



**COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | TUNIS**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

SEPTEMBER 2021



## I. INTRODUCTORY PART

"Our network of Global Centers has become central to the University's teaching, research, and scholarship. The Centers afford students and faculty the opportunity to engage with the people and ideas shaping the modern world, at a moment when that need could not be more urgent. And when they return to our home campuses, those who have travelled abroad play an essential role in broadening the intellectual outlook of all of us. It is simply a fact that we would not be the same institution without the Global Centers."

Lee C. Bollinger  
President  
Columbia University



## INTRODUCTION



A challenging year, 2020 vividly illustrated to the world the perils of not heeding recommendations backed by scientifically proven data. Making decisions based on populism and false assumptions has cost the world dearly.

Yet the response to the Covid-19 crisis by health care professionals and the medical research community has demonstrated the power of pooled resources, as brilliant minds came together from around the world to come up in record time – albeit still not quickly enough – with real solutions to a global pandemic not seen in our lifetime. The world can now afford more than a glimmer of hope, as millions of vaccines are being distributed globally; and now that knowledge and reason are once again prevailing in political leadership.

This cooperative approach, and its attendant benefits, was also a hallmark of the Columbia Global Centers network during 2020. The Centers quickly mobilized and pivoted to offer more than 500 instructive webinars, tackling issues related to the economy, Covid-19, forced migration, climate change, and many other critical topics, that brought Columbia expertise in conversation with essential voices from all over the world, to reach hundreds of thousands of audience members. The Centers collaborated in their programming with every school on campus, which led to new, sustained opportunities for tangible and impactful collabo-

rations that engaged our faculty with regional partners around relevant topics.

The Global Centers also offered students virtual internships, providing our local and regional networks of employers' exceptional talent and skills. The program generated 1,900 applications from students in more than 50 countries. More than 400 students from 15 schools across campus took up positions last summer, and the program has been expanded and extended into the academic year.

Perhaps the most pioneering work the Centers performed during the crisis was in leading the University's efforts to provide international students study and community spaces – to convene, connect, and collaborate – at the Global Centers and nine pop-up sites around the world, in addition to student access to study facilities in 80+ other cities. More than 4,000 students have registered for and accessed the spaces, and thousands more have been engaged in robust programming and through new communication channels designed to meet the needs of our international student body.

At a time when so many turned inward and the world became insular, we went out – even more – and we adapted, innovated, and built community. We were not isolated groups serving specific locations, but a global body functioning together for all. Our defining purpose, of being an essential, international part of the University, has never been more clearly realized.

The network of Columbia Global Centers has turned a corner in a way that is enormously beneficial to their stakeholders in every region, and to the University. This year, 2021, is one of consolidation for our network, as we strive to continuously grow and strengthen the international presence essential to the University and the global community.

I am immensely grateful to our many partners and supporters all over the world who make the work of the Columbia Global Centers possible and impactful, and I am especially proud of our staff, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that we deliver on our promise.

In hope and faith,

Safwan M. Masri  
Executive Vice President  
Global Centers and Global Development  
Columbia University

## OVERVIEW



In November 2016, Columbia announced its intention to establish its ninth Global Center (CGC), in Tunis. Five years later, the Center not only exists but also grows and develops. CGC Tunis built a network of partners in academia, the private and public sectors, civil society and international organizations. It is also now a well-established Columbia entity, with multiple guests and users from the University.

CGC Tunis is located in downtown Tunis. From the rooftop of Le15, the refurbished early 20th century building that harbors the Center, one can see the Mediterranean Sea, the hill of ancient Carthage, the Islamic Medina of Tunis, and the Art Nouveau quarters of the European City of Tunis. The Center's visitors experience the true life of a Tunisian, can eat like a local and live like a local. In short, for Columbia faculty and students who come to Tunis, it is not tourism, but immersion. The Global Immersion class that CGC Tunis hosts every year finds a resonance to its name and philosophy.

Since its inception, the Center has organized or co-organized

nearly 200 events, has hosted more than 100 Columbia students and professors, and has also established strong partnerships with local and international institutions such as the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and its affiliated universities, Institut Pasteur Tunis, the U.S. Embassy Tunis, and many others. CGC Tunis helped to put in place long term projects, such as the Capacity Building for English Language Educators of Young Learners in Tunisia project and the Strengthening English Language Programming for ESP Educators in Algeria project, led by Teachers College, and the Logical Reasoning in Human Genetics course with Institut Pasteur Tunis.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit exactly when CGC Tunis reached its cruising altitude. In fact, whereas the announcement to open the Center was made in late 2016, it was only in early 2019 that the Center became fully operational. Several projects and events planned from March 2020 onward had to be abandoned. Nonetheless, we bounced back, just like the other Global Centers, just like Columbia University. By moving to virtual programming, we were able to increase our activities and expand our fields of interest. For instance, public health and medicine, a field that we had started to explore in 2018, became one of our main focus following the Covid-19 outbreak.

It is in full confidence that we are entering the 2020s, aiming to fulfill our strategy of becoming a Global Center bridging Columbia University to West and North Africa, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and skills in order to follow the University's global strategy and ultimately contribute in transforming it into a global university.



Youssef Cherif, GSAS '09  
Director, Columbia Global Centers | Tunis  
Columbia University



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We gratefully acknowledge the exceptional generosity of those whose gifts and grants supported Columbia programs at or with CGC Tunis:



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A CGC Tunis Brainstorming Circle meeting, Fall 2019.

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## WHO WE ARE

“The Columbia Global Centers promote and facilitate the collaborative and impactful engagement of Columbia University’s faculty, students, and alumni with the world, to enhance understanding, address global challenges, and advance knowledge and its exchange.” They connect the local with the global, create opportunities for shared learning, and work as a conduit of knowledge between Columbia and the region where a Center is located, and vice versa.

CGC Tunis is Columbia’s ninth Global Center, established after Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago de Chile. A number of reasons explain the University’s interest in the region, and Tunis in particular. Tunisia was, first of all, the epicenter of the 2011 Arab Uprisings, as well as the country where the attempts of democratization and revolutionary change have been the most successful in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region. The Tunisian State, moreover, has invested heavily in education during its postcolonial years. Furthermore, Tunisia--through Carthage, Kairouan and later Tunis--has been a regional cultural and political hub for most of the pre-colonial era. It has also been at the crossroads of Arab and Islamic culture and a major place in the Francophone world.

With the establishment of CGC Tunis, Columbia will be one of a handful of American universities in North and West Africa offering a scholarly contribution to a public largely unfamiliar with the U.S. education system and U.S. academia. And it goes both ways: until 2011, only a few Columbia (and North American) scholars showed interest in West and North Africa, which points to gaps that the Center aims to fill.

CGC Tunis therefore strives to become the bridge to American education for West and North African students, and to be the conduit facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise between Columbia and the region. CGC Tunis has always worked on building ties with local partners, engaging Columbia faculty and students, and organizing joint activities with the Columbia Alumni Association. Also, as a Center situated in the heart of the Mediterranean, CGC Tunis frequently cooperates with the three nearby Global Centers of Paris, Istanbul and Amman, as well as with the other African Center, in Nairobi.

The Center is located in a refurbished 1930s building in the European City of Tunis, called Le15. Situated on the third floor, its balconies overlook Barcelona Place on one side and the Old Municipality of Tunis on the other. Visitors to the Center can enjoy picturesque views of the Medina of Tunis (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), as well as the European City and its Art Nouveau landmarks. The rooftop boasts an even more impressive view, including scenes of the Mediterranean Sea and the hill of ancient Carthage. Along with its reading/meeting rooms and modern facilities, the users of CGC Tunis have access to two large conference rooms at Le15, as well as the rooftop for receptions and other open-air events. The ground floor of Le15 is an art gallery called Central. The users of the Center are, consequently, immersed in Tunisia’s past, present and future.



The view from the CGC Tunis balcony, of Barcelona Place. The UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Medina of Tunis can be seen beyond the white 20th century buildings.



Sunset view of Barcelona Place and the central metro station, from the office balcony.



The CGC Tunis Reading Room: a mini replica of Butler Library’s 301 Reference Room with its Francis Bacon quote, wooden chairs and tables, and the Columbia Blue touch. The area currently conforms to Covid-19 regulations.



The entrance to CGC Tunis is decorated with Columbia-themed doodle art work, compliments of Sangoura Illustration.



The CGC Tunis balcony’s view of the Art Nouveau Old Municipality of Tunis (and the European City), Avenue de Carthage.

## II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE TUNIS CENTER

### A DECADES OLD HISTORY

The relationship between Columbia University on one side and the Western and Northern part of Africa on the other extends beyond the past decade, years before opening the Tunis Center. It is a story of research and partnerships, institutional and human interactions, commitment and progress. The earliest connection goes back to the Second World War. Hence, during the Tunisian Campaign, Dwight Eisenhower--who later became the 13th President of Columbia University--spent several months in Tunisia. He also became the first and only U.S. President to visit the country in 1959.



Dwight Eisenhower at Columbia University.

Following decolonization, Columbia hosted several African students who went on to become high level officials of the newly formed postcolonial states. Therefore, thanks to a U.S. State Department program funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Columbia contributed to the state building process of Tunisia by forming some of the country's first diplomats. The first recorded graduate of Columbia is Habib Ben Yahya, who obtained a master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) in 1961. He later became Tunisia's Ambassador to the US, then Foreign and Defense minister, and finally Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Our records show another Tunisian who graduated from Columbia previous to Habib Ben Yahya, but this scholar became a naturalized citizen of Tunisia at a later stage in life. Iraqi philosopher and statesman Muhammad Fadhel al-Jamali obtained his PhD from Teachers College in 1932. He was one of the founding fathers of the Iraqi university, several times minister, foreign minister, prime minister and the parliament speaker of Iraq. President Habib Bourguiba granted him Tunisian citizenship in 1961 after he left Iraq for exile in Tunisia. He taught in Tunisian universities and lived in Tunisia until his passing, in 1997.

Another prominent North African alumnus is Mustapha Abdullah Baiou. He is the first recorded Libyan graduate of Columbia, graduating with a Master of Arts in History from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) in 1958. Baiou is one of the founding fathers of the Libyan system of education and a leading Libyan historian. He became the first dean of the Faculty (School) of Literature of the University of Libya, then president of the same university. Later, he was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister and also Minister of Education, but he eventually left the country after the 1969 coup and joined the United Nations.



Muhammad Fadhel al-Jamali at the United Nations

But politics and education were only a fraction of the fields that our alumni enrolled in. In 1962 for instance, Mohammed Melehi, one of Morocco (and North Africa)'s most famous painters, joined Columbia's School of the Arts for two years as a Rockefeller Scholar. Melehi's work is exposed in Tate, MOMA, Pompidou, and other major arts museums and galleries. He is known to have "instigated a local form of modernism that mixed the avant garde of Milan and New York with the traditions of his home country, and was a founding member of what became known as the Casablanca school." (<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/nov/20/mohamed-melehi-obituary>).

In the subsequent years, tens of students from West and North Africa were accepted at Columbia University, studying business, engineering, politics, public health, etc.



Mohammed Melehi in Casablanca





Mustapha Abdullah Baiou at Columbia University.

During those early years, the University hosted speakers from Tunisia and lectures about the country. A particularly notable visit was that of former Tunisian Ambassador to the U.S. and later Foreign Minister Habib Bourguiba Jr., in 1961. He spoke about Africa in world affairs at a time when African states were becoming independent--Tunisia was among the founders of the Organization of African Unity that was institutionalized two years later. Bourguiba Jr. presented SIPA with replicas of two mosaics that continue to decorate the entrance of Lehman Social Sciences Library: Diane the Huntress and the Mosaic of Virgil (writing The Aeneid), two Roman masterpieces exposed at the Bardo National Museum in Tunis. Then, in 1963, it was Mongi Slim who spoke at Columbia University. He is a founding father of Tunisia's diplomacy, having served as Ambassador of Tunisia to the UN, subsequently president of the UN General Assembly, and later Foreign Minister (he was succeeded by Bourguiba Jr.).

Three African diplomats and a Columbia historian will participate tonight in a forum on the "emerging role of Africa in world affairs."

Sponsored by the General Studies Alumni Association, the program is set for 8 p.m. in Harkness Theatre.

The envoys scheduled to appear are United Nations Ambassadors Habib Bourguiba jr., of Tunisia; Alex Quaison-Sackey, of Ghana; and Omar Abdul Hamid Adeel, of Sudan. Assistant Professor of History Charles B. Forcey will moderate the discussion.

