



***The University of Tlemcen- The University of Poitiers  
LLC Research Laboratory and the Studies Centre CESC***

Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale  
(Centre of Higher Studies in Medieval Civilisation)

Organize

An International Conference on

***Elites in the Mediterranean through Time and Space***

November 25-26, 2018

Call for papers

The question of elites appears to be a complex subject and the terminology to which it is associated is a plural terminology. Several terms refer to this notion of superiority. So it is not only about how to designate the elite and how to oppose it, but rather, and as Norbert Elias stated: "The question is how and why do men connect with one another and together form specific dynamic groups?"

A priori, the elites are groups of individuals dedicated to a noble cause (family, motherland, religion, knowledge, ...and honour), defending it energetically according to the canons of a wise organisation, and seeking to draw the crowd into the way of good according to Mgr Gibier.

These individualities represent open minds with ardent and disciplined sensibilities. Capable and enlightened, the elite are those minorities distinguished from the rest of society with their eminence and influence. They are men who are greater than their time, born to open new paths and attract their contemporaries through the force of wisdom and persuasion. Indeed, the elites are supposed to light up their way and train the others to follow their path.



Being the most distinguished category in society, did this relatively restricted group exercise a political, intellectual, social, moral, and material domination over the rest of society? If the answer is yes, how are these groups defined and organized? Are they represented or do they represent themselves collectively or by a sum of individualities? Should we speak about singular elite or elites in the plural? Are these informal or institutionalized groups? And if they are, what means are being implemented to institutionalize them: the law, religion, the war, property...or honour? From this view, what could be the main criteria of well-founded identities and markers of distinction of these elites in the Mediterranean from antiquity to the present?

In the light of the approaches inherent to the theme of the elite(s) in the Mediterranean, this colloquium is organised by the University of Tlemcen together with the University of Poitiers, the LLC Research Laboratory, and the Centre of Higher Studies of Medieval Civilisation (Centre d'Etudes Supérieure de Civilisation médiévale) CESCM-UMR 7302 to explore and examine the following research themes:

- Writing (s) of the history of elites in the Mediterranean in the medieval era.
- The characteristics of the elite and its influence on humanity.
- The elite and its evolution through centuries and societies: the honest man, supremacy, power, and superiority.
- The Algerian elites of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- The elites or minorities in the face of the mass, majorities, and social movements.
- The elite, the intelligentsia, and the power.

### **Abstract Submission Modalities**

Participants working on these or related issues are invited to submit 300 word abstracts (Arabic, French, or English), and a title, the selected research theme, key words, bibliography, and a short bio to: [labolanguesllc@gmail.com](mailto:labolanguesllc@gmail.com).



**Conference honorary chair:** Prof. Mustapha DJAFOUR.

**Scientific committee**

SARI MOHAMMED Latifa – Stéphane BOISSELLIER -Sami BENKHERFALLAH – BALLARADJ Abderrahmane – SENOUCI Faiza - BENDAOU Ahmed - BENGHABRIT Mohammed Tewfik – HIDJAZI Mustapha -- BENKHENAFU Rachid –.

**Head of the Scientific committee :** Abdelmadjid BOUDJELLA