



The Routes of Medieval Africa 11th-17th centuries

Programme

Conférence de clôture du programme ANR Globafrica
5 au 7 mars 2019

MARDI 5 MARS/ 9H30-13H00

9h30 - 10h : *Accueil*

L'Afrique et le monde sur la longue durée

10h00 **Adrien Delmas** (Centre Jacques Berque),
L'Afrique médiévale et le monde, des connexions impondérables

10h20 **Gérard Chouin** (William & Mary),
Africa, connectedness and the circulation of pathogens: the plague and beyond

10h40 **Christian Thibon** (UPPA),
La diffusion des plantes sur la longue durée dans la région des Grands Lacs

11h - 11h20 : *Pause*

11h20 **Christopher Ehret** (UCLA),
Words for tobacco: Tracking the Pathways of Commercial Exchange in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-century Africa

12h00 **Innocent Pikirayi** (University of Pretoria),
Rethinking globalization in antiquity: the case for southern Africa



L'histoire de la seconde pandémie de Peste en Afrique Sub-Saharienne

Modérateurs : Adisa Ogunfolakan (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria)
Gérard Chouin (William & Mary), Daphne Gallagher (University of Oregon)

14h00

Promesses de la génétique

Modérateur : Gérard Chouin

Monica Green (Arizona State University), Tracking Microbial Routes to Africa.

Commentaire : Javier Pizarro-Cerda (Institut Pasteur)

14h45

Séquelles archéologiques

Modérateur : Adisa Ogunfolakan

Stephen Dueppen et Daphne Gallagher (University of Oregon), Recognizing plague epidemics in the archaeological record of West Africa

Gérard Chouin (William & Mary), Geoffroy de Saulieu (IRD) & David Sebag (IRD)

Noire comme la peste : études d'une possible couche d'abandon à Ife

15h50-16h10 : Pause

16h10

Traces écrites

Modérateur : Daphne Gallagher (University of Oregon)

Marie-Laure Derat (CNRS, UMR Orient & Méditerranée), Du lexique aux talismans : occurrences de la peste dans la Corne de l'Afrique du XIIIe au XVe siècle

Commentaire : Hadrien Collet (IMAf)

16h55

Des mots et des maux : apports de la linguistique historique

Modérateur et commentaire : Christopher Ehret (UCLA)

Sandro Cape Chichi, (Université Paris Diderot), La divinité Sakpata : témoin d'une peste bubonique en Afrique de l'ouest avant le 20ème siècle ?

Lindsay Ehrisman (University of Wisconsin-Madison), An Assessment of Linguistic Evidence for the Spread of Bubonic Plague in Early Central East Africa

17h40

Conclusion : Gérard Chouin (William & Mary), La peste en Afrique sub-saharienne : ce que l'avenir nous réserve

MERCREDI 6 MARS/ 10H00-12H30

De la côte Swahili au plateau du Zimbabwe, histoire de circulations

Modérateur : Thomas Vernet-Habasque (IFAS-Recherche, Johannesburg)

10h00

Shadreck Chirikure (University of Cape Town), Connections between hinterland and coastal southern Africa: looking outside, from inside

10h25

Ceri Ashley (British Museum), Downriver from Mapungubwe : ripples and waves in the thirteenth century hinterland

10h50

Martial Pauly (INALCO, ASIEs-CROIMA), Les perles de la nécropole d'Antsiraka Boira (Mayotte, archipel des Comores) : un regard sur les routes commerciales de l'océan Indien médiéval

11h15-11h30 : Pause

11h30

Abigail Moffet (University of Cape Town), Tracing connections : the cowrie shell in the context of early global trade networks and the southern African region

Discussion

11h55

Geoffroy de Saulieu (IRD), Daphne Gallagher (University of Oregon), Paul Lane (Cambridge University), Innocent Pikirayi (University of Pretoria), Thomas Vernet-Habasque (IFAS-Recherche)

Les plantes des Grandes Lacs, évidences de connexions indirectes

Modérateur : Daphne Gallagher (University of Oregon)

14h00

Christian Thibon (UPPA), **Emile Mworoha** (University of Burundi), **Mildred Ndeda** (JOOUST, Kenya)
Plant diversity and intensity, population densities and cultural-political systems, sub-regional convergence and divergence in Great lake Region