Each of the foreign diplomats

Ambassador Habib Bourguiba Jr. featured in the Columbia Daily Spectator, Vol. CV, N.80, 03/08/1961.



The second lecture in the Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Lecture Series scheduled for tonight, has been postponed until next Wednesday.

The lecture will be delivered by Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mongi Slim in classroom A of the Law Building at 8:30 p. m.

Her Excellency, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Governor of the state of Maharashtra, India, will deliver another lecture in the series Monday, November 25, in Low Library Rotunda at 8:30 p. m.

Mr. Slim requested the change because his presence was required at the African Foreign Minister's Conference in Addis Ababa where the conflict between Algeria and

Minister Mongi Slim featured in the Columbia Daily Spectator, Vol. CVIII, N. 33, 11/13/1963.



Replica of the Mosaic of Diane The Huntress at SIPA.



Replica of the Mosaic of Virgil at SIPA.



Habib Bourguiba Jr. and Mongi Slim at the UN

## DR. SALAH HANNACHI

Other prominent Tunisians visited or enrolled in Columbia in the 20th century, such as Drs. Abdelhay Chouikha and Salah Hannachi, the first Tunisian PhD graduates from Columbia. They graduated from Columbia Business School (GBS) in 1979 and 1980, respectively.

The relationship between Columbia University and Tunisia can be traced through the alumni. Dr. Salah Hannachi is one of the two first Tunisian PhD holders to graduate from Columbia. Prior to his time at Columbia, he received a scholarship to pursue an MBA at Indiana University, but his dream was to return to the U.S. and live in a big city. He applied to GBS after the MBA. He was accepted in 1969 and studied on a USAID scholarship until graduating in 1980. Dr. Hannachi's dissertation was on Power and Utility Theory, applying econometrics to power. He recalls the late David Miller, Professor Emeritus of Irish and religious history at Carnegie Mellon University, and Peter Blau, Professor Emeritus at Columbia, as some of the influential thinkers and professors from that time. Being in New York City as a graduate student allowed him, among other things, to work in Wall Street. Brooklyn was his home for over a decade. When asked about his experience in New York during those years when the City was plagued by crime, he responded, "Go to the most dangerous looking people and ask them for help, you will disarm them!"

When Dr. Hannachi returned to Tunisia in the 1980s, he was appointed Dean of the Institut Supérieur de Gestion (ISG) of the University of Tunis, a first-rate business school. He used his Columbia connections to invite guest speakers and secure the latest technology for ISG, introducing IBM computers to the country. He later founded the Institut Tunisien des Etudes Stratégiques (ITES), a US-modeled think-tank at the Tunisian Presidency of the Republic. Dr. Hannachi then became Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs before being selected as Ambassador to Japan. He recalls his time in Japan and the leverage procured by his status as a Columbia alumnus: the powerful Columbia Alumni Association chapter of Japan was his best introduction to the Japanese high society.



Dr. Salah Hannachi attending an event at CGC Tunis, April 2019.

## THE 2010S: A TURNING POINT

Columbia's interest to the region increased dramatically after the 2011 Arab Uprisings. First of all, there was a noticeable increase in the number of applicants from Tunisia and Morocco, and subsequently of Tunisians and Moroccans studying at the University. The attention paid to Tunisia increased among Columbia scholars as well. Between 2014 and 2017, the World Leaders Forum (WLF), Columbia's flagship speakers' platform, hosted three Tunisian statesmen: human rights activist and president Dr. Mohamed Moncef Marzouki in 2014, Prime Minister Eng. Mehdi Jomaa in 2015, and Pr. Yadh Ben Achour, professor of constitutional law and President of the Higher Authority for the Realization of the Objectives of the Revolution, Political Reform and Democratic Transition (an ad hoc, semi-parliament established in 2011 after the fall of dictatorship) in 2017. The latter was also the first scholar-in-residence of the Columbia Global Centers.



President Moncef Marzouki with Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger at the WLF, 10/20/2014.





Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa at the WLF, 02/24/2015.

Furthermore, since 2012, GBS Professor Kamel Jedidi has been teaching an annual graduate class which includes field visits to Tunisia. It is a GBS course conducted in partnership with the Jerome A. Chazen Institute for Global Business at Columbia. Global Immersion: Doing Business in North Africa takes around 30 graduate students to the country every year; they get acquainted with its business milieu, interact with fellow local students, discover the culture, etc.



The Global Immersion class, with President Marzouki at the Presidential Palace of Carthage, January 2014.



President Lee C. Bollinger and Pr. Yadh Ben Achour at the WLF, 01/25/2017.

## GLOBAL IMMERSION: DOING BUSINESS IN NORTH AFRICA

Pr. Kamel Jedidi is the John A. Howard Professor of Business at Columbia Business School. Since 2012, Pr. Jedidi has visited Tunisia with 219 students through his Global Immersion course on business in North Africa. The Global Immersion program gathers students for half a term in New York City before they go on a ten-day visit to their country of focus, where they are expected to work on team projects. Pr. Jedidi's course studies developments in North Africa since the Arab Uprisings, specifically regarding the impact of the transition to democracy on business and investment. Since 2018, the course has been conducted in partnership with Open Startup Tunisia (OST), a program that introduces mostly undergraduate students to the basics of entrepreneurship. Columbia graduate students mentor OST participants and prepare them for the Columbia Venture Competition, the annual startup competition organized in New York by GBS and Columbia's Fu-Foundation School of Engineering.



At the January 2017 WLF. President Lee C. Bollinger; Columbia Executive Vice President Safwan M. Masri; Pr. Yadh Ben Achour; Tunisian Permanent Representative to the UN (and currently Assistant Secretary General of the UN) Khaled Khiari; CGC Tunis Director Youssef Cherif.



Global Immersion students in Sidi Bousaid, Summer 2019.

Other similar courses have been organized in Tunisia. In 2015, Pr. John Huber taught a summer undergraduate class entitled, Democracy and Constitutional Engineering in the Middle East. It took place in Tunisia and partly in Turkey, in partnership with CGC Istanbul and the Office of Undergraduate Education (UGE) at Columbia University. It provided around 20 Columbia students and a select group of students from the region with tools to understand Political Science and the process of democratization. Tunisia being in transition, the students saw firsthand the events that were being shaped. The course took place at the University of Tunis (Tunis Business School - TBS).



Global Immersion students in Sidi Bousaid, Summer 2019.

In the same year, Columbia INCITE and the Center for Oral History Research started a project to record the first five years of the Tunisian revolution. The Tunisian Transition to Democracy Project consists of 58 interviews (110 recorded hours) that chronicle a multitude of events spanning from the revolutionary days of late 2010 to the relatively stable period of 2015. They are available for free on the website of Columbia University's.

It was also in 2015 that President Lee C. Bollinger, the 19th president of Columbia University, visited Tunisia with a high-level delegation from the University including Safwan M. Masri, EVP for Global Development and Global Initiatives, who was then writing his *Tunisia: An Arab Anomaly* (CUP, 2018). Their visit was organized in partnership with the Tunisian American Chamber of Commerce, led by Amel Bouchamaoui. They met with the country's political leadership, including Tunisian president Beji Caid Essebsi, the prime minister and other government ministers. They also had meetings with Tunisian political, business and civil society leaders, as well as members from the academic and intellectual community, and Columbia alumni.



President Lee C. Bollinger meeting with Columbia Alumni in Tunisia, Tunisia, January 2015.

That visit marked the inception of the Columbia Global Centers | Tunisia, whose establishment was announced in November 2016 during the Tunisia 2020 international investment conference.



President Lee C. Bollinger meeting with Columbia Alumni in Tunisia, Tunisia, January 2015.

The number of Columbia graduates from West and North Africa increased during this period, from 36 in the 1990s, to 49 in the 2000s, and 76 in the 2010s. Ghana, Morocco and Tunisia are home to the majority of Columbia alumni from the region. The Center therefore works closely with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) to host alumni events and other activities. Alumni groups are actually active in Morocco, Ghana and Tunisia.



An alumni reception at CGC Tunisia, Fall 2018

The 2010's also witnessed the emergence of a strong partnership between Columbia Business School and Morocco's Ecole Mohammed VI Polytechnique, with the support of the Office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP). The partnership led to the establishment of an executive MBA in Morocco, partly taught by Columbia faculty.

After years of development and forging partnerships, the Tunis Center was officially established and accredited by the Tunisian government in 2018. Its activities grew year after year, barely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21. The Center has established itself among Columbia community members interested in the region, as well as the local and alumni communities.



### III. EDUCATION

The Tunis Center is committed to being a leader in education in West and North Africa. It has built strong relationships with the academic communities at Columbia University as well as in the region where it operates. Through academic programs, public events and research projects, the Tunis Center aims to promote knowledge in the region and beyond.

#### DELOCALIZED CLASSROOMS, A PIECE OF COLUMBIA OVERSEAS

As an overseas center of Columbia University, CGC Tunis provides delocalized classrooms for Columbia students who live in or visit the region. When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, for instance, students who were unable to go to the U.S. knew that they had CGC Tunis to count on. The Center was one of the prime locations of the Columbia University Initiative for International Students (UIIS) that was put in place in 2020 to cope with travel restrictions.

The Columbia Global Centers are located in nine countries and provide the University with a worldwide network of expertise that facilitates engagement, research, and learning for students, faculty, and the public. Through the UIIS, the nine Global Centers—Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, and Tunis—are open to students with upgraded technology, equipment, and full-time, onsite, trained staff. The CGCs also offer access passes to Columbia students in more than 80 cities to use at any WeWork location.



Columbia University students at the rooftop of the Tunis center, Fall 2020.

And actually, CGC Tunis has always played this role. In 2018, the Center co-organized the Street-Smart Studio of the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), led by Pr. Ziad Jamaledine. Through this studio, 15 GSAPP students investigated the evolution of the architecture of learning institutions in the 'Arab City' from the early modern period until today, taking Tunisia as a case study. The Studio aim was twofold: mapping the physical evolution and emergence of the modern school building typology in the 'Arab City', and revisiting and intervening on this building type, having analyzed its shortcomings and latent potentials, relationships to the city, environment, and the communities it is intended to serve.



GSAPP Studio students in Carthage, Fall 2018.



GSAPP Studio students visiting a Tunisian high school, Fall 2018

In 2019, CGC Tunis hosted the Kraft Global Fellows and the University Chaplain, Dr. Jewelnel Davis. The eight Fellows, undergraduate students at Columbia University, attended a series of lectures and meetings about North African religious and cultural aspects at CGC Tunis. They traveled across the country and learned about Tunisia's history and society, meeting with scholars and religious leaders along the way.

## KRAFT GLOBAL FELLOWS IN TUNISIA: REFLECTIONS BY MARYAM ELSAYED 02/06/2019



Through the Kraft Global Fellows Program, I was given the opportunity to travel to Tunisia on a research trip for ten days. I was passionate about participating in this program because I wanted to explore issues such as racial discrimination and multi-faith interconnectivity. As someone who is concentrating in Middle Eastern Studies and is of Egyptian ethnicity, I was also interested in exploring how Tunisia differed from Egypt post-Arab Spring. I was able to learn about all these facets from the perspectives of different Tunisians. On the night of my arrival to Tunis, I was reminded of how fortunate I was to be there. It had become a habit of mine at restaurants in the U.S. to only look at the vegetarian platters because most restaurants do not serve halal meat and chicken. In Tunisia, I was able to survey the entire menu to choose what I wanted to eat. At dinner on my first night, I enjoyed an assortment of appetizers and a dish that had lamb and potatoes. We were able to meet with MP Jamila Ksiksi, the first black member of parliament, who works to fight racism and colorism. I was inspired to see and speak to a Muslim woman who helped enact a law that criminalizes racial discrimination against the country's black minority. Furthermore, she is a voice for many people, including women, black Tunisians, and sub-Saharan Africans in the country. Not only was my experience purely academic in nature, it was also personal. I felt a semblance of home in Tunisia where I was considered to be of the people, rather than an "other." Before my arrival, I feared that I would not be able to communicate well with Tunisians in Arabic due to differences in dialect as well as my belief that my Arabic was insufficient. However, I found myself having conversations in Arabic with everyone, from a woman in the supermarket in Tunis to Chief Rabbi Haim Bittan in Djerba. One unforgettable experience I had was when we stopped in the town of Douz which is known as the "gateway to the Sahara." I'm from Queens, NY and have never had a reason to drive; thus, I've never learned. We had the option to go on a camel ride or ride the ATVs. I had been on a camel before in Egypt and I realized I may never have the opportunity to do this again, so I decided to venture out on the ATV. I was slightly nervous in the beginning, operating a vehicle for the first time. I thought I was doing well in the beginning and then proceeded to crash into another fellow's ATV because I hadn't realized there was a brake. Thankfully, we all walked away without any injuries. Now that I've learned to drive in the Sahara Desert, I might just have to go and get my license.



