

SLAVERY IN AFRICA
A DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA

THE SLAFNET **WORKSHOP** **2023**



**MAISON DES SCIENCES DE
L'HOMME ET DE LA SOCIÉTÉ**
25 AV. FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND, 06300 NICE



23 MARCH SALLE 128-129

24 MARCH SALLE 005



SLAFNET



Institut de Recherche
pour le Développement
FRANCE





SLAFNET

*Slavery in Africa: a dialogue between
Europe and Africa*

Ateliers de restitution

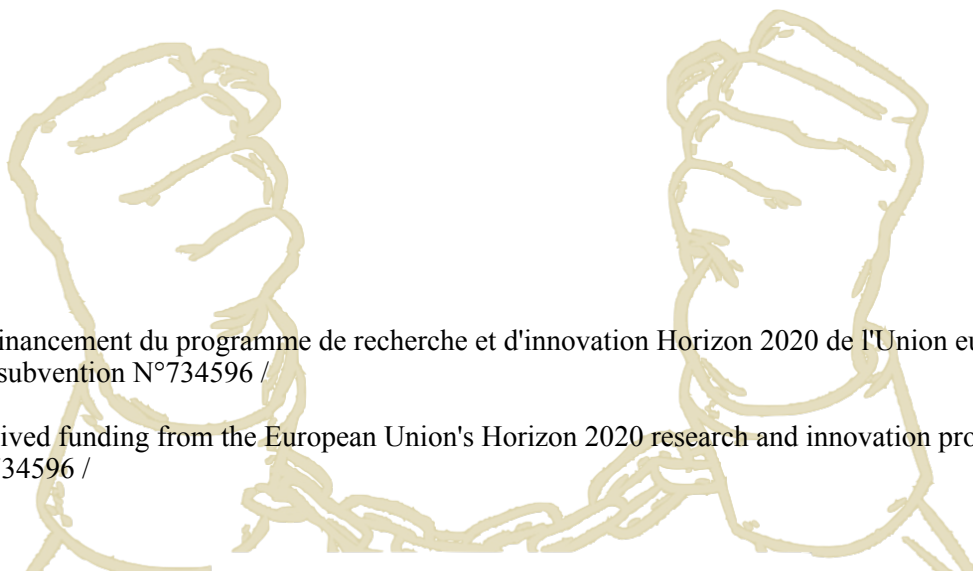
23 et 24 mars, 2023

Saint Jean d'Angely University
3, Boulevard François Mitterrand
06357 Nice Cedex 4
Campus MSHS - Salle 128, 129



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Slavery in Africa : a dialogue between Europe and Africa

Restitution Workshop
23th March 2023

9:00 - 9:30	Registration / Welcome Coffee
9:30 - 11:00	WP 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding Citizenship, Marginalization and Injustices in Post-slavery Societies in Europe and Africa Moderator: Alexander Meckelburg (Universität Hamburg) and Samuel Nyanchoga (CUEA) - WP1 Leaders
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30- 13:00	WP 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forgetting and Remembering Slavery in Europe and Africa Moderator: Antonio D'Almeida Mendes (UNant) - WP2 Leader
13:00- 14:15	Lunch
14:15 - 15:45	WP3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heritage and Public History Moderator: Ahmadou Sehou (LETS) - WP3 Leader
15 :45 – 16 :15	Coffee Break
16:15 - 17:45	WP4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Databases Analysis Moderator: Vijaya Teelock (UoM) - WP4 Leader
19:30	Le Cèdre restaurant - 4, Boulevard Risso Nice (tram station - Acropolis)



Slavery in Africa : a dialogue between Europe and Africa

Restitution Workshop,
24th March 2023

9:00 - 9:30	Welcome Coffee
9:30 - 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SLAFNET website presentation (Sandra and Grégoire) General overview of SLAFNET website.• Yacine's video project
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15- 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round table Open discussion about what is coming next for SLAFNET !
12:45- 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Dar es Salam congress (Salvatory. S Nyanto - UDSM)
15:30- 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• REAF (Meeting of African Studies in France) Hervé Pennec is a historian, researcher at the CNRS, member of the Institute of African Worlds (IMAF-Aix) and Director of the Scientific Interest Grouping "African Studies in France" since 2018. He is a member of the Africa-CNRS Advisory Board. The GIS Études Africaines is a network of researchers working on Africa and its diasporas in various disciplines of humanities and social sciences, literature and philosophy, environmental sciences, economics, etc. The next Rencontres des Études Africaines en France (REAF) will take place in Nice from 2 to 5 July 2024.



