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Centre of Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology CRASC





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Centre of Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology - Algeria
Centre de Recherche en Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle - Algérie

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Presentation of the Journal Turath: The Algerian Journal of Cultural Anthropology

Intangible cultural heritage encompasses all practices, imaginaries, forms of expression, knowledge, and experiences, along with everything associated with them. The definition of cultural heritage can be broadened to include the production of a popular group in both its tangible and intangible components, which may come together in certain forms of expression such as customs, traditions, crafts, music, or even beliefs that are rooted in both words and actions.

Turath is a biannual scientific journal published as part of the evaluation of research work conducted by the Centre for Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology (CRASC).

Years after the publication of a series of Turath booklets dedicated to studies and documents on Algerian and Maghreb cultural heritage, the researchers and initiators of its publication believe that the time has come to give these publications a permanent institutional character.

The journal aims to provide a framework for reflection and study of intangible cultural productions in their anthropological, cultural, artistic, linguistic, architectural, and historical dimensions. It seeks to serve as an academic space offering interested readers a variety of specialized topics in the systematic understanding of cultural and social heritage.

Additionally, the journal's role as a tool for the valorization and dissemination of corpora will be maintained through the development of documentary dossiers accompanied by critical apparatuses. Critical reviews will regularly report on scientific activities in this field.

كلمة مدير المركز

إلى قرائنا،

ينشر مركز البحث في الأنثروبولوجيا الاجتماعية والثقافية الكراسك مجلة جديدة "تراث" تقوم على الاستمرارية والتغيير كמיד أين ثابتين أين تتجسد الاستمرارية في الحفاظ على الروح التي رافقت مرحلة انطلاق "تراث" في شكل دفاتر عام 2002، ويكمن التغيير في الرؤية الجديدة والمنهج التحريري الجديد الذي ستهدف إليه المجلة. ذلك هو التحدي الذي وضعه فريق تحرير المجلة الجديدة للأنثروبولوجيا الثقافية 'تراث' والتي ستتناول موضوعات حول التراث المادي واللامادي في الجزائر وفي منطقة المغرب العربي والبحر الأبيض المتوسط.

روح "تراث" فرضت نفسها لعقد من الزمان في مشهد البحث عن التراث الوطني دون الوقوع في العلموية المتمحورة حول ذاتها ما فسح المجال لأكثر عدد من الفاعلين في جميع المجالات التي تلتنق فيها الثقافة مع الحياة اليومية للمواطنين. روح "تراث" هي نفسها التي غرسها الأستاذ حاج ملياني (رحمه الله) وفريقه. إنه هذا الجانب من الاهتمام الذي أظهرته دفاتر "تراث" بالأشياء الثقافية بجميع أشكالها، بعيداً عن الروتين العلمي الزائف وبداية مقاربات جديدة للبحث وتقديم هذا العمل من خلال فتح مسالك ثقافية لم تُجرب بعد.

دليل مجلتنا هو الحاجة إلى رؤية مغايرة من أجل الكشف عن الثروات الثقافية للجزائر واستكشافها وتحليلها، مع التركيز على قضايا التراث والذاكرة والهوية. وبناء عليه، سنظل مقتنعين بأن الثقافة والتراث عنصران أساسيان لفهم التاريخ والمجتمع الجزائري.

ومن خلال ما ننتظره من مقالات عالية الجودة مصدرها أبحاث أصيلة ودراسات نظرية معمقة تتناول الأبعاد والتمثيلات المختلفة للتراث الثقافي من حيث تاريخه والقضايا الاجتماعية والسياسية والاقتصادية، نرغب في مشاركة هذا التراث مع قرائنا. تهدف مجلتنا "تراث" أيضاً إلى أن تكون فضاءاً للحوار والتعاون والتبادل مع مختلف الجهات الفاعلة المشاركة في الحفاظ على التراث الثقافي وتعزيزه، سواء كانوا باحثين أو فاعلين في مجال الثقافة.

تتكون المساهمات في المجلة من الباحثين والمؤلفين من الأنثروبولوجيين وعلماء التاريخ وعلماء اللهجات وعلماء الاجتماع ومتخصصين في التراث، سيقدمون خبرة ويضيفون منظوراً متميزاً إلى مجلتنا. نحن على ثقة من أن مساهماتهم ستوفر مواد قراءة معرفية وجذابة ومحفزة لكل مهتم بالثقافة والتاريخ الجزائريين.

نأمل أن تساهم مجلة "تراث" في توسيع المعرفة الحالية وتحفيز النقاشات المستقبلية حول التراث والقضايا الثقافية، ونتطلع إلى مشاركتكم هذه المغامرة التحريرية الجديدة.

يعرض العدد الأول من مجلة "تراث" موضوع "الملحون" وحضور الأتراك فيه، الأغنية القبائلية، الأغنية الشعبية، الرقصات الشعبية، الشاشية التونسية والجوانب القانونية لحماية التراث.

مرحباً بكم في "تراث"، المجلة الجزائرية للأنثروبولوجيا الثقافية حول التراث المادي واللامادي.

عمار مانع (1)

(1) بروفيسور، مدير مركز البحث في الأنثروبولوجيا الاجتماعية والثقافية، وهران، الجزائر.

Message from the Director of CRASC

To our readers,

CRASC is proud to introduce a new journal: TURATH. Continuity and change will be its two guiding principles. Continuity in preserving the spirit that inspired the launch of the Cahiers de Turath in 2002. Change in the new vision, editorial approach, and broader scope the journal aims to achieve. This is the challenge undertaken by the editorial team of the newly established cultural anthropology journal, TURATH, which will address themes related to tangible and intangible heritage in Algeria and the Maghreb-Mediterranean region.