Photo courtesy of the Kraft Global Fellows, Spring 2019



Photo courtesy of Kraft Global Fellows, Spring 2019

In 2019 as well, the Center became home to the Columbia Arabic Summer Program led by Pr. Taoufik Ben Amor and the Columbia MENA Seminar led by Pr. Madeleine Dobie. 15 Columbia students spent their summer in Tunis after Amman, living in the the Medina of Tunis and studying Arabic language and culture daily at the Center, with five faculty members (including Dr. Taoufik Ben Amor, Gordon Gray Jr. Senior Lecturer in Arabic Studies; Pr. Madeleine Dobie, Professor of French and Romance Philology, who leads the cultural seminar; and Dr. Rym Bettaieb, Lecturer in Arabic Language at Columbia University, and multiple guest speakers).

The nine-week intensive summer program offers a multi-faceted introduction to the languages, culture, and history of the Middle East and North Africa. It is divided into two parts. During the first part, students spend time in Amman learning Arabic and attending seminars that examine the interrelatedness of the Mashrek and the Maghreb dialects through various disciplines. The second part of the program takes place in Tunis, whereby students continue to study Arabic and examine various themes. They are given the opportunity to learn Mashreki in Amman and Maghrebi Darija in Tunis. Both programs attract around 30 Columbia and non-Columbia undergraduate and graduate students.





Columbia Arabic Summer students' visit to Kairouan, Tunisia, Summer 2019.

As part of this summer program, CGC Tunis hosted Tunisian actor Majd Mastoura for a screening of his film *Hedi* (2016). Mastoura is a Tunisian actor, poet and activist. At the 2016 Berlinale, he won the Silver Bear for Best Actor for his performance in the same movie. The movie screening was followed by a discussion in French about cinema with Pr. Madeleine Dobie, and another in Tunisian Darija with Majd Mastoura on the theme of street poetry, Mastoura being a poet himself.



Majd Mastoura in conversation with Madeleine Dobie at CGC Tunis, Summer 2019

CGC Tunis plays the role of connector between Columbia students or schools and partners in the region. It has thus facilitated the promotion of the SIPA Capstone Program, and three capstone projects conducted by SIPA graduate students have taken place in Tunisia since 2017: one with Africinvest on blockchain, *Exploring New Transaction Infrastructure in Africa Powered by Blockchain Technologies*; another with the International Organization of Migration (IOM) on the fate of Libyan migrants, *Analyzing the Circumstances of Long-term Migrants in Post-2011 Libya*; and a third with Education for Employment (EFE), in partnership with the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, *Sustainable Business Model for Career Centers for Better Employability of Tunisian Youth*. The Tunis Center has also led efforts to find online internships for Columbia students, as part of the CGC Virtual Internships scheme. Around 10 Columbia students were offered internships through CGC Tunis between 2020 and 2021.

## PARTNERSHIPS TO REFORM THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

CGC Tunis signed memoranda of understanding with a few institutions in Tunisia, including the Ministry of Education and Education for Employment. The Center also worked with Teachers College, the U.S. State Department and the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education to come up with a project designed for building the capacity of Tunisian educators and supporting young learners throughout Tunisia: *Capacity Building for English Language Educators of Young Learners in Tunisia*. Through this two-year initiative that started in 2021, Columbia University and the Ministry of Higher Education are developing a national model for English language teaching curriculum in order to train and equip English language teachers in ten higher education schools spread all over the country. These schools offer the National License in Education and Training degree to future elementary school teachers. In this project, two cohorts of 30 university teachers from across Tunisia receive four modules of professional training on planning and assessment, pedagogical training, and integration of knowledge and practice. Graduates will serve as teachers and mentors for future English language teachers in primary schools.





CGC Tunis – Ministry of Education MoU signing ceremony, with Minister Hatem Ben Salem, Fall 2019.



A preparatory meeting for the Teachers College Tunisia project, with representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education, the U.S. Embassy Tunis and Columbia University, Tunis, Spring 2020.



CGC Tunis – EFE Tunisia MoU signing ceremony with Director General Lamia Chaffai, Fall 2019



Launch of the Sustainability and Success of Career Centers for a Better Employability of University Graduates in Tunisia report, Summer 2020



The Global University: Education in the 21st Century, lecture by Dr. Safwan M. Masri, Fall 2019.

In parallel with the Tunisia project, CGC Tunis and Teachers College have conducted meetings with the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and the U.S. Embassy in Algiers, and have discussed the implementation of a project similar to the one that started in Tunisia. Strengthening English Language Programming for ESP Educators in Algeria aims to improve English language programming and practices for English language educators. The goal of this initiative is to accompany the Ministry’s long-term strategy for English language teaching and improve and expand the English teaching curricula towards learning-oriented assessment practices across all aspects of the education reform program in Algeria, using the knowledge and skills of Columbia University faculty and expertise.



Teachers College and CGC Tunis representatives in Algeria, Spring 2020.

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*The Future of Higher Education*

**Tuesday, April 13**  
 10:00 AM New York / 4:00 PM Paris / 10:00 PM Beijing

Global Collaboratory Seminar: The Future of Higher Education, Spring 2021.

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Columbia University Press (CUP) was founded in 1893 and is not only the fourth-oldest university press in the United States, but also one of the largest. It is a preferred publisher for Columbia faculty and has countless award-winning books in its collections. Among the CUP titles pertinent to our region we can cite, in chronological order: *Local Government in West Africa*, 1958, by L. Gray Cowan; *The Columbia Guide to West African Literature in English Since 1945*, 2008, by Oyekan Owomoyela; *Tolerance, Democracy, and Sufis in Senegal*, 2013, by Mamadou Diouf (who is the chair of the CGC Tunis Faculty Advisory Committee); *New Tunisian Cinema: Allegories of Resistance*, 2014, by Robert Lang; *A Semite: Memoir from Algeria*, 2014, by Denis Guenoun; *Algerian Imprints: Ethical Space in the Work of Assia Djebar and Hélène Cixous*, 2015, by Brigitte Weltman-Aron; *Tunisia: an Arab Anomaly*, 2017, by Safwan M. Masri (EVP for Global Development and Global Centers); *A Slave Between Empires: A Transimperial History of North Africa*, 2020, by M'hamed Oualdi; and *Your Sons are at Your Service: Tunisia's Missionaries of Jihad*, 2020, by Aaron Zelin.

In partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Library Al Kitab, the Tunis Center has helped distribute CUP books in Tunisia since 2017. CUP has been a valued participant of the International Book Fair of Tunis, which led to connections with local publishers and booksellers and made CUP books available in Tunisian stores. During the 2017 iteration of the Book Fair, CUP and Columbia were designated guests of honor of the Fair, a title usually bestowed upon states. Between 2017 and 2019, the latest CUP collections were sent to Tunis on an annual basis and sold at a 50% discount, until the pandemic discontinued this tradition.



Representatives from Columbia University Press at the Tunis Book Fair, Spring 2017.



CUP at the Tunis Book Fair, Spring 2018.



CUP Mini Book Fair at Al Kitab Library, Fall 2019.



## THE PRESIDENT'S GLOBAL INNOVATION FUND

Launched by President Lee C. Bollinger in 2013. The PGIF supports faculty to develop projects and research collaborations within and across the Columbia Global Centers, to increase global opportunities for research, teaching, and service. PGIF projects may be based in one or several of the CGC cities, or in other locations in the centers' regions that can leverage this global network. The centers help the PGIF faculty and use their networks to concretize and supplement existing research goals. The Tunis Center is therefore supporting three PGIF projects in fields as diverse as social sciences and public health. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed their progress, but they are ongoing.

Since 2019, accordingly, CGC Tunis has hosted the project Documenting Human Rights Violations and Mortality Amongst Migrants: A Focus on the Sahel and North Africa, directed by Dr. Craig Spencer, Assistant Professor of Population and Family Health at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC). The project has multiple phases to develop and test research methodologies, conduct key interviews with regional stakeholders in the Sahel region, and ultimately raise awareness of human rights violations and risks for migrants and refugees along the Sahel route. A workshop was organized in Tunis in Spring 2019, and the project participants penned several articles in regional and international media such as Sahelien.com about the topic. The final deliverables of the project are expected in 2022.

The global crisis of forced migration is one of the defining humanitarian challenges of our time. Nowhere is this dynamic more vividly demonstrated than in the Sahel region, as many migrants undertake the perilous crossing of the Sahara route to Libya and then a boat ride across the Mediterranean to the promise of a new life in Europe. Their journeys are fraught with immense risk: migrants and refugees have reported being abducted, detained and tortured for ransom, raped, thrown off boats, or left in the desert. In response to increasing levels of global migration to the European Union (EU), European member states, nations and regional authorities along migration routes are implementing policies that result in negative protection risks for refugees and migrants. Despite death and human rights violations of refugees and migrants documented along the Sahel route, little reliable data exist to document the adverse outcomes faced by those migrating in this region. Ultimately, the project research will help inform safer migration policies that protect the human rights and right to life of migrants and refugees on the move.

human rights and right to life of migrants and refugees on the move.



Participants to the Human Rights Violations conference, Spring 2019.

The Tunis Center also co-hosts the Evaluating an Export Promotion Scheme in Tunisia project, led by Pr. Eric Verhoogen, Professor at CBS and SIPA, a project spanning from 2019 to 2021. The project examines the TASDIR+ export matching grant program that was established by the Tunisian government.

TASDIR+ aims to increase exports and promote export diversification toward higher value-added exports and new markets. Working closely with the Tunisian government export promotion agency (CEPEX), this study is using a randomized controlled trial to evaluate TASDIR+'s traditional matching grant scheme and a newly implemented rebate scheme. Under the traditional matching grant scheme, eligible firms receive a 50% cost subsidy for eligible export-related expenses. Under the rebate scheme, available to agriculture/agribusiness/trading firms, eligible firms receive the 50% cost subsidy and a pay-for-performance rebate based on the firm's export performance in new markets. These subsidies are being distributed randomly to eligible applicants.

While both export subsidies and matching grants are popular policy tools, to date there is very little rigorous evidence on their effectiveness, a gap this proposed impact evaluation aims to address. Columbia faculty and students traveled several times to Tunis to meet with the staff of CEPEX and other stakeholders, as well as to conduct fact finding visits with local firms. They researched WTO rules, among others that are relevant to the program and other background information. The project has a full-time research officer based in Tunisia. The collaboration with CEPEX has led to an innovation choosing matching-grant beneficiaries with a randomized selection process.



From left to right: Khaled Ben Jilani (Africinvest), Nadia Ali (Columbia), Eric Verhoogen (Columbia), Marouan El Abassi (Central Bank of Tunisia Governor), Nadia Gamha (Central Bank of Tunisia) and Youssef Cherif, Central Bank of Tunisia, Fall 2019.



Verhoogen introducing the Evaluating an Export Promotion Scheme in Tunisia project, Fall 2019.



**COLUMBIA | SIPA**  
Center for Development Economics and Policy



## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TUNISIA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE

**Webinar on Thursday November 12  
4 pm Tunis time/10 am EST**

**SPEAKERS:**  
 Pr. Giacomo De Giorgi: Director at The Institute of Economics and Econometrics, GSEM, University of Geneva.  
 Pr. Eric Verhoogen: Professor of Economics and International Affairs, Columbia University.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Tunisia's International Trade, Fall 2020.



A third research project, co-hosted by CGC Tunis, is the Research in the Middle East: Ethics and Political Economies, led by Pr. Lisa Anderson, Special Lecturer and James T. Shotwell Professor of International Relations Emerita at SIPA. This project aims to animate an interdisciplinary network of scholars to explore the landscape of social science research conducted in the Arab world, particularly some of the ethical, political and economic challenges to conducting research responsibly. Research in the Middle East seeks to situate these contradictory trends within a region where social science research has been debilitated for decades. Foreign dominance of the disciplines, regional government skepticism about the research enterprise and, most recently, the rise of consultants who provide bespoke research for governments, international organizations and private enterprises all represent challenges to the scholarly research enterprise. PhD students in social sciences, both those at Columbia conducting research in the region, and representatives from doctoral programs at regional universities, are invited to participate in the workshops in Amman, Cairo and Tunis. The nature of the project requires sustained collaborations with local partners, some of whom have already expressed support. The project brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars from Columbia and the Arab world to consider the political, economic and ethical implications of their methods and modes of conducting research.