14h30

Isaya Onjala (JOOST, Kenya), **Elizabeth Vignati** (LAM), **Paul Lane** (Cambridge University)
Archaeology and Dissemination of American Plants : Interactions and Scale.
Trade and Routes, Monumental Heritage and Knowledge Gaps

15h00

Christian Leclerc (CIRAD) et **Geo Coppens** (CIRAD)
Worldwide interconnections of Africa using crops as historical and cultural markers

15h30

Discussion: **Hubert Cochet** (Agro Paris Tech), **Jean Pierre Chrétien** (LAM),
David Lee Schoenbrun (North Western University), **Mats Widgren** (Stockholm University),
Monique Chastanet (IMAf), **Daphne Gallagher** (University of Oregon)

JEUDI 7 MARS/ 9H00-13H00

Global Middle Ages

9h00

Paul Lane (Cambridge University), Africa and global Middle Age

9h40

Stéphen Rostain (CNRS), Out of Africa : The routes of medieval Amazonia

10h20-10h40 : Pause

Vers un protocole archéologique de la route

Modératrice : **Ceri Ashley** (British Museum)

Southern Africa :

10h40

Adrien Delmas (CJB), **Raphaël Hautefort**, **Jules Frémeaux** et **Léa Roth**,
Les Routes de Sofala

West Africa :

11h00

Gérard Chouin (William & Mary) : West African Pathways in History: sources, palimpsests, governance

11h20

Benjamin Adisa Ogunfolakan (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria), Migration Routes and Potsherd Pavements in Yorubaland

East Africa :

11h40

Elizabeth Vignati (LAM), **Isaya Onjala** (JOOST, Kenya), Cartographier les peuplements et les routes des Grands Lacs

Table-ronde finale

12h00

Youssef Bokbot (INSAP, Rabat), **Shadreck Chirikure** (University of Cape Town), **Stephen Duppen** (University of Oregon), **Bertrand Hirsch** (Université Paris I), **David Lee Schoenbrun** (NorthWestern University), **Adisa Ogunfolaken** (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria), **Geoffroy de Saulieu** (IRD)

The Routes of Medieval Africa

11th to 17th centuries

Over the last three years, historians and archaeologists have sought to bring to light the relationships between the interior of the African continent and other parts of the world during the medieval period, beyond the familiar interfaces of the Sahara in the north and the Indian Ocean coast in the east. To this end, they have focused on a certain number of facts that can inform us of the connections established between Africa and the rest of the world between the eleventh and the seventeenth centuries.

We can divide them into four main groups:

- 1) trade and prestige goods;
- 2) epidemics, and particularly the second pandemic of plague;
- 3) exogenous plants, especially from the Americas;
- 4) and written materials, particularly those using the Arabic script.

The first objective of this symposium is to release the main results of each of these case studies carried out in the four corners of the continent, in the Zimbabwe Plateau, south-western Nigeria, and the Great Lakes. The shared release of these studies will allow us to release a preliminary synthesis on the medieval 'connections' of sub-Saharan Africa with the World during the first half of the second millennium.

Beyond this initial synthesis, this symposium will take stock of the theoretical ambition of this programme, relative to the disciplinary tools available to us today, to disclose, to distinguish and above all to ponder the historical connections established. If the plants, epidemics, commercial goods or written materials are proof of often-forgotten connections, they inform us only indirectly on the intensity and consequences of these economic, political and cultural connections for the societies of Southern, Eastern or Western Africa.

Starting from this observation, the historians, archaeologists, linguists, and philologists involved in this release will reflect on multidisciplinary models that go beyond the observation of a connection and switch towards a more integrative concept of "route," understood, in the broader sense, as a connection in progress. In this respect, the third and final objective of this symposium will stimulate further reflection on the routes that crisscrossed medieval Africa, and the practices, mobilities, and representations that they created.

Starting from our case studies of circulation paths, whose social contours are made increasingly clear as a result of this programme, we aim at developing a shared, broad and comparative archaeological protocol to capture the medieval routes of Africa in their materiality and diachrony. As this programme comes to an end, we think it is urgent to move from the mere accumulation of factual data about medieval Africa's intercontinental connections to a rigorous characterisation of the flows, visible or not, through which these connections operated.

