Revisiting Colonized Morocco: New Approaches and Recent Trends

In the field of Modern North African studies in the last decades, the history of colonized Morocco has suffered from the boom of research dealing with Algeria, especially in the French academia; and to add to that, Spanish colonialism in the Northern zone occupies a marginal position in the field of Moroccan studies. A series of recent works tend to make this assertion evolve: this interdisciplinary panel aims to make new trends visible and to create an international space for reflection on Moroccan history in connexion to the Spanish protectorate and its legacies.

The communications will focus on the colonial and postcolonial history of Spanish colonialism in Morocco, with a set of questions linked to its distinctive features, peculiarities and long-term consequences in the global history of Modern North Africa. Moroccan Nationalism in the Spanish Protectorate is still underestimated while it proved crucial for Moroccan national emancipation. Its significance in the history of the national movement needs to be reassessed, as a “hub of transnational anti-colonial activism” (Stenner). Spanish colonial administration, while presenting itself as liberal and more open-minded than its French neighbour, even playing on the sense of a supposed “Hispano-Arab fraternity”, proved ambivalent. The policy towards the press published in Arabic is a relevant case study in this framework, as it navigated between tolerance and repression (Velasco de Castro). The Spanish colonial policies regarding colonized populations, and notably the Jewish minority, is also an interesting point to study as “Hispano-Arab fraternity” rhetoric coexisted with “philo-Sephardism”. The relationships and conflicts between Moroccan Muslims and Jews reveal an entangled picture of loyalties and competition in context of growing international tensions (Marynower). Finally, the Spanish-Moroccan relationship will be analysed in the perspective of cultural legacy, considering language as a bridge between both sides of the Strait of Gibraltar (Rojas-Marcos).

Responsables : Claire Marynower (Sciences Po Grenoble, Pacte), Rocío Velasco de Castro (Université de Estrémadure)

Liste des intervenants : Claire Marynower, Rocío Velasco de Castro, David Stenner, Albert Rocío Rojas-Marcos
Rocío Velasco de Castro (Universidad de Extremadura)

**Nationalist Press in Spanish Morocco: an overview (1934-1956)**

From 1934, the Spanish colonial authorities allowed a nationalist press to be published in northern Morocco. This paper provides an approach of the nationalist newspapers published in Arabic under the Spanish protectorate, highlighting the strategic use of the freedom of press by the Moroccan nationalists, who tried to find a balance between freedom and censorship as a way to express some of their political claims. For this purpose, a historical overview shall be drawn including a list of publications, its main editorial lines, and some examples of political and social chronicles. This paper will also address the question of Spain’s ambivalent policy towards nationalism.

David Stenner (Christopher Newport University)

**Globalizing Morocco: Transnational Activism and the Making of the Post-Colonial State**

This paper examines how the activists of the *Istiqlal* (Independence) Party conducted a worldwide propaganda campaign, which contributed to the abolishing of the French and Spanish protectorates in 1956. Organized around offices in New York, Paris, and Cairo, the nationalists successfully created an international network of supporters that helped them present their case before world public opinion during the early Cold War and convince the UN to deal with the status of Morocco. Their heterogenous alliance consisting of US politicians, French socialists, Catholic intellectuals, Asian diplomats, Chilean businessmen, CIA agents, Egyptian Islamists, British journalists and many others successfully delegitimized the European colonial project on the global stage. I argue that the very structure of the nationalists’ nonhierarchical propaganda network allowed them to prevail against the colonizers, but also enabled King Mohammed V to dismantle it after independence and transform the Istiqlal from the ruling into an opposition party. Its informal nature constituted an advantage at first, but eventually turned into a serious liability, as the competition for control of the levers of power intensified. Furthermore, the social capital, which the nationalists had acquired during their campaign abroad, strengthened the king’s hand once he had coopted many of the network’s participants, thus laying the foundation for the pro-Western authoritarian monarchy that persists until today.

Utilizing methods developed by Social Network Analysis, my presentation demonstrates how non-state Third World actors contributed to the formation of the post-1945 world order. Furthermore, it studies the formation of the post-independence Moroccan state not as a radical rupture, but rather as having emerged out of the dynamics of the global liberation struggle. The project is based on research in twenty-three different archives in Morocco, France, Spain, the United States, and Great Britain.

Albert Rocío Rojas-Marcos (Universidad de Sevilla)

**Spanish as a literary language in Morocco: a way of cultural approach**

The Spanish-Moroccan relationship analysed under the cultural legacy perspective offers us some unusual aspects of study if the object of this study is the Spanish language as a main link of these relationships. The language as a bridge between both sides of the Strait of Gibraltar brings us the possibility to interpret the reality of a constant coexistence as neighbors. The result is an intercultural approach with precise consequences in the daily life reality: Literature. The analysis of this work will be based on primary sources like the short story «La Resaca» by the Moroccan writer Ahmed Ararou¹, as well as the poetry book *Estrecheños*, an anthology edited by the poet Farid Othman-Bentria².

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