



Royaume du Maroc
Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de la
Formation Professionnelle, de l'Enseignement
Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique
Département de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la
Recherche Scientifique



Programme Ibn Khaldoun d'appui à la recherche Scientifique dans le domaine des Sciences Humaines et Sociales

Gender and Land Tenure Reforms In Morocco

In collaboration with Research Laboratory : Littérature, Arts et Ingénierie pédagogique and the Masters program Gender and Culture, Ibn Khaldoun project research team “Moroccan Women and the State in the Wake of Reform: Towards a Gendered Grassroot Intervention into Development” is organizing a roundtable on gender and land tenure reforms in Morocco at Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, March 26th 2022.

This roundtable aims to discuss gender and land ownership in contemporary Morocco in the context of the nation's land reform efforts and the emergence of social movements to contest the process of land possession and dispossession. This discussion engages with the ideal of “the common” as a structuring principle of social change (Federecci 2018). The event aims to include various perspectives as well as rural men and women and their distinctive formulations of what constitutes the commons (Rignall. 2021).

Historically, communal-land ownership created social structures, norms, and values that positioned the land as uncommodified and inviolable space containing both the legacy and material manifestations of preceding generations. However, as the Moroccan feminist sociologist Fatima Mernissi has shown, when capitalism replaces the kinship system, the notion of the extended family as a basic component of the subsistence economy can fall apart. As a result, women have found themselves in the precarious position of having to labor in a formal capitalist economy, rather than within kinship systems that can offer more social protections (Mernissi 1981). The recent changes to land tenure in Morocco have raised concerns about increasing land loss among marginalized groups and individuals. The new property regime has also fomented confusion about who is entitled to hold rights in collectively owned land. With this context in mind, the roundtable will focus on social partnerships for protecting the land (as opposed to market-oriented supports) that have arisen in response to commodification and other changes to land tenure in Morocco and beyond. For example, one form of social partnership to build up and preserve the land that has emerged is the formation of so-called “brotherhoods” (alkhāwā), in which communal landholders with shared values come together across likeminded ethnic communities (Hamdache forthcoming).

To these ends, we encourage original contributions that map the material and immaterial links between individual and collective struggles across gender and other inequalities and changes to collective land tenure. In particular, we invite contributions that examine the significance of land for women and men who are experiencing land dispossession and possession and/or contributions that explore the transition from communal to individual land ownership.

This roundtable will be organized into three interrelated sections:

1. ***Gender and Changes to Land Tenure:*** This section explores gender and its intersection with access to communal land ownership. How do women situate themselves within the context of communal land before and after legal changes to land tenure in 2019?
2. ***Land Tenure and Social Movements:*** How have men and women organized collective action amidst changes to land tenure? How have men and women organized contestations of those changes? In the context of local and international communal land commodification efforts, what forms of alignment and resistance have emerged?
3. ***In Their Own Words:*** This section explores narratives by Sulalyyat women about land possession and dispossession. Beyond the mainstream media narratives, what stories have women told about land beyond and after 2019 62/17 law?

Submission Details:

Please send in an abstract of 300 words and a brief bio **before February 15th 2022** to the organizers: **genderandland2022@gmail.com**

indicate in which of the three sections you think your work fits. You can indicate more than one section. Acceptance notifications will be sent by February 20th. The participants are expected to send their papers by March 15th.

The proceedings of the roundtable will be published in an edited volume December 2022.

For any inquiries, please contact:

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