



## VI INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM 2025 (2<sup>nd</sup> Circular, Cotonou, Benin)

Organized by the Groupe de Recherche et d'Études Latino-américaines (ED-SCALL/EA-PAMELCHID) of Félix Houphouët-Boigny University (Ivory Coast), the Laboratoire de Recherche Retrospective-Afrique and the Groupe de Recherche sur l'Afrique et la Diaspora (EDP-ECD) of the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin), in collaboration with the Cátedra Unesco de Estudios Afroiberoamericanos of Alcalá University (Spain); the Groupe de Recherche et d'Études sur les Noir-e-s d'Amérique Latine (GRENAL-Axe Sociétés, Langages et Mobilités/CRESEM) of Perpignan University (France), the Laboratoire d'Étude des Migrations Africaines (LemAfriQ) based in Madrid (Spain), the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (Brazil) and the Asociación de Estudios Americanos del Principado de Asturias, Oviedo University (Spain).

**Date:** Monday 24 – Saturday 29 November 2025

**Venue:** University of Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou, Benin

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### **Canons, libraries and african and afrodiaporic heritages: between reconfigurations, emergences and dissidences (19th-21st centuries)**

*Nous les peu  
Nous les rien  
Nous les Nègres  
Qu'attendons-nous  
Pour jouer aux fous  
Contre la vie stupide et bête  
Qui nous est faite*

Léon Gontran Damas « Nous les gueux » (Poème)

In general, what takes the place of “canon” (corpus, practices, hegemonic visions, international mediations, civilizational prisms, periodizations, agents, diffusion, price, etc.), whatever the fields of knowledge, of understanding, competence and the experiences that are considered, raises at least three related questions. That of its genesis and institution; that of the models plebiscited and instituted to follow absolutely, even to duplicate or “mimic”. To this is added the question of the hermeneutic, socio-political and imaginary effects of consecration and/or symbolic disqualification, exclusion and political erasure that inevitably engender the «canon», in its existence and perpetuation. Without any exclusivity, the “libraries” (V. Mudimbe) African, Afro-European and African-American have suffered, and still suffer in different ways, the effects of the Euro-Occidental “canon”, Arab-Muslim, Asian. It is the case in literature, arts, historiography, philosophy, fashion, education, forms of social organization and political struggle, memorial practices, worship, cultural and religious practices, in the places of enunciation, the practices of transmission, museification and archiving, not forgetting the channels of knowledge, symbolic, racial and cultural capital, etc.

The unending link between these three questions requires recognizing that the “canon” is endowed with a symbolic power, socio-political and imaginary recognition and indisputable institution. In the light of history, it is equally undeniable that the institution/naturalization of a





“canon” is always and already subject to the emergence of counter-models, unlabeled or catalogable, which constantly contest its legitimacy and hegemony. There is also that the “canon”, or the canonical readings, practices and visions, hardly escapes the work of the social and critical time bearing demands for renewal and fair representativeness. Moreover, the “canon” is equally confronted with the emergence of new subjects and new epistles which aim less, in principle, to transfigure the Being-“canon” or to constitute itself as a “new canon” than to propose or generate visions and practices, hope, transformative, liberating and inclusive.

The next edition of the International Colloquium in Abidjan (2025), relocated for the first time to Cotonou (Benin), has as its fundamental objective to question what “canon” means in a “global moment” that would plead, apparently, for the dilution or dislocation and contestation in all directions of everything that, from near or far, is akin to the institution of a “canon”.

At the last edition of the Abidjan Colloquium (2023), it was agreed during the General Assembly that beyond anathemas and sweeping judgements, questions relating to “canon” and multiple effects should be addressed to the “Afro scene”, namely the experiences and socio-cultural, intellectual, political, artistic, imaginary African, Afro-American, Afro-Caribbean and diasporic experiences and formations. Obviously the “Afro scene” is not closed on itself. On the contrary, it is open and crossed by the rustling and contradictions of the “*Tout-Monde*” (E. Glissant) of which it is part while being a carrier of specificities, aspirations and legitimate differentiated struggles. Do the experiences, formations and productions of “Afro”, at large, escape the effects of “canon” in their existence, emergence, commitments, perceptions and circulation?

