Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
The Directorate-General for Scientific Research and Technological Development
Centre of Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology

CRASC Publications

2025-2026



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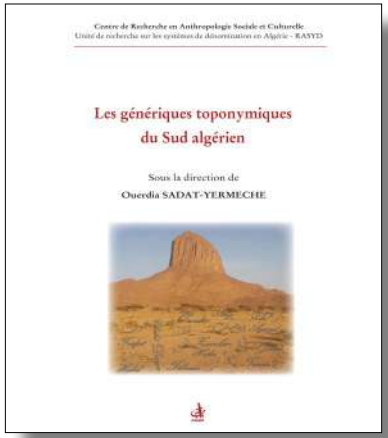
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Presentation



The study of toponymy constitutes a fundamental dimension in research within the humanities and social sciences, as it enables the exploration of history, culture, and identity through the practices of place naming. This collective work falls within that context, offering an in-depth analysis of naming systems in southern Algeria, a region rich in linguistic and cultural diversity. The scope of the research encompasses several provinces in southern Algeria, notably Tamanrasset, Béchar, Adrar, Ouargla, Illizi, El Oued, and Ghardaïa. The study reveals deeply rooted Amazigh, Arab, and colonial influences in the toponymy of these areas.

The central question addressed by this work is: How do place names in southern Algeria reflect the history and cultural identity of the local population? Through a multidisciplinary approach, the researchers aim to shed light on the processes of formation, evolution, and transmission of toponymy, taking into account the political and social dimensions associated with it. The methodology relies on linguistic, historical, and geographical analysis of names, drawing on digital databases from the Geographic Information System (GIS) to produce precise toponymic maps and study patterns of distribution and meaning.

Contributors

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Presentation



This publication by CRASC stems from a research project concluded in 2019. In the meantime, two major events have occurred, compelling us today to contextualise the work and place its findings within a historical perspective:

The first is the popular movement of February 22, 2019, known as El-Hirak. This movement had significant repercussions across all sectors of social life in Algeria, not just in the healthcare sector. It is evident that analysing such effects requires more time.

The second event is the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the societal as well as institutional responses to it. The medical profession, it must be recalled, was on the front lines.

In the pandemic context, in February 2022, news of 1,200 Algerian physicians successfully passing a competency equivalence exam in France brought the phenomenon of physician emigration back into public discourse and reopened the broader debate on the emigration of Algerian skilled professionals. The publication of this project's findings represents CRASC's contribution to this public debate, in addition to its ongoing research on Algerian emigration.

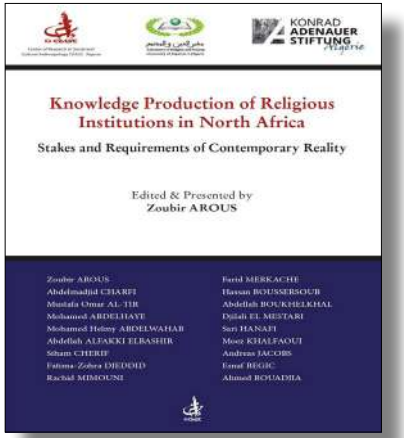
The guiding thread of this research project is the consideration of Algerian skilled emigration as one of the major indicators of what has been

termed the "fourth age" of Algerian emigration, in reference to the three ages of Algerian emigration to France defined by sociologist Abdelmalek Sayad. This new age is distinguished by novel characteristics: the actors of migration (women, Harraga, intellectuals), the destinations (Spain, Germany, UK, USA, Canada, and other countries), the return of emigrants and their mobility (rather than permanent settlement in host countries). The migration of skilled professionals, particularly physicians, is one of the defining features of this new phase of Algerian migration.

Contributors

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Presentation

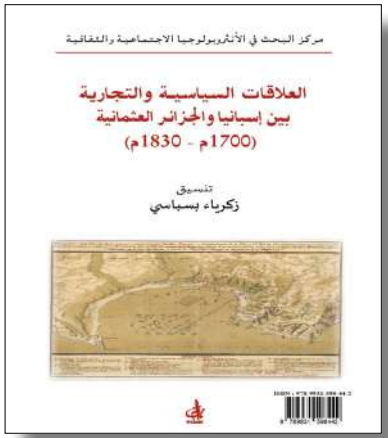


This volume brings together a collection of research papers presented at the international conference held in Oran on June 6–7, 2023, organized in partnership between the Centre for Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology (Algeria), the "Religion and Society" Research Laboratory at the University of Algiers 2, and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Algiers Office. The conference focused on knowledge production by religious institutions in their three forms—traditional, academic, and constitutional—across North Africa and Sudan. The primary and most important motivation behind organizing this conference stemmed from the fact that these institutions hold a special significance at the structural, functional, and political levels. They also occupy a sacred position within the broader context of the religious consciousness of the societies of the region and serve as sources of knowledge that respond to the needs of states and communities for cultural renewal, particularly through a comparative perspective with the experience of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Contributors

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Presentation



This translated book provides an objective study of the historical events that shaped political and commercial relations between Spain and Algeria during the Ottoman period from 1700 to 1830. A notable addition to this edition is the inclusion of extensive correspondence between the authorities of the two countries and their consuls during the wartime period, which began with the recovery of Oran and Mersa el-Kébir in 1708 and concluded with the campaign on Algiers in 1784. This is followed by a period of reconciliation that ultimately ended with the occupation of Algeria in 1830. Furthermore, the book examines the impact of these events on the Algerian Navy, prisoners of war, and various bilateral agreements. The aim of this collective translation is to highlight new aspects of the relations between the two countries that that have previously been overlooked or misinterpreted. The featured correspondence in the book consists of manuscripts preserved in key Spanish cabinets and archives, which are crucial for understanding the realities of Algeria during this period from a Spanish perspective.

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