## PROFESSOR RICHARD PENA IN TUNISIA

Richard Pena, Professor of Professional Practice at the Columbia University School of the Arts, has been a frequent guest of the Tunis Center, sharing his extensive experience in film studies to aspiring filmmakers, students and cinephiles. In addition to teaching, Dr. Pena has served as Program Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center (organizers of the New York Film Festival and the New Directors/New Films Festival) and a regular of several international film festivals and events. In 2017, Dr. Pena led a three-day workshop-festival on Latin American cinema at L’Agora Cultural Center and gave a lecture about the history of short films in the American Center in Tunis. He returned to Tunisia the following year, to teach a masterclass titled, “Cinema and Anthropology” at the University of Carthage. During his visit, he also gave talks at the American Center in Tunis, and at L’Agora, on American Cinema. Then, in January 2020, Pr. Pena returned to Tunis and spoke about social justice and the cinema at different locations including the American Center in Tunis, Mad’Art Carthage and the University of Jendouba.



Richard Pena speaking at the American Center of Tunis, Summer 2017.

**L'AGORA**

**Richard Pena: L'autre histoire du cinéma Américain**

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|---|--|
| <b>Samedi 15/12</b>                               | <b>Dimanche 16/12</b>                                |
| <b>Programme 1: Courts métrages</b><br><br>15H    | <b>Programme 3: The salt of the earth</b><br><br>15H |
| <b>Programme 2: The blood of Jesus</b><br><br>18H | <b>Programme 4: Leviathan</b><br><br>18H30           |

Présenté par **Richard Pena**  
 Directeur New York Film Festival

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
 COLUMBIAN CULTURAL CENTER

**L'AGORA**

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| Rodrigo Ruiz<br>Chile  | Lucrecia Martel<br>Argentine | Kleber Mendonça Filho<br>Bresil |

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| <b>Film 1 10 JUILLET</b> | <b>Film 2 10 JUILLET</b> | <b>Film 1 11 JUILLET</b>   | <b>Film 2 11 JUILLET</b> |
| <br>18H                  | <br>21H                  | <br>18H  | <br>21H                  |
| <b>Film 1 12 JUILLET</b> | <b>Film 2 12 JUILLET</b> |  |                          |
| <br>18H                  | <br>21H                  | Présenté par <b>Richard Pena</b><br>Directeur New York Film Festival |                          |

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## STUDYING AT COLUMBIA

In an effort to increase the information available to prospective students, the Tunis Center has organized multiple information sessions since 2018. The sessions have been held in Gabes, Tunis, and Sousse, and benefited hundreds of Tunisian students who attended in person, and thousands who followed online. Some of these sessions were broad and pertaining to U.S. education and how to apply to universities, others linked to specific schools or programs at Columbia, but their end result is a better appreciation of the application process among local attendees.



Students attending Columbia information sessions in Gabes and Sousse, Fall 2018.



CGC Tunis at the International Education Week hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Fall 2019.



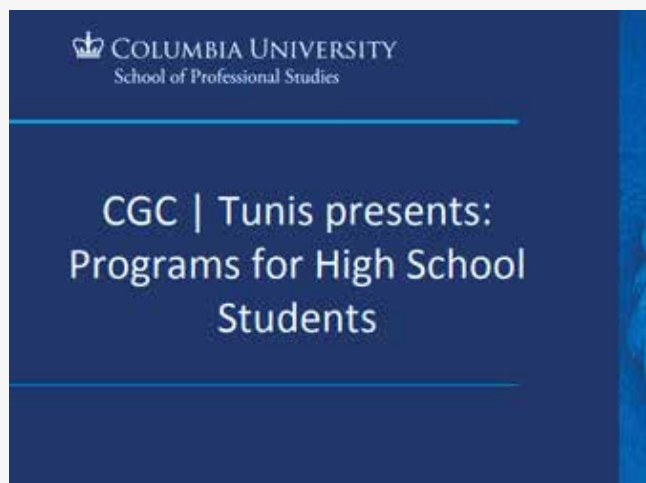
Holistic & Highly Selective Undergraduate Admissions, Summer 2020



Information session with the School of Professional Studies: Business Offerings, Fall 2020.



Columbia Engineering Graduate Admissions Info Session, Fall 2020.



School of Professional Studies: The Visiting Students and Post-baccalaureate Studies Information Session, Fall 2020.



School of Professional Studies: The Visiting Students and Post-baccalaureate Studies Information Session, Fall 2020.

Students, parents and counselors are cordially invited to a virtual program about undergraduate education at:

**Columbia University - University of Pennsylvania - Princeton University - Yale University**

Topics will include: academic programs, admissions policies, financial aid, campus activities and international student life.

Information session for North African Students: Undergraduate studies, Summer 2021



From the Rambourg Fellowship signing ceremony at SIPA, 01/12/2018.



Presenting the Rambourg Fellowship to the students of the University of Carthage, Fall 2019.

To encourage brilliant Tunisian students, the Tunis Center and the Rambourg Foundation established the Rambourg Fellowship in 2018. The Fellowship supported students from Tunisia in pursuing a master's degree at SIPA, the school where some of postcolonial Tunisia's first public servants obtained their education. Two Tunisian students benefited from this fellowship.



## ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS

CGC Tunis has hosted a number of academic workshops, such as the Pluralisms in Emergencies: Movement, Space, and Religious Difference in October 2018, in collaboration with the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life (IRCPL) at Columbia. The workshop was part of a series to examine pluralism in the context of the MENA crises, focusing on Tunis as an exemplar site of human commodity and capital mobility.

The proceedings of the workshop appeared as a special issue of the Review of Middle East Studies, entitled Pluralism in Emergenc(i)es in the Middle East and North Africa (54: 2, 07/2021).

Additionally, in partnership with the Committee on Global Thought (CGT) at Columbia and the Tunisian NGO Al-Bawsala, CGC Tunis organized a workshop on the place of “Youth in a Changing World”, in June 2019. This workshop was one of many that CGT co-organized across the world. It was followed by long publications and an ongoing partnership between CGT and one of the workshop participants, who also became an intern at CGC Tunis.



IRCPL workshop, Fall 2018.

Then, in July 2019, CGC Tunis hosted a workshop together with the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Columbia, on Wolof-French translation. The workshop, led by the IAS director Pr. Souleymane Bachir Diagne, with the participation of European, American and Senegalese scholars, aimed at translating Barbara Cassin’s Dictionnaire des Intraduisibles from French to Wolof.

For 2020, CGC Tunis started planning a workshop with the Harriman Institute, The Role of Russia in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Strategy or Opportunism?. However, the pandemic caused this project to stop and it is currently postponed indefinitely.



Bawsala workshop, Youth in a Changing World, Summer 2019.



## IV. PUBLIC HEALTH

CGC Tunis focused on the broader field of medicine and public health prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. In 2018, Dr. Karen Soren, Professor of Pediatrics at CUIMC, was the Center's guest and spoke about child and adolescent psychology at Tunisia's top schools of medicine: at the University of Tunis and the University of Monastir. Then, in 2019, the Center began harboring the PGIF project led by Dr. Craig Spencer. His project, Measuring Human Rights Violations and Mortality Amongst Migrants and Refugees in the Sahel Region, examines human rights violations and mortality rates affecting migrants and refugees in the Sahel region.



Dr. Karen Soren at the University of Tunis. Fall 2018

## LOGICAL REASONING IN HUMAN GENETICS

The Tunis Center has developed a partnership with a vibrant Tunisian NGO that focuses on public health, the Tunisian Center for Public Health (TunCPH). TunCPH was instrumental in organizing a visit to Tunis by Pr. Joseph Terwilliger, Professor of Genetics, CUIMC, in early 2020, out of which CGC Tunis set up a one-year masterclass with Institut Pasteur Tunis and signed an MoU with the same institution.

The class is on human genetics and was designed for participants from North Africa (and elsewhere). It is led by Pr. Joseph Terwilliger, Pr. Joseph H. Lee, Professor in Epidemiology at the Columbia University Medical Center, Columbia University, and a team of prominent geneticists.

The course is designed to examine the conceptual, empirical, and theoretical approaches to understanding the complex cause and effect relationships underlying human variation. In effect,

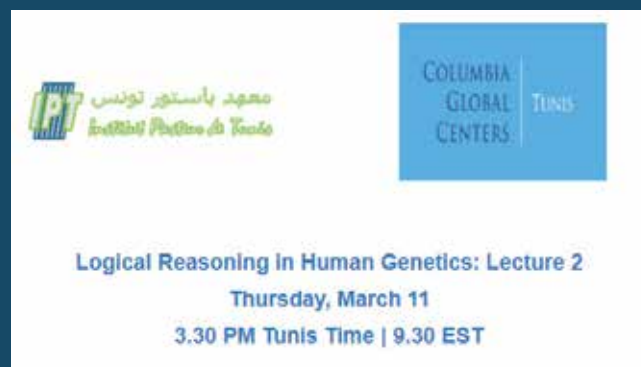
despite a century of quantitative research on evolutionary biology and genetics, hypotheses about the phenogenetic relationships underlying human variation seem poorly focused and often based on unnecessarily naïve models. The course helps participants review the basics of evolutionary biology, genetic epidemiology, gene mapping, and how to integrate these three disciplines to address questions of causality in human genetics. In this course, students are expected to develop critical thinking and logical reasoning skills to learn what negative experimental results tell us about the architecture of disease and to question the assumptions underlying their experimental approaches to develop better study designs based on hypotheses for future studies. One common reason some experiments "fail" is because the question was poorly posed or the hypotheses being tested were incompletely thought out and justified, not because of technical or analytical errors. In fact, the results have been a major success in showing that the causal landscape is more complex than had been widely expected, but is in fact consistent with biological and evolutionary theory.



Logical Reasoning in Human Genetics: Inaugural Event, 01/08/2021.



Logical Reasoning in Human Genetics: Lecture 1 - Basic Concepts of Human Gene Mapping, 02/15/2021

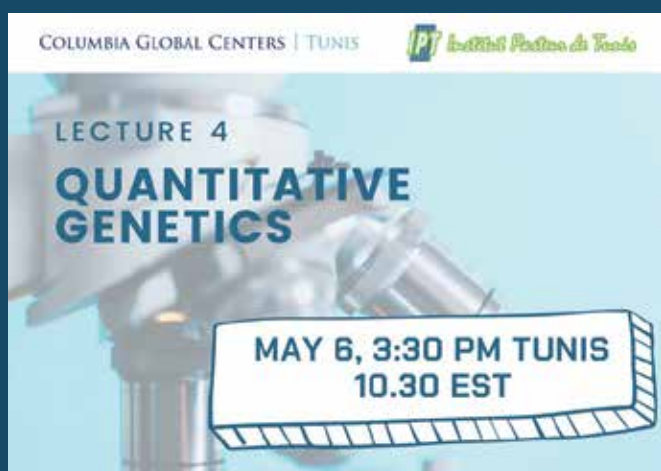


Logical Reasoning in Human Genetics course: Lecture 2 - Genetic Epidemiology, 03/11/2021

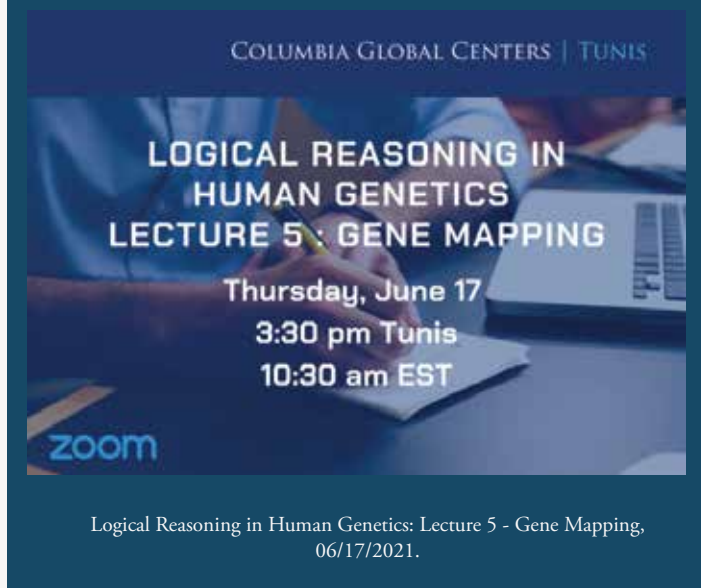




Logical Reasoning in Human Genetics Course: Lecture 3 - Genetics Populations, 04/08/2021



Logical Reasoning in Human Genetics Course: Lecture 4 - Quantitative Genetics, 05/06/2021



Logical Reasoning in Human Genetics: Lecture 5 - Gene Mapping, 06/17/2021.