Slavery in Africa : a dialogue between Europe and Africa

Ateliers de restitution,
23 mars 2023

9:00 - 9:30	Café de bienvenu
9:30 - 11:00	WP 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprendre la citoyenneté, la marginalisation et les injustices dans les sociétés post-esclavagistes en Europe et en Afrique Modérateur : Alexander Meckelburg (Universität Hamburg) et Samuel Nyanhoga (CUEA) - WP1 Responsables
11:00 - 11:30	Pause café
11:30- 13:00	WP 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oublier et se souvenir de l'esclavage en Europe et en Afrique Modérateur : Antonio D'Almeida Mendes (UNant) - WP 2 Responsable
13:00- 14:15	Déjeuner
14:15 - 15:45	WP3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrimoine et histoire publique Modérateur: Ahmadou Sehou (LETS) - WP3 Responsable
15 :45 – 16 :15	Pause café
16:15 - 17:45	WP4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse des bases de données Modérateur: Vijaya Teelock (UoM) - WP4 Responsable
19:30	Restaurant le Cèdre - 4, Boulevard Risso Nice (arrêt de tram - Acropolis)



Slavery in Africa : a dialogue between Europe and Africa

Ateliers de restitution,
24 mars 2023

9:00 - 9:30	Café d'accueil
9:30 - 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Présentation du site web SLAMERA (Sandra et Grégoire) Présentation générale du site SLAMERA.• Projet vidéo de Yacine
10:45 - 11:15	Pause café
11:15- 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Table ronde Discussion ouverte sur l'avenir de SLAFNET ! Projets en cours, idées nouvelles...
12:45- 14:00	Déjeuner
14:00 - 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conférence du Dr. Salvatory Nyanto Présentation du projet de conférence à Dar es Salaam
15:30- 16:00	Pause café
16:00 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• REAF (Rencontre des études africaines en France) Hervé Pennec est historien, chercheur au CNRS, membre de l'Institut des mondes africains (IMAF-Aix) et Directeur du Groupement d'intérêt scientifique « Études africaines en France » depuis 2018. Il est membre de l'Africa-CNRS Advisory Board. Le GIS Études Africaines est un réseau de chercheurs travaillant sur l'Afrique et ses diasporas dans diverses disciplines des sciences humaines et sociales, de la littérature et de la philosophie, des sciences de l'environnement, de l'économie, etc. Les prochaines Rencontres des études Africaines en France (REAF) auront lieu à Nice du 2 au 5 juillet 2024.



