

# Mirroring

Towards greater and balanced sharing  
in knowledge production between different cultures

# Visual Writings in Social Sciences



A Franco-Norwegian Encounter  
Paris, November 22-24, 2011

LECOLE  
DES HAUTES  
ETUDES  
SCIENTIQUES  
SOCIALES



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Documentary filmmakers and social scientists have long exchanged reflections on objects and methods. Whether their form of expression has been a monograph or a documentary, they have always shared the objective of accounting for social facts. Both forms involve a critique of sources and a relationship to reality. From these experiences based on human interactions, sensual and intellectual constructions emerge. The appropriate narratives for each of these forms represent a constant challenge. The cinematographic image allows for a different rendering of the real, where emotions add a new dimension. It thus contributes to other forms of knowledge, which are expressed in research, dissemination, and education.

Since 1997, the Visual Cultural Studies Program at the University of Tromsø has developed an educational strategy based on a combination of writing and film. The practice of filming is taken into account in all its dimensions, technical and intellectual. The skills in these audio-visual forms of knowledge are not only useful for communication between social groups, and between the North and the South, they also foster intellectual sharing.

At the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, "School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences", EHESS, the objective of workshops on documentary filmmaking is to promote the acquisition of the special intellectual and ethical positions of cinema. The continued support of the CNRS-Images, National Center for Scientific Research, has helped to create an Award for the workshop on documentary writing. Some of the award winners are attending the event.

The Franco-Norwegian encounter aims at highlighting these two experiences through the seminar "Mirroring Visual Writing in the Social Sciences".

## The University of Tromsø

The University of Tromsø is the northernmost university of the world. Its location on the edge of the Arctic implies a mission. The Arctic is of increasing global importance. Climate change, the exploitation of Arctic resources and environmental threats are topics of great public concern, which the University of Tromsø takes special interest in. At the University of Tromsø global issues may be studied in collaboration between the South and the North from a close-up perspective and on several continents. Scientific exchanges between Tromsø and Francophone African countries have taken place for many years.

## The École des hautes études en sciences sociales, EHESS

EHESS is a public research institution for graduate studies in the social sciences. The EHESS is primarily devoted to the transmission and teaching of research through research. At the forefront of contemporary research in the social sciences, classes at the EHESS are structured around seminars in which each professor presents his or her own work in progress.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Morning session in the Amphitheater at EHESS

105 boulevard Raspail, 75006, Paris

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcoming of participants**

09:30 – 10:00 **Opening**

**François Weil** (President, EHESS)

**Jarle Aarbakke** (Vicechancellor, University of Tromsø)

**Henri Amvam Zollo** (Vicechancellor, University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroun)

**Djénéba Traoré** (Vicechancellor, University of Bamako, Mali)

**Maxime Pierre Meto'o Etoua** (Deputy Vicechancellor, University of Maroua, Cameroon)

10:00 – 12:30 **Reflexivity - The crossing views**

Chair **Jean-Claude Penrad** (Professor, EHESS)

Film: **"A Castle in Africa"** (work in progress, 60mn).

by **Lisbet Holtedahl** (Professor, University of Tromsø).

Film: **"Them and Me"** (2001, 62mn).

by **Stéphane Breton** (Associate Professor, EHESS).

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**

### Afternoon session at the quai Branly Museum

37, quai Branly, 75007, Paris

All contributions during the following three sessions will include the screening of excerpts of films made by students, former students, and teachers from EHESS, Visual Cultural Studies in Tromsø, and the Visual Anthropology programs in Maroua, Ngaoundéré and Bamako.

14:00 – 18:00 **Religion in context**

Chair **Jean-Paul Colleyn** (Director, Centre for African Studies, EHESS)

**"When the Images look back at us. Filming Afro-American Cults in**

**Venezuela, Porto Rico and Barcelona"** by **Roger Canals** (Lecturer – researcher, University of Barcelona / Ph.D EHESS)

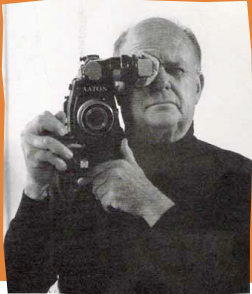
**"The Achoura of Nabatiyya. Reflections on the cinematic Observation of Rituals"** by **Michel Tabet** (Ph.D., EHESS)

**"Identifying Religious Aspects of inter-cultural Dialogues"** by **Rachel Issa Djesa** (Researcher, University of Tromsø) et **Lisbet Holtedahl** (Professor, University of Tromsø)

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## Mirroring African Identities



