



International Conference

The Laboratory of Social, Cultural, and Philosophical Studies and
the Sociology and Anthropology Research Team

organize an international conference on the theme:

*Culture and development in Times of
Uncertainty.*

Issues and Challenges

December 24th and 25th, 2026

Location: Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Dhar El Mahraz, Fez.

Conference Coordinators:

Pr. Kebir Sandy

Pr. Mohammed Radi

Pr. Mohsin Ftaite

CALL FOR PAPERS

Background and Context

Although modernization theorists created the most influential definitions of development, these definitions remained deeply ethnocentric (Viterna & Cassandra, 2015). They mainly applied to modern societies based on Western models—specifically, an industrial economy, highly specialized institutions, and advanced technology. As a result, both liberal and socialist doctrines presented development as a process driven strictly by industrialization, science, and market forces, while ignoring cultural factors.

Neglecting the cultural dimension led to major failures in development programs, especially in bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Third World countries and industrial powers. Key oversights included ignoring local cultures, human resources, the status of women, and the cultural motivations of local communities to support these projects (Fabrizio, 1994).

Today, the cultural dimension of development must be understood alongside new social realities marked by uncertainty and risk. As a process of social change, development inevitably brings new forms of uncertainty (Castel, 2009) that challenge local cultures and stable socio-historical structures. Therefore, development is neither simple economic growth nor a risk-free modernization process; it is a fundamental societal change full of uncertainty.

Importantly, developing countries face distinct paths of uncertainty because their cultural and historical systems differ from those of industrialized nations. This asymmetry maintains an unequal relationship between developed and developing nations, as highlighted by dependency and world-systems theories (Sun, 2009).

Consequently, socio-cultural factors represent the main challenge for development projects in less advanced societies. Importing development models from market-based industrial societies also transfers foreign cultural models, impacting values, behaviors, and mindsets (Fabrizio, 1994). This transfer often creates resistance and tension. For example, patriarchal structures or religious extremism can limit individual potential and economic growth (Moghadam, 1993). Similarly, cultural norms that discourage productive investment, promote high birth rates, prioritize family obligations over individual initiative, or reject social change (Stockwell & Laidlaw, 1983) can slow down development.

In response, many sociologists now place greater emphasis on cultural factors to explain modernization (Huntington, 2005). Researchers, policymakers, and practitioners increasingly recognize that cultural values can either drive or hinder development (Harrison, 2012). Today, culture is no longer seen in isolation or restricted to elite art; it extends to core societal spheres, including development work (Nash, 2013).

This shift has reversed the traditional relationship between economics, politics, and culture. While economics once shaped politics, which then influenced culture, today

culture shapes politics, which in turn determines economics. Culture has thus become the central issue (Al-Jabri, 2006). Recognizing this, UNESCO has placed the cultural dimension at the heart of its programs since 1988, based on the principle that every development action is rooted in a cultural context.

Addressing these critical issues in an era of growing uncertainty, this international conference—organized by the Laboratory of Social, Cultural, and Philosophical Studies at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Dhar El Mahraz, Fez—aims to examine contemporary interdisciplinary approaches to development at global, national, and local levels. The conference seeks to foster dialogue among researchers specializing in development, culture, and risk analysis, creating a refreshed framework for understanding how these fields intersect.

Main Topics (Themes)

- **Topic 1:** Culture and Development: Combined Perspectives
- **Topic 2:** Development and Social Change in an Uncertain World
- **Topic 3:** The Role of the State and Regional Development Facing New Risks
- **Topic 4:** Research on New Socio-Cultural Dimensions of Development: Current Status and Future Outlook

Important Dates

September 30, 2026	Call for papers opens
October 20, 2026	Deadline to submit abstract
November 25, 2026	Notification of acceptance
December 20, 2026	Deadline to submit full paper
December 24–25, 2026	International Conference

How to Submit Your Paper

Abstracts and full papers can be written in **Arabic, French, or English**. Please send them in Word or PDF format to: developpementcolloque@gmail.com

1. Guidelines for Abstracts

- **Language:** Same language as your presentation (Arabic, French, or English).
- **Length:** 400 to 500 words.
- **Content:** Include paper title, author's full name, university/institution, email address, keywords, and up to 4 references.

2. Guidelines for Full Papers

- **Font and Spacing:**
 - **Arabic text:** Calibri, size 12, 1.5 line spacing.
 - **French or English text:** Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5 line spacing.
 - **Footnotes:** Size 10 font, numbered continuously.
- **Headings:**
 - All headings in **Bold**.
 - **Main Headings:** Size 14 (1, 2, 3...).
 - **Subheadings:** Size 12 (1.1, 1.2 / 1.1.1, 1.1.2...).
- **Tables and Sources:** Written in *Italics*.
- **Page Limit:** 14 to 18 pages in total (including cover page, references, and appendices).

3. Reference Format

- **Books:** Author Name. *Book Title*. Publisher, Location, Year.
- **Book Chapters:** Author Name. "Chapter Title," in Editor Name(s), *Book Title*. Publisher, Location, Year, pages.
- **Journal Articles:** Author Name. "Article Title." *Journal Name*, Volume, Issue, Year, pages.
- **PhD Theses:** Author Name. "Thesis Title." PhD thesis, Institution, University, Country, Year.
- **Web Documents:** Author Name. "Document Title." [Online], URL. Date accessed.

Publication

All full papers accepted by the scientific committee will be published in the official **conference proceedings book**.