

Editorial Introduction

- 9–17 **Alterity and identity in contemporary Francophone Cultures: from organic hybridity to politicized difference**
Nadia Kiwan

Articles

Part I: The alienated body and sexual identity

- 19–35 **L'anorexie: entre aliénation 'mentale' et revendication d'altérité. Le cas des écrivaines algériennes**
Isabelle Meuret
- 37–53 **Unsuccessful alterity? The pursuit of otherness in Nina Bouraoui's autobiographical writing**
Helen Vassallo

Part II: Alterity and (post)-colonial identity

- 55–75 **Subjects of exile: Alienation in Francophone West African cinema**
Lindiwe Dovey
- 77–90 **Community, identity and the dynamics of borders in Yasmina Yahiaoui's *Rue des Figuiers* (2005) and Karim Albou's *La Petite Jérusalem* (2006)**
Carrie Fair

Part III: The denial and re-claiming of identity

- 93–108 **Alter-Rights: Haiti and the singularization of universal human rights, 1804–2004**
Nick Nesbitt
- 109–125 **Travel sickness: Marie NDiaye, Hervé Guibert and the liquidation of the White Fantasy-Subject**
Andrew Asibong

Conference report

- 127–136 **Vive le Canada libre! The 12th *Sommet de la Francophonie*, Quebec City, October (17–19 October 2008)**
Peter Brown

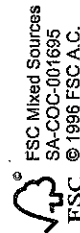
Book Reviews

ISSN 1368-2679



9 1771368 267008

1 2



FSC Mixed Sources
SA-COC-001695
FSC © 1996 FSC A.C.

www.intellectbooks.com

intellect



12.1

International Journal of

**Francophone
Studies**



International Journal of Francophone Studies

Volume 12 Number 1



A member of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals

The *International Journal of Francophone Studies* (IJFS) is an academic, refereed publication for scholars, teachers and students whose focus is on French-speaking areas of the world. The journal covers language, literature, society, politics, history, film, arts, theatre, cultural and media studies with emphasis on contemporary aspects of Francophone post-colonial studies. IJFS offers a wide range of research expertise in these disciplines from the colonial period to the present day. The Journal is bilingual, having a majority of its articles published in English and a selection in French with abstracts in English.

Editorial Board

Suzanne Crosta – McMaster University, Canada
Azeddine Haddour – University College London, UK
Margaret Majumdar – University of Portsmouth, UK
Valérie Orlando – University of Maryland, USA
Anne Judge – University of Surrey, UK

International Advisory Board

Bernard Aresu – Rice University, USA
Reda Bensmaïa – Brown University, USA
Alec G. Hargreaves – State University of Florida, USA
Peter Hawkins – University of Bristol, UK
Prosper Kampoare – University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Pádraig Ó Gormaille – National University of Ireland
Zahia Smal Salhi – University of Leeds, UK
T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting – Vanderbilt University, USA
Bernard Mouralis – University of Cergy-Pontoise
Inmaculada Díaz Carbona – University of Cádiz
Papa Samba Diop – Université Paris XII
Anthony Chafer – University of Portsmouth

Honorary Advisory Board

Eric Sellin – Former Professor of the University of Tulane
Liz Gauvin – Former Professor of the University of Montreal

The *International Journal of Francophone Studies* is published four times per year by Intellect, The Mill, Parnall Road, Bristol, BS16 3JG, UK. The current subscription rates are £33/\$65 (personal) and £180/\$290 (institutional). Prices include UK/US postage. Please add £9 if ordering within the EU and £12 elsewhere. Advertising enquiries should be addressed to: marketing@intellectbooks.com

© 2009 Intellect Ltd. Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use or the internal or personal use of specific clients is granted by Intellect Ltd for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) in the UK or the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transactional Reporting Service in the USA provided that the base fee is paid directly to the relevant organization.