Partners

<p>French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development – IRD The Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) is a French research institute, original and unique on the European development research scene. Emphasizing interdisciplinarity, the IRD has focused its research on the relationship between man and its environment, in Africa, Mediterranean, Latin America, Asia and the French tropical overseas territories. Its activities are intended to contribute to the social, economic and cultural development of southern countries.</p> <p>Contact: Marie-Pierre Ballarin : marie-pierre.ballarin@ird.fr Giulia Bonacci : giulia.bonacci@ird.fr Myrina Meunier : myrina.meunier@ird.fr</p>	<p>National Museums of Kenya – MUSK The National Museums of Kenya (NMK) is a multi-disciplinary institution whose role is to collect, preserve, study, document and present Kenya's past and present cultural and natural heritage.</p> <p>Contact: Patrick Abungu : patrick.ouma2007@gmail.com Stephen Okoko Ashikoye : okokosteve@hotmail.com</p>
<p>French National Center for Scientific Research - CNRS The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) is the largest fundamental research organisation in Europe. CNRS carries out research in all fields of knowledge, in partnership with Universities and/or High Schools. It encourages collaboration between specialists from different disciplines, thus opening up new fields of inquiry to meet social and economic needs, encouraging and developing interdisciplinary programs.</p> <p>Contact: Myriam Cottias : m.cottias@me.com ; mcottias@ehess.fr</p>	<p>Cheikh Anta Diop University- UCAD UCAD is a university with all specialities in humanities, social, medical and natural sciences, engineering. It is the main national public university of Senegal with about hundred thousand students from 19 nationalities.</p> <p>Contact: Ibrahima Thioub : ibrahima.thioub@ucad.edu.sn Abdarrahamane Ngaide : thide62@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>University of Nantes – Unant The Université de Nantes is a multidisciplinary university and offers programs in most fields of knowledge and academic paths giving access to the majority of degrees in higher education, in short or long programs from Life Sciences to Humanities and Social Letters, Languages and Art. Research is a major growth sector for the University, with 75 accredited laboratories among. As an innovative force, the University has research agreements with industry and shares its discoveries with the society at large.</p> <p>Contact: Antonio de Almeida Mendes : amendes@9online.fr</p>	<p>University of Lisbon – FLUL The School of Arts and Humanities (FLUL - Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa) is an institution of higher education dedicated to the cultivation of knowledge in the tradition of the humanities and the biggest of its kind in the country. FLUL has as one of its targets the promotion of research in the areas of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. FLUL is committed to the production of innovative knowledge and to enhancing its international competitiveness and projection. With regard to research projects and activities, the School's main strategy is to prioritise scientific areas and internationally acknowledged research units committed to standards of excellence.</p> <p>Contact: José Damião Rodrigues : jdamiaorodrigues@gmail.com</p>

<p>Bath Spa University - BathSpa Bath Spa University is a leading university in creativity, culture and enterprise based in a World Heritage city and connected to a network of international partners. Bath Spa University is committed to maintain an active research portfolio. This commitment extends to concentrating on areas of strength while also fostering new research areas. The University has research activity across all of its academic schools with particular strengths, as measured in the independent Research Excellence Framework in art and design, english and creative writing, history, music, and psychology. Contact: Olivette Otele : o.otele@bathspa.ac.uk Iftikhar Malik : i.malik@bathspa.ac.uk</p>	<p>University of Hamburg (The Hiob Ludolf Centre for Ethiopian Studies) - HLCES The HLCES is part of the Asien-Afrika-Institut at the University of Hamburg (UHAM). Additionally it hosts third party funded projects (s. below). The HLCES is one of the leading centres in the study of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. The Centre carries out interdisciplinary research in the main areas of the humanities and social sciences, including history, art history, linguistics, anthropology and philology. Contact: Alessandro Bausi : alessandro.bausi@uni-hamburg.de Alexander Meckelbourg : alexandermeckelbourg@yahoo.de</p>
<p>The University of Birmingham - UoB University of Birmingham is one of the leading UK research universities, a founding member of both the Russell Group of British research universities and the international grouping Universitas 21. The student population comprises of around 19,000 undergraduates and 9,000 postgraduate students and was named UK University of the Year in 2013. Contact: Benedetta Rossi : benedetta.rossi@gmail.com</p>	<p>Catholic University of Eastern Africa - CUEA The Catholic University of Eastern Africa is founded on the philosophy of the Catholic Higher Education which promotes exploration of every academic discipline and intends to promote excellence in research, teaching and community service in Kenya. Contact: Samuel A Nyanchoga : samnyanchoga@hotmail.com</p>
<p>University of Yaounde I – LETS The Université de Yaoundé I is a public, scientific and cultural Institution with legal financial autonomy, placed under the supervision of cameroonian Ministry in charge of the Higher education. Contact: Jules Sinang : jusing2002@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Addis Ababa University - AAU The Institute of Ethiopian (IES) Studies is part of the AAU, which is the oldest and the largest higher learning and research institution in Ethiopia. Since its inception, the University has been the leading center in teaching-learning, research and community services. Contact: Ahmed Hassan : ahmedh20019@gmail.com</p>
<p>University of Mauritius - UoM The University of Mauritius intends to be one of the leading international tertiary education providers and a research-led university with the mission to provide quality education to students and promote knowledge creation and dissemination through research and innovative teaching. Contact: Vijayalakshmi Teelock : teelockv@uom.ac.mu</p>	<p>Université de Maroua The University of Maroua is located in North Cameroun, a wish from the government to give to the national community as a reference university. To create its place in the world of universities, the UMa has given itself a vision: to be, in the medium and long term, a sub-regional centre of excellence in research, teaching and development support. Contact : Ahmadou Sehou : asehou@yahoo.fr</p>