We are waiting for multidisciplinary proposals of communication, based on a reflection of concepts, theories, methods and sources. These proposals should focus on imaginary and political issues in the fields of humanities, literature, art (cinema, painting, music, living arts), history, sociology, philosophy, etc.

The Colloquium, within the framework of the second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025-2034), is mainly addressed to researchers, scholars, doctoral students and collectives who place the issues at the heart of their debates, questions and struggles

The discussion will be structured around fourteen main axes, which are —not exhaustive—:

1. Epistemocentrism: Local production of knowledge/Knowledge
2. Educations/Pedagogies
3. Teaching and research programs
4. Philosophies/Literatures
5. Endogenous oral resources
6. Museology/Arts: Practices
7. Historiographies/Cartographies
8. Cyber-activism/social and political movements
9. Cultural practices/Religious practices
10. Sexualities/Corporalities: dissidences, reconfigurations
11. Afro ecological humanities
12. Cultural Modes and Reappropriation
13. Memorial Expressions/Commemorations
14. Knowledge Ecology/Epistemic Justice





## **SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

**Languages of the Symposium:** French, Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Proposals for papers should be sent jointly to the following addresses: **kontnon@gmail.com** and **medenoubasile@gmail.com**

The scientific council reserves the right to accept proposals.

They should include: Name and surname, institution, e-mail address, title of proposal, summary of 250 words and a brief bibliographical reference. All proposals must be original and unpublished.

**PD:** The Proceedings of the Colloquium will be published, according to the publishing standards available on the GRELAT website (<https://grelat-ufhb.org>), after a selection of texts by anonymous **evaluators** at the international level.

**Deadline for submission of proposals:** February 28, 2025

**Notification of acceptance:** before March 31, 2025

**Confirmation of attendance deadline:** May 31, 2025

**Registration deadline:** July 31, 2025

## **REGISTRATION (MANDATORY AND INDIVIDUAL)**

- **Researchers, Professors, PhD:** 30.000 Francs CFA (50 euros/55 USD)
- **Collectives:** 30.000 Francs CFA (50 euros/55 USD)
- **PhD Candidates:** 10.000 Francs CFA (20 euros/22 USD)
- **Students (MA):** 5.000 Francs CFA (10 euros/12 USD)

\* **These fees cover participant's kit, attendance certificate, coffee, and lunches. Accompanying persons and auditors who wish to benefit from these advantages will be subject to the same conditions as the attendees.**

\* **Payment will be made in local currency FCFA —Benin currency— (upon arrival for foreigners) at Cotonou to Dr Patrick Adjivessodé (Tel: +22941564309/+22994586999), Dr Nathalie A. Aguessy (Tel: +22997016635/+22995858485) and to Prof. Kouamé N'Guessan Estelle at Abidjan (Tel: +225 0788303641/+225 0505786074).**

\***To obtain the "Attendance Certificate", one must have attended at least 85 percent of all the total sessions.**

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Duration of Exposés:** Each exposé will last 25 minutes (to be honored).

**Travel and accommodation:** Each participant is responsible for the costs of travel and accommodation. Bellow you have the references of the standardized hotels with international norms chosen by the organization. A member of the organization will be at the airport to welcome you.





- **RÉSIDENCE GRAINES DE PAIX (GRATITUDE)**

Tel: +229 0195959519

E-mail: zannoujules@yahoo.fr

Furnished studio (1 triple bed): 15 000 fcfa (23 euros / 25 USD)

Furnished apartment (2 bedrooms with 2 triple beds): 25 000 fcfa (39 euros / 43 USD)

Furnished apartment (4 bedrooms with 4 triple beds): 35 000 fcfa (54 euros / 59 USD)

- ❖ Method of payment: cash or credit card
- ❖ Breakfast not included in the nightly rate: 1 500 cfa (2.5 euros / 2.7 USD)

- **JECO HOTEL**

Tel: +229 0166693290

E-mail: jecohotel@yahoo.fr

Standard room (1 double bed): 10 000 fcfa (16 euros / 18 USD)

Standard room (1 double bed): 17 000 fcfa (26 euros / 28 USD)

Standard room (1 triple bed): 35 000 fcfa (54 euros / 59 USD)