The Turath spirit has been a defining force for over a decade in the field of national heritage research, steering clear of self-centered scientism to embrace a broader spectrum of actors from all cultural landscapes—where culture thrives, struggles, confronts, and interacts with citizens' daily lives. The TURATH spirit is the legacy of Professor Hadj Miliani (may he rest in peace) and his team. It reflects the commitment to proximity demonstrated by the Cahiers de Turath, a deep interest in cultural matters in all their forms, far removed from pseudo-scientific routines. It embodies the adoption of new research methodologies and innovative ways of presenting findings, exploring uncharted paths of culture.

Our journal will be driven by this need for change, aiming to reveal, explore, and analyze Algeria's cultural wealth, with a focus on heritage, memory, and identity. We firmly believe that culture and heritage are key to understanding Algeria's history and society. Through high-quality articles based on original research and in-depth theoretical reflections, we aim to address the various dimensions of Algeria's cultural heritage—its history, social, political, and economic implications, as well as its representations.

TURATH also seeks to be a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and exchange among researchers, academics, and cultural practitioners involved in preserving and promoting cultural heritage. Our team of contributors includes anthropologists, historians, dialectologists, sociologists, and heritage specialists, who will bring unique expertise and perspectives to our journal. We are confident that their articles and contributions will provide captivating, stimulating, and educational reading for all who are interested in Algeria's culture and history.

We hope our journal will contribute to expanding current knowledge and stimulating future debates on heritage and cultural issues, and we look forward to sharing this new editorial adventure with you.

The inaugural issue of TURATH features reflections on Melhoun and its Turkish influence, Acceddu Kabyle, popular songs, folk dances, the Tunisian Sashiya, and the legal aspects of cultural protection.

Welcome to TURATH, our cultural anthropology journal on tangible and intangible heritage.

Ammar MANAA

Full Professor, Director of the Centre of Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oran, Algeria.

Presentation

Like other countries, Algeria, with its diverse practices, multitude of forms of expression, and vast history, places particular importance on identifying its cultural assets and safeguarding and protecting its heritage. This focus is grounded in the law established by the state, which defines the nation's cultural heritage, sets general rules for its protection, preservation, and enhancement, and outlines the conditions for their implementation. Researchers in sociology, cultural anthropology, and other disciplines at CRASC (Hadj Miliani, Ahmed-Amine Dellaï, Farid Benramdane, among others) and in other state centers and institutions have concentrated on collecting, studying, and analyzing the various forms and representations of our cultural heritage.

This research builds upon the work of numerous researchers who have contributed to the field of popular culture through collections and studies, forming a body of knowledge about this cultural and historical space. These include Mohammed Kadi, Mohammed Bekhoucha, Ahmed Tahar, Abdelkader Azza, Mohamed Bencheneb, Mohamed Belhalfaoui, Mouloud Mammeri, and others. Their efforts aim to establish a national, Maghreb, and Mediterranean network to broaden perspectives, compare experiences, and mobilize material and documentary resources. The first issue of *Turath* begins its journey by publishing research articles primarily focused on intangible heritage while encouraging studies in the realm of imagination linked to social processes.

This issue includes various articles, starting with a section dedicated to popular poetry, songs, and dances. The historical aspect is highlighted in Ahmed-Amine Dellaï's work on the Turks in popular *Melhoun* poetry, where he reexamines texts by popular poets to uncover Turkish linguistic borrowings, their meanings, representations of Turks, and the relationships between Turks and the local population as depicted in polemical texts.

Amar Nabti dedicates his study to a specific Berber song called *Acteddu*, intended particularly for babies and young children. His work, based on speech act theory and interaction theory, describes the linguistic content and the communicative situation in which a mother plays with her baby by making them bounce.

As a tribute to the founder of the *Cahiers* and the *Turath* journal, we found it essential to republish the late Professor Hadj Miliani's article titled "Elements of the Social History of Popular Song in Algeria: Texts and Contexts." According to the professor, these songs serve as crucibles for linguistic, local, generic, and historical identity markers. His work highlights the various and often ephemeral forms and contexts of expression in these songs.

On the same theme, Barka Bouchiba dedicates her study to popular dances, a cultural heritage whose unique features and role in achieving sustainable development are explored through the analysis of its socio-economic and cultural impact. She also examines methods to preserve it, prevent its extinction, and counter factors contributing to its distortion.

In a different domain, Salah Falhi's article examines Maghrebian clothing heritage through a study of the Tunisian *Shashiya*, a traditional men's headdress that symbolizes identity and is worthy of preservation, enhancement, and classification as world heritage. The Tunisian *Shashiya* is an essential part of the national traditional outfit and a marker of the wearer's status and identity, varying by geographic region. The author details its manufacturing process, emphasizing authenticity to ensure product quality and respect for its origins.

Finally, Abdelkader Dahdouh presents a research document on the legal aspects of intangible heritage preservation and ways to protect the historical memory of peoples through various legal means based on Article 67, which defines intangible cultural assets as a collection of knowledge, perceptions, skills, competencies, or techniques in various cultural heritage fields. These are essential elements representing a direct connection to cultural identity, whether individual or collective.

This inaugural issue of *Turath* also includes a section titled "Enrichment," featuring bibliographic data on popular songs, a brief presentation of the nine issues of the *Cahiers Turath*, and an introduction to the book *La mort et la fabrique du symbolique : imaginaire rituel et social* by its author, Mebarka Belahcene.

In conclusion, this issue, considered an experimental launch edition, combines research fields whose diversity undoubtedly reflects the vitality of heritage studies. It offers a variety of disciplinary and methodological approaches that enrich our understanding of the subjects and broaden the scope of interpretations.

Editorial Committee