

The UoC Forum 'Ethnicity as a Political Resource'

Presents

PHOTO EXHIBITION
KAHINA: Art, Action, and Research
by
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UoC Forum Ethnicity (organizer)
17 - 28 November 2014
www.forum-ethnicity.uni-koeln.de

PANEL DISCUSSION
MELILLA: on the border between Africa and Europe?
Panelists: Antonio Sáez-Arance
Francesco Bondanini
Roxanne Friedrichs
Mostapha Bouklouâ
Moderator: Michaela Pelican
18 November 2014, 6 p.m.
Klosterstr. 79b, Universität zu Köln

Logos: UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE FORUM Ethnicity AS A POLITICAL RESOURCE, KAHINA, CIUDAD AUTÓNOMA MELILLA, Melilla Instituto de las Culturas, Universität zu Köln

Melilla is a Spanish city on the north coast of Morocco. Historically, it has been a center of trade and commerce, connecting North and West Africa with Europe. Today, it is a busy port city and part of a special low tax zone that attracts tourists as well as business people. Moreover, Melilla is a popular transit destination for migrants from Africa and beyond who wish to enter Europe. Its border zone is highly secured by a tall fence surrounding the city. At the same time, many Moroccans live in the city or cross the border on a daily basis to work or shop. Besides the constant flux of visitors and migrants, the city's population comprises Spanish people of Rif Berber background, Spaniards from the Spanish mainland, as well as a Jewish and a Hindu minority. While in public representation, Melilla has been praised as an example of multiculturalism and religious tolerance, there have also been indications of social tension and conflict in the less privileged suburbs, the so-called Districts IV and V.

In this context the UoC Forum 'Ethnicity as a Political Resource' organized two events:

Photo Exhibition: KAHINA – Art, Action, and Research

From 17 to 28 November 2014 at Allerweltshaus, Körnerstr. 77, in Cologne

Opening: 17 November 2014 at 6:30 p.m., with Francesco Bondandini, Prof. Dr. Michaela Pelican (University of Cologne), Fernando Belmonte Montalbán (Instituto de las Culturas de Melilla) and Fatima Mesaud (artist-journalist).

Kahina is a participatory social action and research project that addresses social inequality and ethnic coexistence in the Districts IV and V of Melilla City. It is funded by the **Instituto de las Culturas de Melilla**, and is realised by a team of researchers, artists and audiovisual technicians who collaborate with the **Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology of the University of Cologne**. Among its key members are the social anthropologists Francesco Bondanini and Prof. Dr. Michaela Pelican of the University of Cologne.

It are the suburbs of Melilla that the **Kahina** project has its focus, as it engages with the population groups based in Melilla's outskirts, their strategies of addressing social inequality, civic exclusion and public (mis) representation. The project entails two related goals: On the one hand, it includes an ethnographic study of the districts' social composition, the modalities of coexistence and possible areas of conflict. On the other, it aims at providing the suburbs' inhabitants with useful instruments to participate in the life of the city, reduce negative stereotypes, and promote their visibility and social inclusion.



Kahina is both an academic and artistic project. It pursues a participatory approach inspired by the idea of transforming the urban experience through arts and audiovisual media.

Its methods include artistic interventions (such as radio/video/painting workshops, exhibitions, theatre performances, redesigning of public spaces) so as to engender public attention and to critically reflect on how to address social inequalities and ethnic stereotypes, as well as how to actively integrate the people of the suburbs in the city's public life.

The exhibition showed the projects led by **Kahina** within the last year.

For more information regarding the project, please have a look at: www.kahinarte.com

Panel Discussion: Melilla – on the border of Africa and Europe?

18 November 2014, 6 p.m.

Klosterstr.79b, University of Cologne

Recently, Melilla has come into international focus due to violent confrontations between migrants and Spanish and Moroccan police forces. To open the topic to a broader level and to get a deeper insight in the complex situation of Melilla as a border city, we invited all interested persons to join us at our Panel Discussion.

The Panel Discussion presented 4 different perspectives on Melilla. The speakers drew a line from the historical evolution of the city to the work of the participatory social action and research project Kahina, the identity formation in Melilla, and the very recent topic of migration and European border policy, not forgetting the Moroccan experience of the border.

Panelists:

- Antonio Sáez-Arance - *From Medieval Christian vanguard to an European high-tech fortress: Melilla's historical background*
- Francesco Bondanini - *Migration on the border of Europe: the CETI in Melilla*
- Roxanne Friedrichs - *Being a Melillense: discourses and meaning*
- Mostapha Bouklouâ - *Melilla – a perspective from Nador*

For more information, please have a look here: www.forum-ethnicity.uni-koeln.de