DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
BELHADJ Bouchaib University Centre Ain-Temouchent

The Institute of Letters and Languages
Laboratoire du Discours Communicatif Algérien Moderne
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Department of Letters and English
Organizes

The First National Conference

Crossing borders:
Language, Culture, and Identity

April 29th-30th, 2018

@ **Conference.cubbatang@gmail.com**

First National Conference
"Crossing borders: Language, Culture, and Identity"

April 29th-30th, 2018
BELHADJ Bouchaib University Centre, Ain-Temouchent

"Crossing Borders: Language, Culture, and Identity" is the first national conference that seeks to present new research results and approaches involved in "crossing borders." The latter might suggest many ideas, from geographical movements and transgressive behaviours to the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of identity.

The conference aims to bring together scholars and doctoral students to exchange and share researches in the various disciplinary fields, from arts, sociology, and politics to architecture and all the other fields concerned with the concept of identity.

"Crossing borders" helps shaping and creating identities and masks, violates codes and conducts while it respects traditions and mores. It deconstructs, moulds, and reconstructs new identities through the endless meanings of the word (and image). The word plays, cheats, deceives, pleases, implodes, and creates meanings and identities. But are these identities the same? Does identity change in a changing world? What is it and how is it represented? Dress and desire represent identity (Jennie Batchelor 2005), but this Identity also emerges from the interaction of spiritual topographies, geography and even metaphor (Jane Pettegree 2011). Identity has become even an ambiguous and slippery concept. It is perhaps the fluid identity (Zygmunt Bauman 2000) undergoing continual transformations in/of modern consumer society. Yet, these are mere examples to illustrate the concept of identity, as it has been argued from various perspectives stretching from race to ideology in this fast changing economic world and violent environment. The complexity to define identity seems to represent the complexity of modern life that carries opposing views and philosophical considerations thus producing an 'elusive' identity. The major problematic question that arises as an issue: why does identity matter in a world of violence, rapid economic growth, and a fast process of globalization? However, is identity always evasive and illusive in 'fluid' modernity? Besides, how can one move from an unstable identity, from the villain to the paranoid, the immoral to the abnormally not accepting the codes and prohibitions of a society? Identity has shifted from integrated to fragmented, as if Man has several and plural selves. Another yet movement from sanity to insanity is another source to transgression where folly in literary discourse can play a Promethean role. In the absence of Eros, madness and alienation invent masks while self/exile prevails. Art is another approach to tell Man about his origins and his identity. The essence of art is also to depict the fluidity of the Self and evasiveness. It is the mask of the unity of many selves. It is the mad who has several personalities without any monistic thinking. We can never grasp reality because everything is illusive. There is a wide range of multiple masks to perceive and conceive the world. The word wears the mask too. It casts chaos and deceives. It is the Deceiver. The word becomes a place of self-transformation and experiences endless transformations through the richness of meaning. The construction of identity looks improbable, and never allows the realization of the true self until chaos and /or illumination occurs. Meaning also unfolds after rituals of marriage, coupling

between word and referent; otherwise, it remains endlessly a wandering mad spirit. Madness can be both poetic and linguistic, and King Lear, who doubts his words after his daughters' betrayal; as words do not seem to have one trustworthy referent, seems to realize it when asking "who is that can tell me who I am?"

 Identity is a psychological, cultural and cognitive self-portrait. It encompasses the Self, the class, the community, and the ethnic group one belongs to. It either sets in harmony or struggle with the community based on the individual's convictions, beliefs, ideas and ideals.

Along these perplexing views, this conference aims at: 1. Exploring the sense of belonging and the identity construct from an individual/gender, social and national perspectives. 2. Evaluating the interaction between literature and identity. One of the main questions this conference would like to raise: why does identity matter? Why does it matter in a fast economic growth? Moreover, what does identity mean in a process of cultural encounter with the *Other* through a fast process of globalization*?* What does it mean while literature has universal aspirations? Is identity stable, fixed and constant or 'fluid' and constantly changing?

Of course, an invitation to various other disciplines, in addition to literary and linguistic fields, are welcome to gain and spread a broader sense of culture and its implications in the construction of identity. We thus welcome papers that investigate the role/s played by cultural, linguistic, social, psychological, political, artistic, religious and economic factors in the processes of shaping identity.