Founder and Editor

Kamal Salhi
School of Modern Languages & Cultures
University of Leeds

Leeds

LS2 9JT, UK

Tel: (44) (0)113 343 3501

Fax: (44) (0)113 343 3477

e-mail: ijfs@leeds.ac.uk

Deputy Editor

(North America Editorial)

Rajia Koski

Department of Modern Languages

King's College

University of W. Ontario

266 Speworth Avenue

London,

Ontario N6A 2M3, Canada

Tel: (1) 519 433 3491 (ext. 4378)

Fax: (1) 519 433 0353

Toll Free: 1 800 265 4406

e-mail: rkoski@uwan.uwo.ca

Book Reviews Editor

Dawn Marley

Department of Linguistic, Cultural and

International Studies

University of Surrey

Guildford

GU12 7XH

Tel: 44 (0) 1483 682823

Fax: 44 (0) 1483 686201

e-mail: d.marley@surrey.ac.uk

Conference Reviews Editor

Peter Brown

School of Languages

Australian National University

Canberra

ACT 0200 Australia

Tel: 61 (0) 2 6249 2728

Fax: 61 (0) 2 6249 3252

e-mail: peter.brown@anu.edu.au

Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts database, Academic Search Elite, Academic Search Premier, Academic Search Complete, MLA International Bibliography, Academic Search Alumni Edition, Advanced Placement Source, British Humanities Index, ABC-CLIO, International Political Science Abstracts, Historical Abstracts.

ISSN 1368-2679

A catalogue record of this journal is available from the British Library, the Library of Congress and the Bibliothèque Nationale (France).

Printed and bound in Great Britain by 4edge Ltd, Hockley, www.4edge.co.uk

Alterity and Identity in Contemporary Francophone Cultures:
from Organic Hybridity to Politicized Difference



Guest Edited by
Helen Vassallo (University of Exeter) and Nadia Kiwan (University of Aberdeen)

Table of Contents

Editorial	9
Editorial Introduction Alterity and Identity in contemporary Francophone Cultures: from organic hybridity to politicized difference	
Nadia Kiwan	
Articles	
L'anorexie: entre aliénation 'mentale' et revendication d'altérité. Le cas des écrivaines algériennes.	19
Isabelle Meuret	
Unsuccessful alterity? The pursuit of otherness in Nina Bouraoui's autobiographical writing	37
Helen Vassallo	
Subjects of exile: Alienation in Francophone West African cinema	55
Lindiwe Dovey	
Community, identity and the dynamics of borders in Yasmina Yehiaoui's <i>Rue des Figuiers</i> (2005) and Karim Albou's <i>La Petite Jérusalem</i> (2006)	77
Carrie Tarr	
Alter-Rights: Haiti and the singularization of universal human rights, 1804–2004	93
Nick Nesbitt	
Travel sickness: Marie NDiaye, Hervé Guibert and the liquidation of the White Fantasy-Subject	109
Andrew Asihong	
Conference report	
Vive le Canada libre! The 12 th Sommet de la Francophonie, Quebec City, October (17–19 October 2008)	127
Peter Brown	
Book Reviews	
<i>Colons, Créoles et Coolies: L'immigration réunionnaise en Nouvelle-Calédonie (XIX^e siècle) et le tayo de Saint-Louis.</i>	
Karin Speedy (2007)	
Paris: L'Harmattan	137

Conference report

International Journal of Francophone Studies Volume 12 Number 1
© 2009 Intellect Ltd
Conference Report, English Language, doi: 10.1386/ijfs.12.1.127/77

Vive le Canada libre! The 12th Sommet de la Francophonie, Quebec City, October (17–19 October 2008)

Peter Brown *Australian National University, Canberra*

The 12th Sommet de la Francophonie held in Quebec City (17–19 October 2008) was intended as the culmination of a year of celebrations honouring the 400th anniversary of the founding of the city by the French explorer Samuel de Champlain, 'le père de la Nouvelle France'. This 'New World' setting was also seen by the hosts as the occasion for renewal of 'la Francophonie' through a reinvigorated commitment to the French language, cultural diversity and the future, most notably through greater North-South dialogue and multilateral, sustainable development programs. It was, at least, in these terms that Jean Charest, the Prime Minister of Quebec, couched his passionate opening speech, calling for a 'Sommet du renouveau, de l'engagement et des actions'. He left his audience in no doubt as to the importance of this for 'la belle Province' and the leadership role that it could play:

Pour certains c'est un enjeu de trois jours; pour nous, Québécois, c'est une lutte de 400 ans. C'est une bataille qu'il faut mener. Cette bataille est par définition un combat politique. Je vous demande humblement de mener ce combat avec le Québec.

Even the Secretary-general of the Organisation de la Francophonie, Abdou Diouf, whilst providing a 'bilan positif' of the actions of the Movement over which he presides, recognised the need for renewal, at any rate the host's right to set the agenda at what he called 'ce Sommet historique': 'Le Québec place ce Sommet sous le signe de l'innovation et aussi fait face aux questions du moment. Nous avons fait beaucoup. Pouvons-nous, devons-nous attendre plus de la Francophonie.'

