

UNESCO International History Conference

UNESCO and Issues of Colonization and Decolonization

UCAD II Complex, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal 5 to 6 October 2009

Conference held by the International Scientific Committee for the UNESCO History Project
in cooperation with the Ecole Doctorale Etudes sur l'Homme et la Société,
and the Department of History of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences
of Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, and UNESCO

PROGRAMME

The history of UNESCO cannot be written without reflection on its relationship to the mass decolonization of both peoples and nations that occurred after 1946. How did these phenomena intertwine with developments at UNESCO in regard to its lines of emphasis, themes, bodies and functions, financing, leadership and conflicts at the heart of the institution and its competing networks? That history can be approached from many angles. Even in terms of the stakeholders involved, questions arise not only about relations between the colonizers and the colonized, but about the role that UNESCO itself played in decolonization.

What role did UNESCO play in the heated debates on the future of colonial empires, whose (former) masters were among the powers wielding great influence over UNESCO's programmes and financing, and whose historical legitimacy was strengthened further by their status as founding members of the Organization? What stance did the Organization, which was supposed to dedicate its action and resources to the promotion of education and culture for peace, take on the national liberation movements which sometimes expressed themselves through violence?

There is no doubt that UNESCO made many contributions, in diverse forms, to the building and consolidation of the new nation States that emerged from the decolonization process. In so doing, UNESCO contributed to the attainment and consolidation of national independence. UNESCO launched numerous programmes and projects, bilaterally and multilaterally, or endorsed initiatives designed to assist those new States, particularly in the area of education and training. At the same time, decolonization deeply influenced ideas and developments in former colonizing States. In what ways has UNESCO contributed to shaping post-colonial thought both in former colonies and colonizing countries?

The transnational nature of UNESCO's involvement in the decolonization process over time remains largely unexplored. For this reason, the conference focuses on transnational approaches to the following themes:

- UNESCO and concepts of race;

- the *History* series published by UNESCO;
- UNESCO's approach to colonial issues and national liberation struggles;
- decolonization in Africa and Asia and the impact on UNESCO;
- the role of culture and education in "decolonizing minds";
- decolonization and the future of cultural dialogue.

Format

Each panel discussant introduces and discusses pre-circulated papers (15 mins). Authors then take the floor (10 mins each). Presentations are followed by a 30-minute public debate.

Sunday, 4 October 2009

5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Opening ceremony, Office of the Rector, Cheikh Anta Diop University

Christian NDombi BREDA, UNESCO, Dakar.

Representative of the Minister of Culture and Listed Historical Heritage.

Professor Abdou Salam Sall, Rector, Cheikh Anta Diop University.

Professor Jean-François Sirinelli, Chair, International Scientific Committee for the UNESCO History Project.

Professor Saliou Ndiaye, Dean, Faculty of Letters.

Ms Ramatoulaye Mbengue/Diagne, Director, ETHOS.

Monday, 5 October 2009

9 a.m.-10.30 a.m.

Opening lecture: UNESCO and Issues of Colonization and Decolonization.

Mr. Doudou DIENE

Chair: **Christian NDombi** (BREDA)

11 a.m.-12.15 p.m.

Session 1: UNESCO: International Relations and the Fate of Colonial Empires.

Chair: **Hamady Bocoum**

Discussant: **Ibrahima Seck**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences (FLSH), UCAD, Dakar.

Papers

1. **Aigul Kulnazarova** (Tama University, Kanagawa, Japan): *The Role of UNESCO in Decolonization and Renegotiating the Transnational Power Relationships: the Case of India and Britain.*
2. **Amaral Da Silva Lala** (Visiting Professor, History of International Relations and International Organizations and Institutions, Institute of International Relations (IRI-MIREX), Luanda, Angola) *The Portugal Issue.*
3. **Bénédicte Percheron** (University of Rouen, France): *UNESCO and Constructing Cultural Identities of Former Colonies.*

2.15 p.m.-3.30 p.m.

