

Summaries

Emmanuel GREGOIRE: *Conflictive urbanization and networks in the Sahara*

For some decades, we have seen a renewal of commercial flow between the two flanks of the Sahara which experience important social economic and cultural changes. From an inanimate desert during the colonial period, the Sahara has again become a transit zone with merchant traffic and migrations contributing to its urbanization. These movements are somewhat disturbed by interstate border quarrels and identity conflicts (Touareg rebellions in Mali and Niger). The petrol riches and the mining industry are very coveted by the great powers of the planet making this flow more fragile which can be questioned at any moment.

Keywords: Trade network - migrations - urbanization - border - identity conflict - Touaregs.

Abdallah KHIARI: *Crises in traditional Saharan oasis: the example of Tolga (Algeria)*

Tolga is a western Ziban municipality, its palmgrove dating from the roman period, is famous for the quality of its dates, "Deglet nour" (sunshine fruit variety), and for its Zaouia El-Athmania regional role in Koranic teaching. Today this oasis finds itself in a critical situation caused by urban extension and tertiary activities which absorb its agricultural workers besides the lack of water for irrigation resulting from a sinking of multiple wells in the new agricultural development areas. As a result, there is a considerable decrease in agricultural output, the old ksour are almost all abandoned and the zaouia's role is less and less preponderant.

Keywords: oasis crisis - Tolga - palm grove - urban extension - agricultural development - ksar.

Abed BENDJELID: *Ouled Saïd, a Gourara palm grove: local development and reproductive traditional society*

In the Gourara, palm groves survive as well as they can thanks to their peasant community resistance, to their persistence and their culture, besides solid public help.

The guidelines of this text centered on the Ouled Saïd oasis, are firstly to analyze the agricultural land division and secondly to understand the geographical changes of the diverse local countryside, and thirdly to try to put the stakes into the context of a small rural traditional society which reproduces itself by using modern State institutions with an aim to manage its municipal territory ensuring local development leaning strongly on public aid and a search

to improve the social conditions for the resident population. In effect a series of planning actions were undertaken as early as the beginning of the 21st century, among which must be emphasized the patrimonial material rehabilitation (foggaras, ksour, environmental protection etc.). Furthermore a social structure recombination enabled some social groups to be implicated in local politics, in order to manage municipality business. This local development certainly improved the Ouled Saïd inhabitants' way of life, but it also raised the dual question of the oases local agriculture future and the hastened preference for a consumer mode.

Keywords: Ouled Saïd - traditional society reproduction - foggaras - consumer mode - municipal management.

Aziz BENTALEB: *Water pumpage and desertification in the Draâ Valley : the Mezquita palm grove example (Morocco)*

The Mezquita palm grove situated in the upper Draâ Valley in southern Morocco is characterized by intensive agriculture, thanks to irrigation. Actually with surface water becoming rare because of prolonged drought and the building of the Mansour Eddahbi dam, farmers have turned to pumping underground water to meet their needs for their crops, mainly for date palms and cereals. Nevertheless this uncontrolled way of using water contributes to degrade the oasis eco system; this situation necessitates an elaboration of guides for reflection in order to safeguard the hydraulic potentialities and palm grove patrimony.

Keywords: oasis - intensive water pumping - desertification - safeguarding - eco system.

Abdelkrim DAOUD: *Hydraulic installations and territory: the example of the Redjim Maatoug (South Tunisian oasis)*

By studying the Rejim Maatoug oasis in Southern Tunisia, close to the Algerian border, this work raises the global problematic of voluntary state politics, aiming at developing desert fringe regions, in order to settle the last nomads and to define territories. In the first part we give a precise outline about the stages for territorial formation by using artesian water from the northern aqueous system and new oasis creation. A socio economic and environmental evaluation of these arrangements are made, to disengage territorial limits by water in these desert regions and to put forward an alternative territorial project based on the necessity of adopting a more patrimonial counseled management for water resources, and a diversity for non agricultural activities, to reduce tensions concerning water resources.

Keywords: oasis - Rejim Maatoug - water - territorial formation - cultural environment.

