



WHAT'S NEW?

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Discussion between a migrant and a police officer at the Budapest train station, September 2015. Photo : © AFP

Land of exiles

There are for all of us certain moments when we feel a stranger to others and also to ourselves. For example, walking in a town we don't know and wondering what we are doing there, or sitting around a table with a group of people we hardly know and with whom we have little in common.

These moments can nevertheless be precious if they allow us to glimpse what it is like for a foreigner, often a migrant or refugee, trying -- by integrating or imposing themselves -- to break free of the status that sets them apart, that is, being a foreigner in a new environment and also to themselves, since they feel they have no place. Giving such a person a place does not come naturally to the group whose circle he or she has broken into. At best it is a conscious choice, or else legitimately felt as disruptive.

Such journeys cannot be measured in thousands of kilometres, but inevitably in millions and millions of psychological scars. The journalist, whose job is to relate facts, feels powerless. Facts are only part of this reality, which necessarily includes emotions and conflicts. How are we to report on it? Probably through an accurate telling of our observations, trying to perceive and to convey what it is that links every actor in this global migration to others: their humanity, which risks becoming foreign even to them in this confrontation.

Jean-Marie Etter, CEO
Fondation Hironnelle



A father holds his daughters on board the migrant rescue boat Aquarius in the Mediterranean, May 2016. Photo : © AFP

Combining Journalistic Viewpoints on Migration

Current record levels of international migration reflect global crises. Fondation Hironnelle always covers them with respect for ethics, thanks to the potential offered by its media on the ground.

In 2015, the world registered 232 million migrants, a record figure which represents mostly positive, voluntary migration. Since the 1980s, the migrant population has been growing 1.5 times faster than the world's population. But it still remains relatively modest: 232 million migrants out of 9 billion inhabitants represents only 2.6%. In 2015, more than a million migrants travelled to Europe, mostly seeking refuge. Again, this is a record figure, but still represents less than 0.2% of the population of the European Union. So if there is a "migrant crisis" in Europe, it is also a crisis of perception. It reflects less the inability of a still rich continent to host migrants than the reluctance of governments and much of the population to take in refugees who are mainly Muslim. Migrants are dying trying to get to Europe - at least 10,000 in the last two years -, and Europeans are divided over their fate.

The global phenomenon of migration is difficult for journalists to cover. They need to bring multiple points of view, that of where people are coming from and where they end up, not forgetting the thorny issue of their journey. Added to this is a particularly difficult context at all stages of the journey. In the face of this situation, Fondation Hironnelle remains faithful to the principles on which it has based its action for 20 years: professionalism, accuracy, balance and respect for others. Our current work on these issues includes supporting *Radio Tunisienne's* migration analysis to determine its many causes; identifying a pluralist and coherent approach to providing a space for different points of view in the Sahel; and using our media network in Africa to publish portraits of migrants, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, so as to promote a better understanding of the human realities that they reflect.

Problems of the Sahel

The Sahel, which is the origin or on the route of many migrants to Europe, is also at the heart of "South-South" migratory flows between African countries. This region is confronted with several cross-cutting crises which feed the migration crisis, including a rise in religious extremism, terrorism and trafficking, conflicts between nomadic and sedentary populations, and food crises.

Fondation Hironnelle is working toward a common journalistic approach to these problems across the Sahel region. This comes in response to requests from editors and journalists on the ground and to the needs of people in the Sahel for additional information and dialogue on these issues. This regional initiative will be based on the media, local editorial teams and broadcasters that Fondation Hironnelle has established since 2013 in the region: Studio Tamani in Mali (20 Malian journalists, 35 regional correspondents, 60 partner radios that ensure daily broadcasting of the programmes); Studio Kalangou in Niger (15 local journalists, 11 regional correspondents, 20 partner radios ensuring daily broadcasting across the country). Correspondent networks and media partners also need to be developed in Burkina Faso (where the Fondation has been present since 2015), Chad and Mauritania.



A Radio Gafsa correspondent reporting in Kasserine, Tunisia. Photo : © Gwenn Dubourthoumieu / Fondation Hironnelle

Tunisia and the Challenge of Covering Migration

Ali Menef Jlassi is a reporter at Radio Monastir, part of the regional network of *Radio Tunisienne* (Tunisian public radio), which is supported by Fondation Hironnelle. Here he talks about migration in his country and the surrounding journalistic issues.