Work Package Number	1	M1 - M70
Work Package Title	Understanding Citizenship, Marginalization and Injustices in Post-slavery Societies in Europe and Africa	
Lead Beneficiary	BathSpa / Universität Hamburg / CUEA	
<p>Objectives</p> <p>This work package will focus on the consequences of slave ancestry on identity construction, and on the challenges of citizenship in post-slavery societies. Its main approach is a comparative analysis of the social, political and economic experiences of slave descendants in post-slavery societies. We shall explore how slave descendants deal with issues of stigmatisation, marginalisation, representation and under-representation within social classificatory structures in various countries in Africa and in the Western Indian Ocean islands. Particular attention will be given to the social and cultural dimensions of “otherness” in relation to the stigma of slavery; as well as to their collective representations in the social, political and economical spheres. We will study narratives of identity and contend that the persistent and intergenerational legacies of slavery lead to exclusion, marginalisation and the resurgence of conflicts. The articulation of grass-roots activism and national policies will be discussed with the objective of analysing the dialectic between inclusion and exclusion, and its effect on national cohesion.</p> <p>Taking the discourse on citizenship one step further, this WP will study the issue of reparations claimed for Atlantic slave trade and slavery, which has become an international political debate. The role of African intellectuals and political leaders is central: what is their posture in the on-going debate between American and Caribbean claimers, and European states? How could African intellectuals and politicians face the claim for reparations coming from the Americas, if they respond with difficulty to local claims by descendants of slaves in their own countries?</p> <p>A major asset of this work package is to craft a conversation between various countries and cultural areas that are facing similar issues with regards to slave descendants and their claim to citizenship and rights, but in very different contexts. The UK, France, Senegal, Kenya, and Mauritius each face national discussions and transnational challenges giving substance to the social and political life of post-slavery societies. International staff mobility, research, training, and the development of audio-visual tools will support an innovative and inter-disciplinary dialogue between East Africa, the Western Indian Ocean islands and the Atlantic world.</p>		

Description of Work and Role of Specific Beneficiaries / Partner Organisations

Task 1.1. Inclusion-Exclusion: The Political Mobilisation of Slave Descendants

Task leader: CUEA, Kenya

Scientific activities

1.1.2. Anti-slavery activism in Africa: Archival research and interviews with representatives of labour organisations and anti-slavery NGOs (Senegal, Mauritius, Kenya)

Collective activities

1.1.1. Summer School on *Slavery, Emancipation and Citizenship in Africa and Western Indian Ocean*, UoM - M11

1.1.3. Training session in writing, presentation skills and data analysis organised at CUEA - preparation of conference papers (posters and oral presentation), presentation of data, and construction of a research article (Ethiopia, Kenya, France, UK, Germany), CUEA - M23

Task 1.2 African Intellectuals and Politics facing Slavery

Task leader: CNRS, France

Scientific activities

1.2. 2 - Analysis of African intellectual and political positions regarding Atlantic Slavery, in particular of the policies of invitations and diasporic settlements in Africa, and of the political challenges for Africa in the international debate on Reparations. Collection of archival and oral data - Field trips to various locations in Europe (UK, France), and in Africa (Senegal, Ethiopia - African Union).

Collective activities

1.2.1 - Contribution and participation to the CIRESC seminar "Esclaves, affranchis et "nouveaux libres" dans l'espace public du monde Atlantique : race et citoyenneté. De l'agentivité aux réparations", CNRS - M6-12 ; M18-24

1.2.3 - Workshop on *Africa and Reparations*, CNRS - M22

Task 1.3. The Legacies of the British Empire and Reparations

Task leader: BathSpa, UK

Scientific activities

1.3.1 - Collection of data - Connecting archival material in Britain with that in Cameroon, Mauritius and Kenya (Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius, UK)

Collective activities

1.3.2 - Two training workshops into Archival centres in London in the presence of African partners (Mauritius, Kenya, Cameroon, Ethiopia), Bath Spa - M5 ; M17

