**Arab Poetic, Narrative and Learning Traditions,: from Using Dialects to other so Called “Popular” Forms**

**(USEK- Liban) 22- 23 october 2015- (INALCO-Paris) 19-20 october 2016 –**

**(UIT- Kénitra- Maroc) 2-3 november 2017**

**(Languages used in the Colloquium : French, Arabic and English)**

**Partner Institutions:**

INALCO, CERMOM- LACNAD (Paris)

St-Esprit University, Kaslik (Lebanon)

Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra (Morocco)- Language and Society Laboratory- CNRST-URAC 56

**Key words:** Contact point, Miscegenation, Rapprochement, Evolution,Transformation.

Arab poetic, narrative and learning traditions, dialect expression or other so called “popular” forms have contributed in the evolution of literary writing since its initial stage. Despite being a crucial element in the literary configuration and part of the heritage, they have always been regarded as “side”-literary variants, often time undervalued in relation to what is referred to as “High” literature (poetry and prose) that uses Standard Arabic as its sole medium. A close look at classical and modern literature in Arab culture highlights the vivacity of these traditions and the increasingly important position they occupy in the literary and cultural sphere. Given the mounting interest in these traditions –(both written and spoken, poetry and prose, ancient and modern)- in most Arab countries, their analysis and study by academics have become a must to determine their place in society and to assess their capacity to have an undeniable literary value.

Our research centre CERMOM –INALCO took the initiative, in December 2011, and organized two study days mostly to address this literature: (the conference proceedings published by Khartala publishers., 2016). Being aware of its richness and regional diversity, the Centre decided, during the first meeting, to schedule ulterior meetings to talk about this literature and its regional specificities from different angles and approaches.

As these literary traditions mainly evolve according to local cultures and traditions, we have built our project in collaboration with universities from the Mashreq and the Maghreb to allow the interaction of both approaches and to assess the mixing of popular literary traditions, poetic as well as narrative.

This literature will then analyse its evolution (from the classical period till now), its regional diversity as well as its generic diversity.

**Saint-Esprit Univesrity of Kaslik in Lebannon,** has, as a matter of fact, been an ideal partner in the setting up of this project. The university has been very active in publishing relevant texts from this literature that cover various literary genres. It is working hard to safeguard this cultural heritage and highlight its richness. **Our Lebanese partner hosted the first meeting on October 22 – 23 2015, which debated the following axes:**

1. **Dialect Literature: Poetry and its Variants, Lebanese Theatre: Muti-disciplinary and area-based approach.**
   1. Written dialect Poetry;
   2. Oral Dialect Poerty: “*Zajal*” (1), *Malhûn*, *Nabti* from Gulf countries, poetic variants that are sung (*mawwâl, ‘atâba, shrûqî*…)
   3. Arab songs and operettas;
   4. Theatre (Machreq)

(The proceedings of this first meeting are being published by the Publications St-Esprit Kaslik University)

As **INALCO (Paris)** teachesall the variants of the Arabic language, and as the two research centres (CERMOM and LACNAD) make of these poetic traditions, dialect and popular narratives in the Arab world a major area of their research, **they hosted the second meeting on October 19-20 2016 around the following axis:**

1. **Narrative Tradition : a Multi-disciplinary Approach.**
2. The Greatest works of the Classical Period: *Zîr Salem ; Banû Hilâl ; Baybars, a Thousand and One Nights…*
3. Tales in the Classical and Modern Tradition;
4. Modern Narratives written in dialectal Arabic;
5. Dialect in the Modern Arab Novel;
6. Theatre (we would favour the Maghreb

(The proceedings of this second meeting will be published later)

**Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra Morocco, and more precisely the “Language and Society” Laboratory** is very active in this area of research. The lab allows an important part of its research and publications to these traditions. Our Laboratory will host the third meeting on november 2-3 2017 around the following axis:

1. **“Popular” Literature and Society: Corpus and Functions?**

This axis will be addressed through

* 1. Proverbs ;
  2. Tales and their variants ;
  3. Zajal (2)

**Papers for participation in the Third Colloquium** **(November 2-3 2017)** **will have to be sent by mail before April 10, 2017:**

- Hanane Bendahmane: hanane2003@gmail.com

- Soraya Sbihi: sbihisoraya@gmail.com

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**Send your abstracts (300 words) with your name and academic affiliation**

**Authors of selected papers will be notified no later than Mai 30 2017.**