

Initiatives of the voiceless in social change

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In this panel, we will be wondering about emergent actors who, in different ways, express social preoccupations and opposition to policies of privatization increasing economical differentiations, unemployment as the crisis of the state. These individual reactions lead to the creation of volunteer organizations which differ from trades unions or foreign NGOs. They create spaces to express themselves as local radio stations, farmers' federations and social forums. Anti-globalist initiatives coexist with religious movements, both question the sovereignty of countries which obey western orders. Group dynamics will be analyzed in different countries where social demands are freely expressed and where the press and radio stations echo the demands, as well as when repression is the rule. The panel will highlight the initiatives originating in those who don't come to power, young people or women and those who call themselves the voiceless. Like them we will question the freedom of choice of reforms regarded as advanced by western power-brokers, but which pay scant regard to the voiceless. We will examine social criticism declined in different style in West Africa. Senegalese young people exert a radical social satire through rap and confer it the status of "weapon of mass denunciation" when others listen to discourse of the "return to an ancestral legacy" pronounce by a religious guide and leader of the Truth for Development Party. In Ivory Coast young officials, hit by the growth of privatization, adhere to a Japanese religious movement to claim a stronger State. In Senegal, a group of imams initiate a protest in Dakar poor suburbs against the free fall of their purchasing power. This movement embodies the will of to position themselves in the public space as determinant players. Nevertheless we will question their purpose as the Malian popular movement "Sans voix" do. This movement one of the Mundial Social Forum and of the international network *No Vox* warns against leaders who stand up as the *voice of voiceless* in the public space especially in the Mundial Social Forum. The next one should take place at Dakar in 2011. We will follow this Forum which provides an international audience to these local actions which converge towards those of other countries, giving internationality to the actions of the voiceless as some film makers or singers and the internet do.