Yet two events, one national, the other international, undercut the focus on things francophone in Quebec, even before the Summit proper began. These were the Canadian general elections and the world financial crisis. Just a few days before the Francophone Summit, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper had won his gamble of holding anticipated elections a year out from the end of his term. Admittedly, he did not gain the

outright majority he had been seeking but he was returned with a strengthened minority in a general political climate that was not favourable to incumbent leaders.

The outbreak of the world financial crisis had seen *Le Monde* and *Liberation*, for example, announcing his defeat, particularly given the fact that he had seemed for a while to suggest that this crisis was not likely to affect Canada. Yet it was precisely this financial crisis, which was now at the forefront of Harper's agenda, as the Conservative from Calgary welcomed delegates to the Francophone Summit in his capacity as Head of government. In fact, it was the world financial crisis that led to the initial major 'issue' at the Quebec Summit. This concerned the role that the French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, would play in it.

President Sarkozy's 'absence' from the Summit

From the outset of this Summit things were not quite right – including indeed what constituted the outset. Even before 'la cérémonie d'ouverture solennelle' – with Heads of State entering to the sounds of Elgar's *Land of Hope and Glory!* – came the announcement that the French President would be arriving late and leaving early.

In the event, Sarkozy barely attended the Summit at all, spending a mere 24 hours in Quebec. This included a pre-Summit Canada-Europe Summit with Harper and EU President José Manuel Barroso, the latter having accompanied M. Sarkozy on the French Presidential plane. The subject of discussion was anything but the situation of the French language; rather, centre stage was taken by the world financial crisis and related matters such as a Europe-Canada trade agreement (the first such agreement for the EU, going beyond bilateral nation-to-nation accords of the past). This triumvirate was also preparing for the Sarkozy-Bush-Barroso talks to be held the following day in Washington, before the European duo went on to Asia the next week.

Even during his brief stay at the Sommet de la Francophonie itself, the focus of the French President was firmly on the Europe-North America axis rather than on the countries of *la Francophonie*. Benin's President Boni Yayi probably spoke for many of his fellow African heads of state present in Quebec when he later declared: 'la crise financière sans précédent ne devrait pas nous faire oublier la grande crise humanitaire: crise alimentaire'. Another issue of concern to many 'pays du Sud' is the increasing difficulty of movement towards 'les pays du Nord'. However, the general call for a 'visa de la francophonie', to allow students and others more easy access to France and other countries, went unheeded. In the words of Alain Joyandet, the French Secrétaire d'Etat chargé de la coopération et la Francophonie, this is a 'sujet délicat' unlikely to be settled in the short term.

Such was the perceived disengagement of M. Sarkozy with regard to the Francophone Summit that M. Joyandet was obliged to hold a full press conference concerning 'la venue du Président Sarkozy'. At this Conference one could indeed wonder at the marvels of the French language, as M. Joyandet explained that the President's quasi-absence from the Summit was precise proof of his commitment to *la Francophonie*. According to M. Joyandet, it was 'quasi-miraculeux' that M. Sarkozy was able to come to Quebec at all, given the 'lourdes responsabilités qui pèsent sur les épaules du Président de l'Europe'.

Other absences: the troubles of Africa; the presence of Algeria
M. Sarkozy was not the only President to be 'absent' from the Quebec Summit. In fact, the number of Heads of State attending was in decline with regard to previous Summits, with barely half the delegates in Quebec having this function. Many countries sent their foreign minister or simply relied on their Ambassador to Canada to officiate.

The President of the Ivory Coast, Laurent Gbagbo, who had boycotted the Ouagadougou and Bucharest Summits, was again absent, caught up in internal troubles. Also absent due to events affecting his country was Laurent Kabila from the République Démocratique du Congo. President Paul Kagame from Rwanda was another absent leader, and not just for domestic reasons. He has been engaged in a stand-off with France, particularly since Jean-Louis Bruguière, appointed to head an enquiry into the events of Rwanda in 1994, concluded in 2006 that Kagame had ordered the shooting down near Kigali airport of the plane carrying the then President of Rwanda Juvénal Habyarimana and Burundi's President Cyrien Ntaryamir in April 1994, thereby that precipitating events that led to the genocide. Kagame for his part has made counter-claims about France's role in the events.