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- ➢ **Identity and space**: Identity and space, space and the body, national borders and identity, crossing borders and identity, exile, immigration/migration and identity, Migrants and flexible identities; Identity and diaspora, Transnational identities; identity, the homeland and nostalgia, the challenges of the 'unlikely' return to homeland; between the (f)actual return and the narrative imaginary one, borders and the negotiation of identities, Identity and cultural assimilation, Identity and globalization, Identity and tourisms; Imagining space through architecture and the urban-rural distinction; transformations between city and identity.
- ➢ **Identity and Gender**: Male/female narratives, feminism and identity, queer identities, transgender and identity.
- ➢ **Identity and Memory**: Narrative identities and nostalgia, Identity and autobiography, Identity and cultural legacy, Identity, the museum and archives, identity and history.
- ➢ **Identity and Metamorphosis**: Gothic, horror and identity, the vampire, the werewolf and identity, the Absurd, metamorphosis and identity, hybrid human nature and identities; identity conflicts and / conflicts and identities, mental disorders and identities between politics, economy and socio-cultural agents.
- ➢ **Linguistic and Cultural Hybridity:** Postcolonial theory and identity between 'our' and 'their', orientalism as an expression of the mirror identity, identity and imagology, clichés, stereotypes and the weaving of identities, satire, irony and identity, language and identity formation; language in multicultural societies; dialects and identity, Linguistic imperialism and identity; identity, linguistic diversity and minority languages.

- ➢ **Identity, Religion and Ideology**: War, trauma and identity, identity and oppression, xenophobia, genocides and identity, identity and religion, identity and religious groups, identity and tolerance, identity, politics and ethnic belonging, multiculturalism and minorities, minority narratives, identity between cult and rituals.
- ➢ **Identity, Knowledge and Teaching**: Educational institutions and identity, virtual reality and identity, media, cyber culture, the internet and identity.
- ➢ **Identity, Art and the Media:** Representations of identity in arts: theatre, film, painting, music. Arabs/Muslims in the Mirror, Images and Self-Images from literature to the media.

The First National Conference "**Crossing Borders: Language, Culture, and Identity**" welcomes the participation of all researchers of culture, literature, history, philosophy, arts, religion, sociology, psychology and media.

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Dr. BOUHASSOUN Azzeddine, BELHADJ Bouchaib University Centre, Ain Temouchent.

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Conference Calendar

Important dates:

January 31th, 2018: Deadline for submission of abstracts.
February 27th, 2018: Results from the review of submitted abstracts.
March 31st, 2018: Final paper submission deadline.
April 29th-30th, 2018: Conference dates.

Selection and publishing of papers

May 15th, 2018: Submitted papers review results.
May 30th, 2018: Publication of accepted and reviewed papers.

Participation Fees

Registration: February 15th – March 20th, 2018:
Teachers and researchers: 5000 DA
Post-graduate students: 3000 DA
- ✓ Only accepted participants will be sent an account **(CCP)** for their money transfer.
- ✓ Participants **MUST** send a scan of the money transfer **(Mandat CCP)** to the E-mail address below to confirm registration. No partial or full reimbursement is accepted after registration.
- ✓ If presentations have two or multiple authors, a participation fee is needed for each author.
- ✓ Accepted authors need to send their participation fees **(Mandat CCP)** to the latest March 20th, 2018.
- ✓ Participation fees will cover coffee break, lunch, accommodation, a certificate of Oral Participation.

Important procedures:

- ✓ Participants should fill in the **Participation Form**.
- ✓ Proposals will be selected according to double-blind peer reviews by the Scientific Committee.
- ✓ Each participant will have 15 minutes to present his/her paper. Another 15 minutes debate shall be reserved after each session.
- ✓ The papers must be original, unpublished and not presented at an earlier conference. A Certificate of Oral Presentation will be delivered to all participating authors.
- ✓ All accepted papers will be published in the peer-reviewed journal of the Institute of letters and Languages of BELHADJ Bouchaib University Centre as a Special Number.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Azzeddine BOUHASSOUN and Ms. Fatima YAHIA on the email conference: conference.cubbatang@gmail.com

Participation Form

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Full Name: …………………………………………

Degree: …………………………………….………

Affiliation: …………………………………………

Email: …………………………………………...

Phone N°: ………………………………………

Track/axis: …………………………………………………………………………………..

Title of Presentation: ……………………………………………………………………..

Abstract (no more than 300 words):

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Keywords (no more than 5 keywords)

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Short Bio

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The email conference: conference.cubbatang@gmail.com