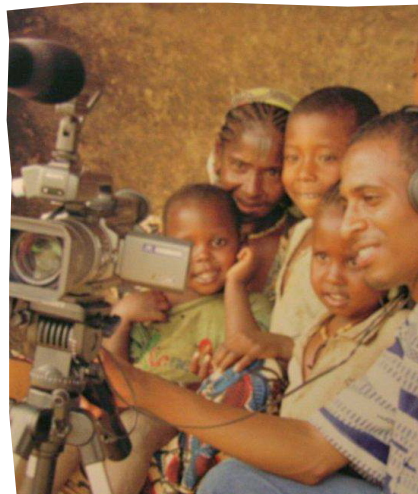
*"The idea of my film is to transform anthropology, the elder daughter of colonialism, a discipline reserved for those with power interrogating people without it. I want to replace it with a shared anthropology. That is to say, an anthropological dialogue between people belonging to different cultures, which to me is the discipline of human sciences for the future".*

— Jean Rouch, in Le Monde, 1960.

Since the 1970s, some Africanists at the University of Tromsø have tried to take this point of Jean Rouch seriously.

Starting in 1997 they have developed a teaching program that enhances cross-cultural understanding and the mastery of the visual in social scientific research.

This is implemented through a continuous collaboration and confrontation of perspectives between the growing visual anthropology environments in Maroua, Ngaoundéré, Bamako, and Tromsø.



## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>

### At the quai Branly Museum

37 quai Branly, 75007, Paris

#### 10:00 – 13:00 **Moving Identities**

Chair **Maxime Pierre Meto'o Etoua**  
(Deputy Vicechancellor, University of Maroua, Cameroon)

**"Filming the City, Filming the Invisible"** by **Claudia Mollese** (Ph.D. student, EHESS)

**"Prejudices, Stereotypes and changed Perspectives: The Making of a Documentary film among the Gypsies"** by **Jonathan Larcher** (Ph.D. student, EHESS)

**"Images and Identity formations in Northern Cameroon"**

by **Mahmoudou Djingui** (Associate Professor, University of Maroua),

**Joseph Domo** (Associate Professor, University of Ngaoundéré) and

**Trond Waage** (Associate Professor, University of Tromsø)

#### 13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

#### 14:00 – 17:00 **Cinema and Development**

Chair **Francesca Prudence Uriri** (Senior lecturer in film, University of Tromsø)

**"Making Documentary Film in Afghanistan"**

by **Mehdi Zafari** (Bachelor's student, EHESS, trainee at the Varan Workshops)

**"Visual Writings Confronting Stereotypes: Afro-Norwegian Development Encounters"** by **Drissa Diakitè** (Professor, University of Bamako) and **Bjørn Arntsen** (Associate Professor, University of Tromsø)

#### 17:00 – 17:30 **Synthesis and Perspectives**

by **Lisbet Holtedahl** (Professor, University of Tromsø) and

**Jean-Claude Penrad** (Professor, EHESS)

#### 17:30 – 19:30 : **Closing Session**

**"Ideologies and Academic Knowledge: A Challenge for Anthropological Filmmaking?"**

by **Eva Joly** (President of the Development Committee of the European Parliament and Professor at the University of Tromsø)

#### 19:30 – 20:30 **Concert with Mari Boine in the Saint-Julien-Le-Pauvre Church**

St-Julien-Le-Pauvre St., 75005, Paris

#### 20:30 **Dinner in the Latin Quarter**

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## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>

### 13:00 – 20:00 SCREENING OF FILMS AT CINÉMA LA CLEF

34 Daubenton St., 75005, Paris

Films made as part of a collaboration between the universities of Tromsø, Ngaoundéré, Bamako, and Maroua.

#### 13:00 – 13:10 **Opening**

By **Tora Aasland**, Norwegian Minister of Research and Higher Education

#### 13:10 – 14:10 **Cross-cultural Filmmaking - First Attempt**

Chair **Gary Kildea** (University of Tromsø / National University of Australia, Canberra)

Film: **"Niger–Norway: Women, Ethnocentrism and Development"** (1975, 48 mn)

By **Lisbet Holtedahl**, University of Tromsø.

When Lisbet Holtedahl went to Eastern Niger in 1970 for her first fieldwork, she experienced the encounter with the local village society of Mainé Soroa as both shocking, exciting, and attractive. After returning to Norway, her most challenging anthropological task was to disseminate knowledge about gender and Islam in Eastern Niger to Norwegian audiences.