Another significant absentee was Mauritania. The country had been suspended from the OIF since the *coup d'état* of 6 August 2008 that had overthrown the government of President Sidi Ould Cheik Abdallahi, who had gained power the year before in the first fully democratic elections held in the country since 1960. This rare gesture on the part of OIF shows some definite evolution in policy and action – 'de grands progrès', in the words of Radio Canada – on the question of governance.

The Bamako Declaration (2000) had already provided an institutional framework for consideration by the OIF of issues of democracy, rights and liberties. This was taken a stage further at the 2006 Ministerial Conference held at Saint-Boniface, which produced the Boniface Declaration on conflict prevention and human security. An *Observatoire des Droits humains* was then established, charged with writing report cards on the state of affairs in the member countries, and provision was made for the possibility of sanctions, including suspension of membership. In 2008, the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the OIF announced that Mauritania's suspension would remain in place until the country's elected President was released and democracy reinstated.

Even Canada was partially absent from the Quebec Summit, with Prime Minister Harper having withdrawn the representative of the *Société nationale des Acadiens*. In the words of Lucie Lebourhiller, the director-general of the SNA, Harper's decision was received as 'un affront, une insulte aux Acadiens', which has had a representative among the Canadian delegation at recent Francophone Summits. She also called for a Federal initiative, similar to that of Quebec in support of an immigration policy for French-speaking migrants, that could facilitate mobility via mutual recognition of diplomas. This was designed in part to avoid a decline in the demographic presence of French speakers now that Quebec's birthrates have plummeted in the space of a generation. If Quebec's official motto is 'Je me souviens', it is also true that *Le Grand Dérangement*,

It is remarkable that in the OIF's publication, *La Francophonie dans le monde 2006-2007* (Paris: Éditions Nathan, 2008), one can read, without qualification, that 'les pays où l'on trouve le plus de francophones et francophones particuliers pour l'Afrique du Nord, sont le Maroc en nombre et la Tunisie en pourcentage de la population totale' (p. 7).

whereby the British decimated the Acadian population through forced emigration in the mid-18th century, still touches a raw nerve in the Maritime Provinces.

Conversely, there was the notable presence of one absent member, that of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who once again attended the Summit as 'invité spécial' of the host, just as he had done in Beirut in 2002 and Ouagadougou in 2004. He had been absent from the Summit in Bucharest in 2006, following the controversy generated earlier that year by the law introduced by the French Parliament that referred to 'les effets positifs du colonialisme'. This law was subsequently thrown out by President Chirac after the outrage that it had produced, but its effects were not easily dismissed. In Quebec City, Bouteflika presented a very open attitude to the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie:

L'Algérie ne ménagera aucun effort pour être en phase avec les objectifs, les actions et les débats de l'Organisation. Indépendamment du statut qui lui est reconnu pour participer aux travaux, la présence de l'Algérie à ces sommets est un témoignage de l'intérêt qu'elle porte à l'OIF avec laquelle elle souhaite engager une coopération substantielle en matière culturelle, éducative et environnementale.

Witness to this is that 45 of Algeria's universities are members of the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* – as President Bouteflika also declared in his speech to the Summit, 'l'usage de la langue française... constitue un outil essentiel de communication et d'échange'. Nonetheless, the fact remains that the country with probably still the largest number of real French-speakers outside of France is still not a formal member of the OIF¹.

'La controverse Sarkozy'

If the curtailed nature of President Sarkozy's visit caused some concern, it was his pronouncements during his brief stay that really grabbed the headlines from the moment he arrived. Not his pronouncements on *la francophonie* but the fact that he managed to get embroiled in Canada's internal affairs – at least in the eyes of many Québécois. In the extremely sensitive context of Quebec, Sarkozy was seen 'as sending different messages about Franco-Quebec-Canadian relations, both in his initial press conference and in his speech to the Quebec Parliament: between maintaining the thirty-year old principle of non interference and coming down in favour of Canadian federalism. On the one hand, 'les Canadiens et les Québécois sont importants pour nous' was acceptable; on the other, his statement that 'les Québécois sont nos frères; les Canadiens sont nos amis' was not.

Sarkozy's speech to the Quebec Parliament was largely interpreted by the local press as being anti-Quebec sovereignty, through his insistence on unity and his friendship with Canada, des pite his professed 'amour' for Quebec. This perceived ambivalence was encapsulated in his following call: 'Vive l'amitié entre le Canada et la France, vive la fraternité entre le peuple français et le peuple québécois.' To make matters worse, he addressed the anglophone Canadian Prime Minister Harper in public at

the Summit as 'mon ami, Stephen, tu...', while maintaining the 'vous' form for Quebec's (perfectly bilingual) *Premier Ministre*, Jean Charest. As one local journalist put it, 'c'est bizarre, c'est comme s'il voulait faire l'américain'.

