

Conference of the Observatory of Indian Ocean Worlds

(OSOI -Observatoire des Sociétés de l'Océan Indien)

CCLC ; LCF

Dates November 28-29 2014

University of La Réunion, Saint-Denis de la Réunion

« (H)ISLANDS / HERLANDS »

Women of Creole worlds and emergences of women's claims in the Caribbean & Indian Ocean islands, 17th-21st centuries.

The CCLC and LCF laboratories at the University of La Réunion are organizing a conference furthering their scholarly work on Creole worlds and paying particular attention to the construction of genders, the role of women and the emergence of women's claims, both in the Indian Ocean and in the Caribbean islands – be they Creole, French, Spanish, or English-speaking islands.

Our purpose is to focus on these spaces and to examine the progressive or sudden appropriation of political power in the broad sense of the term by women (enslaved or free women, activists dominant or dominated, residents, travelers...) in societies whose creolization they largely contributed to, and continue to do so.

The forms and the evolution of the roles they won over, or which were assigned to them by others, will be studied through various means of representation : literary productions - written and oral - and artistic productions in all the languages of Creole spaces, historiography, the transmission of knowledge, social practices and memories, political discourses and approaches ...

The conference will therefore be devoted to observing textualisation and the discursivity of powers through the study of genders conflicts, the interplay of dominations and forms of resistance that run through these various social spaces and influence them, producing informal powers, "hidden discourses," or "the infra-politics of subalterns" (J.C. Scott) in which women can be – involved or not. An interdisciplinary and comparative perspective will therefore be privileged.

It has been observed that an analysis of "transoceanic dialogues" (Bragard) or "transoceanic encounters" (Cornille) is starting to emerge in the field of literary studies in particular; it is designed to challenge traditional scholarship and to engage in a remapping related to "minor transnationalisms" (Lionnet, Shih) which no longer need to detour into "motherlands". However, few of these approaches originate in any one of these islands.

Above all, few of them bring together the various Creole, French, Spanish and English-speaking islands to tackle a specific subject from a multidisciplinary perspective. Now we would like to grant all the space they deserve to the interactions and the forms of intercultural expression and interdiscursivity existing between these worlds and languages. Only a comparative approach makes it possible to pool interdisciplinary knowledge and share reflections conducted in diverse Caribbean, Indoceanic and European centers.

We invite proposals in the following areas:

- the image and status of women emerging in Caribbean and Indoceanic literary and artistic productions, past and present, whether they are the subjects (female writers, artists) or the objects of written or oral literature – in a language imposed by colonization or in Creole – and/or other forms of art (the representation of "island women", of their status, their commitments/activism, their resistance, and of gender construction and disorders).
- History of slavery, colonial and postcolonial history, political history, the history of women's rights and conditions, the history of feminisms in the Creole worlds.
- Analysis of the modalities of of creolization and the role played by women in the process, means of domination, resistance, links between "race, nation, class" (Balibar, Wallerstein) and genders, in their various forms, in artistic, historical, journalistic, political discourses and practices.
- Transmission of knowledge, practices, memories and genders construction.

We invite you to submit your paper proposals, in 300 words, to the following email addresses:

Valérie Magdelaine - Andrianjafitrimo : valerie.magdelaine@univ-reunion.fr ,

Marc Arino : marc.arino@univ-reunion.fr

before July 15, 2014.

Paper proposals may be submitted in French or English. The proposals will be assessed anonymously by two members of the conference's steering committee.

Lunches will be covered by the organizers but participants will be responsible for their own travel expenses.