How is the global migration phenomenon affecting Tunisia today?

Ali Menef Jlassi: There are three dimensions in Tunisia. Our country is firstly a destination for immigrants. Since 2011, Tunisia has taken in 1.8 million Libyan refugees fleeing the fighting and chaos, the collapse of medical infrastructure, radical Islamist groups or, in the case of supporters of the old regime, political oppression. Secondly, Tunisia is also a transit country for clandestine migration of sub-Saharan Africans to Europe. Between 2011 and 2014, hundreds of thousands of them tried to get across. But since 2014, the Tunisian navy has set up efficient patrols and sub-Saharan Africans have switched to the Libyan port of Zouara. And then Tunisia is also a land of emigrants. Some 30,000 young Tunisians went to Europe in 2011, the year of the revolution. Tens of thousands of others then followed. And others, probably more numerous, still hope to do so. But since 2014, the controls have been tightened so much that leaving has become too hard. At worst, migrants risk dying in the Mediterranean, and at best they may be arrested and face a possible six months in prison.

You describe migratory flows equivalent to more than 25% of the Tunisian population over five years. What issues does this exceptional situation raise for journalists?

What is remarkable is the enormous number of people who were able to leave the country between 2011 and 2014, the period of the democratic transition in Tunisia. This suggests either an almost complete breakdown of the system or a very high level of corruption in the Tunisian secret services at the time. The latter is more likely, but it is hard to prove because Tunisian journalists depend on information from the security services on migration issues. Perhaps they also lack the resources. Perhaps they still have trouble casting off the self-censorship inherited from the dictatorship. Migrants hide, and the security agents who let them be are very discreet. The clandestine migration of one person involves a multitude of intermediaries across time and place. To identify them, you would have to infiltrate the migrants and take the risks they take, as well as the risk of being unmasked by the organizers of the illegal network.



Afghan refugees in Germany, June 2013. Photo: © Christoph Püschner / Zeitspiegel Reportagen

“Our role is to put the facts in perspective”

The **Zeitspiegel Reportagen** agency of journalists and photographers, based in Stuttgart, produces reports for the German language press. Its director **Tilman Wörtz** talks here about how this agency handles migration issues.

Germany took in 1.1 million asylum seekers in 2015, which has provoked divided reactions. Does this polarization have an impact on the way you work?

Tilman Wörtz: In August 2015, Chancellor Angela Merkel was questioned about the country's capacity to take in nearly a million asylum seekers – double the previous record of 438,000 in 1992 after the fall of the “Iron Curtain” and German reunification. Her determined response, “*Wir schaffen das*” (“We will do it”), indeed split public opinion. The anti-European party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) protested against the hosting of migrants, whilst the PEGIDA movement (a German acronym signifying “European Patriots against the Islamization of the West”) demanded that Muslim asylum seekers be turned away. The supporters of these movements think the media are lying, which affects the way we work. We try to cover their meetings but we are not made welcome and have not managed to establish a dialogue with their members.

What ethical questions does this situation pose?

Covering theft and mass sexual violence (more than 1,000 complaints recorded) on New Year's Eve 2015 in Cologne is a

good example. In Germany, the Press Council bans mentioning a suspect's nationality if it is not linked to the alleged crime. But most media mentioned the nationality of the suspects, mostly Algerian and Moroccan. It was no doubt legitimate to mention their nationalities, since the public wanted to know the causes of this exceptional incident. The Press Council also did not issue any complaints. But at the same time, could the suspects' nationality really be linked to the crime? There are no statistics to prove this. Whilst there are more suspected crimes committed by foreigners than by German nationals, most of these relate to infringements of the migrant laws (leaving a country without authorization, for example), which obviously Germans cannot commit under national law. Our ethical approach to immigration is the same as with everything else: our role is to put the facts and statistics into perspective and explain them. And so we recently launched a series of reports in the regional press about people who are tackling the causes that push people to migrate from their native countries. If we want to calm the atmosphere of fear that reigns in Germany, it is important to show Germans that there are people in the countries of emigration who are trying to resolve the problems peacefully.

Refugee Radio Network in Hamburg

In the Sternschanze district of Hamburg, Refugee Radio Network (RRN) has since October 2014 been producing and broadcasting interviews, debates, open mics and original musical creations. This multilingual (German, English and Arabic) community radio was set up by a group of Nigerian refugees who came to Hamburg in 2013 via Libya and Lampedusa. They are not able to work, owing to the Dublin Regulation which bans them from working outside Italy. So they set up RRN on a voluntary basis in order to “tell our story in our way, rather than let other media do it in our place”, according to Sammy Ojay, one of the founders.