When Covid-19 hit, the Center expanded its work on medicine by providing public lectures with public health experts. Webinars in partnership with ICAP at Columbia University were held to expose the impact of the pandemic on North Africa, the Mediterranean and Africa. Further, in Spring 2020, CGC Tunis arranged interviews for Columbia experts on epidemiology in Tunisian media outlets. These included Dr. Wafaa el-Sadr, University Professor of Epidemiology, director of ICAP at Columbia, Director of the Global Health Initiative at CUIMC and currently Director of Columbia World Projects; and Dr. Andrea Low, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, CUIMC.



Africa Confronting Covid-19, Spring 2020.



COVID in Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa Region: An Update, Summer 2020.



## « COVID-19, ANALYSE ET PROJEC- TIONS », LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE, 04/20/2020



Depuis le début de la pandémie du nouveau coronavirus « SARS-CoV-2 », nombreux sont les scientifiques et les médecins ayant exprimé leurs avis sur ce fléau qui frappe de plein fouet notre planète. On parle ici d'un redoutable virus ayant tué plus de 160.000 personnes et touché près de 2,3 millions d'âmes. Entre le bon grain et l'ivraie, les vrais experts de renommée internationale ne sont pas légion. Pour offrir à ses lecteurs une information fiable et crédible, La Presse de Tunisie, en collaboration avec le bureau de « Columbia Global Centers » à Tunis, a pris contact avec la directrice du Centre de recherche épidémiologique sur les maladies infectieuses, (« Center for Infectious Disease Epidemiologic Research », CIDER) à la « Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health », directrice d'« ICAP at Columbia University » et professeure à la prestigieuse université de Columbia, à New York, aux États-Unis: l'épidémiologue égyptienne, Dr Wafaa El-Sadr. Entretien.

La Presse : Quelles leçons peut-on tirer de l'épidémie du syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère, dit SRAS (« SARS », en anglais), de 2002-2004 pour mieux gérer l'actuelle pandémie du nouveau coronavirus lié au syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère (« SARS-CoV-2 ») provoquant la maladie Covid-19 ?

Wafaa El-Sadr : L'épidémie de SRAS (syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère) de 2002-2004 nous a appris que les épidémies ne respectent pas les frontières. D'autre part, elle nous a montré comment la globalisation (notre monde interconnecté) nous rend tous vulnérables à un nouveau virus qui survient à l'autre bout du monde. Elle nous a, également, prouvé à quel point il est difficile de contrôler un virus transmis par voie respiratoire.

Comment voyez-vous la pandémie du nouveau coronavirus responsable de la maladie Covid-19 dans six mois ?

Il est difficile de prédire l'évolution du nouveau coronavirus du moment que la pandémie continue d'évoluer maintenant dans diverses parties du monde. Certes, elle affecte, actuellement, le plus sévèrement l'Europe et les États-Unis, mais il y a un nombre inquiétant de cas signalés dans certains pays d'Asie et d'Amérique latine. Les trajectoires de chacune des épidémies varieront en fonction de la force de la riposte dans différents pays. On craint, aussi, que les pays africains — largement épargnés jusqu'à présent — puissent enregistrer une augmentation du nombre de cas de contamination. Nous ne savons pas

non plus si le virus réapparaîtra de manière saisonnière.

Dans quelle mesure le coronavirus est-il plus infectieux que les autres maladies transmissibles ?

Ce nouveau coronavirus est très infectieux et il semble qu'il puisse être transmis par des personnes sans symptômes de maladie. C'est ce qui a rendu très difficile le contrôle.

En se projetant plus loin dans l'avenir, comment voyez-vous l'évolution de cette pandémie ? Sommes-nous condamnés à cohabiter avec le virus ?

Il est trop tôt pour savoir ce qui arrivera finalement à ce nouveau coronavirus. Nous savons que le SRAS a plus ou moins disparu tandis que le MERS (syndrome respiratoire du Moyen-Orient) demeure, bien qu'à de faibles niveaux. La plupart des experts pensent que ce nouveau virus ne va pas disparaître, pendant un certain temps, du moins jusqu'à ce qu'au développement et la production d'un vaccin efficace.

Les États-Unis et l'UE devaient avoir une longueur d'avance sur les autres régions de la planète pour se préparer contre ce virus déclenché en décembre 2019 dans la ville de Wuhan dans la province chinoise de Hubei. Cette épidémie majeure était-elle inévitable ou aurait-elle pu être stoppée ?

Malheureusement, la réponse n'était pas suffisamment rapide face à cette pandémie. Cela est dû au retard dans la prise de conscience de la vulnérabilité à ce virus ainsi qu'à l'incapacité de l'infrastructure de santé publique pour réagir rapidement : en identifiant les cas suspects, en les isolant ainsi qu'en recherchant leurs contacts et en les mettant en quarantaine. En conséquence, le manque d'investissement dans les systèmes de santé publique explique la lenteur de la réponse. Devant un tel constat, les unités hospitalières ont été dépassées en raison du grand nombre de cas atteints de la maladie Covid-19 et nécessitant une prise en charge médicale.

Combien de temps pensez-vous qu'il faudrait pour que la vie puisse revenir à la normale ?

Le retour à la normale dépend entièrement de l'efficacité d'un pays à contrôler l'épidémie sur son territoire. Si le nombre de cas est maîtrisé rapidement, cela permettrait d'assouplir les recommandations de distanciation sociale et le confinement. Donc, toute décision pour un retour à la normale dépendra des données du pays et qui devrait s'accompagner de mesures de contrôle rigoureuses.

Les dernières informations montrent que les États-Unis comptent désormais le plus grand nombre de personnes testées positives et de décès. La réponse américaine à l'épidémie est-elle arrivée trop tard ? Pensez-vous que les États-Unis était un peu tardive face à ce fléau, notamment avec leurs problèmes de déploiement de tests et de masques de protection ?

La réponse américaine a été retardée car le nombre de cas a rapidement augmenté et submergé les systèmes de santé. Cela a été compliqué par un accès limité aux kits de dépistage et aux masques de protection. Mais c'est en grande partie dû à l'absence d'investissements dans les systèmes de santé publique pendant de nombreuses années.

Y a-t-il des raisons de s'inquiéter d'une deuxième vague d'infections au cours des prochains mois ? Pensez-vous que la maladie COVID-19 continuera de se propager ?

Le souci est que si les mesures de confinement et de ralentissement de la vitesse de propagation (la fermeture des écoles, préserver une distance physique et l'interdiction des grands événements) seront assouplies trop rapidement, cela pourrait, malheureusement, s'accompagner d'une résurgence des cas de contamination. Telle est la préoccupation actuelle dans les pays européens et aux États-Unis. Il est également à craindre que le nombre des personnes contaminés au virus puisse augmenter à nouveau s'il y a des cas de contamination dus à des personnes arrivant de l'étranger. Enfin, on craint également que le virus ne réapparaisse à l'automne prochain.

Quelle est la gravité de la situation actuelle à New York par rapport à d'autres endroits, en particulier en Europe ?

La situation dans l'État de New York est assez grave avec plus de 240.000 cas de COVID-19 confirmés (247.215, selon le bilan de l'Université Johns Hopkins du 19/04/2020-NDLT) et plus de 18.000 décès (18.298 morts, toujours selon les chiffres de l'UJH du 19/04/2020-NDLR). La ville de New York compte plus de cas (134.436, d'après le décompte de l'UJH du 19/04/2020-NDLR) que de nombreux autres pays. Il y a peu de raisons d'être optimiste car le nombre de nouveaux cas et d'hospitalisations s'est stabilisé. Cependant, il est trop tôt pour déclarer la victoire.

Pourquoi le taux de morbidité en Italie, en Espagne, en France et dans l'État de New York semble-t-il si élevé ?

Il est trop tôt pour comparer les taux de morbidité entre les pays. Cependant, le taux de morbidité alarmant en Italie est préoccupant. On pense que cela est dû au fait que l'Italie a une population très élevée de personnes âgées. Sur le total des cas de COVID-19 en Italie, 36% ont été signalés chez des personnes de 70 ans ou plus. Nous savons que les personnes âgées et celles qui souffrent d'autres maladies chroniques graves (les maladies cardiaques, les maladies pulmonaires, le diabète et les maladies immunosuppressives) sont plus à risque de COVID-19 grave et de décès.

Quels pays sont dans la situation la plus vulnérable ? Faut-il craindre le pire pour les pays arabes et l'Afrique ?

Tous les pays sont vulnérables. Le plus important est que les pays soient préparés et mettent en place de solides mesures de contrôle de la santé publique en prévision de cette épidémie.

Quelle devrait être la première priorité d'un pays après le confinement ?

Après le confinement, il est important pour les pays de surveiller attentivement le nombre de cas grâce à des tests de dépistage dans les « hot spots » (les zones à risque et présentant une importante densité de la population-ndlr). Cela permettra aux autorités de collecter suffisamment d'informations pour maîtriser la situation ou une nouvelle vague d'épidémie.

Beaucoup a été dit et écrit sur les masques. Est-il important d'en porter un ?

Les masques sont très importants pour les travailleurs de la santé qui prennent soin des patients atteints de COVID-19 suspecté ou confirmé. Les personnes qui sont également en contact quotidien avec des individus atteints de COVID-19 devraient également porter des masques. Cependant, il est, maintenant, recommandé aux États-Unis de porter un masque afin d'empêcher la transmission du virus par une personne ne présentant des symptômes.

Comment le climat influence-t-il le virus ? Nous lisons que par temps chaud, le virus peut disparaître, mais il y a des cas dans des pays comme l'Arabie saoudite, les Émirats et l'Égypte.

Des expériences avec d'autres virus similaires à ce coronavirus montrent que ces virus sont moins stables dans des conditions chaudes et humides. Cela peut entraîner une diminution de la transmission dans les zones chaudes ou humides. Mais, il est peu probable que cela ait un impact majeur.

Quels impacts psychologiques voyez-vous jusqu'à présent sur la communauté de New York ?

Il n'y a pas encore de données concernant les impacts psychologiques à New York. On s'inquiète des personnes âgées particulièrement isolées et des autres populations vulnérables qui manquent de ressources. Les mesures de confinement ont également empêché de nombreuses personnes de travailler, engendrant ainsi une augmentation du chômage. Cela a également entraîné des difficultés pour certaines classes sociales qui luttent au quotidien pour leur survie.

Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous optimiste quant à l'évolution de cette pandémie et à la capacité des systèmes de santé à la contenir ? Un dernier conseil pour mieux gérer ce genre de situations difficiles ?

J'espère que l'expérience de cette pandémie se traduira par une plus grande sensibilisation aux risques des nouvelles infections et à l'importance d'investir dans la santé publique afin que les pays soient prêts à faire face à la prochaine épidémie.

Quelle est l'importance de la coordination internationale ?

La coordination internationale est d'une importance cruciale à tous les niveaux. Cela comprend le partage des données sur l'évolution de l'épidémie et des expériences sans parler de la collaboration et des échanges des recherches scientifiques pour mieux comprendre le virus.

Si un vaccin est finalement développé et produit, devrait-il être distribué uniquement aux groupes à risque élevé ou à l'ensemble de la population ?

Une fois qu'un vaccin est identifié, il serait important de prioriser d'abord la plupart des groupes à risque, puis le reste de la population.

En ce qui concerne les médicaments curatifs ou préventifs, où en est-on ?

Il n'existe actuellement aucun médicament qui s'est révélé efficace contre la maladie COVID-19. De nombreuses recherches sont en cours pour découvrir un vaccin et un médicament curatif. L'espoir est de trouver un traitement médical ou un protocole thérapeutique qui peut tuer le virus ou prévenir certaines complications associées à l'infection.