Mohamed HADEID: Algerian policy for agricultural development in a Steppe milieu: an attempt at evaluation in the High plains south of Oran

The High Plains in the southern Oran region make up a territory of a rural nature where pastoralism was and still remains the main activity. The agricultural development policy started with the publishing of the law concerning access to agricultural land property (APFA) in 1983 and this triggered off the operation for the whole steppe space. Although the regional stock breeders did not have the necessary knowhow for agricultural matters, they adhered massively to this policy, whose objectives were at the same time to increase both agricultural surface and productivity. The stakes for the population concerning this action, are essentially land acquisition as stated by the law, once the cultivator succeeds in developing the land attributed to him, but also to practice agriculture at a time when ploughing was forbidden. These stakes increase greatly after putting the national plan for agricultural development into practice in 2000; to a certain extent here the program financed equipment building water storage tanks, drip by drip irrigation systems, well drilling...). In spite of these subventions, the on field results are not convincing, since few of the irrigated perimeters disposed in the same framework have succeeded in developing agriculture. By taking the El-Bayadh municipality as an example, our investigations have shown this success fluctuation in agricultural development. Certain cultivators were successful others not and this despite financial backing by the PNDA. To detect the trial and error procedure mechanisms proves to be more than necessary in order to lower the failure rate and to contribute to the success of the operation, which is not evident in spaces where the pastoral vocation is always dominant.

Keywords: High Steppe plains - pastoralism - agricultural development - land property access - National Development Plan.

Florence BRONDEAU: The agro-business and development in the Region Niger Office (Mali)

The world cereal market evolution and the hunger riot outbreaks make food product security more than ever a priority for agricultural policies in the countries of the South. In this context, Mali is considered as a powerful macro regional agricultural potential. Huge installation programs have been undertaken in the Niger Office irrigated land systems letting one foresee changes without precedent. The development model base on family agriculture thus seems to be questioned in favor of agro-business promotion within a real estate privatization context. This region is at the dawn of socio-spatial rearrangements and readjustments in so much as socio-economic as environmental that one is just starting to feel, however the agro-business vocation for safe food provisions for the Mali and its neighbors arouses a lot of reticence.

Keywords: Niger Office - irrigation - family agriculture - agro-business - water management - land access.

Martine DROZDZ: *Urban geography on the fringe? Urbanization forms and methods in the Egyptian Sahara (Outside the Delta and Valley) 1917 -2006*

The Egyptian Saharan area which counted 36000 inhabitants in 1907, and one century later 398000, spread out along the coastal fringe, its hinterland and the five oases regions. From the conclusions of recent research on the Sahara, which shows that urbanization, namely the transformation of inhabitants' activities, residence modes, social practices and exchanges represent the most important mutations of the last 60 years for these territories: this article tries to explore the modalities of these new forms of social and spatial organization emerging in the Egyptian Sahara. If until 1996, urbanization is mainly a State action, we will try to understand at what moment the Egyptian political planning context took a voluntary urban turning. At the same time, while analyzing public urban development policies, we will give precisions about the characteristics of this urban mutation. Lastly we will look at how the question will be raised from now on, concerning the future of these Egyptian urban Saharan spaces, between economic liberalization and civil mobilization.

Keywords: Geography - micro urbanization - development - Egyptian Sahara - oasis.

Badreddine YOUSFI: *The town of Adrar in a new urban context: Towards regional space reorganization for Saharan territories of south western Algeria*

From a former ksour in the Touat Timi oasis, Adrar has become a town which imposes itself as a real town, negotiating its place in the spatial reorganization of the Algerian south west. Thus it has developed the necessary mechanisms to secure a new regional role first by putting a series of superior equipment in place such as university and hospital, then forming new commercial activities and services. This enabled it to integrate the national urban network and to widen its spheres of influence. This dynamism has produced a Saharan mobility of a temporary nature on the one hand, within a transport network frame, which developed during the last few years in the direction of the surrounding ksour and Saharan towns, and on the other hand a residential mobility produced by development policies to call upon new skills unavailable locally and essential to develop this urban dynamism. This mobility formed a new socio professional category, made up of staff and traders not originally from Adrar, changing the relationships within the local society. In fact this mutation not only disturbed the local socio hierarchical model but imposed a new definition for the notion of social rank in the Saharan town.

Keywords: Sahara - staff - spheres of influence - exchange - mutation.

