

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CIVILIZATIONS OF THE MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL: Shared Encounters across Histories, Identities, Territories and Heritages

**CONFERENCE DATES: 15-17 NOVEMBER 2018
VENUE: MAYOTTE**

CONCEPT

This conference examines the civilizations of the Mozambique Channel by focusing on shared encounters across histories, identities, territories, and heritages. The Mozambique Channel is conceptualized as encompassing areas around Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, and the Islands of the Indian Ocean such as Madagascar, Mayotte, Comoro, Zanzibar, Reunion and Mauritius. The Channel is one of the most ancient regions of complex cultural exchanges and interconnections since the pre-Islamic times. These interconnections produced cultural processes of borrowing, transmission, ruptures, and continuities which are the foundations of present day territories and their corresponding histories and identities. Subsequently, multiculturalism and multilingualism form the reality of the Channel territories, reflecting that mixed-identities are not simply the creation of new identities arising from encounter but it is rather a global process, as both a product and producer of merger and unity (Morin, 1997). This notion introduces complexities at the core of mixed-identities. It is within this context that this conference interrogates the creation of civilization identities in their different manifestations - family, ethnicity, nation, region, religion, etc. Within this context, the Department of Mayotte has designated this International Conference as a forum for appraising the civilizations found in the Mozambique Channel as products of cultural exchanges and shared histories. Through such a perspective, the history of Mayotte is conceptualized in relation to identities, cultures, and heritage from within the Mozambique Channel and beyond. In fact, the Mayotte's position within the corridor of the Mozambique Channel (between Madagascar, the Union of Comoros Islands, and Mozambique), like other neighbouring islands, has always been a crossroad of influences and confluences of cultures drawn from sources within the region, or from more distant regions. Although the Mayotte population is largely dominated by Bantu influences, marks of immigration from other Indian Ocean Island territories and from distant regions such as Persia, Middle East, and Europe are equally evident.

The scientific committee organizing the conference invites contributions that explore multiple dimensions of the Channel's civilizations and connections through the Indian Ocean. Contributions need to highlight forms of cultural connections and encounters between the communities in the coast of East Africa, the interior, and the Islands of the Indian Ocean. Papers drawing from inter-disciplinary and comparative approaches are welcome from the fields of History, Archaeology, Heritage, Literature, Linguistics, Law, Sociology, Anthropology, Ethnology, Architecture, Economics, Culture and Postcolonial studies. We seek contributions that address the region from different time periods (ancient, pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial). Papers that draw specific connections between Mayotte and the Mozambique Channel as conceptualized in this call are strongly encouraged.

Thematic strands:

Two different strands of papers are anticipated:

1. The first strand will consist of general papers which address cultural and civilization relations between Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and the islands of the Indian Ocean.
2. The second strand is more specific to Mayotte within the Mozambique Channel. In particular, we seek papers that interrogate the study of the islands of Mayotte in relation to the East African coast, the neighbouring Indian Ocean islands and beyond within the context of the wider civilizations of the Mozambique Channel.

Conceptual, theoretical, substantive, and methodological themes in the study of civilizations in the Mozambique Channel may include:

- Mayotte history, culture and identity;
- Intersecting histories in the Mozambique Channel (cultural contacts, interactions, influences, and migrations);
- Diaspora movements in the Mozambique Channel: forced migrations, social connections and identity formation;
- Cultural identities (individual, community, ethnic and national);
- Legacies of slavery, slave trade and colonization in the collective memory;
- Tangible and intangible heritage.
- Geopolitical and geo-security (re)configuration of the Mozambique Channel (past and present);
- Conflicts of memories, traditions, folklore, myths and history;
- Political and legal history of Mozambican Channel societies;
- Religions, Societies and Conflicts in the Mozambique Channel, and;
- Territories and historical geography

Timelines

Dates	Milestone
September 10, 2018	Final deadline for receiving conference abstracts (200-300 words)
October 1, 2018	Participant notification of selected abstracts
November 1, 2018	Deadline for receipt of full papers
November 10, 2018	Submission of articles to conference participants for advance reading
November 15, 2018	Arrival of participants in Mayotte
November 15-17, 2018	Conference dates
November 18, 2018	Visit to heritage and cultural sites in Mayotte
November 19, 2018	Scientific Committee Meeting

Abstracts of 200 - 300 words should be submitted in French, English, Portuguese, or Kiswahili no later than **September 10, 2018** (Single Space, Times New Roman 12).

These should be submitted to the following addresses:

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Acknowledgment and Sponsorship:

The scientific and technical committee will acknowledge and review all abstracts by September 30. Those whose abstracts will be accepted will receive full sponsorship to the conference.