extent do writings and studies on women in the public sphere respond to scientific criteria and standards?

-To what extent does the research and scientific products on women in the Arab world reflect developments and relations between women and the public sphere?

Topics were divided as follows:

-Regional and international research methods on women in the Arab World

-Research on women and the public sphere

-Research on economic empowerment and participation

-Women and the general cultural sphere

-Feminist studies on political participation

-Women and politics through case studies.

A question of understanding, a question of inquiry and a question of apprehension:

MERC coordinator, Dr. Abdelwahab Benhafaiedh inaugurated the meeting by welcoming the participants and saying that they were invited to respond to queries of understanding, inquiry and



Mahasen Ahmed
- Syria -



Aicha Ettaieb
- Tunisia -



Boutheina Cheriet
- Algeria -



Samir Hassan
- Syria -

The Bloudan meeting was an invitation to undertake a critical reading of what has been written on women and the public sphere in the Arab world and identify the existing gaps and areas that have not received sufficient attention, taking the following questions as its point of departure:

apprehension. The first question of understanding pertains to topic of the hour particularly the importance of the relationship between women in the Arab world and public sphere in the agendas of research and social sciences. He added that

participants were also responding to a question of inquiry because they needed to create a methodological distance that avoids passing

judgments or endorsing pre-designed analytical tools and pre-conceptualized concepts. He said that we need to stop and take stock of the concepts that are exported to us or cloned by international consultancy offices and research laboratories.

Benhafaideh said: Participation is a concept; empowerment is a concept and private and public spheres are concepts. Each concept in social sciences has a life and a story and difficult translations from one language to the other. Concepts are part of discourse formations and are part as well of language and scientific speech and perhaps also of the prevailing and dominant cultural patterns. This reminds us of the statement of Heidegger: Are we playing with concepts or are concepts playing with us?

Because we want to understand first before we interpret or make judgments, the title of the meeting has been changed several times. Initially, the question was: why do we organize a seminar on women and the public sphere while in fact different aspects of this topic have been discussed before in previous meetings and seminars. Are we about to repeat what has already been said?

equal the number of male applicants and award winners.

-The feminization of graduate study in social sciences in the Arab world and the increase in number of female students.

-The numerical increase in number of reports and university dissertations on the participation of women in the public sphere which we know little about.

Finally, Benhafaideh expressed his belief that women's participation in the public sphere is a question of apprehension because it is hard to subject it to a quantitative approach since researchers in the region need to view matters from the inside: a regard that is close to the social scene and not subject to theoretical moulds – an academic image that is as independent and as liberated as possible from the usual paradigms. This is why, according to Benhafaideh, it is important to view with apprehension the reports issued by governmental and non governmental organizations and international institutions including the UN Human Development Reports. In this connection, he also emphasized multi disciplinary and analytical approaches to research.



Yasmine Berriane
- Morocco -



Insaf Ahmad
- Syria -



Rima sabban
- Lebanon -



Youssef Brik
- Syria -

This desire on the part of MERC to understand resulted in linking the topic of women and public sphere to the development of scientific research and improvement of research capabilities, one of MERC's principal goals, using the following indicators:

-The rise in number of women researchers in social sciences in MERC's two research rounds last year to

Criticizing what we wrote and will write:

Dr. Wadouda Badran, the secretary general of the Arab Women Organization said in her word that the Arab scene is witnessing increased interest in women issues. An increasing number of papers and studies are published on the topic and so is also the large interest shown by the UN and its

different organization and NGOs, both regional and international, in women's issues.

Badran inquired about the increasing intellectual and research interest in women and its level of authenticity and to what degree it is scientific. She also emphasized the ability of these writings to develop into an appropriate base for a genuine social and cultural transformation in the Arab society. She considered the strong link between scientific research and society as a national need and priority in light of the urgent requirement for development on all levels. Scientific research is needed to offer a sincere reading of reality and to suggest the best ways to change. With regard to the topic of women, there is a strong need for serious trends of research that deal realistically with women's issues in a way that places women in the right place in society and reflect their needs and demands as human being, citizens and important members of the family and society.

She finally asserted that the Bloudan seminar is important in that it represents a critical pause towards reviewing research on women's issues in

Dr. Buchra Kanafani from Syria, considered this first meeting a proof of the soundness condition of scientific research on women, given the decision of the organizers not to repeat what earlier research has said. She added that it is crucial that such a critical stock-taking process takes place time and again in order to review what has been said and done.