#### 14:10 – 15:30 **First Attempts by Students - four Films, four Institutions**

Chair **Bjørn Arntsen** (University of Tromsø)

**"Oliva's Kitchen"** (2003, 16 mn).

By **Irene Lum Asanji** and **Reni Jasinski Wright** (University of Tromsø).

The sewing of a pair of traditional boots (komager) triggers discussions between Oliva, visitors in her kitchen, and the filmmakers, on changes in ethnic identities.

**"Beignets DEA"** (2003, 20 mn).

By **O. Adama** and **Dahirou** and **A.T. Appolinaire** (University of Ngaoundéré).

The "beignets" (doughnuts) made by the student couple, Justine and Clement, are renowned and make them financially independent of their parents.

**"My ears, I will not do it again"** (2011, 15 mn).

By **R. Asta** and **B. Bachirou** and **M.Y. Zaina** (University of Maroua).

A primary school teacher is faced with difficult working conditions and has developed personal strategies for maintaining discipline in the classroom.

**"Aquatic Gold"** (2009, 15 mn).

By **Amidou Sogodogo** (University of Bamako).

The construction boom in Bamako has created an increased demand for sand, which is extracted from the bottom of the Niger river.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> (cont'd)

#### 15:30 – 17:25 **Representing Africans in Film**

Chaired by **Mouazamou Ahmadou** (University of Maroua) and **Sidy Lamine Bagayoko** (University of Bamako).

**"The Sultan's Burden"** (1992, 55 mn).

By **Lisbet Holtedahl** and **Jon Jerstad** (University of Tromsø).

Sultan Issa Maigari of the Adamaoua Province in Northern Cameroon, is a traditional leader experiencing a violent transformation of the political structures in his country. He struggles to survive as a leader through the first democratic elections in Cameroon.

**"Telle année, tels poissons"** (2002, 46 mn).

By **Bjørn Arntsen** (University of Tromsø).

A film about the life and experiences of a group of fishermen in Blangua, a village on the banks of the Chari river, not far from where it flows into Lake Chad. Here, on the fringe of the Sahara, we find one of the larger inland fisheries in Africa.

#### 17:25 – 20:00 **Africans about Africans – Women, Men, Elders, Youngsters**

Chaired by **Souleymane Diallo** (University of Bamako) and **Babette Koulthoumi** (University of Maroua).

**"Djeneba: A Minyanka woman of Southern Mali"** (2011, 57 mn).

By **Bata Diallo** (University of Tromsø).

Djeneba is a mother of nine children living in Kadioloko, southern Mali. Since her husband left the family some years ago, Djeneba and her children manage the family's millet fields without him.

**"Missionaries and Power"** (2001, 37 mn).

By **Rachel Issa Djesa** (University of Tromsø).

Since 1949, Maïdawa Thomas has the vision that his people, the Dii, would one day have the Word of God in their mother tongue. Since then, he dedicates all his life to translating the entire Bible.

**"Juarké: Boys Made Men in M'boum Society"** (2010, 52 mn).

By **Mohamadou Saliou** (University of Tromsø).

The M'boum people have practiced male circumcision for centuries. Nowadays, this mode of knowledge communication has phased out. But in order to cope with the pressures of modernization the traditional authorities have arranged for a revival.

## Concert with Mari Boine (Norway) Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 19:30

Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre church,  
St-Julien-Le-Pauvre St., 75005, Paris

Mari Boine is a Norwegian Sami musician known for having added jazz and rock to the yoiks of her native people. She sings in a traditional folk style, using the yodeling 'yoik' voice, with a range of accompanying instruments and percussion. Her songs are strongly rooted in her experience of being in a despised minority. In 2003 Boine was awarded the Nordic Council Music Prize. She was appointed knight, first class, in the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav for her artistic diversity in 2009.



### Organisers of the seminar

Visual Cultural Studies, Department of Archaeology and Social Anthropology, University of Tromsø  
École des hautes études en sciences sociales, EHESS, Direction de l'audiovisuel

### We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners who have contributed to this seminar:

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, NORAD, Centre d'Études Africaines, EHESS/IRD, CNRS-Images, the Norwegian Embassy in Paris, the Norwegian Research Council, Centre Franco-Norvégien en Sciences Sociales et Humaines, and the quai Branly Museum.

**Academic organisers:** Lisbet Holtedahl and Jean-Claude Penrad

**Coordinator:** Ane-Marie Hektoen

**Languages:** French and English (simultaneous interpretation)

**For further information, please contact:**

Ane-Marie Hektoen: [ane-marie.hektoen@uit.no](mailto:ane-marie.hektoen@uit.no)

**The seminar is free and open to everybody.**