Description of Deliverables

D 1.1.1 Proceedings of the Summer School - M12

D 1.1.2 Curriculum for the research centre on slavery studies at CUEA - M36

D 1.2. First European-African Conference on Slavery Studies at the University of Nice - M25

D 1.3. Realisation of the exhibition on *Citizenship and Slavery in Africa* - M36

D 1.4. Proceedings of the Workshop *Africa and Reparations* - M36

Work Package N°	2	M1-M70
Work Package Title	Forgetting and Remembering Slavery in Europe and Africa	
Lead Beneficiary	UNant	
<p>Objectives</p> <p>The objective of this work-package is to question simultaneously the dynamics of the silence on slavery in different countries and to analyse the memory of slavery among particular groups and communities. It will be implemented in distinct areas in Africa and Europe (Ethiopia, Senegambia, Portugal, Senegal), and will collect and use primary sources (archives, prints, interviews) in order to analyse the social and political stakes of forgetting and remembering slavery in both continents. On the one hand, the role played by Ethiopian and African American intellectuals and politicians in “silencing” slavery in Ethiopia for ideological reasons will be thoroughly analysed. On the other hand, the collection and analysis of the many slave voices that have no public visibility will offer ground-breaking insights into the social fabric of contemporary Ethiopia.</p> <p>In a will of comparison, the WP will examine the work of memory and its complex interactions in a lusophone context both on the European and African sides where forced and coerced labour shaped social relations. However, unlike in France or Britain, in Portugal the issue of slavery is generally absent from the history of the nation-building, even though it was one of the earliest actors of transatlantic slave trade. Our aim is to interrogate this paradox and to understand the apparent inexistence of claims of slave descendants communities within this country. This will allow us to engage the dialogue with a more African contexts, in particular in three Senegambian societies where stigma related to slavery remains very strong.</p>		

Description of Work and Role of Specific Beneficiaries / Partner Organisations

Task 2.1. Social Memories of Slavery in Ethiopia

Task leader: IRD, France

Scientific activities

2.1.1 - Mapping the slave routes in Ethiopia: memories, trajectories and political significance of slavery in Ethiopia. Research in Archival centres in the UK and in Germany, field trips in Afar, Benishangul Gumuz and Gamo regions, and in Addis Ababa.

Collective activities

2.1.2 -Summer School on *Teaching Slavery in East African societies*: preparation of conference communications with posters and oral presentations (France, UK, Germany; Kenya, Ethiopia), AAU - M 23

Task 2.2. Social Memories of Forced Labour in the *longue durée* in the lusophone world

Task leader: FLUL, Portugal

Scientific activities

2.2.1 - Collection of data - Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Mozambique

Collective activities

2.2.2 - Two training sessions, with the aim to present the corpus of Portuguese sources and to access various Archival centres, FLUL - M8 ; M20

Task 2.3 - Social Representations and Collective Memory in three Senegambian societies: wolof, pulaar, maure

Task leader: UCAD, Sénégal

Scientific activities

2.3. 1 - Collection of data: archives and oral history in European archives centres (Portugal and France)

Collective activities

2.3.2 - Workshop on *Circulations between Europe and Senegambia* - UCAD - M14

Description of Deliverables

D 2.1. Proceedings of the Summer School and seminars related to it - M24

D 2.2. Production of a synopsis of a film on *Social Memory of Slavery in Ethiopia* - M36

D 2.3. Prototype of a dictionary of Luso-African terms - M36

D 2.4. Proceedings of the Workshop *Circulations between Europe and Senegambia* - M18

Work Package Number	3	M1 - M70
Work Package Title	Heritage and Public History	
Lead Beneficiary	LETS / UMaroua	
Objectives		
<p>The WP aims to trace the history and the dynamics of sites of memory related to slavery and slave trade by identifying and interrogating their discursive constructions. It will cross-study the discourses of slaves, masters and their descendants; analyse their social and labour context and relationships; and document their mobility and social trajectory. In some places, the voices, sites and artefacts related to slavery are marginalized within national memory; in others, they are integrated in Museums and become part of a common (local and national) experience. Our multidisciplinary and comparative research will study how such sites have become a tool for sensitization, and a hub for cultural activities by fostering dialogue between former masters and slaves or their descendants. A crucial issue tackled by this research is to understand how former slaves or their descendants are taking control of their identity and claim the right to their citizenship in and around those sites of memory. Particular attention will be given to artefacts as mediums of dialogue between generations and between divergent memories. As such, pedagogical activities will implement dialogue between various actors, and will contribute to renew the significance of these sites of memory.</p> <p>The innovative dimension of this WP is to connect various testimonies and experiences related to slavery and slave trade in Senegal, Kenya, Mauritius and Europe.</p>		

