

CREATIVE METHODOLOGIES

Writing the stories
of **working women**
from popular
classes in African
urban milieux,
1920 — 1970

Conference Program

8 — 10 January 2024

LOCATION

Room 100, Ground floor,
Centre des Colloques
Campus Condorcet,
Place du Front populaire,
93322, Aubervilliers
(Metro : Front Populaire)



Funded by
the European Union



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



IMAF
Institut des mondes africains
UMR 8171 (CNRS) - UMR 243 (IRD)



Female cheese vendor, Shendi railway station, Sudan
SAD A8/212, 1936 – W. Nicholls collection
Courtesy of the Sudan Library, University of Durham, UK

Zoom link for the three days:

<https://cnrs.zoom.us/j/96456641290?pwd=blNkWUtjWnRhV3FUclQwZS9hUDJmUT09>

(passcode: 1iM7zc)

Day 1. Monday, 8th January 2024

9:00 – 9:45 Welcome and presentation of the project

9:45 – 10:45 **Noor Nieftagodien**, University of Witwatersrand

South Africa, Social History and the Recovery of Women's Experiences in History

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 **Mahassin Abdel Galil**, EHESS, Paris

Sudanese Women's History through Biographies and Microhistory: Implicit Methodological Challenges

12:00 – 13:00 **Akosua Darkwah**, University of Ghana

The River of Life as an Interview Method

Lunch (IMAF, Bâtiment de recherches sud, 3rd floor, room n. 3.122)

14:30 – 15:30 **Danielle Van den Heuvel**, University of Amsterdam

What can the Early Modern do for You? Uncovering Ephemeral Activities on Everyday City Life using the Snapshot Method

15:30 – 16:30 **Darren Newbury**, University of Brighton

Historical Photographs and Photographic Histories: Methodological Reflections on Research in Photographic Archives of Africa

Coffee break

16:45 – 17:30 **Karin Pallaver**, University of Bologna

ERC Research Project: Ayahs in Kenya: a Preliminary Exploration of Themes and Sources

Day 2. Tuesday, 9th January 2024

9:00 – 10:00 **Felix Meier zu Selhausen**, Utrecht University

Gender Inequality and urban Elite Formation: New Insights from Parish Registers in British Colonial Africa

10:00 – 11:00 **Filipa Ribeiro da Silva**, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam

Searching for African Women's Urban Occupations in Colonial Censuses: Preliminary Reflections and Comparisons

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:15 **Tim Gibbs**, University of Paris Nanterre

The Widows of Warwick Junction Pavement Markets (Durban, South Africa): Studying Commercial Networks in a Time of Crisis

12:15 – 13:00 **Domenico Cristofaro**, University of Bologna

ERC Research Project: Creative Mobilities: Introductory Thoughts on Migration, Infrastructure Development and Market Traders in Colonial Northern Ghana

Lunch (IMAF, Bâtiment de recherches sud, 3rd floor, room n. 3.122)

14:30 – 15:30 **Salvatory Nyanto**, University of Dar es Salaam

Women, Brewing and Urban Professionalism in Twentieth-Century Tabora, Western Tanzania, 1930-1970

15:30 – 16:15 **Alma Simba**, EHESS, Paris

PhD ERC Research Project: Women's Resistance and Informal Labour in Dar es Salaam, 1950-1985

Coffee break

16:30 – 17:15 **Daniel Worku Kebede**, EHESS, Paris

PhD ERC Research Project: A History of Women in the Informal Sectors in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (1886 -1991): the Case of Weavers and Potters

17:15 – 18:00 **Juliet Tiwaah Adu Boahen**, EHESS, Paris

PhD ERC Research Project: Wayside Female Dressmakers: A Historical Analysis of Cultural, Economic and Social Impacts of Dressmaking in the Gold Coast and Ghana, 1919-1970

Day 3. Wednesday, 10th January 2024

9:00 – 10:00 **Emma Hunter**, University of Edinburgh

Swahili Language Newspapers and the History of Urban Working Women in Mid-twentieth-century Tanzania

10:00 – 11:00 **Elara Bertho**, Laboratoire Afriques dans le Monde, Bordeaux

Can Literature Rescue History? Paradoxes in Subalterns' Voices (Guinea, 1970s)

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:15 **Heather Sharkey**, University of Pennsylvania

'The Guide to Modern Cooking': Tracing the History of Sudanese Women's Domestic Labor Through a Home Economics Textbook

12:15 – 13:00 **Mariam Sharif**, EHESS, Paris

PhD Research Project: The History of Nursing: Education, Practices and Political Participation in Sudan from 1899-1970s

Lunch (IMAF, Bâtiment de recherches sud, 3rd floor, room n. 3.023)

14:30 – 15:30 **Tirsit Sahledengle**, University of Addis Ababa and **Meron Zeleke**, University of Addis Ababa

Understanding the History of Female Employment in the Textile Industry in Ethiopia; the Value of Anthropological Methods

15:30 – 16:15 **Pierre Guidi**, IRD, Paris and **Tirsit Sahledengle**, University of Addis Ababa

ERC Research Project: Discourses 'From Within' versus Discourses 'About'? The Work of Ethiopian 'Traditional' Midwives in the Press and in their Own Testimonies (1970s)

Coffee break

16:30 – 17:15 **Anne Hugon**, University of Paris 1

ERC Research Project: Documenting the History of Birth Attendants versus Documenting the History of Registered Midwives in the Gold Coast/Ghana: some Preliminary Reflections on Sources

17:15 – 18:00 **Elena Vezzadini**, Institut des Mondes Africains, Paris

ERC Research Project: Only Shadows of Traces: Studying Hairdressers and Estheticians in Colonial and Early Colonial Sudan