Qu'est-ce que la chloroquine et pourquoi le président Trump et certains chercheurs (Ex : le médecin et microbiologiste français, le Dr Didier Raoult) la considèrent-ils comme un traitement potentiel du COVID-19 permettant de réduire la charge virale du SARS-CoV-2 ?

La chloroquine est un médicament utilisé depuis des décennies pour la prévention et le traitement du paludisme. Il est également utilisé pour le traitement du lupus. En effet, il y a eu des résultats assez contradictoires concernant l'usage la chloroquine contre la maladie COVID-19. Malheureusement en l'absence de bras comparatif [groupe témoin recevant un placebo-ndlr], c'est extrêmement difficile de savoir si le traitement est efficace ou pas. Actuellement, il n'y a aucune information convaincante pour soutenir son utilisation contre la maladie COVID-19. De vastes études bien conçues sont en cours et tentent de répondre à cette question.

Quels sont les risques liés à l'utilisation de l'association « Hydroxychloroquine & azithromycine » pour traiter l'infection au COVID-19 ?

Encore une fois, pour le moment, il n'y a aucune preuve scientifique et convaincante qui démontre que l'association de l'hydroxychloroquine avec de l'azithromycine soit utile comme un éventuel traitement de la maladie COVID-19. En revanche, tous les médicaments peuvent avoir des effets secondaires. Pour l'hydroxychloroquine, ce sont de graves irrégularités cardiaques et pour l'azithromycine, les effets secondaires les plus courants sont gastro-intestinaux (la diarrhée, les nausées, les vomissements, etc.).

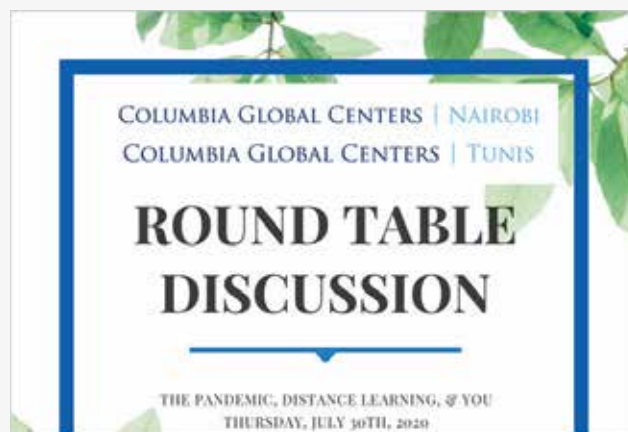
Y a-t-il autre chose que vous voulez que le peuple tunisien sache ?

La lutte contre ce virus nécessite une réponse coordonnée des différents acteurs de la santé publique. Cela exige également que chacun adopte régulièrement des gestes barrières (le lavage fréquent des mains, ne jamais tousser ou éternuer dans sa main) et respecter la quarantaine en cas de maladie. Enfin, pour casser toute chaîne de transmission d'un virus, il est primordial de respecter les mesures de distanciation sociale, limitant autant que possible les contacts avec les autres jusqu'à la maîtrise de l'épidémie. Une lutte efficace passe inéluctablement par des actions individuelles et communautaires coordonnées.

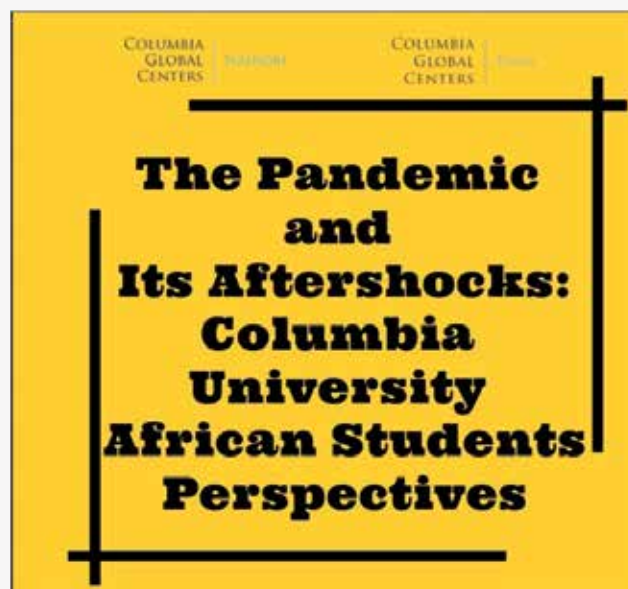
INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY  
ABDEL AZIZ HALI



Rethinking Past Plagues in the Time of Coronavirus: The Ottoman Experience, in partnership with CGC Istanbul Summer 2020.



A roundtable discussion on Covid-19, Summer 2020.

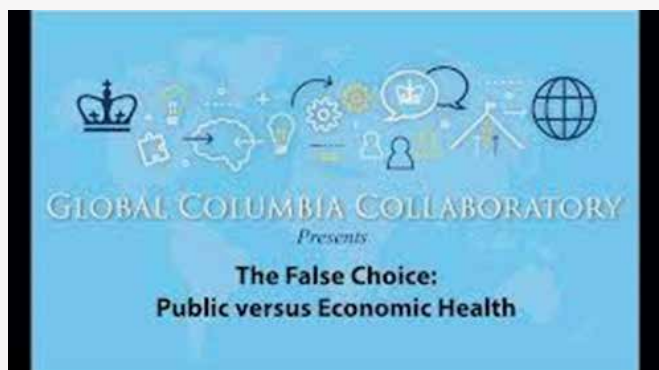


The Pandemic and its Aftershocks: Columbia University African Students Perspectives, Summer 2020.



COVID-19: Policy and Ethical Challenges in Tunisia and the US, Fall 2020.





Global Collaboratory Seminar - The False Choice: Public vs. Economic Health, Summer 2020.



Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccine: Challenges and Solutions, Spring 2021.



A Tunisian in the Lancet Commission on COVID-19 Task Force: Dr. Nissaf Ben Alaya, director of the Tunisian National Observatory for Emergent Diseases at The Ministry of Health of Tunisia, joined the Columbia-led Lancet Commission on COVID-19 Task Force in Fall 2020.



Crisis Communications and Vaccine Uptake in Fragile African Settings, Spring 2021.



Vaccine Development: Availability and Safety, Fall 2020.



Launch of the Report | Crisis Communications and Vaccine Uptake in Fragile African Settings, Summer 2021.



## V. ECONOMICS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Center supports the development of entrepreneurship in the region through education and networking, and aims to provide an added-value to the study of economics. As mentioned above, CGC Tunis is home to a PGIF project on Evaluating an Export Promotion Scheme in Tunisia. The Center, moreover, hosts the Global Immersion: Doing Business in North Africa class on an annual basis and contributes to elaborating its agenda and meetings.

Furthermore, economics and entrepreneurship are among the Center’s public events themes. In 2018, this led to a partnership with Afkar, a Tunisian group whose goal is to foster economic debates in the country. The partnership resulted in two roundtables, one on the role of the diaspora and the other on the question of decentralization and economic development, and the publication of whitepapers with recommendations.

CGC Tunis is also a founding partner of Open Startup Tunisia (OST), a project that supports entrepreneurship in Tunisia and the MENA region. OST includes a pre-incubation program and an annual competition for students to pitch their ideas, where the winning team would travel to New York and compete with Columbia students in the Columbia Venture Competition. OST allows students to develop key skills for innovation and teamwork and empowers Tunisian youth to engage with global issues.



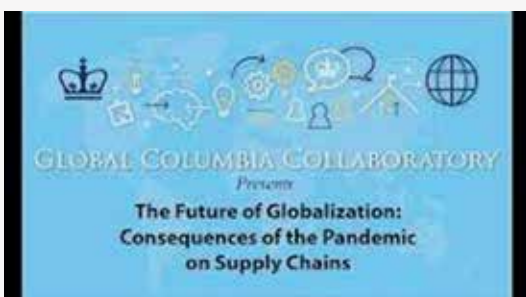
La décentralisation mise en route : un vecteur vers une revitalisation économique au niveau local ?, with Afkar, Fall 2018.



La Diaspora tunisienne : Quel rôle à jouer dans le développement économique du pays ?, with Afkar, Summer 2018.



SPS Dean Jason Wingard speaking at CGC Tunis on Learning to Succeed, Fall 2018.



Global Collaboratory Seminar - The Future of Globalization: Consequences of the Pandemic on Supply Chains, Summer 2020.



Virtual Global Internships Forum: The Future of Work and How Will the Pandemic Change Career Opportunities and Strategies?, Fall 2020.

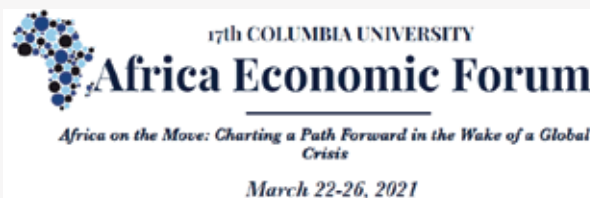
## OPEN START UP TUNISIA



Houda Ghozzi, CEO of OST and professor at the Mediterranean Business School, Tunisia.

Dr. Houda Ghozzi is the CEO of OST and a professor at the Mediterranean Business School, South Mediterranean University. She says that the project allows teams to not only develop their ideas, but also have support from faculty and develop lifelong skills to succeed. “In the name OST, ‘Open’ is about openness to other disciplines, openness to the international, and openness to the industry,” Ghozzi said.

The impact of OST can be seen in the community it has developed for students to become truly immersed in the world of entrepreneurship, as the program provides a wide variety of resources including mentorships, job fairs, and employment opportunities. Students are pushed to tackle current global challenges and create impact-driven businesses. “OST is a self-confidence pusher,” Dr. Ghozzi said. “It’s a vitamin that you offer to youth to tell them basically that we believe in you, you have all the skills, and we are here to support you.”



17th Columbia Africa Economic Forum, Spring 2021.



Global Columbia Collaboratory: The Future of Work, Spring 2021.



## NOTABLE CGC TUNIS EVENTS



Tunisia and the Question of Secularism, with Pr. Yadh Ben Achour, Pr. Katherine Ewing, Professor of Religion at Columbia and by then the IRCPL Director, and Dr. Safwan M. Masri, Spring 2017.



The Global Think-In: Thoughts on a Changing World, by CGT in partnership with CGC Tunis and other centers, Spring 2017.

**Human Rights in Tunisia with Yadh Ben Achour**

A discussion between **Yadh Ben Achour**, former President of the High Authority of the Revolution in Tunisia, **Yasmine Ergas**, Lecturer at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), and **Alfred Stepan**, Wallace Sayre Professor of Government (SIPA), on human rights in post-revolution Tunisia.

**Event Title: Human Rights in Tunisia**  
**Date: January 25, 2016**  
**Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**  
**Location: International Affairs Building Room 1201 (12th floor)**

**Yadh Ben Achour** is the former President of "The High Authority" of activating the objectives of the revolution, political reform and democratic transition in Tunisia, whose primary mission was to prepare for the first free elections of the National Constituent Assembly according to democratic standards. In 1992, he resigned from the Constitutional Council on the grounds of President Ben Ali's attempt to control the Tunisian League for Human Rights through a reform of the law on associations. From 1993 to 1999 he served as Dean of the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences at the University of Carthage. Professor Ben Achour specializes in Islamic political theory and public and international law and is the author of several books, most recently Tunisia: A Revolution in an Islamic Country, CERS' Editions, December 2014.

**Professor Yasmine Ergas** is the Director of the Gender and Public Policy Specialization and the Senior Advisor with the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Prof. Ergas is a lawyer and sociologist by training and a Lecturer in the Discipline of Public and International Affairs at SIPA. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the University's Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality, and is the co-chair of the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Council at Columbia University. A lawyer and sociologist, she has worked on issues regarding gender and women's rights as a policy analyst and advisor, scholar and advocate. Professor Ergas has served as a consultant to international and domestic policy organizations, including US Women, the OECD, UNIFEM, the Millennium Villages Project, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and CERSIS, a major applied social research institute in Italy, and been on the staff of the Social Science Research Council. Similarly, Professor Ergas has served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the social sector of the Millennium Cities Initiative, the editorial board of the Journal of Human Rights Practice, the editorial board of *ingeneer.it*, the board of New York City Global Partners, and the board of Women Strong International, among others.