Session 2: Reforming Education: A Major Feature in the Decolonization Process.

Chair: **Thomas Weiss**, City University of New York (CUNY).

Discussant: **Amadou Fall**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Education Sciences and Technologies (FASTEF), UCAD, Dakar.

Papers

1. **Gilbert Wazha Morapedi** (University of Botswana): *UNESCO and the Liberation of Southern Africa: The Case of Southern African Refugees in Botswana.*
2. **Jiwon Paik** (Seoul National University, Republic of Korea): *The Impact of UNESCO on Korea's Decolonization Process.*
3. **Joseph Gahama** (Kigali Institute of Education, Rwanda): *The Role of UNESCO in Seeking and Consolidating Peace in Rwanda (1994-2008).*

4 p.m.-5.15 p.m.

Session 3: Decolonization and the Promotion of the Culture of Human Rights.

Chair: **Jean-François Sirinelli**, Director, Centre for History, Institute of Political Sciences, Paris, France.

Discussant: **Ndiouga Adrien Benga**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, FLSH, UCAD, Dakar.

Papers

1. **Dr Behrooz Morvaridi** (University of Bradford, United Kingdom): *The Right to Self-Determination and Individual Rights: The Formation of the Ideas of Human Rights within UNESCO and the Era of Decolonization in Sub-Saharan Africa.*
2. **Fella Benabed** (Badji Mokhtar University, Annaba, Algeria): *UNESCO's Support for Peace and Human Rights Education: Paulo Freire's Education for Liberation as a Case in Point.*

Tuesday, 6 October 2009

9 a.m.-10.30 p.m.

Session 4: Rewriting history and "Decolonizing Minds".

Chair: **Rokhaya Fall/Sokhna**, Department of History, FLSH and IFAN, UCAD.

Discussant: **Daha Chérif Ba**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, FLSH, UCAD, Dakar.

Papers

1. **Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch** (University of Paris 7 – Denis Diderot, France): *The UNESCO-ICHS Joint Committee.*
2. **Chris Saunders** (University of Cape Town, South Africa): *UNESCO's General History of Africa: A Perspective.*
3. **Jacob Tatsitsa** (University of Yaoundé, Cameroon): *UNESCO in Action in Cameroon: Changing Perceptions of the Kamerunian "National Revolution" in Textbooks and Teaching Aids, 1960-2008.*
4. **Yujung Im** (Seoul National University, Republic of Korea): *Have the Minds of North-East Asia Decolonized? A History Textbook Problem to be Solved.*

11 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Session 5: Combating Racism through Scientific Knowledge.

Chair: **Aminata Cissé-Diaw**, Department of Philosophy, UCAD.

Discussant: **Abderrahmane Ngaidé**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, FLSH, UCAD, Dakar.

Papers

1. **Perrin Selcer** (University of Pennsylvania, United States of America): *The Cautious Optimism of Scientific Propaganda: The University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Chair of Race Relations.*
2. **Michelle Brattain** (Georgia State University, Atlanta, United States of America): *UNESCO's Post-War Engagement with Race: Using Science to Combat Racism.*
3. **Gail Archibald** (La Sorbonne, Paris 1, France): *From Genocide to Independence: UNESCO's Early Engagement in the Race Question, 1945-1960.*
4. **Yvan Gastaut** (University of Nice, France): *Réflexion savante et éducation antiraciste: l'expérience de l'UNESCO* [Academic Thought and Anti-racist Education: the UNESCO Experience].

2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Session 6: Summary of the proceedings

Andreas Eckert, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.

Ibrahima Thioub, Department of History, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal.

Thomas Weiss, City University of New York (CUNY), United States of America.

Closing Remarks

Representative of the Minister of Education.

Saliou Ndiaye, Dean, FLSH, UCAD.

Jens Boel, Project Coordinator, UNESCO History Project.

Christian NDombi (BREDA), UNESCO, Dakar.

All panel discussions will be held in the video conference room at UCAD II, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in French and English.