Sidi Mohammed TRACHE: *Adrar from ksour to town*

State intervention in the oasis space has brought about many changes. From a township of almost 5000 inhabitants, Adrar the County (Wilaya) administrative

center, has become a real town, somewhat artificial-by concentrating the majority of its population and tertiary activities both authority and management. The town which counted 42 735 inhabitants in 1998 and 63 039 in 2008, by centralizing the main public facilities, and attracting a more and more qualified population, has spread out spatially due to an important habitat production.

The setting up of collective equipment and new administrative organization for the local population required additional selective recruitment among the immigrant population. Both the executive staff and the technical personnel not available on site, come mainly from the north of Algeria and secondly from the southern counties. Growing needs becoming more and more important, thanks to this new immigration, have allowed a variety of commercial activities and services, particularly in the county head seat, Adrar. Furthermore, these same activities have mainly drawn commercial populations from the Tell area.

However this new rapid urbanization seems fragile, because it is upheld by a mainly external population coming from elsewhere, whose only concern is a fast enrichment and a return to their hometown.

These regional development perspectives have they not already been compromised from the beginning? A fragile space, limited resources, an important temporary short stay population, local youth exodus to the more attractive north....are the main characteristics of Adrar to which one must add a marked central consumption space for the county head town, leaving little chance for the other regional "towns" to develop.

Keywords: Adrar - ksour - urban changes - migrations - tertiary activities.

Tayeb OTMANE et Yaël KOUZMINE: *Timimoun, development and actual stakes in an Algerian Saharan oasis*

Timimoun, a Saharan oasis, the so called "capital of the Gourara" and relay town between the Touat region and the M'Zab, has met with a remarkable demographic growth since 1954. This demographic increase has found expression in an important spatial widespread, making the oasis move from rational ksour to a sprawling morphologically diverse and economically renewed Saharan agglomeration. This growth was linked to infrastructure development and change in administrative statute as well as its tourist role. A tertiary economy has won ground to the detriment of its agricultural activity which made up the historical foundation of its economy. The changes, past and present, for both agricultural and urban dynamics, make Timimoun a pertinent example to measure development methods in an oasis milieu.

Keywords: Palm grove - urbanization - socio economic changes - foggara - ksar.

Abdelkader HAMIDI: *Bechar, the outer suburb evolution, Debdaba becoming an active commercial centre*

Algerian southern towns, settings for the Saharan populations' daily life, both for ksour people or settled nomads, represent a preferential subject for study and analysis nowadays. In fact their socio spatial dynamism is the more

dramatic due to its rapidity and extent. It has a most complex socio-demographic composition, for which a geographical analysis is of great interest in decoding the actors stakes in this urbanization process. Here is a town whose origin is a "simple ksar doomed to decline" at the beginning of the last century, and which in fifty years became one of the biggest Algerian Saharan towns. Situated between oued and mountain, the town of Bechar stretches today over more than 15 kilometers from north to south. It is therefore a town which has never stopped spreading founded on a tertiary and "fragile" economic activity because it depends on direct State investment and its role as county seat for the biggest territorial military region.

Debdaba, the town's most important working class suburb nowadays seems to take on the aspect of a district doted with a peripheral centrality, a serious rival for the town centre.

Keywords: periphery - centrality - settlement - suburb - Bechar.

Illili MAHROUR: *Towards an "Umranic" ksour typology in the Gourara*

The ksour and the Ighamawen are these mighty fortresses implanted along the major caravan trails which linked the North to the south of sub-Saharan Africa. Their various defensive facilities have triggered interest concerning their historical origins, their construction modes and the customs of the ethnic groups that created them.

Our study aims at elaborating a ksour typology as an urban unity of Saharan human establishment. The use of the "Umran" concept as developed by Ibn Khaldoun, allows a better reading of ksar space between town and country. This "umranic" typology adds a cultural and historical dimension to the traditional typological analysis, fixing the habits and living modes with a view to bringing back life to the ksour.

Keywords: Saharan habitat - Ibn Khaldoun - Agam (pl. Ighamawen) - stone architecture - ksour typology.

