LAST CALL FOR PAPERS

International symposium

Societal engagement of organizations and sustainability in Africa: catalysts for resilience in the face of multiple crises?

November 27th, 2024

University of Manouba, Tunis, Tunisie

The Global Research Institute of Paris (GRIP) of the University Paris Cité in partnership with the laboratory **LIGUE of the University of Manouba** in Tunisia organize a symposium on the theme "Societal engagement of organizations and sustainability in Africa: catalysts for resilience in the face of multiple crises?

CSR in Africa emerged in the 1990s, in parallel with the rise of globalization and awareness of social and environmental issues (Muthuri et al., 2012). At that time, Western companies began to adopt CSR practices in their African operations, particularly in the mining sector (Hamann & Kapelus, 2004). International pressure has played a key role in the adoption of CSR in Africa. International organizations, NGOs and investors have encouraged companies to adopt more responsible practices. In addition, some African countries have developed **regulations** (cf. Law on State-owned enterprises and CSR in South Africa of 2009, Law on CSR in Nigeria of 2011, Tunisian Law on Socially Responsible Enterprise (ESR) 2018, etc.) and **codes of conduct** to promote socially responsible behaviour (Code of Corporate Governance in Egypt 2008, Charter of CSR in Morocco 2010, etc.)

Beyond the changes in the institutional framework of CSR, we note that the African continent is one of the most affected by climate change even though it is responsible for a relatively small proportion of greenhouse gases (3-4% of global emissions). The COP27 organized in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt was concluded by a historic agreement about the creation of a loss and damage fund and by the recognition of the climate debt of rich countries to poor countries. However, many issues still arise for the continent's future and its energy transition. These issues concern, for example, the effective implementation of climate finance mechanisms, notably those proposed at COP27, as well as the capacities of African states and other actors to face the climate emergency in a context of economic crises, social disparities, and very different institutional configurations between countries.

In this context, the main objectives of organizing an international symposium on the societal engagement of organizations in Africa are to **create a space for dialogue and exchange between different types of actors**. First, researchers, to the extent that CSR in developing countries still remains an emerging and under-construction research field (Jamali & Karam 2018; Ben Rhouma & Koleva, 2020). Part of the literature examines CSR in Africa from a critical perspective (Muthuri et al., 2012; Seriki, 2020), pointing for example to the phenomena of organizational "decoupling" and "hypocrisy", particularly in social practices. and environmental issues of multinationals operating in the region. Other recent research (Sun et al. 2020; Aljuwaiber, 2021) highlights the scope of local entrepreneurial initiatives in managing sustainable development issues. This is particularly the case for contextualized studies on women entrepreneurship, showing the influence of the ecosystem on the legitimacy of women entrepreneurs in developing countries and on leadership support (Tahir-Metaiche, 2013; Alexandre and Karabsheh, 2019; Akouwerabou et al., 2021). Beyond researchers, this symposium is open to representatives of international, regional and national CSR networks, companies, NGOs, etc. who work to promote and implement CSR practices.

The expected contributions could be on one of the following axes without being exclusive:

- **Understand and analyze the interactions between different types of societal engagement's dynamics (institutional/ organizational, exogenous/ endogenous)** that are at work across the African continent; consider the variety of models that can emerge within this multifarious continent, with economies at different stages of development and a wide set of cultures and socio-economic challenges.
- **Discuss the scope and limits of these different dynamics in a context of multiple crises** which affect the African continent (humanitarian, political, environmental, armed conflict, economic and social challenges, internal and external migration).

- **Put views on these dynamics in a comparative perspective** by looking at developments in other regions of the world.
- **Promote understanding of African-specific societal engagement issues** and foster the adoption of responsible practices.

Submission of communications

Submissions are accepted in English and French on the platform sciencesconf **https://seosa2024.sciencesconf.org/**. PhD students are particularly encouraged to submit their ongoing research work

Partnership with Journals

- A special issue of the Journal of Responsible Organization (JRO), focusing on the theme "CSR and Development in Africa: Practices, Paradoxes, and Perspectives," will be associated with the conference.
- Interesting articles on sustainability and CSR topics in the fields of auditing, accounting, and control can be redirected to the journal **Audit Comptabilité Contrôle: Recherches Appliquées (ACCRA)** to either follow the regular submission process or the specific process established for **the special issue dedicated to accounting (in a broad sense) in Africa.**

Dates to remember.

July 15th, 2024: Submission deadline for full papers on the sciencesconf. platform. https://seosa2024.sciencesconf.org/

September 15th, 2024: Notification of acceptance of papers.

October 15th, 2024: Registration deadline. Details to come.

Form of manuscripts

Expected manuscripts should not exceed 12 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, with a spacing of 1.5.

