



Africa in movimento / Africa on the Move

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TITLE: HISTORY AND MOVING SOURCES: FROM THE “DIGITAL REVOLUTION” TO COLONIAL EPISTEMES: A ONE-WAY JOURNEY?

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ABSTRACT: The incredible number of projects to digitalize written and oral historical sources that has invaded the African continent has changed the terms of discussion from the conceptual construction of history as knowledge and an academic subject, to the accessibility of the sources. Indeed, controlling the transmission of knowledge is itself an exercise of power by which the latter “regulates” the creation of the *dispositifs* responsible for organizing the strategies of building of the mnemonic heritage created by traditional subjects (universities, families, archival repositories) or less traditional ones (web sites). In spite of the good intentions that inspire the digitalization campaigns, a risk exists that cataloguing contributes to establish new paradigms reproductive of the Eurocentric, colonial ones with the effect of creating new subalternities. The risk emerges when the difficult task of generating a virtuous exchange and sharing of knowledge meets with the will to deceitfully control and manipulate the flows of information by and toward populations. The aim of this panel is to explore the creation of African archives, meaning the archives located in African countries and the European archives relating to Africa. Contributions dealing with the following questions will be especially welcome:

- Which cultural and political criteria inspired the organization of the African archives in the post-independence years and how did such criteria contribute to the reappropriation of national histories?
- What narratives weave the organizational texture of the materials and retrieved sources?
- Which *dispositifs* inspire the generalized digitalization of African archives?
- What are the effects of the distribution and circulation of knowledge within the African continent and across Africa and Europe?