

SEPHIS



The South-South exchange
programme for research on the
history of development

Council for the Development of
Social Science Research in Africa

Conseil pour le développement de la
recherche en sciences sociales en Afrique

Memories and History: Using Material Culture and Archaeological Sources as Alternative History

A TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ALTERNATIVE HISTORICAL SOURCES

Organised by CODESRIA and SEPHIS

Morocco, June 20-26, 2005

In June 2005, CODESRIA and SEPHIS will organise a training workshop on using material culture and archaeological sources in the writing of histories. The workshop will compare experiences of Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Caribbean.

Over the past few decades, archaeological and material sources have emerged as powerful tools for writing alternatives histories, especially the life experiences of groups in the South whose histories have been ignored or marginalised in written sources. Archaeological and material sources offer unique insights into the large-scale circulation of goods and illuminate how artefacts were processed, distributed, consumed and discarded in different locations. They supplement language-based historical sources on trade, crafts and subsistence, development, taste and consumer choice, and may highlight worldviews, belief systems, attitudes and lifestyles that are hidden or silenced in conventional historical sources. They enable us to write more inclusive histories. Southern scholars cannot afford to ignore the perspectives offered by these alternative sources.

The main goal of this South/South training workshop is to contribute to the research skills of the participants and to exchange experiences, theories and methodologies. The interdisciplinary workshop will bring together junior and senior scholars in history, archaeology, museum science, anthropology and archival studies. Fifteen researchers from Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean will convene for one week. We will provide a stimulating intellectual environment and we will arrange for the travel and living expenses of the participants.

The training workshop will address critical issues of theory and method in the study of material culture. It will examine the ideological and theoretical considerations behind the collection, preservation and visual display of material culture, as well as the potential and limitations of material sources for the exploration of histories of the South. It will reflect on cultural interactions and globalisation, commodity chains, consumer choice and consumption patterns in relation to the expansion of the world market economy.

The programme combines lecture/seminar courses and practical training in roughly equal proportions. Sessions will focus on discussion and debate among participants, with the Convenor helping to direct, facilitate, and moderate discussions. Two resource persons will give lectures focused on cases studies using archaeological/material sources. The laureates discuss their papers and attend theoretical and methodological courses. They will be required to present and submit a paper, which should examine in detail the current theoretical issues or debates about these sources.

The training workshop will also include an open forum, thus enabling participants to discuss current issues concerning excavation, recovery, research, analysis and interpretation of archaeological materials.

English is the working language of the workshop.

► **Eligibility**

Applications are invited from active researchers in the fields of archaeology, ethno-archaeology, history and anthropology. Museum professionals, curators, archivists and others practitioners are also invited, if they are active researchers in their fields. Young scholars are expected to be affiliated to a university, institute, museum or research NGO in the South. Senior scholars in the South with a solid reputation in these fields are encouraged to apply for the position of Convenor or resource person.

► **Admission procedure**

The application should include a three-page academic CV, the proposed paper (maximum of 5 pages), including its summary (500 words) and a recommendation letter. The paper should be based on well-defined theoretical, conceptual and methodological elements and an analysis of the current status of research on this specific issue. The paper should also indicate the methodology used or developed during the research. Applications for the position of Convenor or resource person should include an application letter, a CV and a one-page abstract of their proposed lectures.

Applications must be written in English. The deadline for the submission of applications is 1 February 2005. An international academic committee will select the candidates by 15 February 2005. Successful applicants will be notified immediately after the completion of the selection process. Incomplete and/or too lengthy applications will not be taken into consideration. All faxed and e-mailed applications must also be accompanied by a hard copy original version sent by post if they are to be considered.

Additional information about the workshop can be obtained via the CODESRIA web site (<http://www.codesria.org>) and the SEPHIS web site (<http://www.sephis.org>). Applications and requests for more information should be sent to:

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