- ❖ Method of payment: cash, mobile money transfer
- ❖ Breakfast not included in the nightly rate: 2 000 cfa (3 euros / 3.3 USD)

- **PARADISIA HOTEL**

Tel: +229 0196 97 57 57 / +229 0167521212

Email: reservations@paradisiahotel.bj

Standard room (1 double bed): 40 000 fcfa (61 euros / 66 USD)

Standard room (1 double bed): 45 000 fcfa (69 euros / 75 USD)

Standard room (1 triple bed): 60 000 fcfa (92 euros / 100 USD)

- ❖ Method of payment: card, bank transfer, cash
- ❖ Breakfast included

These hotels are recommended by the organisers for its proximity to the conference venue, availability of Wi-Fi and security. The hotels do not have an airport shuttle service, so you will have to take a taxi at your own expense.

\*Please, communicate your dates, flights, arrival and departure times to Mr. Kochare Placide (**pkochare5@gmail.com, Tel: +229 0195191142/+229 0141174121**) and Mr. Lalékou Laurent (**fohundy08042013@gmail.com, Tel: +225 0777814546/+225 0152497432**) for the reservation of rooms.

**Restoration:** The restoration of the participants is supported exclusively at noon. The hotels has restaurant for evening meals. However, the organizing committee will propose to the guests group dinners in maquis (local restaurants) to share local dishes and local hospitality.

**Visa:** Once the registration to the Symposium is secured, you will receive a letter of invitation and addresses of the hotels for visa application—necessary to travel to Benin. You can get your Visa from beninese embassies and consulates (recommended). The processes for VISA can be found online at **https://evisa.bj/**. You do not need a visa if you are a citizen of any African country.

**Currency:** The CFA franc is the official currency of Benin (1 EUR = 655.957 CFA / 1 USD = 596.449 CFA). Conversions of currency can be done at the airport, banks, and hotels. **Participants from the Central African CFA zone will need to bring West African francs.**



**GRELAT**  
Groupe de Recherche et d'Études Latino-américaines



**Vaccines:** at Cotonou airport it is required to present the international mandatory yellow fever vaccination book. Extra vaccines recommended are: Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B, Typhoid, Tetanus, Meningitis. Also, anticipate anti-malaria treatments.

**Medical care insurance:** as comprehensive as possible, including medical evacuation in case of serious illness and, if necessary, possible repatriation of remains.

**Emergency contact:** provide the colloquium secretariat with the references of the person to contact in case of emergency.

## **COORDINATEURS**

Prof. Ferdinand Kpohoué (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)

Prof. Rogatien Tossou (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)

Dr (MC) Cossi Basile Médénou (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)

Dr (MC) Lalékou Kouakou Laurent (Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Ivory Coast)

Dr (MC) Koné Ténou (Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Ivory Coast)

## **ASSESSORS OF COORDINATION**

Prof. Jean-Arsène Yao (Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Ivory Coast)

Prof. Victorien Lavou Zougbo (Perpignan University, France)

Dr (MC) Luis Mancha San Esteban (Alcalá University, Spain)

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

### **1. RECEPTION - ACCOMMODATION**

KOCHARE Placide

Tel: +229 0195191142 / +229 0141174121

E-mail: pkochare5@gmail.com

LALÉKOU Kouakou Laurent

Tel: +225 0777814546/+225 0152497432

E-mail: fohundy08042013@gmail.com

### **2. RESTORATION**

AGUESSY Nathalie

Tel: +229 0197016635

E-mail: aguessynathalie@gmail.com / aguessynathalie@yahoo.fr

DJE Ana Maria

Tel: +225 0707453302/+225 0142101331

E-mail: djeanamaria@yahoo.fr

### **3. SECRETARIAT**

DOSSOUMOU Michel

Tel: +229 0195861099/+229 0196414549

E-mail: dossoumoumichel@gmail.com





KONE Ténou  
Tel: +225 0777100940/+225 0152497848  
E-mail: kontnon@gmail.com

#### 4. LOGISTICS

ADJIVESSODE Patrick  
Tel: +229 0194586999/ +229 0141564309  
E-mail : adjivessodejoel@gmail.com

CASSIEN Oscar Roméo  
Tel: +225 0707649499  
E-mail: oscar.cassien@gmail.com

