



UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

**Our
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UNIVERSITÉ DES
MASCAREIGNES
SAVOIR, C'EST POUVOIR



CALL FOR PAPERS International Seminar

**Theme: The Gens de couleur in Insular Societies:
Political, Social, Cultural and Economic History
29 September 2016 – 01 October 2016**

This international seminar is organised by the Department of History and Political Science and the Centre for Research on Slavery and Indenture (CRSI) of the University of Mauritius (UoM) in collaboration with the Association des Amis d'Auguste Lacaussade (Reunion Island), the Université des Mascareignes and the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture.

The seminar will be held in Mauritius from the 29th of September 2016 to the 1st of October 2016 and will be carried out in the context of the **History Week** of the University of Mauritius.

This call for papers is open to both young and established scholars who can contribute to existing literature. Particular attention will be given to proposals of young researchers. The Scientific Committee welcomes abstracts from all fields of studies relating to the themes of the seminar.

Participants: This invitation is meant mainly for those in the teaching profession and researchers as well as representatives from diverse national and international institutions. PhD students are most welcome.

Rules for participation: The following formats are available to participants.

1. **Oral presentation:** Each oral presentation should not exceed 20 minutes. Each panel will comprise of a maximum of three speakers and will be allotted 75 minutes.
2. **Poster presentations:** Posters will be on exhibition.
3. **Non-textual presentations:** Each presentation should not exceed 20 minutes.

Programme

Day 1: 29 September 2016

**The Gens de couleur:
Politics, Marginalisation and Inclusion since the eighteenth century**

The seminar will first focus on the political, social, cultural and economic history of the Gens de couleur and their significance in the history of their countries. Issues pertaining to marginalisation and inclusion will be considered. It will also analyse their impact on the international scene and their contribution to the emergence of modern contemporary societies in the Indian Ocean and elsewhere. Role of the media will be highlighted. A multidisciplinary and comparative perspective is encouraged for this day. In commemoration of the bicentenary anniversary (6th of October 2016) of the birth of Remy Ollier, writer, editor and political figure, one panel will be devoted to examining his work as well as the lives of other Gens de couleur who made a significant contribution to the societies in which they lived.

Day 2: 30 September 2016

Auguste Lacaussade: From the Ephemeral to Eternity

The second day of the seminar, devoted to literature, arts and translation, will allow participants to present research work on literary activities including French and francophone literatures. Poetry as an escape in a new or an imaginary world allows one to discover oneself and also one's infinite need for eternity inspired by mysticism. Just as the passion waves, dreams and social ideals of the youth, the growing awareness of duty to be accomplished and passions in its various forms – creative, aesthetic, national – revive the mystery of the origins and the great characteristics of man. The elevated soul, far from being satisfied by immediate expectations and being dependent of desires incessantly renewed, look for the vital energy to stand the test of time. In any culture, escape reveals the flaws of civilisation. It is a permanent quest of artificial paradises, travel and heroic exaltation, and also social thrill. The *vates*, the soothsayer questions the diverse aspects of life and forces Man to understand what he has inherently and to develop his conscience of the world and of himself. The flow of souvenirs and words are not only illusions. They are resources of an art that transcend space and time.

Day 3: 1 October 2016

Lacaussade and the Gens de couleur: Culture, Society and Representations

The third day of the seminar will be devoted to representations of the Gens de couleur in the field of cultural studies, heritage preservation and education. Proposals for paper presentations and round tables will be accepted as well as non-textual presentations. Part of the day will involve presentations on Lacaussade as a continuing activity of the 2013 seminar. It will be an opportunity to reflect more deeply on our concerns about traditional teaching methods and the transmission of cultural and historical knowledge through new and innovative pedagogical practices such as use of arts and new technologies for teaching in the broader context of interdisciplinary studies.

Procedures for submission and selection of proposals

Abstracts should be sent at latest by the **26th of June 2016**.

Proposals should include:

- Title of the paper;
- Name, surname, status, institution of author/s;
- The text should not exceed **300 words** (excluding bibliography, footnotes and spaces).

Selection criteria

Abstract will be reviewed by a Scientific Committee. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- thematic relevance;
- original material (there should be no duplication of previous papers);
- contribution to a conceptual framework for the study of the Gens de couleur;
- contribution to intercultural understanding;
- contribution to interdisciplinary studies.

Abstracts written in English or French should be sent by e-mail to:

marie-prosper.eve@wanadoo.fr

teelockv@uom.ac.mu

v.ballgobin@uom.ac.mu

Participants will be informed about decisions of the Scientific Committee as from **30th of June 2016**.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS WELCOMES YOU
TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HISTORY WEEK**

DATE: 29 - 30 SEPTEMBER & 01 OCTOBER 2016