



University of Jendouba
Higher Institute of Human Sciences of Jendouba

The English Department at the ISSHJ
organizes a study day on

Employability in the Humanities: New Trends and Challenges

April 1st, 2021

On the edge of the twenty-first century, the world is experiencing a multidimensional crisis, encompassing problems of cultural, economic, political, social and ecological nature.

Modern thought has certainly freed men from the grip of obscurantist tradition while bringing about changes in social, political and economic paradigms. The philosophical thought of the Enlightenment contributed to this epistemological breakthrough by promoting the critical spirit and modern science. Since then, technical spirit and critical reason, the culmination of modern science and Cartesianism have not ceased to engage human civilization in the direction of progress and social, political and economic improvement. Everyone is aware of the civilizing advances that mankind has experienced since the outbreak of the modernity movement that western thought has initiated for several centuries.

However, this modernity that has itself declined can no longer give people what they need. Man's fate and his finality were concealed for centuries in favor of a logic of gain, profit and profit, hence the flight to postmodernism. It is from this perspective that Herbert Marcuse, in his essay "One-Dimensional Man", evokes new forms of social repression in what he describes as the "advanced industrial society" of the modern world that he criticizes. The creation of false needs is one of the hallmarks of this society whose objective is no other than the integration of individuals into the system based on production and consumption. The role is assigned to the media whose mission is not only to "inform" and entertain individuals, but also to condition their thinking and behavior, so as to remove the critical power of the individual and rule out behavior. anti-systemic on the one hand, and determine their activities and attitudes on the other. Thus, the "one-dimensionalization" of behaviors and thoughts causes man to become "one-dimensional", his social system becomes static and his critical mind crushed.

The human and social sciences have been affected by the methods of control and orientation of industrial society. On the one hand, studying science, technology, engineering and maths (Stem) subjects at university has long been seen as a golden ticket to assure career success. On the other hand, skepticism has arisen as to the capacity of the human and social sciences to direct Humanities graduates towards successful careers. Governments and companies are more and

more looking for students who study science subjects. But do the sciences really lead to more jobs ? How can we reassert the function of the Humanities in contributing to the understanding of social facts and phenomena and prevent crises by providing credible solutions? These questions may constitute our starting point to rethink employability in the humanities

The evolution of literacies definitely helped the extension of skills which goes hand in hand with the evolution of the place of digital tools in the job environment. It is therefore appropriate to wonder about the evolution of the use of expressions such as "literary and linguistics computing", or "humanities computing (McCarthy, 2005; Siemens, 2005) followed by that of digital humanities. How does this passage mark a significant change (Svensson, 2010)? "Humanities computing" already put forward oppositions between very distant fields initially, in particular between human sciences rather attached to texts versus computer sciences which favor the term data. The word digital clearly attenuates the initial break between humanities and computer sciences. In what ways do these changes offer new possibilities in the field of employability ?

It is from this reflection that we propose to examine how progress produces new paradigms. We also propose to follow the process of the genesis and development of human sciences in Tunisia, and their evolution over the last decades. We wonder about the fate of the human sciences and the historical deadlock in which they found themselves, that of falling into ideology and doctrine, and the endorsement of the established order.

Finally, we hope that this conference will be the prelude to a reflection on the renewal of thought in the fields of human sciences and a profound renewal of human thought.

Abstracts might address, but are not necessarily limited to the following topics:

- Towards new paradigms in human sciences : How to implement a renewal of the human sciences to face the needs of a globalized job market
- Job opportunities in the domains of translation and interpreting
- Human Sciences, moral and ethical issues in the environment of employment
- The role of human sciences in resolving problems in the sphere of employment
- Rethink employability in dehumanized capitalist societies
- The researcher's technical culture and metamorphosis : new skills = new researchers= the creation of new jobs
- Employment and transdisciplinarity: Define digital humanities as transdisciplinary?
- Humanism and the humanities : The role of the humanities in the creation of a more humane job market
- Personal development : An expanding domain in the Job Market ?
- Employability in the domains of Geopolitics and International Relations

Kindly, send a 200-250 word abstract (with keywords) and a short Bio to:

isshjstudyday2021@gmail.com

Important Dates :

- **Submission of abstracts:** February, 28th 2021
- **Notification of acceptance:** March, 14th 2020

Participation fees : 60 dt (Coffee Break, Lunch, Certificate of participation)

Scientific Committee :

Mohamed Jabeur, University of Carthage
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Akila Sellami, University of Sfax
Chokri Smaoui, University of Sfax
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