Theme: The “divinatory” systems in Africa in a context of globalization: challenges and perspectives. An Introduction to the knowledge of Ifâ

Dates: 7 to 8 January 2019

Venue: Porto-Novo

Deadline for sending abstracts: November 30, 2018

I- CONTEXT

Since antiquity there has been the most remote of sciences based on axioms, if not irreducible at least difficult to submit to the positive method of experimental verification. Astrology from the Canaanites and the Babylonians, the oracles of Pythia or Delphi in Greece, the draw with arrows among the Arabs before Islam (darbeel-qurca), numismancy by means of coins thrown into a fountain in the European Middle Ages, the horoscope among moderns and many other modes of "divination " among other people and at other times, all of these means of "divinations ", derive their justification from uneasily verifiable knowledge. The people of Black Africa have imagined or borrowed multiple systems of divination. The Yoruba and "gbé" cultural areas have developed several knowledge systems based on a binary combinatorial of sixteen fundamental signs. After holding the second edition of Porto-Novo International Festival around the reflection on the theme of Vodun as a response to the global challenges of tomorrow, the third edition of the Porto-Novo International Festival proposes to reflect on the systems of "divination" in Africa in a context of globalization. From "Divination" by cowries or 'tanis' to Geomancy or 'Gisaane', divination by the talking horn, the observation of trees or the use of the insect called *tali*, the Ordeal with the Qur'an and the Fâ, Ifâ or Afâ to name but a few, We are in the presence of knowledge systems that deserve to be known, studied and valued.

The Scientific Symposium of this third edition of Porto-Novo International Festival will have the task of examining, in their generalities, these modes of apprehension of the Invisible.
II- GOALS

The Porto-Novo International Festival (FIP) is part of the Beninese and international landscape and is committed to the dynamics of the undeniable success of the first two editions. This Festival becomes an annual event that aims at making the city of Porto-Novo an international cultural, prestigious and dynamic space.

The Porto-Novo International Festival aims at the development of populations through the valorization of their rich artistic, cultural and religious heritage. It is about organizing every year a popular event that contributes to the promotion and the national and international influence of arts and culture of Porto-Novo through intense joyous activities around the valorization of the cultural, economic, artisanal, tourist and social sectors. The festival always has an intellectual dimension which is the scientific symposium.

This call for papers for participation in the scientific symposium of the Porto-Novo International Festival is therefore defined as a contribution to a better knowledge of knowledge systems in Africa, in particular Ifâ.

III- AXES OF REFLECTION

This call for papers for participation in the scientific symposium of the third edition of the Porto Novo International Festival is intended as a call to contribute to the reflections led by the world in this field. It also seeks to find relevant solutions to the problems of investigation in Africa in a context of globalization where the positivist sciences are at their peak and to seek new paradigms to answer questions about the world.

Around the central theme of the conference, "Systems of "divination" in Africa in a context of globalization: challenges and perspectives", the following three axes of reflection are proposed:

1- The various divination systems in Africa

The purpose of this panel is to reflect on this non-exhaustive list of the following systems proposed to researchers:

- Fà ;
- Cartomancy ;
- Numerology ;
- Astromancy ;
- Numeromancy ;
- Etc.
2- Contributions of divination systems to cultural, economic and social developments in Africa

The purpose of this panel is to make a connection between divination systems and social events.

- Divination in art and the art of divination;
- Social life in the light of divinatory practices (birth, life and death)
- Divinatory systems, human sciences, social sciences and exact sciences;
- Divination systems, economy and sustainable development;
- Divination systems and ecological and environmental issues.

3- Ways to rehabilitate and enhance Fâ or Ifâ

The purpose of this panel is to rehabilitate a science that once made the glory and honor of our ancestors, the "defetish" it to restore the place that is due to it among the human sciences of our time, so as to make it accessible to the intellectual youths who rejects it by ignorance.

IV- PROCEDURES

- Reminder of the conference dates: 07 and 08 January 2019
- Venue: Ecole du Patrimoine Africain in Porto-Novo
- Volume of abstracts submissions: 500 words maximum, font, Arial Narrow, size 12.
- Address for sending abstracts of papers:
  o Address 1: ogoufranck@yahoo.fr Tel: 97683498
  o Address 2: didierhouenoude@gmail.com Tel: 97 29 04 32
  Or
  At the Secretariat of the Culture and Heritage Department:
  Tel: 97367076; E-mail: richlys2001@yahoo.fr

Launch of the new version of the call for papers: 20 October 2018

- Deadline for sending abstracts: Monday, December 10, 2018
- Advisory Committee Meetings on Proposed Topics and Abstracts: December 12, 13 and 14, 2018

- Sending invitations to communicators whose topics and abstracts have been selected by the Advisory Committee: December 15, 2017
V- PROPOSALS OF ARTICLES
This international symposium will take place from 7 to 8 January 2019 in Porto-Nov, Benin. Communication proposals may fall into one of the three areas identified above. Communication proposals combining ethnology, astrology, social sciences and environmental sciences or health sciences are also welcome.
Proposals should be in the form of abstracts of no more than 500 words and should specify the title, name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation of the participants and the bio-bibliography notice of authors. We receive proposals written in French and English. Abstracts proposals should be sent no later than 30 November 2018 by email to the following addresses:
didierhouenoude@gmail.com; ogoufranck@yahoo.fr; richlys2001@yahoo.fr
Successful abstracts proposals will be announced on December 15, 2018.

Researchers whose abstracts are selected will be required to submit the full text of their papers no later than Friday, December 21, 2018. We receive papers written in French or English.

VI- SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Prof. Mahougnon CAKOPO (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
Prof. Bienvenu KOUDJO (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
Prof. Noureini TIDJANI SERPOS (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
Dr. Joseph ADANDE (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
Dr Didier HOENOUDE (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
Dr Dieudonné GNAMMANKOU (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
Dr. Arthur VIDO (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin)
Prof. Olabiyi YAÏ (University Lecturer)
Mr Guillaume LACHENAL (Sphere, Paris Diderot University, CNRS, France)
Mr. Koukoui Tola (Director, actor and playwright)
Mrs. Colette GOUNOU (Museum Curator).