The logic of the academy and the logic of reports: The first session under Dr. Wadouda Badran dealt with the methodologies of national and international reports on the empowerment of women. The first paper by Boutheina Cherait (University of Algiers) addressed how national reports are drafted. She explained that all the laws on family and women are derived in the Algerian case from different interpretations of the Islamic Sharia. She also said that despite the presence of a civil society in Algeria, no systematic study of the issue of women participation and empowerment has taken place. It is interesting, says Cherait, that in academia, the issue of women's participation in the public sphere is dealt with from a technical point of view i.e. the analytical perspective of



Sawsen Zakzak
- Syria -



Louloua Awadhi
- Bahrein -



Yasmine Ibrahim
- Egypt -



Sonia Amdouni
- France -

the Arab world in order to explore all its aspects – all its areas of strength and weakness, its share of authenticity and depth as well as sensitivity to cultural and social reality and identity. It will crucial to question how to rationalize research and guide it towards sound accumulation that could create a sophisticated scientific culture capable of spreading a social culture that carries new and constructive thought for the promotion of women.

Habermas. From that perspective, the talk about women and the public sphere becomes very close to the narration of Sheherzade to Shehryar in the Baghdadi society i.e. a society where freedom did not exist. This explains the logical departure from the Habermas theory. To talk and to dialogue is not important. More important is what to say what kind of dialogue to conduct.

The second paper presented by Mohamed Gowaily, included an analytical review of the

report issued by the Arab Institute for Human Rights based in Tunis, which included a detailed presentation of Arab women's political participation in the following Arab countries: Sudan, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, Jordan, Yemen, Kuwait and Lebanon.

The researcher explains how the report team presented a historical and legal account of women's participation in political life without describing the obstacles facing this participation and confining them to religious impediments. He also observed that most of the qualitative studies end with the statement that qualitative studies are absent and there is no description of participation sites. There are no studies on political behavior

Arous Zubeir from the Center of Applied Economic Studies in Algiers spoke about the UN Human Development Report on the empowerment of Arab women. He noted that the results of the report have been an accredited reference in scientific research in the region particularly MA students. This poses new challenges of research methodology. How can lesson be derived from consultancy work. Moreover, statistics deal only

response to Cherait's presentation that the latter's experience as minister in the Algerian cabinet then her sudden resignation could become a research topic in itself and she would have liked to listen to this experience and to how a woman can voluntarily relinquish participation. She mentioned that the phenomenon of Arab women relinquishing political responsibilities is an individual phenomenon but worth studying.

Dr. Ahmed Zayed from Egypt pointed to a number of topics that could become future research areas particularly those related to women's participation in public sphere, which the three papers did not refer to.

Islah Jad said that the figures referred to in the seminar are not accurate and that the Arab countries are divided into two camps each of which presents conflicting and contradictory figures. This explains the lack of credibility of the reports.

Sawsan Zakzak from the university of Damascus said that the three papers have overlooked a very important methodological issue and that is the need



Wael Zakar
- Syria -



Arous Zoubir
- Algeria -



Mohamad Jouili
- Tunisia -



Mostapha Attir
- Libya -

with urban women to the exclusion of rural women. Women in the Algerian rural areas, for example, have no social existence, not to mention political influence. The UN reports, he concluded, have been issued to confront society and not political institutions and have placed its writers in confrontation with society and its traditional institutions.

Commenting on the above papers, Amal Abidy from the University of Benghazi, Libya said in

for more in depth studies. She questioned whether this issue is posed in the context of an Islamic society or an Islamic state or another context all together. This, she said, is important in order to determine the meaning of the citizenship we aspire for. In other words: what are the referents of women's citizenship and what exactly is meant by empowerment?

Research contexts:

Lolwa al Awady from Bahrain and member of the executive council of the AWO chaired the session which included four papers as follows:

Hayam Bashour from Syria who evaluated studies on violence in Syria

Hind Mustafa AWO, Cairo, presented a paper on violence against women between the public and the private spheres.

Sawsan Zakzak, Syria, presented a paper on women's movement in the Syrian society.