Sarkozy seemed unaware that his words on 'unity' could ignite such a controversy. But it was precisely this position that was seen by many in Quebec as 'ingérence' in Canada's internal affairs, including by three of the province's former Premiers (and former leaders of the *Parti Québécois*), Jacques Parizeau, Lucien Bouchard and Bernard Landry, who had had front row seats – after being introduced to a standing ovation – at Sarkozy's speech to the Quebec Parliament. Bernard Landry went as far as to say: 'si Sarkozy voulait dire ça, c'est extrêmement grave: on a eu la paix pendant 50 ans; depuis quelques heures on ne l'a plus.'

The Quebec media were completely absorbed by the story. For her part, the *souverainiste* Louise Baudoin, a former Quebec Minister for International Relations, now an academic and media commentator with a high public profile, held that it was not possible that the whole of the Quebec press could be mistaken, and expressed her dismay that France would appear no longer to have a 'bienveillance encourageante' with regard to aspirations by Quebec to become a sovereign nation.

The hapless Secrétaire d'état Joyandet, serving increasingly as President Sarkozy's spokesman for the Summit, was again forced to exert his language skills, reminding journalists that he too had once been a reporter and that if they were *de bonne foi* then they should stop 'chipoter' about minor details...

Le Centre des Amériques francophones (Quebec); La Maison de la Francophonie (Paris)

The same day as creating a furore in the highly charged atmosphere of Quebec's cultural politics, M. Sarkozy went on to inaugurate the *Centre des Amériques francophones*. This building, a gift of France, had been in preparation for several years, and was designed to supersede the more limited historical vision of the *Maison de l'Amérique française*, Canada's oldest museum. As such it is a very symbolic representation of the French-speaking – not just French – presence in the whole of North America, of which Quebec sees itself, understandably, as being at the centre. In his speech to the Quebec Parliament earlier in the day, to thunderous applause, Jean Charest, had addressed the French President by underlining the twin themes of continuity and diversity:

Ce n'est pas aujourd'hui que nous nous battons ici pour défendre notre langue. Vous êtes ici qui est depuis 400 ans la grande maison francophone de l'Amérique... Nous sommes unis par le temps, par le cœur et par le sang... Le Rameau de France en Amérique. Monsieur le Président c'est un peuple grand et fier qui vous accueille dans sa demeure et dans sa langue... Mais je dois vous dire, Monsieur le Président, qu'en ces lieux, c'est vous qui avez un accent.

Yet, despite its symbolic importance, it is not clear what function this new *Centre des Amériques francophones* will actually have. Last October, at any rate, the French President was greeted by an empty

shell, and he stayed barely one minute for its 'inauguration'. Even the symbolism of the building seemed odd, as the outside wall was draped in an artistic work consisting of a truncated text illuminated in the colours of the tricolore rather than of *la francophonie* – at an estimated cost of one million dollars.

The following morning, Nicolas Sarkozy renewed his pledge concerning another building, the *Maison de la Francophonie*, which he confirmed that he would inaugurate in Paris in the spring of 2010. The French President may well have solemnly declared: 'J'ai fait inscrire dans la constitution la Francophonie comme un élément essentiel'. But this event too had its malcontents. The press was invited to register for the signing of the convention between the République française, represented by Nicolas Sarkozy and Alain Joyandet, and the Organisation Internationale de Francophonie (OIF), represented by Abdou Diouf. As with many other events at this Summit, however, the press ended up being excluded from the event, except for two photographers who were permitted to attend proceedings, again for the regulation one minute.

The French language

It was not by chance that the host of this Summit wished to place the question of the French language at the heart of proceedings. The Summit venue, the Centre des Congrès, is located on the Boulevard René Lévesque, right opposite the Assemblée Nationale du Québec, and a statue of Lévesque, the charismatic leader of the 'révolution tranquille', smiles benignly but defiantly in the direction of the Centre.