**Alfred Stepan** is Wallace Sayre Professor of Government, the founding director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, Tolerance, and Religion (CDTR), and the Co-Director of the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life (IRCPL). In 2012 he was the recipient of the Karl Deutsch Award of the International Political Science Association. He is the author of numerous publications on comparative politics, theories of democratic transitions, federalism, and the world's religious systems and democracy, including "Tunisia's Transition and the Twin Tolerations" in *Journal of Democracy* (April 2012) and "Democratization Theory and the Arab Spring", *Journal of Democracy* (April 2013), (with J. Liso).



Tunisia: An Arab Anomaly: Book Launch by Dr. Safwan Masri moderated by Dr. Larussa Chomiak, Director of CEMAT, at CGC Tunis, Fall 2017.



New Frames for the Bey of Tunis: Creating an Official Art in the Age of the Great Reforms (1830-1881), with Dr. Ridha Moumni, New York, Fall 2017.

conversation about human rights in Tunisia with Pr. Yadh Ben Achour, Pr. Yasmine Ergas and the late Pr. Dean Al Stepan, Spring 2017.



Gayatri Spivak at the Tunis Book Fair, the Destinnance talk, Spring 2017 (picture taken by Asma Dhouioui).



The Discovery of Ancient Carthage and the Reception of Antiquity in 19th Century Tunisia, with Dr. Ridha Moumni, New York, Fall 2017.

The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium presents

**PANEL: The Mediterranean by Law: Europe and the Maghreb, 16th-19th Century**

Thursday, March 29, 2018  
6:00 pm, 2nd Floor Common Room  
The Heyman Center

**Presenter**  
Guillaume Calafat (Paris 1, La Sorbonne, IAS, Princeton University)  
*Trials and Jurisdictional Pluralism in the Western Mediterranean (1590-1630). Corsicans at Courts between Ottoman North Africa and Southern Europe*

**Presenter**  
Jessica Marglin (University of Southern California, IEA Paris)  
*The Extraterritorial Century: Rethinking Nationality and Religion in the Mediterranean, 1815-1915*

**Respondents**  
Simona Cerutti (EHESS Paris, Italian Academy, Columbia University)  
Lauren Benton (Vanderbilt University)

**Moderators**  
Pier Mattia Tommasino (Italian, Columbia University)  
Konstantina Zanou (Italian, Columbia University)

Presented by the Department of Italian & co-sponsored by The European Institute, Columbia Global Centers, and Columbia Alliance.  
To RSVP please email [kz2269@columbia.edu](mailto:kz2269@columbia.edu) and [pmt2114@columbia.edu](mailto:pmt2114@columbia.edu)  
For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/italian-mediterranean-colloq>

The Mediterranean by Law: Europe and the Maghreb, 16th-18th Century, New York, Spring 2018.



In All the Colors of the Spectrum: Historic and Artistic Representations of the Alliance between the Hafsids Sultan Muley al-Hassan and Carlos V Habsburg, by Dr. Houssein Eddine Chachia (University of Sfax), New York, Spring 2018.



Comment Philosopher en Islam?, Pr. Souleymane Bachir Diagne in conversation with Dr. Hamadi Ben Jaballah, Fall 2018.



US Foreign Policy Towards North Africa under the Trump Administration, by POMED Executive Director Stephen McInerney, Fall 2018.

**SENTIERS** organise  
**une rencontre débat**  
entre

**Jean-Loup Amselle** & **Soumaya Mestiri**  
anthropologue & philosophe

modérée par  
**Hichem Abdessamad**  
autour de l'ouvrage

**samedi 24 novembre 2018 à 15h**  
**Columbia Global Centers-Tunis, 15, avenue de Carthage, Tunis**  
(en face de l'ancien siège de la Municipalité de Tunis)

en partenariat avec: **COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | TUNIS**

avec le soutien de:

En quête d'Afrique(s)" Universalisme et pensée décoloniale, with Hichem Abdessamad, Jean-Loup Amselle (EHESS Paris) and Soumaya Mestiri (University of Tunis), Fall 2018.





The EU and the Middle East and North Africa: The Rise and Fall of the Mediterranean Dream, by Dr. Irene Fernández-Molina (University of Exeter), Spring 2019.



The Cyrilla Collaborative Tunis meeting, with Columbia Freedom of Expression, and part of the RightsCon event, Summer 2019.



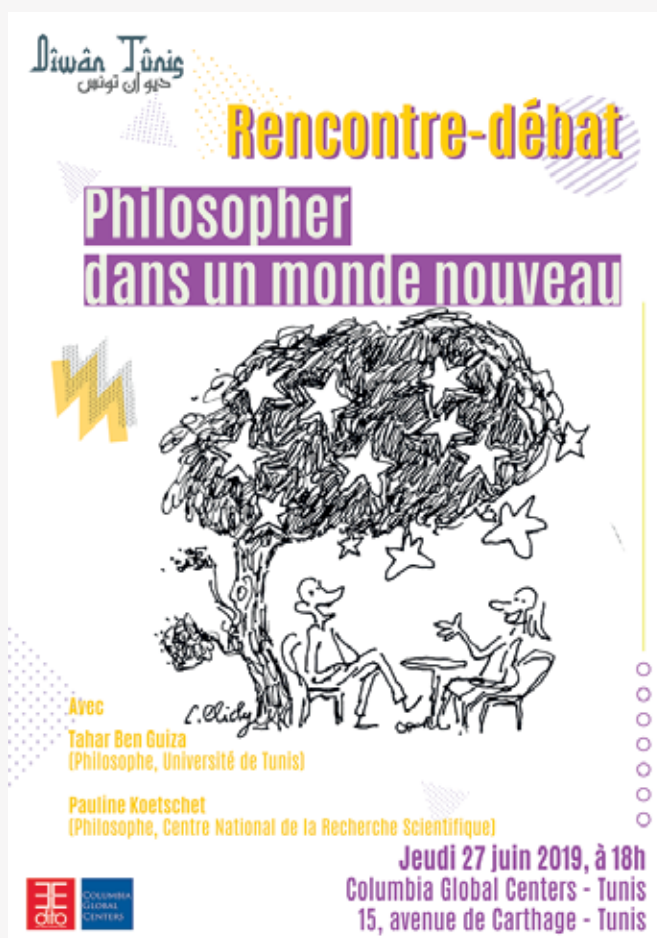
La Mathématique Est-Elle une Discipline Littéraire ? with Pr. Michael Harris, Department of Mathematics, Columbia University, Summer 2019.



Democracy in the MENA Region: Tunisia's Election Year, with Drs. Sarah Yerkes (Carnegie), Shiran Grewal (Brookings), Zied Mhersi (Physicians for Human Rights) and Eric Verhoogen (Columbia), Spring 2019.



The Role of Russia in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Strategy or Opportunism?, a book launch with support from the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and ISPI, Spring 2019.



Philosopher dans un monde nouveau, with Dr. Pauline Koetschet (CNRS) and Dr. Tahar Ben Guiza (University of Tunis), Summer 2019.



Global Networks in the Medieval Mediterranean, by Pr. Petra Sijpesteijn (Leiden University), in partnership with the Laboratoire Histoire des Economies et des Sociétés Méditerranéennes (University of Tunis) and Diwān Tunis, Fall 2019.



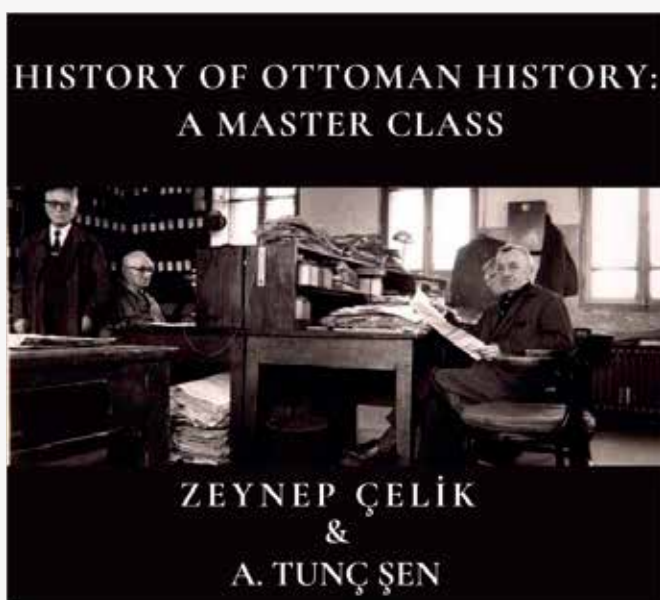
US Ambassador to Tunisia, Donald A. Blome, visiting Columbia Global Centers | Tunis, February 2020.



Dr. Wafa Ben Hassine (Access Now) on Women Leadership in Tunisia, with the Global Immersion students, Spring 2020.



Erasing the Ketchaoua Mosque: Catholicism, Assimilation, and Civic Identity in France and Algeria, by Dr. Ralph Ghoche (Columbia, III), Fall 2019.

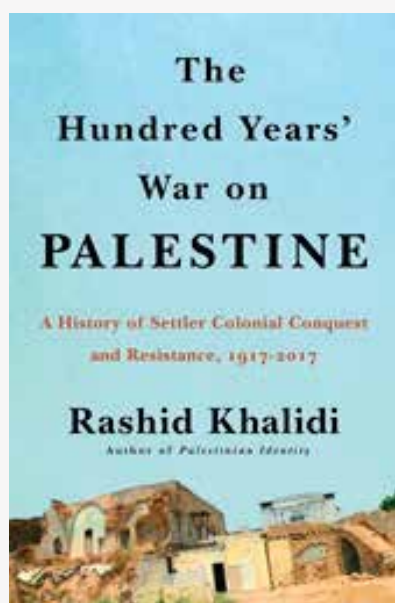


History of Ottoman History: A Master Class, in partnership with CGC Istanbul, Summer 2020.

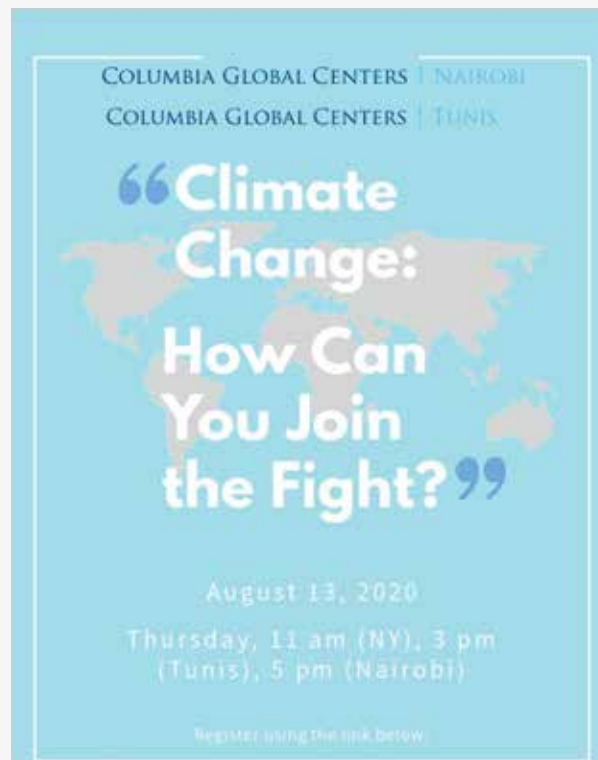




Teachers College delegation meeting with officials from the Ministry of Education in Tunisia, Spring 2020.



The Hundred Years' War on Palestine, Book Launch with Rashid Khalidi followed by a discussion with Dr. Safwan Masri, Ipek Cem Taha and Youssef Cherif, Spring 2020.



Climate Change: How Can You Join the Fight, Summer 2020.



Global Collaboratory Seminar - The Pandemic: Self, Other, and the World Beyond Us, Summer 2020.




Virtual Happy Hour for Alumni and Students in the Africa Region, Summer 2020.



US Elections: What's Broken, What's Possible, and What Can We Predict?, a conversation with the CGC Global Centers Directors about the views from their regions, Fall 2020.

AFIKRA CONVERSATIONS




**Taoufik Ben Amor**


IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | TUNIS

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | TUNIS

WEDNESDAY DEC 2, 2020  
12PM (NYC) | 6PM (TUNIS) | 9PM (DXB)  
BOOK YOUR SPOT AT [AFIKRA.COM/RSVP](http://AFIKRA.COM/RSVP)



A conversation with Dr. Taoufik Ben Amor (GSAS) on Arab music and other topics, in partnership with Afikra, Fall 2020.



**GLOBAL COLUMBIA COLLABORATORY**  
*Presents*  
**Is Social Media Undermining Democracy?**  
December 9, 9:30-11:00am (New York)

Global Collaboratory: Is Social Media Undermining Democracy?, Fall 2020.