The third session was headed by Boutheina Cherait, University of Algiers. The papers presented during the session were as follows:

Aicha El Taib (Tunisia-Egypt) presented the case of research on women's black market activities

Saniya El Amdouny (CNRS, Paris) presented a paper on women and the public sphere through the department of general services

Yasmin Ibrahim from the New Woman's Organization in Egypt presented a paper on women's participation in trade unions in the Egyptian society.

orientations. Saniya Amdouni and Yasmin Ibrahim attempted to address the question of women's participation in the management of public services in the first case in Tunisia and in the second, trade unions in Egypt. Rima al Sabban from Lebanon questioned whose sphere is the public sphere? She emphasized the importance of studying the topic of domestic workers in the Gulf countries because of its importance in determining the structure of the Gulf society on one hand and the human and family relations i.e. the private sphere on the other hand.

Towards a regional research agenda:

The renewal of research agenda on women's empowerment was a dominant issue in the following session headed by Ahmed Zayed, Cairo University. The following papers were discussed:

Ensaf Ahmed, Damascus University on women in the religious discourse

Al Sadek Korchid, Zeytouna university, Women in Islamic electronic websites

Arous Zubair, CREAD, Algiers, women's



Ahmad Zayed
- Egypt -



Amal Oubeidi
- Libya -



Sadak Korchid
- Tunisia -



Raymon Maloli
- Syria -

The first paper addressed two important elements. The first was the approach towards scientific and research products by women in their close relationship to the socio-historic and intellectual context generated from within. The idea, from this perspective, according to the researcher, is to raise questions and not to present answers about the status of women in social research in the Arab world.

The second element is how to monitor what is being said and written on the level of Arab universities. The researcher examined more than 1800 Ph.D. dissertations to determine their general

participation through Islamic revivalism. Through a detailed examination of the impact of religious discourse on women, Dr. Ensaf Ahmed attempted to define the role that social sciences could play to resolve the conflict between religious and „„„„, mazhabi thought. Dr. Korchid reviewed a sample of electronic websites that have religious and fundamentalist tendencies saying that women are a topic and not an actor or producer of these websites, which reduces their importance as public sphere. Arous Zubair addressed women and political Islam explaining that the issue has to be addressed from its dynamic angles and not merely as a question of

slogans. During the fifth session Ahmed Zayed talked about "women and civil society: case study of the production of scientific knowledge". He explained how most of the research studies were conducted in response to an international agenda like those produced by the World Bank, the UN and international feminist organizations reflecting on the local study of the following topics: (Empowerment, Participation, Gender studies.)

He called for a local agenda that responds to local needs and realities. The same comment was made by Raymond Maloul, University of Damascus, who

presented a paper on the empowerment of women in Syria. Islah Jad spoke about women's right and the concept of citizenship in the Arab world. She concluded that active citizenship has been associated in our region with the encouragement of voluntary activities. This happened in Latin America

as a result of the alliance between the left and the Catholic church. This context gave rise to the empowerment discourse. She mentioned, however, that the achievement of full citizenship in the Arab world requires an overall process of reform that includes the citizenship of both men and women which again requires work with different social groups and forces.

Analysis from below:

Dr. Abdel Kader Abdulla (the United Arab Emirates University) chaired the session which included papers by Mustafa Al Tir (Libya) on the position of the Libyan women towards equality in light of the findings of a survey undertaken recently, and Dr. Yasmin Brian on "women and political life in Morocco: towards the diversification of approaches". In the first stage, the researcher examined the scientific production of women in the public sphere since the 1990s trying to understand who decided on the topics and analyses

over that period of time. In the second stage, she undertook a critical bibliographic study and discovered two things: the exaggerated emphasis on the so called liberated feminist organizations and secondly and the researchers' concern with the presence of women on the national level without

Bloudan Agenda

Women's Studies and Public Sphere

In cooperation with the Arab Women Organization in Cairo and the Syrian Family Authority in Damascus, MERC organized a round-table discussion on the "Women and Public sphere: Empowerment and Participation in Social Sciences" in July 2007. The meeting took place in Bloudan near the Syrian Lebanese borders. The topic of the meeting falls within MERC interests that recognize the importance of the empowerment of Arab women and the development of research on public sphere. At the end of the meeting, participants suggested five recommendations which included the following:

- To promote research in the field of *Women's Studies and Public Sphere*
- To focus on conceptual frameworks and give priority to comparative and fundamental research
- To allocate an annual fellowship for the purpose of encouraging research and PhD theses in the field of *Women's Studies and Public Sphere*
- To ensure the continuity of the debate that began in Bloudan through forums provided by MERC
- To plan and organize future events

paying attention to the local specificity of the issues under discussion. Given the absence of the local dimension and the approach from below, the researcher remarked that this absence runs in line with the focus on the limited dimensions of the feminist movement. She also noted the dominant trend of neglecting famous women in the mass media who contribute to the national sphere as well as liberated women. There is a noticeable absence of a comprehensive approach that sees things from below.