It might seem strange that there should be concern for the French language in the city that had hosted, two days before the Summit began, the visit of the latest recipient of the Nobel Prize for literature, JM Le Clézio. But the foregrounding of the French language as a theme of the Summit was not only due to Quebec cultural and linguistic identity, however. There is a growing sense of malaise within the traditional members of the IOF – Quebec and the African countries in particular – about the situation of French, not only in the world at large but also within the movement itself. Of the 68 countries that now form the OIF, less than half have French as an official language, and an even smaller number of Heads of State are capable of holding a discussion in French.²

Secretary-general Diouf claims to accommodate, even welcome, in the name of 'ouverture' and 'diversité culturelle', the fact that only about half the member countries are French-speaking in any real sense. His view is that there are many countries of Africa that are members of more than one organisation: the Commonwealth, the Arab League, the Organisation of Lusophone Countries, and so on. Indeed, he proclaims that this can be a very good thing if it combats the scourge of 'l'hégémonie culturelle et linguistique'.

The same Diouf recognises, however, as a problem the situation whereby OIF member states make widespread use of English at international fora. The Bucharest Summit had produced a 'Vade-mecum' on the use of the French language in business and international affairs, and Quebec Declaration also tries to address this concern by making a

number of remarks and recommendations on the subject, but their generality could be seen to be too vague to ensure the implementation of any specific measures:

Nous demandons à l'OIF et aux opérateurs de se donner une véritable politique de promotion du français qui intègre et met en synergie les actions de l'OIF, des opérateurs et de tous les acteurs concernés de la société civile.

Despite the promotion of the French language as one of the Summit's stated main aims, there was a problem for French right at the very doorstep of the Summit. The situation was that Prime Minister Harper had ordered an unprecedented level of security for the proceedings; some 3000 officers were accordingly deployed for the purpose, including many Royal Canadian Mounted Police who had been flown in from as far away as Vancouver. Harper's argument was that he did not want a repeat of the 'chaos' produced in April 2001 on the same site at the time of the Summit of the Americas, which saw massive anti-Bush and anti-globalisation protests that gave rise to violent clashes with police.

The upshot last October, where there was not a protestor in sight, was that not all the security forces guarding the Press Centre had enough mastery of French to be able to reply to the question: 'Où est le Centre de Presse?' Madame Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, the (*non-souverainiste*) Quebec Minister of International Relations, agreed that it was 'pas normal' that visitors to the Summit were welcomed in English, but event were beyond her control. Moreover, the very tight security arrangements had another consequence, which was that many of the city's planned events to engage journalists and other visitors with activities in the city had to be shelved.

The fact that 'French' is no longer a 'given' at Francophone Summits is not purely a linguistic question. As the Quebec Summit opened, Rwanda announced that it was taking the radical step of replacing French with English as the language of the education system and the administration. According to President Paul Kagame, English is better for business and would help the country's development, in particular by facilitating its integration in the East-African Community whose members are all English speaking (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania). Kagame himself grew up in Uganda, where his family was living in exile, was trained in the military in that country and the United States, and it was from Uganda that he led the successful invasion force that overthrew the Rwandan Hutu regime in 1994.

Rwanda has been a member of the *la Francophonie* ever since the movement's foundation in 1970, but henceforth, French would be taught only as a second language, alongside Kinyarwanda, the national language of 10 million Rwandans. The country has also made an application to join the Commonwealth, following the British Institute's setting up an office there, at the same time as the Ecole française internationale and offices of French firms were closing in Kigali.

The French language also had to share the stage with English at the Quebec Summit during the opening speech made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Whilst he has improved his own competence in French

3. For further details, see the excellent article by Georges Porter in *L'Annuaire Francophone Internationale* 2008, Québec: CIDEF-AFI, 2008, pp. 10-12. The latest edition of this annual compendium was launched at the Summit in October. The creation of Michel Tétu back in the early 1990s, it appeared for some time that the *L'Annuaire Francophone Internationale* would not survive following the death of its founder in January 2008. However, thanks to the tireless efforts of his widow, Françoise Tétu, and others, notably its editor Loïc Hervouet, a new volume, albeit abridged, was published in time for the Summit in Michel Tétu's adopted city.

quite considerably in recent times, he always makes a point – in the name of Canada's bilingual constitutional status – to break into English for long periods at events of *la francophonie*. Even while talking in French he seems to take delight in pronouncing the name of his country *à l'anglaise* by having the tonic stress fall heavily on the first syllable. And, as in Bucharest, Harper made some rather risky foreign policy assumptions or presumptions. Thus, in referring to Canada's involvement in Afghanistan, he indicated, speaking collectively on behalf of Francophone nations, that 'on partage les mêmes buts'...

