

Biographies

Habib Ayeb

PhD in geography

Doctorate Honoris Causa from Gent/Gand university. Belgium. Habib Ayeb is a geographer, researcher and professor emeritus at the University of Paris 8 in Saint Denis, France. A specialist in social geography, his research areas cover issues related to food sovereignty, environment, peasant issues, climate change, marginality and poverty, social change, and the role of the environment in the development of food security ... Its research areas are mainly focused on Tunisia and the whole of North Africa. His latest major publication is the book with Professor Ray Bush of the University of Leeds (UK): Habib Ayeb & Ray Bush (2019) Food Insecurity and Revolution in the Middle East and North Africa. Agrarian Questions in Egypt and Tunisia. Anthem Press, London. He is also a committed documentary filmmaker. Among his films:

- Om-Layoun (2021 - on water issues),
- Couscous : Seeds of Dignity (2017 - on food sovereignty),
- Fellahin (2014 - on small farmers' resistance),
- Gabes Labess (2014 - on the environment) and
- Green Mirages (2012 - on development models and impoverishment).

In 2017, Ayeb and other comrades created the "Observatory of Food Sovereignty and Environment - OSAE" (<https://osae-marsad.org>), a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Tunis.

Ayeb is a member of several institutions and networks, including

- LAVUE - Lab AUS - University Paris 8;
- The International Advisory Board of the "Journal of Peasant Studies"
- Thimar Rural Network (founding member) - <http://athimar.org/en/about->
- He has recently joined the Advisory Board of Agrarian South.

Hicham Bouzid

Born in Tangier (Morocco), Hicham Bouzid is a cultural practitioner and independent curator. Since 2010, he collaborated with several art and cultural institutions in Morocco and abroad. Bouzid is today the co-founder and artistic director of Think Tanger, a cultural platform that explores the urban space and social fabric of Tangier through projects operating at the crossroad of contemporary art, design, participatory research and urban fields, featuring also an atelier for visual art production focusing on printing practices. He recently published MAKAN, a cultural magazine that tackles questions about art, architecture and urbanism. His curatorial practice produces various outputs: exhibitions, seminars, talks & podcasts, open studios, prints and books. Bouzid uses all these mediums to reflect on today's dynamics of the Moroccan society, and create new narratives that ties to his immediate surrounding in Tangier and Morocco.



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Virginie Dupray

Trained in European economics (HEC - Paris and the University of Cologne) and art history, Virginie Dupray first held positions in communications and public relations at the French Institute of the United Kingdom in London, where she participated in the launch of Ciné Lumière, the first French-speaking art cinema in London, and from 1999 to 2003 at the Centre national de la Danse, setting up the communications and graphic identity of this young public institution.

From 2000 onwards, several encounters led her towards the African continent. In 2001-2003, she followed the production of the Kaay Fecc festival in Senegal (2001-2003), then that of the Scénographies Urbaines de Kinshasa in 2006-2007. But it is above all within the Kabako Studios, alongside Faustin Linyekula, that she developed numerous projects from 2003.

Executive director of the structure until 2021, she will accompany the production and dissemination of Faustin Linyekula's creations and projects, as well as those of his companion artists in the fields of dance, theatre, music and film. These include choreographers Papy Ebotani, Dinozord, Dorine Mokha, Djino Alolo, percussionist Huguette Tolinga, composer and filmmaker Franck Moka and directors Christiana Tabaro and Michael Disanka. In collaboration with the association 1er Temps / Andréya Ouamba and CulturArte / Panaibra Canda, she wrote and directed Pamoja in 2012-2015, a pan-African residency and creation programme between Kisangani, Dakar and Maputo, funded by the European Union. More recently, she designed and coordinated the programme Dessine-moi une forêt! (2019-2020) on the issue of deforestation or the film Lettres du continent (2020).

She also collaborated with the MC93 in Paris to design and write a European project on diversity.

She now collaborates with various artists, including the choreographer Nacera Belaza, has accompanied the Ivorian choreographer Nadia Beugré since 2019 and is part of the committee of experts for the dance programme of the French Institute in Paris.

Virginie writes occasionally for the press, has published two creation notebooks with Editions de l'Oeil, and translates for the visual arts and theatre. She regularly teaches cultural management and production in Congo and elsewhere.



Elvira Dyangani Osé

Elvira Dyangani Ose is Director of The Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona. Previously, she was Director of The Showroom, London. She is affiliated to the Department of Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths and the Thought Council at the Fondazione Prada.

Previously, she served as Creative Time Senior Curator, Curator of the eighth edition of the Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary art, and Curator International Art at Tate Modern. She recently joined Tate Modern Advisory Council.