MERC Research Competition Grantees

MERC Research Awards (Cycle 1)

July 2006

Asya EL Meehy
(Egypt)

Informatizing public welfare role of Egypt's SFD

Fatma Nevra
(Turkey)

The headscarf ban in the Turkish University

Mai Izeldine Osman
(Sudan)

Gender gap in political participation in Sudan
(women in Parliament) : The Quota system, sudan

Noureddine Aloui
(Tunisia)

Sociological Impact of Desert tourism : A study of
the phenomenon of tourist marriage, Tunisia

Maher El Hashweh
(Palestine)

The development of university students ,
understanding of democracy, Palestine

Hassane Mouri & Senim ben Abdallah
(Tunisia)

Youth participation and citizenship in Tunisia

Omran Mohamed El Kip & Hassan Belhadj
(Tunisia, Libya)

Pedagogical features of environmental citizenship
in institutions, clubs and associations in Tunisia
and Lybia.

**Sidi Mohamed Wild El Jid, Aïcha Taieb, Aïcha
B.Messaoud & Naima Nassib**

(Tunisia, Lybia, Mauritania, Algeria)

Woman and un-codified work in errigular work in
the Magreb: the case of informal trade among
women, Mauritania, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria

Leila Bouasria
(Morocco)

Female workers in morocco as heads of
households: effect on autonomy

MERC Research Awards (Cycle 2)

December 2006

Saieb Musette

(Algeria)

Sociological approach of migrant's transfers behaviors

Ipek Tureli

(Turkey)

Istanbul Open City: Exhibiting anxieties of urban modernity

Mohammad Saadi & Rasheed El Idrissy

(Morocco)

The crisis of political participation among youth and the vulnerability of partisan politics in Morocco: An attempt at diagnosis and exploration

Bouchra Khaoua

(Morocco)

The promotion of Women's status in Morocco between the imperatives of compliance to international standards and the Islamic referential frame, Morocco

Adel Belkahla

(Tunisia)

The left, *Al Zanyya* and the tribe:

Trends of convergence and dissonance between the leftist and Sufi movements in local Tunisian society

Laroussi Amri

(Tunisia)

Donation, reciprocity and subsistence/ livelihood: Tunisia North-West rural communities

Najet Mohammad Khalil Sayem

(Yemen)

The solution -The crisis :

Al Qat get-togethers in the experience of Yemeni youth

MERC Research Awards (Cycle 3)

July 2007

Utku Balaban

(Turkey)

Space of Production:

Local and global effects on the industrial coordination in the MENA region

Nour Abou Assab

(Jordan)

Circassian in the ages of nation-states:

Stateless entities, banal nationalism in the light of “Jordan Fist”

Ibrahim Makawi

(Palestine)

Formal education and national identity among Palestinian students in Israel

Chokri Al fidha, Dhia Bouabene, anissa Mtimet

(Tunisia)

Pedagogic utilisation of Information technologies in social sciences :

Comparative study between Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt and turkey

Olfa Riahi

(Tunisia)

Dynamics of the geomorphological scene and evolution of a recent naturally arid environment:

The region of Haddej – Bou Hedma (Southern Tunisia)

Seda Demiralp

(Turkey)

The periphery’s march to the center and moderation of Islamist and Kurdish movements in Turkey

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

December 2007

Research awards competition

MERC is pleased to announce the third round of research awards and invites proposals from qualified researchers. Deadline for receiving proposals in their final form is **October 31, 2007**. While open to all research ideas and topics, the program encourages rigorous applications that apply social science methodologies and theories particularly in the following areas:

- **Public life:** public interest and the public sphere, including the development of public life in societies under study and enhancement of opportunities of public participation for all social groups with emphasis on women and youth
- **Development:** Research on various aspects of development, both local and national, i.e., sustainable development, social change and governance
- **Knowledge and educational capacities:** Research on educational capacities and socialization, including citizenship, educational policy, use of IT, academic curricula, and the role of various actors in field of education.
- Social issues, including research on gender, the family, old age, and childhood, socialisation, social reproduction and social mobility
- **Regional and international relations:** This includes research on economic and diplomatic relations, post-conflict situations, the psychological and political impact of conflicts and the rehabilitation of victims of conflict.