**GLOBAL COLUMBIA COLLABORATORY**  
*Presents*  
**The Food Security Challenge**  
Thursday, December 3rd  
8:30 - 10:00AM (EST)

Global Collaboratory: Is Social Media Undermining Democracy?, Fall 2020.

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | TUNIS

**COMPROMISES, COMPLICITY AND RIGHTS**

**Agnès Callamard**  
Director of Columbia Global Freedom of Expression & UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions

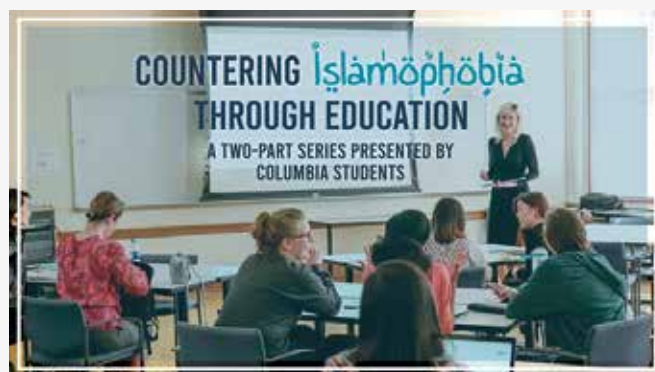
In Conversation with **Canıs Çamlıbel**,  
Editor-in-Chief of online newspaper Duvaz English

With the Participation of **Mohamed Yassine Jelassi**, Secretary General of SNJT, The National Union of Tunisian Journalists

**FRIDAY, DEC 11**

10 AM NEW YORK | 4 PM TUNIS | 4 PM PARIS | 6 PM ISTANBUL

Compromises, Complicity and Rights, Fall 2020.

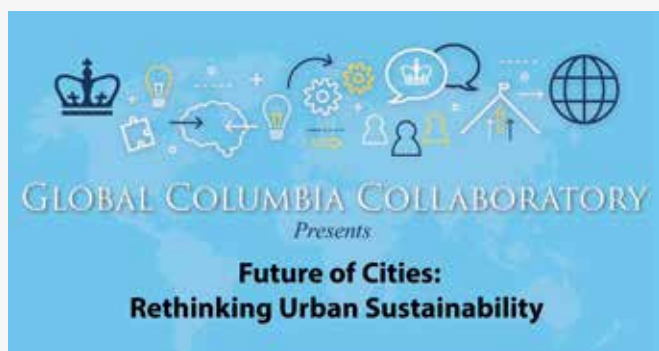


Countering Islamophobia Through Education, a course taught by Dr. Amra Sabic-el-Rayess, Fall 2020



Ten-Year Anniversary of Tunisia's Revolution: Reflections on Tunisia's State Building History and Contemporary Democratization Experience, a conversation with Drs. Lisa Anderson (SIPA) and Tarek Kahlaoui (SMU-MSB), Spring 2021.





Global Collaboratory Seminar- Future of cities: Rethinking Urban Sustainability, Spring 2021.



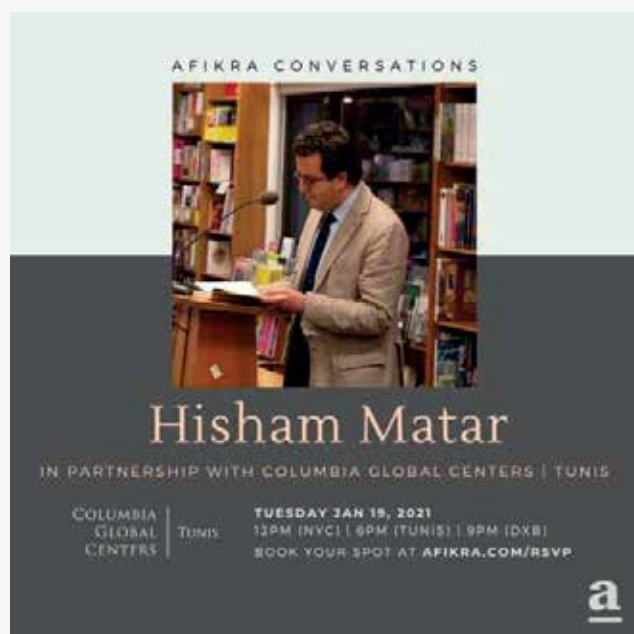
Misinformation & Fake News, by Dr. Alexis Wichowski, Fall 2021



Les femmes dans les mouvements sociaux au Maghreb, Spring 2021.



Climate Change Overview and Impacts, by Dr. Michael Gerrard (Law School, Climate School), Summer 2021



A conversation with Pr. Hisham Matar (Barnard) on English literature and other topics, in partnership with Afikra, Spring 2021.

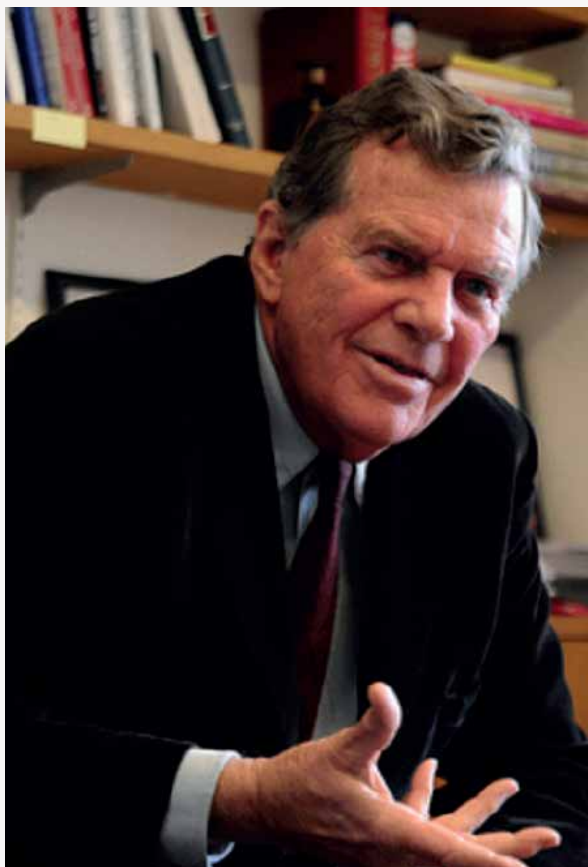


Theory of Innovation, Summer 2021.

## IN MEMORIAM

In the last few years, the Columbia community in North Africa lost four of its most prominent members.

### ALFRED STEPAN, PHD, GSAS '1969; WALLACE S. SAYER PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DEAN EMERITUS, SIPA



Alfred Stepan died on September 27, 2017. A leading scholar and teacher in the areas of comparative politics, theories of democratic transitions, federalism, and the world's religious systems and democracy, Professor Stepan served as dean of SIPA from 1983 to 1991. Over his long, distinguished career as a scholar and educator, Professor Stepan was a leading scholar and taught in the areas of comparative politics, theories of democratic transitions, federalism, and the world's religious systems and democracy. He wrote or edited more than 15 books, including *Boundaries of Toleration* (edited, with Charles Taylor) and *Democratization and Islam in Indonesia*. His widely used *Arguing Comparative Politics* enjoyed six printings. "Professor Stepan was an extraordinary scholar and beloved member of the SIPA and Columbia University community for more than 30 years," said Dean Merit E. Janow. "His impact and influence on the School, his students and colleagues, and the academic fields he engaged in is simply immeasurable." In more than seven years as dean of SIPA, Stepan led SIPA through a period of important growth and accomplishments. In addition to his responsibilities at SIPA, he served as Columbia's Burgess Professor of Political Science from 1987 to 1993. He left the University in 1993 to become the first rector and president at Central European University (with campuses in Budapest, Prague, and Warsaw). Among classes he taught in later years were *Democracy and Democratization: Theories, Institutions and Practices*; and *Democracy, the World's Religions and Problems of the 'Twin Tolerations.'* Stepan also served as co-director of the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, and founder and director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, Tolerance and Religion. He provided valuable advice to the leadership of CGC Tunis and supported the establishment of the Center until his last days.

From "In Memory of Professor And Former Sipa Dean Alfred C. Stepan", Columbia Sipa Website, September 27, 2021.



**ABDELHAY CHOUIKHA,  
PHD, CBS '1979**



Abdelhay Chouikha is a graduate of Columbia University (PhD, GBS), Secretary General of the UGET, elected at the Congress of Nabeul (August 1966) and a major figure of the Tunisian student movement. He was the first adviser to the Kuwaiti Investment Authority (KIA), he resettled in Tunis after the invasion of Kuwait. Solicited by many banks, institutions and companies, Abdelhay Chouikha led the board of directors of the Zitouna Bank, and Assad, the Financial Market Council (CMF), and was an advisor to the general management of Dhaman. Chouikha was also a member of the Tunis Center for Arbitration and Conciliation, as well as the jury of the ATB Challenge to encourage young business developers. Mr Chouika passed away Saturday, January 30 2021.

From Leaders (web site), “Abdelhay Chouikha, leader de l’UGET et éminent financier est décédé”, February 8, 2021

## MOHAMED MELEHI SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, 1964



“...Born in the port town of Asilah, Melehi was the son of Ahmed Mohammed Melehi, a food wholesaler, and his wife, Aicha Ben Benaïssa. He attended Qur’anic school, where his interest in art was encouraged and, from 1953 to 1955, he studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Tétouan. Aged 19, frustrated by how traditional his education had so far proved, he left to study in Spain, in Seville and then Madrid. “There were hardly any Moroccan artists to look up to,” he said, “no schools, no artistic tendencies, no ideology in art.” Spain under Franco proved just as claustrophobic, however, and in 1958 Melehi moved to Italy. “Because Italy lost the war, it was open to new movements at that time, to a new culture.” The following year he met the aristocratic Topazia Alliata, who had recently opened her eponymous gallery in the bohemian area of Trastevere. The friendship was to prove important both personally and professionally. Alliata introduced Melehi to Alberto Burri, Lucio Fontana and Jannis Kounellis, and he was impressed by their use of found materials, which made him re-evaluate the crafts of the souk and the materials of Berber culture. “I found my local identity in Rome,” he said. He also found his second wife, Toni Maraini, Alliata’s youngest daughter and his companion and often collaborator until 1987. That year he mounted his first solo show, at the American Legation in Tangier, exhibiting a series of radically abstract constructions, using stitched and printed burlap bags as supports, as well as textiles traditionally used to make north African djellaba robes. The opening of the Rome-New York Art Foundation gallery space in 1957 and a solo exhibition of Jackson Pollock at the Galleria Nazionale d’Arte Moderna the following year provided further inspiration, and in 1962, through Alliata’s considerable influence, he went to the US on a Rockefeller scholarship to study at Columbia University in New York. He took a studio below the pop artist Jim Dine, became friends with Stella and hung out with the hip crowd at the Leo Castelli gallery, where Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns were getting their first shows. It was under their influence that Melehi introduced vivid colour to his work (he had previously favoured an austere palette).

...In the last decade his work gained greater attention internationally, and was collected by the Tate, the Pompidou in Paris, MoMA in New York and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, where Melehi was the subject of a survey show in 2017. In 2019 he had a solo exhibition at the Mosaic Rooms in London, returning in October 2020 for an exhibition at Cromwell Place...”

O. Basciano (20/11/2020). “Mohamed Melehi Obituary”, The Guardian



## ALI HACHANI, SIPA ,1970



Ambassador Ali Hachani, died on March 31st, 2021 at the age of 74 years. He was as a great multilateral diplomat. He was a permanent representative of Tunisia to the UN in New York (1997 - 2000, then 2003 – 2007) . He was the Vice-President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, President of the Economic and Social Council of the UN, President of the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Commission (3rd Committee of the Assembly) of the UN. He was the Ambassador of Tunisia to the United Arab Emirates (1985 - 1990) and Senegal (1992 - 1995). Mr. Hachani, graduated from the University of Tunis in English language and literature and from Columbia University's SIPA in international affairs. He then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1968, assigned to the Directorate of International Cooperation. He left for New York in September 1972 as Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations until September 1979. He then became the diplomatic adviser to prime minister Hedhi Nouira. in 1979. Ambassador Hachani was very active in the Association of Former Ambassadors and Consuls General of Tunisia.

From Leaders (web site), “ Décès de l'ambassadeur Ali Hachani : la diplomatie en deuil (Portrait)”, March 31, 2021

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