

**Professor Ulrike Meinhof**  
**Diaspora as Social and Cultural Practice: a Study of Transnational Networks across Europe and Africa**  
**End of Year Report for 2007**

Innovative research design:

- TNMundi departs from conventional diaspora research in having adopted a network structure whereby we follow individual musicians from North African and Malagasy origin across their diverse links
- TNMundi expands on the study of flows of artists between originating countries and diaspora by attention to multidirectional flows as well as translocal networks across Europe and Africa
- TNMundi traces the virtually undocumented relations between artists and NGOs for originating country development

Innovative research questions:

- TNMundi adopts a comparative approach between a series of contrastive research sites and populations that share certain characteristics whilst sharply diverging in others, and compares them for salient issues such as motivation for migration, identity and artistic practices:
  - Indian ocean island vs North African artists in countries of origin (translocal migration)
  - Indian ocean island vs North African origin artists across Europe (transnational migration)
  - Dense diaspora populations (in postimperial France) vs dispersed small or individualised minority populations (non-Francophone countries in Europe)

Innovative results:

- Tentative results regarding different identity patterns and artistic relations according to the above contrasts
- New findings regarding the interdependencies of South<> North, North <>South relations in the field of development, relations between NGOs and artists in the diaspora and 'at home'.

Innovative dissemination strategies:

Project conferences in 3 key sites (Madagascar, Morocco, UK)

- First event in Madagascar combines academic workshops with artistic production (see sections output), and will be disseminated via press, radio and television
- Involvement of all users and stakeholders in these events: artists, academics and students, artistic producers and promoters, media professionals, NGOs, politicians.

Progress of the project:

Ongoing fieldwork

- Following the networks of artists previously researched in Paris: links in Europe, Morocco, Madagascar
- Mapping out the UK situation (Malagasy / North African networks)
- Following new links to German speaking countries (mainly Malagasy networks)

*Details of fieldwork conducted so far:*

Ulrike Meinhof:

- South of France (December 2006): NGO's concert + related interviews
- Madagascar/Antananarivo (March 2007): Mahaleo 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert; interviews/contacts with local actors; pre-organisation of November 2007 TNMundi's Cultural Event
- Germany + Austria (August 2007): Interviews with artists and NGOs
- Madagascar/Antananarivo, Morondava, Fort-Dauphin (November 2007): Interviews with various actors (Artists, Cultural Promoters, NGOs).

Ulrike Meinhof & Marie-Pierre Gibert:

- France/Paris (January 2007; June 2007): Mahaleo 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert in l'Olympia (2-3 June) + related interviews; contacts with French academics experts of Madagascar and music; Interviews with Malagasy artists.

Nadia Kiwan:

- Morocco/Casablanca, Rabat (May-June 2007): Festival "L'Boulevard" + contacts with organisers
- France/ Paris, Dijon (Festival 'Made in Maroc'), Toulouse, Marseille (June 2007): Interviews with various actors of Moroccan and Algerian networks.

Marie-Pierre Gibert:

- France/Dijon (March 2007): Festival "Made in Maroc" + contacts with organisers and artists
- London, Cambridge, Gateshead (May 2007): Ethnography of the *Music Matbakh Project* (Residency of North African, Middle Eastern and British musicians organised by the British Council)
- UK/London (April 2007-now): mapping out the situation of North African and Malagasy musicians in the UK (principally in London so far): Numerous meetings with artists (formal and informal), attendance to concerts/gigs, contacts for future interviews with artists and various actors involved in their networks.
- France/Paris (Sept/Oct 2007): Concert Malagasy artists; Further contacts with French Academics

Organisation of Cultural Events

- Antananarivo, Madagascar – 16-17/11/07
- Rabat, Morocco – December 2008: in progress (Planning meeting between Nadia Kiwan and Prof Belghazi on 26<sup>th</sup> October, Stirling, UK)
- Southampton, UK. Autumn 2009: in progress.

International Dimension: We have been invited to link up with the Moroccan-based research group on Migration and Culture at the University Mohamed V, Rabat This research collaboration will be invaluable in the organisation of our second conference and cultural event in Rabat in 2008. We have also been approached about the construction of a network with researchers of the French research centre *Langues, musiques société* (CNRS) and researchers of the *Observatoire international sur la création et les cultures du monde* (OICCM – University of Montréal, Canada). In addition, a partnership has developed with the African cultural centre "Iwalewa Hous" of the University of Bayreuth, Germany. (Programme objective 6). Such new connections may lead to future applications to AHRC funding in responsive mode.