



Université de Dschang  
University of Dschang

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES  
ÉCONOMIQUES ET DE GESTION

*Dschang School of Economics  
and Management*



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**«CROSS LOOKS AT THE DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS  
IN AFRICA»**

**October 28 to 30, 2020**

**University of Dschang, Cameroon**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**1. CONTEXTE**

For at least three decades, most African countries have adopted decentralization as a framework conducive to the economic, social, political and institutional development of the territory. More in-depth than regionalization, and resulting in a transfer of competences from public authority to subnational territorial collectivities, which themselves take charge of most of their regulation, decentralization has today become the most effective acceleration of national integration and inclusive development (Pasquier, 2012; Faure, Leressche, Muller and Nahrath, 2007).

On a theoretical level, decentralization is supposed to allow better consideration of local interests and improvement of the living conditions of the populations; through: (i) *improving the effectiveness of mobilization and the distribution of resources*. For Hayek (1945) and Musgrave (1959), decentralized provision of public services would thus increase economic well-being above that which would result from centralized provision at the national level. (ii) *Promotion of citizen responsibility and reduction of corruption at the level of public authorities*. (iii) *Promotion and gains relating to a climate of peace, thus promoting intercultural, intergenerational and inter-religious dialogue*.

On an empirical level, although the beginnings of such a system have been observed since 1990 in Africa with the advent of the multiparty system and the wind of democracy, studies relating to the spinoffs and prospects of decentralization on the African continent remain limited. Despite the efforts of the political leaders, discordant speeches are more raised by the populations at the base who keep the impression of a break with the central system.

It is to analyze the challenges and prospects of decentralization in Africa that researchers, practitioners, civil society and politicians must deepen their reflections on this issue in a context of generalized quest for economic emergence in the continent. The question must therefore be approached in all its economic, political, legal, environmental, geographic, anthropological and socio-cultural dimensions so that a global view can emerge. The Center for Studies and Research in Management and Economics (CERME) of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and

Management, and the Center for Studies and Research in Law and Development (CEREDD) of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences the University of Dschang, thus offer through the international conference which they organize from 28 to 30 October 2020, a platform for exchanges. It is a question of clarifying, by the confrontation of points of view and analyzes the current directions of decentralization in Africa, to carry out the prospective analysis of questions which surround this process in the continent.

## **2. AXES OF REFLECTION**

To carry out this set of reflections, the conference will focus on three areas of research:

### **AXIS 1: DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

Theme 1: Decentralization and local politics

Theme 2: Decentralization and principle of subsidiarity

Theme 3: Decentralization and management of local enterprises

Theme 4: Decentralization and local democracy

### **AXIS 2: DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

Theme 1: Decentralization and mobilization of local financial resources

Theme 2: Decentralization and management of specific local resources

Theme 3: Decentralization and women empowerment

Theme 4: Development planning for decentralization

Theme 5: Decentralization and public management

Theme 6: Decentralization and exploitation of research results

### **AXIS 3: COMPARED ANALYSIS OF DECENTRALIZATION EXPERIENCES**

Theme 1: Comparison of institutional trajectories of decentralization

Theme 2: Comparison of the results of local public policies

Theme 3: Comparative analysis of cultural heritage management

Theme 4: Decentralization and management of the city

Theme 5: The socio-cultural and anthropological foundations of decentralization in Africa

However, any relevant contribution, even if it does not fall under one of the above themes, will be welcome.

### 3. TERMS OF SUBMISSION

Communication proposals (preferably full text or work in progress of 25 pages maximum), can be sent in French or English. They will be evaluated, anonymously, by two readers using a pre-formatted reading grid, with the view of repartitioning analyzes and methods. Proposals from different disciplines and on various research subjects are encouraged. Authors must first specify the axis and the theme in which their communication proposal is concerned.

Proposals will be sent no later than June 30, 2020 to: [davom99@gmail.com](mailto:davom99@gmail.com) or to [jkeutcheu@yahoo.fr](mailto:jkeutcheu@yahoo.fr) [paningaye@yahoo.fr](mailto:paningaye@yahoo.fr) [ongoema@yahoo.fr](mailto:ongoema@yahoo.fr) , [sonjacques@yahoo.fr](mailto:sonjacques@yahoo.fr) [frkosamougnol@yahoo.fr](mailto:frkosamougnol@yahoo.fr), and [animpa2002@yahoo.fr](mailto:animpa2002@yahoo.fr)

### 4. STANDARDS FOR PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The format for submitting communications texts must comply with the following instructions:

- The first page will contain the names and qualities of the authors, and the title of the communication.
- The second page will contain only the title of the communication, a summary (250 words) in French and in English and 3 to 5 keywords.
- The text will be typed in Word format, Times News Roman 12 characters, format, A4, margins of 2.5 cm, single spacing. It will cover 20 to 25 pages of bibliography, references and appendices included.
- The parts follow a simple numbering: I, 1, 2, II, 1, 2, etc.
- No endnotes (footnotes only): size 10, numbering: continuous; no page breaks in the document; all graphic elements will be aligned with the text.
- Sources must be cited in accordance with the APA method.

The costs of participation in the symposium amount to 65,000 FCFA or about 100 Euros. These costs will cover meals (coffee breaks, lunch and dinner) for the duration of the conference. In addition, the authors whose papers will be accepted will benefit from institutional support for their transport by land from Douala airport for participants coming from outside. All other costs relating to their participation in the conference (participation and accommodation costs) are their responsibility.

For more information, contact:

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## 5. IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Opening of the call for papers: **February 1, 2020**
- **New deadline for submission of proposals: July 30, 2020**
- **Notification to the authors of the selected proposals: August 15, 2020**
- Deadline for sending corrected versions of communication proposals: **September 15, 2020**
- Registration deadline: **October 15, 2020**
- Beginning of the conference: **October 28 to 30, 2020**

The conference proceedings will be published in a collective work by the FSEG and the FSJP.

## 6. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Organizing Committee and Co-coordinators of the conference: Pr. UM NGOUEM Marie (FSGE), Pr AVOM Désiré (FSEG) and Pr KEUTCHEU Joseph (FSJP)

Members:

NINGAYE Paul (University of Dschang), ASSONTSA Robert (University of Dschang), FOTSING MANGOUA Robert (University of Dschang), MIAMO Clovis (University of Dschang), KENECK MASSIL Joseph (University of Yaoundé II-Soa), NEMBOT NDEFFO Luc (University of Dschang), ONGO NKOA Bruno (University of Dschang), NGAMENI Pasky (University of Dschang), MIGNAMISSI Dieudonné (University of Yaoundé II-Soa), FEUDJO Jules Roger (University of Dschang), TOTOUOM Armand (University of Dschang).

## 7. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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