Scientific Committee

MERC is guided by a multi-disciplinary scientific selection committee composed of five scholars from the region with established research and publication records as well as experience in regional research and teaching. All selections for research awards are made by the Scientific Committee, which also makes recommendations concerning the topical orientation and activities of the program.

Members of the Scientific Committee serve on a rotating basis and previous committee members play a vital role in extending the MERC network and facilitating communication and feedback.

Eligibility

Residents of Arab countries and Turkey are eligible to apply for the awards and to participate in the activities of the program. Residents are persons of any nationality whose current and planned future place of professional practice is in the region. Temporary residence outside the region for purposes of

advanced study does not preclude eligibility. Research proposals may include non-residents as co-investigators. Old awardees of MERC are not eligible

Research Awards

Research Awards are intended for scholars with previous successful research experience in any social science field. Ph.D. holders in the early stages of their professional careers are especially encouraged to apply. For exceptionally strong cases, research awards may also be made for Ph.D. dissertation research in the region by students from the region. In the case of projects involving team research, the principal investigator must have a Ph.D. degree.

Final Proposal

Proposals can be submitted in Arabic, French, or English. Only fully developed proposals are forwarded to the Scientific Committee. Final proposals should include all information and details necessary for the Scientific Committee to understand the research ideas and plans. Every proposal should be self contained and not dependent on supporting documents unless they are enclosed (e.g., papers or articles of the principal investigator). A final proposal should not exceed 20 typed double-spaced pages in length. Additional pages are needed for an abstract, time-line, budget, and curriculum vitae of all proposed project members.

No special forms are used to submit proposals. The following checklist is suggested in order to help the applicant prepare a complete proposal. Proposals must be submitted in Times New Roman, 12-point font. Electronic (email) submissions are strongly encouraged.

I. The body of the proposal should discuss fully the following issues:

- a. The main objectives of the proposed research.
- b. The theoretical framework of the proposed research, with sufficient reference to the state of the art, and the possible contributions of the proposed research to the discipline.
- c. A literature review, including an evaluation of previous research on the subject and current gaps. The review of the literature should demonstrate the applicant's knowledge of international as well as regional research on the subject.

It is particularly important to identify the contribution of the proposed research to the current state of scholarship on the region. Quotations and bibliographic references should be fully documented.

- d. The methodology that will be used to investigate the objectives of the research, including methods for data collection and analysis. For field data collection, the researcher's prospects for obtaining necessary permits should be addressed. For secondary analysis, sources of information or data and their accessibility to the investigators should also be identified in the proposal.

II. In addition to the above, the proposal must address the following issues:

- e. Significance of the expected results and its public policy implications.
- f. Plans for the write-up and dissemination of research results.
- g. Provisions made for the protection of human subjects, obtaining informed consent and the protection of confidentiality as well as an assessment of the impact of probable findings. These should be discussed in conformity with the ethical guidelines of each discipline.
- h. Utilization of existing research facilities at the researcher's institution or other institutions.

III. The proposal must contain the following appendices:

1. **Appendix 1:** An abstract for the proposal (not more than 250 words)
2. **Appendix 2:** Time-Line: A time-line for the research project, outlining the unfolding of the proposed research in reasonable detail. The research duration usually ranges between 12 to 18 months.
3. **Appendix 3.** Budget Request: The budget should be reflective of the extent of fieldwork and number of researchers

Investigators and personnel should be listed by position or task, giving for each person the time commitment (percentage of time allocated to the project) and time-rates of compensation (how financial compensation is calculated for tasks performed). Budget items may include purchase of specifically identified research equipment, travel and transportation costs, stipends, technical assistance, stationery and other supplies.

Awards are usually made in the range of US\$ 5,000 to US \$ 15,000. In the case of awards for team research or to institutions, there is an allowable maximum of US \$ 35,000.

The budget should clearly indicate whether other sources of funding are already available or have been applied for and which items would be fully or partially covered by other sources.

4. A curriculum vitae with a list of publications for every investigator is required.
5. For a proposal from a graduate student for support of Ph.D. dissertation research in the region, at least one letter of evaluation and support of the student and the project by a dissertation supervisor is required.



Deadlines

Final and complete research proposals are due on **October 31, 2007**.