Description of Work and Role of Specific Beneficiaries / Partner Organisations

Task 3.1. Rethinking Reluctant Places of Memory

Task leader: LETS, Cameroon

Scientific activities

3.1.1 - Archival research: collection of data: Cameroon: National Archives of Yaounde and Buea, Regional and private archives, France and UK

3.1.2 - Fieldwork: Far North and North, Adamawa (Palaces of Lamibe), West (Chiefdoms), North West (Fon' Palaces), South West (Bimbria), and Littoral (Wouri river).

Collective activities

3.1. 3 - Methodological workshop on *Reluctant sites* and visit to such sites to consolidate gathered materials in Buea/Yaoundé, LETS - M26

Task 3.2. Remembrance and Tourism

Task leader: UCAD, Senegal

Scientific activities

3.2.1 - Comparative analysis of tourism museums, heritage sites - Senegal, Kenya, Maurice, Cameroun, UK, France

Collective activities

3.2.2 - Training session in writing, presentation skills and data analysis: preparation of conference papers (posters and oral presentation), presentation of data, and construction of an article (Senegal, Cameroon, France, UK), UCAD - M14

3.2. 3. Workshop on *Heritage Management and Museum Study* - UNant in conjunction with Bath Spa, the Liverpool Museum, MUSK and UoM - M29

Task 3.3. Mapping out Reluctant Sites of memory in Post-slavery spaces: the Case of Bath Spa

Task leader: Bath Spa, UK

Collective activities

3.3.1 - Workshop aimed at partners, doctoral and postdoctoral students about understanding *Contemporary British views on Empire through memorialisation* (ie. the use of artefacts, museum studies and urban planning in Britain). These will be done in conjunction with archivists and scholars working in the field, Bath Spa - M21

3.3.2. - Audio-visual training organized for ER, ESR and Technicians concerned from all third countries and Europeans participants, Bath Spa - M30

Description of Deliverables

D 3.1. Map of *Sites of Slavery and Slave trade in Cameroun* - M36

D 3.2. Proceedings of the methodological workshop on *Reluctant sites* - M30

D 3.3. Research publication from the workshop *Heritage Management and Museum Study* - M36

D 3.4. Synopsis for a documentary on *Citizenship and Marginality: Biographies of Slave Descendants* - M36

Work Package Number	4	M1 - M70
Work Package Title	Databases Analysis: Systematic Inventory of the Existing Resources on the Slave Trade and Slavery	
Lead Beneficiary	UoM	
<p>Objectives</p> <p>The objectives of this work package are to conduct an inventory of the accumulated scientific capital that exists in the various slavery databases in which members of SLAFNET have been involved in the past decade. Numerous databases relating to slavery and slave trade in Africa, in the Western Indian Ocean and in the Atlantic already exist. It is crucial to develop tools for comprehensive data analysis and to develop common data management policies to exploit this data more fruitfully.</p> <p>Concomitantly, it wishes to lay down the foundations of new databases specialized on Ethiopia, and of another one specialized on Mauritius will provide access to invaluable data for researchers and will develop local capacity building in those countries. In particular, they will allow to gather and automatically relate and debate data specific to these regions, like names of persons and places, life histories, linguistic variability, routes, prices, information on practices, nomenclature, terminologies, sample texts, etc. These new databases will build upon the assets and strengths of older databases, and will contribute to fill a void in the long history of slave routes in the Horn of Africa and in the Western Indian Ocean.</p>		

Description of Work and Role of Specific Beneficiaries / Partner Organisations

Task 4.1. An Assessment of Existing Databases on Slave trade in Africa and the Atlantic

