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Panel 31 b)

Gendered urban public spaces in Morocco

In Morocco, going out, for a woman, is a daily challenge. Significant gender inequalities have largely resisted institutional reforms aimed at achieving equality over the past two decades. Women have to deal with heavy constraints to frequent urban public spaces and declare to be subjected to very strong street harassment (63% of women) which, a reminder to social order, tries to dissuade them from going out by telling them that their place is not outside. However, we note through various surveys (eg IMAGES) that the majority of women show discreet disaffiliation with the social model which would like them to stay at home and take care of their family. A fundamental movement of social transformation, silent and passive, seems to be underway, particularly about their access to the city. They consider the past and current social order to be unjust and find in public spaces resources for building a territory in which they claim the right to exist «outside». Public spaces are issues of equality, not in law, but in fact. The workshop proposes to put into perspective the place of women in Moroccan urban public spaces, whose differentiated practices between men and women represent democratic and development issues.

Person in charge : Gillot Gaëlle (Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Développement et Sociétés)

Discussant : Corinne Luxembourg (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris La Villette, Laboratoire Architecture, Milieu, Paysage)

Program

Fakkar Salsabil (University Hassan II)

« *Space, Gender and Power Articulations in Morocco: How are power relations defined in space in pre-colonial and colonial Morocco?* »

This intervention is interested in the power relations in pre-colonial and colonial Morocco and focuses on their manifestation in space by questioning the perception of the work of Moroccan women and men in two distinct environments: the urban environment and the rural environment. This study will attempt to understand and show the correlation between space, work and power relations between the two sexes, during the pre-colonial and colonial period, based on the testimonies and observations of certain French travelers: A. Marcet, Morocco, Journey of a mission to the court of the Sultan; A. Moulieras, Unknown Morocco; Alice, Lamazière, Secret Morocco; J. D'Etienne, L. Villeme and al. Social evolution of Morocco and J. Lacouture, Le Maroc. These writings will be put to the test of a critical reading nourished by the work of Mr. Rodary and Mr. Houbaida on the work of women during the pre-colonial period.

Ennabili Imane (Hassan II University)

« Women in public space; perceptions and practices of urban inequalities in Casablanca.

The city has always been designed in terms of functionality and aesthetics, and this has been done almost exclusively by men who have not taken into account the issue of social diversity in public spaces. Studies confirm this unequal urbanism (HCP survey, Catin and Kamal study, etc.). One of the aspects addressed in the framework of the survey «Corona and the Moroccans: perceptions, representations and practices» that we are currently conducting in Morocco also seem to confirm this. Based on a series of interviews in the Greater Casablanca region with women to verify this particular aspect of urban space, we will analyze their perceptions and practices, the places they avoid, those they frequent, the constraints. That they face moving there, the means of movement that they prefer. We will then suggest a set of recommendations to facilitate the presence of women in this space.

Harroud Tarik (Institut d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme)

The trendy and westernized universe of the malls of Rabat: unprecedented feminine sociability

Like most countries in the Arab world, Morocco is witnessing the arrival of giant shopping centers, malls, prized by a considerable audience to the point of establishing themselves today as emerging urban polarities.

Beyond the diversified commercial offers, they stage places favorable to the practices of strolling, meeting which recall the atmospheres of traditional public places. The observation of social profiles and the uses that are deployed there reveal the importance of these malls as places of sociability, meeting and urban strolling, in particular for young people and women.

Based on a survey in Rabat, the contribution will shed light on the social practices of these places, the images and the senses associated with them in comparison with other spaces. It will show that within these private and commercial malls, unprecedented feminine sociability and new forms of urbanity are being deployed and a renewed relationship with the city and its public spaces.

Nadifi Rajaa (Hassan II University)

Gillot Gaëlle (Paris 1st University Panthéon-Sorbonne)

« Sexual harassment: A call to social order at university and on the streets.

According to the National Survey on the Prevalence of Violence Against Women (May 2019), 54.4% of women are affected by violence at the national level. Harassment in public spaces is one of the forms of this violence: physical or verbal aggression, even incessant compliments are just a few of the most recognizable examples. Their effects have an extremely important impact on women's relationship to urban spaces, their mobility, their access to work and all fields of their life. Symptom of a very assertive sexual structuring of society and its spaces, harassment leads to the permanent adaptation of women to social codes to which they give in without always consenting.

Sexual and street harassment and its effects are all means of controlling the movements, body and sexuality of women considered illegitimate in public space. Its effects play a role in maintaining unequal relations by reproducing pre-existing gender norms. It remains a taboo subject for students. What are their perceptions of this phenomenon? Our analysis will be based on semi-structured interviews and focus groups carried out in December-January 2017-2018 with students from the Ain Chock FLSCH from Hassan II University in Casablanca.