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Tarek Abou El Fetouh

Tarek Abou El Fetouh is an independent curator who lives and works in Brussels. From 2000 to 2005 Abou El Fetouh worked on designing and re-habilitating abandoned or misused buildings for use as cultural venues. These spaces included the Garage Theatre in Alexandria, Collectif 12 in Paris, Windows Theatre in El-Minia, The House in Amman, The Factory Space in the Townhouse Gallery in Cairo, Ness El Fen in Tunisia and the Geneina Theatre in Cairo. His curatorial work includes "It's Happening in the Garage", Alexandria ; DisOrientation, House of World Cultures, Berlin (2003); Roaming Inner Landscapes, Alexandria (2004) and Sharjah biennale (2009), and the annual performance event Durub Al Tawaya in Abu Dhabi (from 2013 to 2018). Abou El Fetouh is the founder (and director from 2002 till 2014) of the Young Arab Theatre Fund (YATF), a Brussels-based foundation working in the field of contemporary visual and performance arts since 2002 and renamed as Mophradat recently. He initiated the Meeting Points -Festival for Contemporary Arts and curated the first four editions that took place in several cities in the Arab world. Abou El Fetouh curatorial works include the exhibition of Home Works 6 organized by Ashkal Alwan in Beirut 2013. The exhibition was selected in the 2013 top ten lists of Art Forum, "Lest the Two Seas Meet" at MoMA Warsaw in 2015 "The time is out of joint" in Sharjah and Gwangju 2016 and Captive of Love" in 2017 and "Rituals of Signs and Metamorphoses" in 2018 at the Red Brick Museum in Beijing. Abou El Fetouh recently was appointed curator of public arts for Expo2020 Dubai.



Heba Hage-Felder

Heba Hage-Felder is the director of the Arab Image Foundation in Beirut since September 2020. Previously, she was responsible for institutional development at the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (2017-2020), including developing and managing new programmes, fundraising, strategic communication, and building donor relations. The two institutional grants and mentorship programmes she set up and ran were the Arts and Culture Entrepreneurship and the North Africa Cultural Programme. Heba worked with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for ten years – first at headquarters in Bern between 2006 and 2011, supporting humanitarian aid and development efforts in the Middle East, and then as director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Lebanon (2011-2016). Her work experience between 1996 and 2006 covered youth and community initiatives, production of knowledge resources, as well as eco-tourism. She worked with diverse local and international organisations in Jordan, Lebanon, and Geneva and co-founded Mada, a local NGO in Lebanon in 2001. Heba has a Master's degree in International Conflict and Peace Studies (University of Notre Dame, Indiana), and a Bachelor's in International Affairs (Lebanese American University, Byblos). Heba was born in Ghana, raised between West Africa and Lebanon and now lives between Beirut and Bern. She is fond of discovering diverse artistic works and personally enjoys writing and visual storytelling.



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Joke Quintens

Joke Quintens is a social designer and regenerative practitioner. She is a Belgian who lives in and loves Marseille. As a citizen, an activist, a former deputy mayor and an entrepreneur Joke is involved in several and various forms of citizens participation, co-creation and transition initiatives in cities. She is passionate about working with regenerative design and development frameworks. Joke is the driving force behind Living Lab Moving Marseille where she designs and guides together with local city makers several projects and urban field trips in Marseille on topics such as super-diversity, urban development and social innovation. Joke is the initiator of Wetopia, Making Cities Together. She developed several Wetopia projects in cities such as Marseille (France), Oostende (Belgium), Cape Town (South Africa), Nairobi (Kenya). Wetopia got selected as Innovator for the Future 2020 by The Futures Project. About Wetopia:

Wetopia is the idea in which we all recognise that we can only make a city together. All roles in society are important, whether you are a citizen, a civil servant, a politician, an artist, an entrepreneur, a city maker, citizen, a scientist... Too often we hide under the umbrella politicians keep open for us. But politicians are over estimated. They can no longer solve all our problems and challenges in society on their own. And that's why, in Wetopia, we turn the umbrella around and everyone can step into the Wetopia boat to create a better future together. We do this through "communities of practice" in cities. We locally create neutral space and actively organise new alliances to develop new working togethers, collaborative projects and interventions that start from the context of the city and the potential of the place or neighbourhood we work in.



Ludovic Zahed

Ludovic-Mohamed Zahed joins the Department of Anthropology at the EHESS (French school for advanced social studies) in fall 2010. He is about to finalize the writing of his anthropology PhD about Islam and gender diversity, after he studied Islamic theology in Algeria for five years; he also did a master in Cognitive Psychology at the Ecole Normale Supérieure and a PhD in Social Psychology of religions at the University of Nantes - France. L. Zahed actual thesis is about radically alternative Islamic LGBT (Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) corporalities and religiosities, as the vanguard of new Islamic liberation theologies. His terrain is focusing on LGBT Arab-Muslim organizations emergence mainly in Europe, but also in North and South Africa, and the USA. His fields of expertise include Muslim communities in Europe and Diaspora, and social grammars concerning norm negotiation around gender, sexuality, the public sphere, in relationship to alternative liberation theologies and mystical branches of Islam, such as Progressive, inclusive Islam and Sufism. He is the author of three books and numerous articles, including *Le Coran et la Chair* ("Qur'an and the Flesh" - Max Milo, 2012), and *Queer Muslim Marriage* (Kindle, 2013). L. Zahed (co)organized or participated (see exhaustive list below) to several conferences, seminars and colloquiums in France, all over Europe, USA (as at the MIT) Morocco and South Africa. His research languages are Arabic, French and English. Before coming as a visitor researcher to Stellenbosch (South Africa), L. Zahed was the international coordinator of the Euro-African network of citizens and intellectuals engaged and working towards an inclusive representation of Islam (www.calem.eu).