Task leader: UNant, France

Scientific activities

4.1.1. Listing existing databases, analysis of their strengths and limitations.

Collective activities

4.1.2. Training in software and databases management at the University of Nantes for ESR, ER and TECH, UNant - M12

Task 4.2. Life trajectories: from Mozambique to Mauritius - the Origins of People of African Descent in Mauritius

Task leader: UoM, Mauritius

Scientific activities

4.2.1. Collection of data - Field trips and documentation in different archival local, national and international centres in Europe - Senegal, Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius and European Partners

Collective activities

4.2. 2. Research methodology workshop and database inventory training on *Slave origins, slave routes from Mozambique to Mauritius*, UoM, M11

Task 4.3: Conceptualization of a database on Ethiopian slavery

Task leader: HLCES, Germany

Scientific activities

4.3.1. Technical pre-conditioned setup.

In order to model the complex relationships among heterogeneous types of primary data, we plan to design, develop and implement a triple-store database. The Ethiopian team of SLAFNET has applied to a French-German (ANR-DFG) research grant in March 2016 called "Slavery, Slave Trade, and the Legacies of Slavery in Ethiopia (SlaTE)". This research program includes hiring an IT specialist to develop a triple-store database conceptualized as a crucial and central collaborative tool. If SlaTE is successful, a significant technical cooperation will be developed within SLAFNET.

4.3.2. Conceptualizing complex archival materials in a database

The database will be backboneed by a conceptual model described in OWL language (Web Ontology Language - <https://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/OWL>). The ontology will define the main classes and relations among persons, ethnic groups, places, geographic regions, labor relations within ethnic groups, master-serf relations, etc.

Description of Deliverables

D 4.1. Analysis of databases related to slavery and slave trade - M24

D 4.2 - Report setting guidelines for a database structuring data on Mauritius- M36

D 4.3 - Workshop on *Slave origins, slave routes from Mozambique to Mauritius*, with a public ceremony to publicise completion of project - M33

D 4.4 - Report setting guidelines for a database structuring data on Ethiopia - M36

“Slavery in Africa: a dialogue between Europe and Africa”

Fighting social inequalities linked to the legacies of slavery in European and African Societies

Marie Pierre Ballarin
Institute of Research for Development, France

Over the past couple of decades, the study of slavery and of many forms of slave trade has attracted increasing attention among scholars of Africa. This interest is in part the consequence of the United Nations' World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, that was held in Durban, South Africa on 31st August – 7th September 2001. The Durban Conference has shown the close relationship between some of the most significant social injustices in the contemporary world, and the historical experiences of captivity, inequality, domination, and the enslavement and trade of humans. It also highlighted many social and memory conflicts between various communities, where slavery and servility status were used in organising the social, ideological, political and religious spheres.

In spite of legal abolition and the criminalisation of slavery in most African countries, emancipation has been happening slowly, and enduring legacies of slavery continue to affect social hierarchies and labour relations. In the context of recent reconfigurations of African public and political spaces, marked by human-rights actions, victims of ancient or contemporary slavery are calling for a greater consideration from their nation and for the recognition of the sufferings they and their ancestors have experienced. The result is an increased debate on the question of slavery in Africa, accompanied by claims concerning social, memory and heritage issues.

Nowadays, the historiography of African slavery and emancipation is a rich field of research that includes detailed regional studies. However, a look at the results of research on slavery reveals a notable imbalance in terms of knowledge production between different parts of the world affected by slave trade and slavery. The areas most represented in scholarly studies are North and South America (the United States, Brazil), and the Caribbean region (insular and coastal). In these parts of the world, where abolitions are ancient, ethnic contemporary mobilisations (African-Americans, Afrodescendants) are based on the denunciation of a 'second-class citizenship' resulting from slavery.

Regarding Africa, important efforts were made mainly on West and Central Africa by examining the Atlantic slave trade, and the subsidiary Western Indian Ocean and the Sahel areas. Nevertheless, in the southern Mediterranean (Maghreb, West Africa), the frontier between slavery and non-slavery is still perceptible, and slavery remains an integral part of social structures. Similarly, in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean, legacies of slavery have long been ignored, and the descendants of slaves are suffering from socially and politically marginalisation. Therefore, across the continent, daily life (material and symbolic) for many communities is still largely influenced by the legacy and contemporary systems of domination and inequality.

