

Programme Point Sud 2020

**Africa in the Age of Renewal: New Forms of Linguistic, Cultural and
Political Expression of Citizens' Movements**

30th October-3rd November 2020, LASDEL Niamey, Niger

Conveners

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Abstract

Africa in particular and the world in general are now experiencing a wave of citizens' movements that are taking over the public arena. Carried by young people, these movements in Africa in particular are characterized by names that illustrate the disappointment: "Y'en a marre" in Senegal, "Le Balai citoyen" in Burkina, "Mouvement trop c'est trop" in Mali, etc. These citizen movements mark a new era of renewal. A real driving force for social and political change, social movements do not, however, date from today but have their roots in history. These movements have thus reinvented the debate by creating other ways and formulas of linguistic and cultural expression: hip hop culture, hip hop dixit, urban arts (tagging and graffiti), street theatre, debate on social networks, etc. These forms of linguistic, cultural and political expression, emanating from citizen engagement, go beyond the discourse of various parties and traditional associations and transcend traditional cleavages (left, right, etc.). This partly explains the decline of trade unions and parties in the social and political landscape and at the same time the massive rise of women's voices in the political arena. These new linguistic, cultural and political forms, which also involve categories of the population that are not sufficiently represented in public life, demand very concrete needs: a desire for renewal, both in leadership and in the way of managing and communicating, as well as a desire for greater participation of the "citizen" in the management of the affairs of the city for social renewal.