A response from the MERC Secretariat can be expected four weeks after the meeting of the Scientific Committee. Inquiries can be submitted at any time and MERC will be pleased to examine and comment on draft research proposals received not later than six weeks before the final deadline.

Applications and/or inquiries about the competition should be addressed to:

MERC PROGRAM

CENTRE D' ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES ECONOMIQUES ET SOCIALES

23 Rue d'Espagne

Tunis- Tunisie

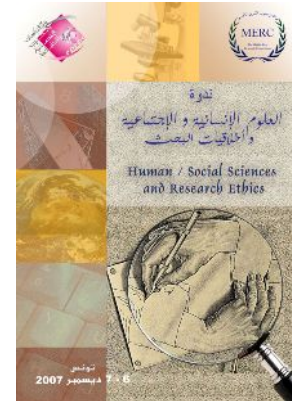
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Human / Social Sciences and Research Ethics

MERC-CERES

Tunis 6-7 December 2007



Human and social sciences are facing nowadays the challenges of their continuous spread in the knowledge spheres, the highly increasing number of researchers, and the rise in the data transmission and piracy through the multiplicity of electronic resources. Scientific research quality measures and professional behaviour charter are among these challenges as well.

It is worth mentioning that it is uncommon to tackle issues such as the relationship between researchers and research supervisors, the evaluation, the competition and the right of scientific divide. These are very important topics that a number of opponents and competitors carry out and which sometimes create tension and confusion regarding the classical resources difficulty to adapt to the growing social and academic developments.

The main difficulty that has to be studied in this context however is the freedom to put a research agenda and choose topics that have priority. Given the fact that the research topic is generally the first step which shapes the researcher's professional career, does this choice concern only the research supervisor or does the researcher have a say in it? On which grounds does this occur (personal interests, availability of resources, teamwork exigencies, employment market)? What are the supervisory and administrative conditions -this task that costs the person in charge time and energy? Do professional behaviour ethics necessitate the follow-up of researcher's steps so that he/she can promote his/her work on the international level or are there any other objectives? What would make it possible to survey all scientific piracy trials which are common these days? Given the fact that legislations and academic traditions necessitate the participation of examiners to ensure the quality of all sorts of scientific outputs (dissertations, papers, books, etc.), does the scientific

evaluation play the role of a safety valve to guarantee the level's development towards the best? These issues as well as others may be addressed.

The themes of the conference can be summed up as follows:

- Elaboration of research projects and setting up of their agendas
- Plagiarism and the ethics of resources usage
- Evaluation and peer-reviews
- Ethical bases of competition, and scientific divide.

Deadline for sending proposals:

31 October 2007

Contact:

MERC PROGRAM

CENTRE D' ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES ECONOMIQUES ET SOCIALES

23 Rue d'Espagne

Tunis- Tunisie

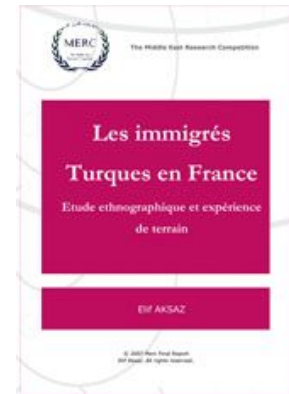
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Awarded By MERC

Les immigrés Turques en France (Turkish immigrants in France)

Elif Aksaz



Abstract

This is an ethnographic study that rests upon a fieldwork on the Turkish immigrant families in France. In the latter, the assimilation criteria (in general for the rural population immigration which is a recent phenomenon) are considered as "alarming" and "abating" condition for the French society. Hence, this research is interested in the subjective dimensions of the behaviours of the Turkish families whop reside in France, and it seeks to understand the meaning that their practices reveal for them, and which ones that cannot be included if we neglect what is going on in the emigrants' neighbourhoods. Thus, this fieldwork has been conducted in both areas of the migratory phenomenon, of the immigration country (France) and the emigration one (Turkey).

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Upcoming Activities

Workshop / Training Cycles

❖ SPSS and Methods of Quantitative Investigation	January 2008
❖ Qualitative Methods of Analysis in Social Sciences: TROPES	February 2008
❖ How to "Write" and "Rewrite" Proposals	April 2008
❖ Rethinking social well-being in the Arab world	May 2008

Conferences

❖ Ethic and Social Science	December 2007
❖ Research in Social Science and new information technologies in the Arab world and Turkey	December 2008



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