

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar of the FONCIMED  
Network of Research and Exchange on Mediterranean Land Issues,  
in collaboration with Moulay Ismail University – Meknes, Morocco**



**Call for Papers 2018**

**Meknes (Morocco) 8 - 10 November 2018**

***Allocation of land resources in the Mediterranean area:  
legal practices and forms of regulation.***

Land management in rural and peri-urban areas reflects a set of public-policy priorities: sustaining employment in agriculture, food sovereignty, housing production, protection of fragile zones and biodiversity. However in Mediterranean areas, these various public issues on the “land question” agenda are specifically marked by the density of human occupation concentrated on the coastal fringes, the fragmented structure of exploitations and the persistence of a significant rate of agricultural employment. Lastly, conflict over the usage of coastal and mountain spaces is exacerbated in the Mediterranean area by potentially divergent economic interests such as the development of tourism with all its concomitant infrastructures in flat zones, access to housing for local populations and the preservation of agricultural land. These tensions over land-use are part of a wider political and economic context made fragile by regional tensions resulting from international conflict, migratory and economic crises, and the democratic demands that emerge in situations of transition.

For its 2018 annual international seminar, the research network Foncimed proposes to focus on the question of regulation of land resources, seen from a multidisciplinary perspective, both in its legal and in its social, spatial and economic dimensions. Indeed, the multiple tensions linked to land management give rise to local demands, directly challenging forms of allocation of land resources, whether in the legal context or in forms of social and economic regulation. These issues may be approached from three main angles: public decision-making mechanisms regarding the assignment and redistribution of land (1); legal practices in management of land rights (2); forms of social and economic regulation of land as a rare resource (3).

The international seminar aims to combine contributions from a variety of disciplines (law, economics, sociology, geography, history, biotechnical sciences) and with different ranges of analysis, drawing in the institutional and historic dimensions.

## **1. Mechanisms of public decision-making regarding the affectation of land: unresolved compromises**

Beyond the directions taken by national policies on land-reform and governance, the countries of the Mediterranean Basin are confronted with shared challenges. Land planning at regional and local levels means arbitration between use of land for housing, industrial and touristic infrastructure on the one hand and directives to protect agricultural land on the other. These issues concerning the conversion of agricultural land for urbanization also concern rural development. In the countries on the southern shore, the transformation from agro-pastoral systems to intensive agriculture in arid zones is accompanied by changes in land rights and leads to the privatization of collective resources, the non-preservation of which calls private initiative into question. In Europe, the place of private management tools among the mechanisms for environmental compensation is also under debate. Moreover, on the northern shore as well as the southern, mountainous areas pose a political problem due, in particular, to the challenges to their pastoral tradition which depends on collective spaces of low productivity (giving rise to such controversies as pastureland fires, or wolves). What forms of land organization can be seen on the local level, between public control, environmental injunctions, initiatives from the private sector and interventions by local political and administrative bodies?

## **2. Practical management of rights in land tenure systems**

Claims made by actors of the land tenure system are expressed in the form of subjective rights, at the interface between rules of private law (property management and inheritance, contractual relationships) and public law (planning, rural development, environmental issues). The notion of property rights (from *common law* countries), in particular in the way it is used by economic theory, is a good illustration of the complexity of frames of reference in the domain of land rights. In rural and peri-urban areas, different regulatory instances (local collectivities and elected officials, agricultural bodies, trade unions, administrative services, local jurisdictions, etc.) may be solicited to deal with applications, attribute rights and settle disputes. These needs may arise, from case to case, in variable contexts of securing tenure rights and normative pluralism. Those who have rights or claim to have rights on agricultural land (landowners or farmers) need to solicit the regulatory instances or decision-making bodies to have their claims to land access recognized or be allocated building and user rights. What are the main modes of management observed around land rights claims?

## **3. Land regulation as a resource in a context of land scarcity**

The dynamics of land occupation in the Mediterranean area is both a result of agreements and power relations at the heart of local land systems (modes of distribution of revenues and access to land) and the consequence of regulations at the national and international level (national and European regulatory orientations, strategies of international investors, organization of marketing networks). How the agricultural land market functions, the rate of urban spread, modes of coexistence between agricultural and pastoral methods of variable intensity, the cohabitation between direct and indirect modes of development... these are the characteristics, observable on different scales, that result from various forms of social and economic regulation. These forms of regulation may be more or less official and be subject to a more or less structured collective organization. What forms could coalitions of interests take to regulate (or deregulate) access to land? What are the dynamics of these forms of regulation or the place of conflict in the ways these forms evolve?

### **Submission of abstracts**

Each abstract will be assessed by two members of the scientific committee. They should outline the interest of the paper with regard to one of the seminar's axes du and should include:

- A contextualisation of the research problem and the main objectives of the communication
- The methodology and techniques used to resolve the research problem
- The main conclusions
- A list of five key words

### **Formatting**

Abstracts of between 1400 and 1500 words in length (including references) may be written in French or English. Style guidelines: Times New Roman, 12 pts, normal, justified. Paragraphs: 6 pts before and 0 pts after. Margins: 2.54 cm all round. References should adhere to APA norms.

**Address for submitting abstracts: [foncimed2018@gmail.com](mailto:foncimed2018@gmail.com)**

### **Important dates:**

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 May 2018

Date of notification of acceptance: 15 June 2018

Deadline for registration at the seminar: 15 September 2018

### **Registration:**

Once the acceptance of an abstract has been notified, registration is free but obligatory. Simply send a declaration to the following address: **[foncimed2018@gmail.com](mailto:foncimed2018@gmail.com)**

### **Scientific committee :**

- **Abdallah Ben Saad**, Tunisian National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRAT), Tunisia
- **Abdelrani Bouayad**, University Moulay Ismail , Meknes (FSJES) – Morocco
- **Mohamed Elloumi**, Tunisian National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRAT), Tunisia
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- **Koutsou Stavriani**, Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece
- **Anthopoulou Theodosia**, University Panthéon, Athens, Greece.
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- **Aissam Zine-Dine**, University Moulay Ismail, Meknes (FSJES) – Morocco

### **Local organization committee:**

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