Submitted manuscripts must not have been the subject of papers in other symposia or publications in journals or books.

Organizing Committee

Laurice Alexandre (Paris Cité University, CEPED/CEDAG, France)
Amel Ben Rhouma (Paris Cité University, CEDAG, France)
Samir Ben Hamouda (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Rym Bouderbala (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Younesse Chamar (Paris Cité University, CEDAG, France)
Maouia El Morabit (Paris Cité University, CESSMA, France)
Petia Koleva (Paris Cité University, LADYSS, France)
Vinicius Martinez (Paris Cité University, LADYSS, France)
Inès Mhissen (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Arij Mssada (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Hamida Skandrani (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)

Scientific Committee

Laurice Alexandre (Paris Cité University, CEPED/CEDAG, France)
Mariana Amova (Université de technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard, France)
Mohamed Badji (University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal)

Sami Basly (Paris Nanterre University, CEROS, France)
Leila Ben Hassine (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Amira Beyoudh (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Samir Ben Hamouda (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Amel Ben Rhouma (Paris Cité University, CEDAG, France)
Rym Bouderbala (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Gauthier Bourdeau (Paris Cité University, CEDAG, France)
Philippe Cadène (Paris Cité University, CESSMA, France)
Younesse Chamar (Paris Cité University, CEDAG, France)
Maouia El Morabit (Paris Cité University, CESSMA, France)
Médéssè Carol Frédy Gandegnon (University of Bordeau, France)
Jouhaina Ghérib (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Amira Hammouda (IAE Paris-Est- Institut de Recherche en Gestion, France)
Feyrouz Hendaoui (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Petia Koleva (Paris Cité University, LADYSS, France)
Thomas Lamarche (Université Paris Cité, LADYSS, France)
Eric Magnin (Paris Cité University, LADYSS, France)
Alok Mishra (University of Hyderabad, India)
Djibrilla Moussa Ousseini (University of Bordeaux, France)
Inès Mhissen (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Arij Mssada (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Mathias Naudin (Paris Cité University, CEDAG, France)
Kamaruddin Norfayanti (University Putra Malaysia, INTROP, Malaysia)
Mohammed Oudada (University Ibn Zohr Agadir, Morrocco)
Hamida Skandrani (University of Manouba, LIGUE, Tunisia)
Youssef Sadik (University Mohammed V Rabat, Morrocco)
Camila Veneo Fonseca (State University of Campinas, CEA, Brazil)
Iti Vias (ICFAI Law School, India)

Contact
For any information, please contact us at sustainabilityafrica2024@gmail.com

References

Akouwerabou L., Alexandre L., D'andria A. (2021). Caractéristiques de l'entrepreneuriat genré dans un pays en développement, le cas du Burkina Faso, *Revue Recherche en Sciences de Gestion*, 142, 41-69.

Aljuwaiber A. (2020). Entrepreneurship research in the Middle East and North Africa: trends, challenges, and sustainability issues, *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies*, 13(3).

Alexandre L., Karabsheh R. (2019). The Evolution of Female Entrepreneurship in the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Case of Bahrain, *International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship*. 18 (1), 390-407.

Ben Rhouma, A., & Koleva, P. (2020). Quel modèle émergent de RSE dans la Tunisie postrévolutionnaire ? Résultats d'une étude empirique. *Revue de l'organisation responsable*, *15*(1), 17-30.

GIEC - Rapport spécial sur les conséquences d'un réchauffement planétaire de 1,5 °C Source : Banque mondiale - Afrique et changement climatique : Aperçu

Hamann, R., & Kapelus, P. (2004). Corporate social responsibility in mining in Southern Africa: Fair accountability or just greenwash? *Development*, *47*(3), 85-92.

Jamali, D., & Karam, C. (2018). Corporate social responsibility in developing countries as an emerging field of study. *International journal of management reviews*, *20*(1), 32-61.

Muthuri, J. N., Moon, J., & Idemudia, U. (2012). Corporate innovation and sustainable community development in developing countries. *Business & Society*, *51*(3), 355-381.

Seriki, O. (2020). Looking through the African lenses: a critical exploration of the CSR activities of Chinese International Construction Companies in Africa. *International Journal of Corporate Social Responsibility* 5(8), 1-9.

Sun, H., Pofoura, A., Mensah, L., Li, L. & Mohsin, M. (2020). The role of environmental entrepreneurship for sustainable development: Evidence from 35 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Science of the Total Environment*, 741, 140132.

Tahir-Metaiche, F. (2013). Les femmes entrepreneures en Algérie : savoir, vouloir et pouvoir ! *Marché et Organisations*, 2(26), 219-240.