L'Affaire TV5 Monde

There was certainly one point of divergence between Canada and France. That concerns the situation of TV5 (renamed TV5 Monde in 2006), which is one of the *opérateurs* of the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*. In his speech at the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Harper announced that Canada was giving 25 million dollars more to the network which it wishes to see continue to exist in its traditional form.

Sarkozy had intended to restructure TV5 totally. A report that he had commissioned recommended in November 2007, that TV5 Monde be merged with France 24 and *Radio France Internationale* in a holding operation to be called *France Monde*, responsibility for which would move from the *Qual d'Orsay* to the *Hôtel Matignon*. The proposed media service was intended as a kind of French-language CNN, i.e. broadcasting news around the clock. In December 2007, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner referred to it in a letter published by *Le Monde* as a 'pôle commun de production de l'information' and a 'service de communication unifié'.

The new proposed structure would thus have meant that its multicultural dimension, including its multinational (Quebec, Belgium, Swiss) dimension, would have been lost. It would rather have become a simple vehicle for presenting a French perspective on the world. This produced a strong reaction from the francophone partners, and in December 2007 the Quebec Parliament passed a resolution judging this move to be 'inapproprié'. Even Abdou Diouf weighed in on the matter in favour of TV5 Monde. Unmoved, in February 2008, President Sarkozy appointed Alain de Pouzilhac, previously head of France 24, to take the reins of *France Monde*, with Christine Ockrent, none other than Bernard Kouchner's partner, to be second in command.

A meeting of the four other major stakeholders of TV5 (Belgium, Canada, Quebec, Switzerland) in Ottawa confirms their opposition to the new arrangements, and after many further exchanges Madame Ockrent is no longer to be the effective head of TV5 Monde. This role is taken over by Marie-Christine Sarragosse who had formerly been Vice-President of the station, and who showed her energy in leading the station's operations at the Quebec Summit. However, whilst the outcome seemed to calm the nerves of most, and although the additional financial support pledged by Stephen Harper to TV5 in Quebec was very welcome, the fact that France continues to provide nearly 80% of the station's budget means that President Sarkozy might yet get his way in his desire to create a media outlet for a 'francophonie offensive'.³

L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie

The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie is another of the OIF's 'opérateurs'. Its director, Bernard Cerquolini, outlined the agency's ambitious distance education train-the-trainer program for primary school teachers. Four Centres have been set up in various parts of the francophone world: Benin, Burundi, Madagascar and Haiti; that is, the Great Lakes, east and west Africa, the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and the Caribbean). The OIF works at the political level in consultation with interested countries and the AUF at the logistical and academic with partner institutions, universities. Modelled on the Open University approach, in consultation with advisor from Sir John Daniel, a former Vice-Chancellor of the OU, this approach represents a change of conception for the French perspective.

Instead of sending trainers *en mission* for short periods to the countries concerned, this model accepts a non centralising or at least non directive role for Paris, and a recognition that work needs to be adapted to local conditions and sensitivities, and that it needs to have local support and be sustainable thereafter. This may seem a simple enough approach, but it is by no means self-evident in the context of 'la Francophonie'. The ambition is that, through a pilot program which should train 500 trainers over the next two years, the program be extended to other countries (with the support of UNESCO) so that by 2015 there would be 300 000 teachers trained.

However, during the press conference with Bernard Cerquolini, it was clear that, despite the best intentions, communication remains a problem: a number of those present, from as diverse a range of countries as Vietnam and Senegal, were unaware that there was a *campus numérique* in their country. M. Cerquolini suggested that the Agence had been perhaps too 'modest' in its announcements and that this should be corrected, particularly as these *campus numériques* were not at all intended to be *cybercafés* but completely integrated into the university housing them, and that this development is one of the major achievements of the AUF. The road ahead remains long...

The Final Press Conference

In-fighting over the decision concerning the site of the next Summit had gone on through the previous night and ended up delaying the final press conference by some two hours. France had been supporting the candidacy of the République Démocratique du Congo, whilst other countries, including Canada in particular, lent their support to Madagascar. The absence of both Laurent Kabila and Nicolas Sarkozy no doubt did little to advance the cause of the RDC.

In the event, the final press conference was all over in less than an hour, with question time being curtailed to a minimum. Abdou Diouf did his best to put on a brave face, and, true to form, he was able to find some stirring words to characterise the Summit's proceedings. 'Nous avons connu des miracles ici', was the way in which he presented its achievements. A journalist from *Le Devoir* conceded that the Heads of State might have been closer to the gods in their ivory tower than journalists in the Press Centre, which was located in the lower half of the Centre des Congrès, the same journalist was keen to know more about these 'miracles' that the

4. As recent events this March have dramatically shown, however, with the overthrow of his regime, it is extremely unlikely that he will be officiating at the Summit in 2010.