Faiza SEDDIK ARKAM: *Sacred space and symbolic power in the Sahara: the influence of Chorfa marabouts, originally from Essouk, in city management in the Ahaggar*

The "Eneslmen" make up a social category assuming mediatory functions within the Kel Ahaggar Touareg society. They are the mediators between the visible world and the invisible, between Islam and tradition, and thanks to their status as men of peace, between groups and individuals considered as peers, committed to relationships of honour. By this title they assure refereeing functions and often play the role of power behind the throne. They are generally from a noble line of Chorfa from the Moroccan Tafilalet or even from the southern Sahara, from such mythic places as Timbuktu besides the former Adagh capital, Tadamecca (this is Mecca), also called Essouk (the market) : a true place of meeting and exchange, from where the religious Kel Essouk tribes originate. Essouk being one of the first gateways for Islam in Africa.

Nomadic life would seem to be a way of life which is not compatible with Islam, (towns, mosque, grouped community, social life linked to trade...) in the mountainous Ahaggar regions. Among the Touaregs, honour is attributed to noble warriors the Imuhagh who find it difficult to accept other laws than those of their warrior's honour which distinguishes them. Islam has however enabled the Chorfa to emerge as religious clerks, into a class which has acquired symbolic power of parallel rule added to the local system based on warriors' honour.

Keywords: Ahaggar - Chorfa - Touareg - symbolic power - tolba.

Moustapha NOUR AYEH: *Djibouti: Extreme desert margins in search of an oriental destiny*

The recession in the 1990's dramatically revealed the Djibouti economy fragility and its almost total dependence on military revenue. Subject to structural adjustment and obliged to privatize public enterprises, Djibouti has allowed a large part of its economy to be in the control of Arab Golf countries, particularly The United Emirates. The relative rush of Arab investments enabled the economy to start up again and to lessen its too great dependence concerning the western military bases. At a geographical urban level, the investments agreed on in infrastructures, new harbor and activity zones have had the effect of urban structure reorganization.

Keywords: Djibouti - economic fragility - Emirats arabes unies - economic renewal - harbor infrastructure - military base.

Serge ORMAUX et Clémentine THIERRY: *Tourism in the Djibouti Republic agro pastoral milieu; between main model reinterpretation and its own trajectories*

Within the last decades tourism has met great changes. Certain perverse effects have been noticed from tourism on territories open to sightseeing, and at the same time diverse alternatives such as eco tourism have appeared.

The African continent is a pioneer, even initiator of such tourism. From Saharan camel tracks to eco-camping in Mali, these new ways of travelling want to be more ethical and more respectful of the natural milieu and the local population.

The Djibouti Republic a State on the edge of the Saharan space would appear as an emerging 'alter tourist destination'. From this example, this article tries to analyze the processes at the origin of this sudden initiative development, between reinterpretation of main models and innovating projects. Doing this, we provide the first results of a study carried out on the new forms of tourism in Djibouti.

Keywords: Djibouti - territory - development strategies - new tourism - pastoralism.

Mohamed SOUISSI: *Tour tourism in the Tunisian Sahara: reality and perspectives*

Tourist tours are considered as the main attraction that the Sahara region offers. This form of tourism concerns the Gafsa-Tozeur tourist zone. The Djerba-Zaris spa pole plays an important role for organized sightseeing tours in the Sahara regions. An analysis of the Saharan tourism image, given by foreign tour operators in their publicity brochures, shows that the organized trips and excursions represent the subject the most approached by travel agencies. This research aims at elaborating evaluations of places in the tourist tours in the Saharan Tunisian circuit, to study its spatial organization and to analyze its commercial function among the foreign travel agents. It also tries to suggest new trips capable of better organization for this tour tourism in the Tunisian Sahara.

Keywords: Tunisia -Tunisian Sahara - tourist organized trips - coastal tourist tourist agencies.

André LARCENEUX: *The Sahara and its margins, a precise subject under study: in favor of renewed research on desert spaces*

This publication on the Sahara was advantaged by contributions from several generations of research in many different disciplines, resulting in a large diversity of approach and openings for new research. Two main observations can be made. Firstly, the contributions brought oppositions into play: desert versus desertification, patrimonial and symbolic values of the desert but spatial degradation, nomad renewal yet settlement progression. But especially, in a more demanding way, they enabled thinking about the desert as a dynamic system, subject to climatic, socio-economic and cultural forces, in so much internal as external, which make it develop and change: it is fitting to thus analyze its resilience as an ecosystem and as a socio cultural space. The research work revealed by this conference allows us to found a basis to understand the desert as a system.

Keywords: Desert - desertification - migrations - pollution - water - tourism.