SORBONNE UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI

SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ

CEFREPA

FOOD CULTURES IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

between traditions, innovations and challenges



SYMPOSIUM

MONDAY & TUESDAY, 4 & 5 NOVEMBER 2024
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi



FOOD CULTURES IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

between traditions, innovations and challenges

(coord. Prof. B. Caseau, Dr. F. Faugeron, Dr. Y. Rodier)

Dates : 4 & 5 November 2024

Abstract

The aim of this symposium is to explore food cultures in the Arabian Peninsula over an extended historical period using a multidisciplinary approach, with the goal of highlighting transformations and current challenges, particularly regarding public health, and to propose potential solutions.

This event marks the launch of the Sorbonne Université Alliance's multidisciplinary "Food" Initiative, which brings together around forty colleagues from Sorbonne Université's three faculties (Humanities, Sciences and Engineering, Health), the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN), CELSA, INSEAD, and INSPE.

The symposium also seeks to foster connections with local scholars by inviting them to participate in the call for papers, discussions, and roundtables, with the aim of establishing long-term partnerships, developing a structured network, and promoting international mobility for both faculty and researchers, as well as doctoral students.

Lastly, the event includes an "open science" component to share research with the general public through two dedicated outreach events.

Monday November 4

- **Opening of the symposium and Keynote speeches 9:30 am**
  S.E. Nicolas Niemtchinow Ambassador of France to the UAE
  Prof. Nathalie Martial-Braz Vice-Chancellor, SUAD
  Dr. Fabien Faugeron Director of the Initiative "Alimentation", Alliance Sorbonne Université

- **Session 1: Formation and affirmation of a specific food culture 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**
  Chair: **Prof. Makram Abbès** *(Director of the CEFREPA : Centre français de recherche de la péninsule Arabique)*
  - **Dr. Hervé Monchot** *(Archéozoology, CEFREPA): Dromedary consumption through the ages*
  - **Prof. Béatrice Caseau** *(Sorbonne Université, FL Histoire): Cuisine and perfumes (Antiquity and Middle Ages)*
- ***Coffee break***
  - **Dr. Audrey Caire** *(UMR 8167): Arab food in medieval texts: reflections on the role attributed to Arab heritage in Islamic culture*
  - **Dr. William Zimmerle and M.A. Amna Khalid Al Mheiri** *(NYUAD) : Roasting Aromas: The Ritual Life of Coffee Ceremonies as Heritage Practices in Southern Arabia*
- ***Discussions***
- **Buffet lunch 12:30 pm**

- **Session 2: "Heritage", a response to the food upheavals of recent decades? 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm**
  Chair: **Dr. Stéphane Desruelles** *(HoD - Geography and Planning, SUAD)*
  - **Dr. Sylvaine Boulanger** *(Sorbonne Université, FL, Geography): Local food production and innovation in the United Arab Emirates: between the quest for food sovereignty and security and the affirmation of sustainability.*
  - **Dr. Vincent Moriniaux** *(Sorbonne Université, FL, Geography): The emergence of tradition, or how the UAE created a chef, an Emirati cookbook and television programs.*
  - **Dr. Christophe Lavelle** *(MNHN, anthropology/physicochemistry): dates, dromedaries and spices: building a local culinary heritage and its variations for specific audiences (tourists, children, senior citizens, vegetarians, etc.).*
- ***Coffee break***
  - **Dr. Hadrien Dubucs** *(Sorbonne Université, FL, Géographie) : The Food Landscape, a Reflection and Factor of Urban Multiculturalism in United Arab Emirates.*
  - **Dr. Alain Cariou** *(Sorbonne Université, FL, Géographie) : Making the desert flourish: from productive agriculture to heritage agriculture: the case of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.*
- ***Discussions***
- ***Diner***



FOOD CULTURES IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

between traditions, innovations and challenges

(coord. Prof. B. Caseau, Dr. F. Faugeron, Dr. Y. Rodier)

Tuesday November 5

▶ **Session 3: Challenges for public health 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Chair: **Prof. Khadija El Hadri** *(Sorbonne Université, FSI, Physiology)*

- **Prof. Patricia Serradas** *(Sorbonne Université, FS, Nutrition): Sugars, digestive functions and metabolic health in the Arabian Peninsula and the rest of the world.*
- **Dr. Martine Glorian** *(Sorbonne Université, FSI, Physiology): The burden of cardiovascular disease in the Arabian Peninsula and worldwide: why diet represents a key lever for prevention.*
- **Prof. Carine Platat** *(United Arab Emirates University, Nutrition and AI): Exploring bioactive compounds from date seeds to mitigate cardiometabolic risk factors.*

▶ ***Coffee break***

- **Dr. Souad Al Okla** *(National University of Oman, College of Medecine & Health Sciences, Sahar Campus) : « Tradition and Health: Evaluation of Omani Pomegranate Peel Extract's Therapeutic Potential in the Arabian Peninsula » (A)*

▶ ***Discussions and conclusions***

▶ **Buffet lunch 12:30 pm**

▶ **Round-table discussions with scientific partners and speakers from the world of politics and business 2 pm - 3:30 pm**

Chair and Moderator for the round table: **Dr. Zaïneb Ben Lagha,** *Associate Professor, Deputy Director of the Centre des Études Arabes et Orientales (CEAO - EA 1734), currently the CEFREPA representative at SUAD.*

- **Dr. Shamal Abdulkhaliq Mohammed** *(Director SILAL)*
- **Prof. Carine Platat** *(United Arab Emirates University, Nutrition and AI)*

▶ ***Coffee break***

Late afternoon: events for a wider public

▶ **4 pm :** *Lecture by* **Prof. Khadija El Hadri** *(Sorbonne Université, FSI, Physiology): "Current public health problems in the Gulf and how to remedy them, drawing in particular on the sources of traditional food cultures"*

▶ **5 pm :** *Cooking/pastry demonstration (solo, or in duo with a local chef) by* **Dr. Christophe Lavelle** *(MNHN)*

Scientific partners

- *Centre français de recherche de la péninsule Arabique (CEFREPA, Kuwait City) : French Research Center for the Arabian Peninsula. Contact: CEFREPA Director, Makram Abbès*
- *Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi: contact: Dr. Bertrand Haan and Dr. Yann Rodier*
- *United Arab Emirates University: contact: Dr. Carine Platat*

Financing

- *Sorbonne Université (FL)*
- *SUAD*
- *CEFREPA*

Publication of proceedings

by CEFREPA in trilingual version, Arabic/French/English