Photo 1: Group visit at the National Archives – Mauritius, April 2018.





Photo 2: Summer School – Teaching slavery in East African societies, Ethiopia, April 2019.

This collective effort represents a unique opportunity to stimulate dialogue between researchers, stakeholders from institutions and civil society on the subject. Our final intention is to give the theme a permanent place on the agenda of social science research and teaching in schools and universities in European and African societies.

In October 2014, the international conference *Slavery in Africa: Past, Legacies and Present* (SLAFCO) was held at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) in Nairobi. This three-day conference brought together over 60 scholars from all over the world and represented a foundational moment in Africanist slavery studies. This event aimed to mark an important moment in the intensification of research on slavery in Africa and to position the African continent and its researchers at the centre.

The SLAFNET project “Slavery in Africa: a dialogue between Europe and Africa” intends to build on this momentum as well as to contribute to research on slavery in Africa through the establishment of a pioneering collaborative and networking team of African and European scientists and their students. SLAFNET gathers scholars, research institutions, universities, museums and civil society in a project dedicated to slavery in Africa and its multidimensional dynamics and legacies. The project involves more than 50 researchers in France, Kenya, Mauritius, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Germany, Portugal and the United Kingdom from various disciplines with complementary skills in the field of slavery studies. Nowadays we cannot doubt its historical importance and its weight in the relationships between the various components of African societies in general, and the ambition is

to contribute to a better knowledge of the history of slavery, its consequences and its contemporary manifestations. This initiative is the fruit of the collaboration of its members over the past 15 years, and different regions of the African continent are represented, illustrating both the heterogeneity of situations and the generality of the phenomenon.

The overall objective of SLAFNET is to establish a scientific network of several institutions and research groups from Europe and Africa which interact with local museums in each of the regions involved, as well as with a number of civil society organisations, i.e. anti-slavery associations that are based in Africa. The project also aims at gathering multidisciplinary expertise in slavery-related issues by encouraging the exchange of young and senior researchers from both continents. SLAFNET intends to break down the fragmented historiographies and encourage dialogue; the objective is to bring together the voices of men and women of different generations, from the academic, civil and militant worlds, each one coming with their analyses and their way of dealing with the subject. Academic approaches are thus continuously confronted with more individual visions and feelings, in order to better understand personal and collective trajectories and to converge towards a better knowledge of slavery and its legacies.

In order to achieve the project objectives, we aim to:

- conduct a comparative analysis of the social, political and economic experiences of slave descendants in post-slavery societies regarding inclusion, exclusion and its effect on national cohesion
- provide academic knowledge on the legacies of slavery and its intricacies with heritage, identity, memory and land claims in different regions affected by slavery
- contribute to the identification of heritage sites related to the legacy of slavery
- conserve slavery heritage and translate it into a tool for the economical empowerment of communities
- encourage exchanges and synergy between researchers by supporting their mobility and establishing a sustainable network and reach out to various communities within and outside academia
- strengthen existing partnerships and create new opportunities between collaborating institutions
- support the building and/or the reinforcement of research teams on slavery studies in Africa and Europe
- promote the participation and integration of senior and junior researchers in other European and international academic networks.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The SLAFNET project aims to establish a scientific network of several institutions in Europe and Africa in the field of slavery studies. It intends to focus the mutual efforts of African and European researchers from various disciplines with wide and complementary expertise to address the impact of slavery and slave trade in the history of populations in Europe and Africa.

PROJECT LEAD PROFILE

Marie-Pierre Ballarin is a researcher in History-Anthropology at the IRD (French Institute for Research and Development) and based at the University Côte d’Azur in Nice, France. She is specialised in Heritage and Slavery Studies in East-Africa, with a great experience on the Western Indian Ocean (Madagascar).

She has led several projects in close collaboration with various institutions throughout the African continent.

PROJECT PARTNERS

The SLAFNET project gathers a multidisciplinary team of about 50 researchers from France, Kenya, Mauritius, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Germany, Portugal and the United Kingdom. SLAFNET partners undertake activities in several fields such as training, research and dissemination, in order to support cooperation between researchers and institutions on both continents and develop new synergies with the academic and non-academic worlds.

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