The radio, which is available worldwide through the Internet, broadcasts practical information for refugees who are in the process of migrating and search notices for people whose relatives have lost track of them. It aims to be a place for refugees to express their difficulties, but more importantly their hopes: stories, testimonies, poems and advice are broadcast on the radio as a way to comfort refugees and also convince public opinion and German politicians that “refugees can integrate and contribute positively to society”.

Refugee Radio Network's programmes are available online at refugeeradionetwerk.net, and on Facebook and Twitter.

Radio Ndeke Luka on Arte with original cartoons

Arte is presenting on its website for one year reports by Radio Ndeke Luka, the Fondation Hironnelle radio in the Central African Republic. They are accompanied by original illustrations from Central African artist Didier Kassaï.

This collaboration between Fondation Hironnelle and Arte allows people to discover in an original way the lives of Central Africans. The "En direct de Bangui" (Live from Bangui) page has two parts. First Didier Kassaï tells the story of two young people, Poutcha and Samira, in "Bangui la coquette" (Sweet Bangui). He then illustrates a report by Radio Ndeke Luka. From his studio in Bangui, the cartoonist, scriptwriter and water-colour artist finds the right tone and expression to paint everyday situations in a town he knows like the back of his hand.

The Radio Ndeke Luka reports provide the added value, according to Arte Reportage editor Philippe Brachet, of allowing us to

"follow the news in the Central African Republic with those who embody it daily, that is the Central Africans themselves, putting ourselves at the heart of their concerns". "It's also a way to discover another approach to news and information, without it having been filtered by 'Western' coverage," he adds.

To access "En direct de Bangui", which is updated every two weeks, go to: <http://info.arte.tv/fr/en-direct-de-bangui>. Last May, Arte also broadcast a report produced by 2 Caps Productions on the daily life of Radio Ndeke Luka. "Une radio au cœur du chaos" (a radio in the heart of the chaos) is also available online: <http://info.arte.tv/fr/centrafrique-une-radio-au-coeur-du-chaos>.



Illustration for a Radio Ndeke Luka report on overcrowded motorcycle taxis. Artist: © Didier Kassaï / Arte

Ukraine: Perspectives on Decentralization

Fondation Hironnelle is working to develop a project in Ukraine. A first activity conducted in June focused on reports from the regions.

Following an evaluation mission to Ukraine at the end of 2014, Fondation Hironnelle designed a project to link local journalists and media in a network to produce independent, reliable reports for the Web, TV and radio. This project aims to strengthen existing media to offer their listeners a balanced range of viewpoints, stimulate dialogue and debate, especially in regions that are sometimes forgotten by Kiev.

In spring 2016, Fondation Hironnelle set up a first pilot activity, with funding from

the Fondation Vidrodgenia. Its aim was to look at decentralization, a major issue in crisis resolution for the country, through the eyes of six young Ukrainian journalists, supported by two Western journalists who are specialists on Ukraine. Contrasting their points of view from regions often ignored by national media allowed production of lively reports in touch with the major concerns of the citizens, broadcast by both Ukrainian and Swiss media: <http://ukraine.hironnelle.org>.

Reorganization

Fondation Hironnelle is currently working on its next four-year programme for 2017-2020. It is setting ambitious operational and institutional objectives in a global context that is difficult to predict. Today's crises are global, their causes are inter-linked and international governance seems to have broken down. These factors make both public and private donors cautious. In addition, the Fondation is preparing for an important internal transition, the handing over of the CEO position from co-founder Jean-Marie Etter to Caroline Vuillemin, currently Chief Operations Officer.

Faced with such challenges, Fondation Hironnelle is restructuring its organization so as to continue fulfilling its mission. As of 2017, the Fondation's top management team will be composed of a CEO, an Operational and Editorial Director, Xavier de Bruyn, who will strengthen the editorial side of operations, and a Secretary General, Philippe Bovey, to oversee support functions. A new post of Head of Communication and External Relations is being integrated into top management for the development of new partners, a key strategic goal of our 2017-2020 programme. This post will be filled by Nicolas Boissez, currently a Programme Manager.

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