

Programme Point Sud 2020

The Islamic Education System in Sub-Saharan Africa. A Journey through Politics and Religion

27th September-2nd October 2020, LASDEL Niamey, Niger

Conveners

Abdoulaye Sounaye, Anthropology, Leibniz - Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin, and research associate LASDEL, Niamey

Issouf Binaté, History, University Alassane Ouattara, Bouaké

Marie Nathalie LeBlanc, Sociology, University of Québec in Montréal (UQAM) and Chair of Contemporary Islam in West Africa (ICAO)

Zakaria Soré, Sociology, University Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou

Abstract

Although important reforms have been introduced concerning the status and role of Islamic education in various countries and the actors in these educational environments have changed significantly over the last few decades, the issue of Islamic education in West Africa is still at the centre of public debate and very little studied in the scientific literature. However, since the beginning of the 1990s, a growing number of researchers have been interested in the history, dynamics, networks and challenges of Islamic education in West Africa. The workshop proposes to focus more particularly on the issue of Islamic secondary and university education. An update of scientific knowledge on the dynamics that characterize contemporary Islamic education circles is essential insofar as a significant part of the scientific literature has been produced several years ago and has little (or no) study of certain geographical areas, including Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Togo, Sierra Leone, etc. The workshop will focus on the dynamics of Islamic education in West Africa, the dynamics, networks and challenges of Islamic education in West Africa.

The workshop has three objectives: 1. to bring together junior and senior researchers working on the dynamics of Islamic education in West Africa; 2. to update the state of knowledge on these places of training taking into account national issues, their dynamics of expansion and their networks; 3. to define a common research program focused on the constitution of a directory of these places of training. The constitution of this directory will be an opportunity to test a multidisciplinary and mixed methodological approach. This directory will be useful for both researchers and socio-political actors.

Researchers, junior and senior researchers, French, English and Arabic speakers, who have carried out surveys in the field of Islamic education are invited to submit a proposal for a paper. Priority will be given to female candidates and researchers from English-speaking sub-Saharan Africa in order to ensure the presence of young researchers and a balance between expertise on Francophone and Anglophone West Africa. Candidates with knowledge of Arabic-speaking scientific circles will also be taken into consideration.