President of the OIF had beheld, as he had certainly not seen any. As Diouf scrutinized the journalist, it was Stephen Harper who came to the rescue of the Secretary-general, interjecting that there had been at least two miracles in the past few days: "le fait que je suis encore le Premier Ministre du Canada et que j'arrive à me faire comprendre en français". Once the mirth had subsided, Harper went on to expatiate in English on the world financial crisis, again.

This quip no doubt confirmed that it had definitely been Stephen Harper's week, including at the Summit. But the fact that the Head of government of the host nation could refer to his ability to be understood in French as a 'miracle' also said a lot about the state of the 'renouveau' that Jean Charest had called for at the opening ceremony, both for the Francophone Movement and the French language.

At opposite ends of the press conference table sat Marc Ravalomanana and François Fillon, and in opposite moods did they seem to be. The President of Madagascar could not help grinning like a Cheshire cat at his victory in securing the venue of the next Summit for his country⁴. On the other hand, the hapless and seemingly unshaven François Fillon, who had flown through the night from Paris to replace his President departed for Washington, had the look of a bleary-eyed hound. And it was the reluctant Fillon who was forced to have the final word of the Summit, called on by the relentless local journalists to defend President Sarkozy's 'position' on Quebec.

As the Summit ended, many in the room were left pondering the significance of the previous few days: a quasi-absent France, whose President was accused of 'ingérence' in the internal affairs of a close ally hosting the Summit; a self-satisfied host Head of government speaking largely in English; a recalcitrant member of the Francophone Movement, at least as seen from Paris, chosen as the next host of the Summit; a foundation member of the Francophone Movement eliminating French as the national language – well might the President of the OIF wish to believe in miracles...

Book Reviews

International Journal of Francophone Studies Volume 12 Number 1
© 2009 Intellect Ltd

Book Reviews, English Language, doi: 10.1386/ijfs.12.1.137/5

Colons, Créoles et Coolies: L'immigration réunionnaise en Nouvelle-Calédonie (XIXe siècle) et le tayo de Saint-Louis, Karin Speedy (2007)

Paris: L'Harmattan, 218 pp., ISBN 978-2-296-03575-1 (pbk), €19.50
Reviewed by Robert Aldrich (University of Sydney)

Tayo is a language spoken by Melanesians in Saint-Louis, near Nouméa in New Caledonia, 'le seul créole français du Pacifique' (pp. 23). Specialists of Francophonie have debated its exact origins in various Melanesian languages and standard French, with some differences of opinion about the possible role of Réunionnais Creole in its genesis and structure. Karin Speedy, a lecturer in French at Macquarie University in Sydney, argues here that the Creole brought to New Caledonia by migrants from La Réunion indeed exercised an important and identifiable influence on Tayo, which emerged in a region where, in 1860, Marists established a mission and gathered Melanesians from various 'tribes' to work on their farms and in a sawmill. The Marists and other entrepreneurs also worked to create a local economy based on sugar-cane, providing the explanation for Réunionnais migration and possible culture contact between the migrants and the native Melanesians.

Speedy's book compares Tayo and Réunionnais Creole largely on the basis of two documents: a satirical political pamphlet in Creole dating from 1884 and a story written by George Bandoux, 'Sauvages et civilisés, Impressions de Nouvelle-Calédonie', which features a Creole-speaking Réunionnais. She finds enough similarities to persuade her of the direct links between Creole and Tayo and, thus, between Réunionnais (both the fifty-odd plantiers and their labourers) and Melanesians around Saint-Louis. Speedy, however, devotes most of her study, based on documentation from the colonial archives in Aix-en-Provence and in New Caledonia, as well as secondary sources, to a social history of Réunionnais in New Caledonia.

With encouragement from administrators in New Caledonia and La Réunion, several settlers who obtained concessions of land in the new colony – France took possession in 1853 – hoped to establish a profitable plantation economy. Notable among them were migrants from La Réunion, where sugar formed a staple, and they imported machinery and expertise from the Indian Ocean Island. They also needed labourers, whom they recruited among the Indians who had been brought to La Réunion under contract from both the French *comptoirs* in India and the Raj. Speedy counts about 600 Indian migrants from La Réunion or India from 1863