

CALEM – research, publications, training, shelter

Genders, Cultures, Preventions, Migrations

International counseling (2004 - 2024)



METHODOLOGY

CALEM is regularly consulted by governments and foundations, in Europe or around the world, mainly on sociological and geopolitical issues, concerning especially the status of refugees, women rights, and inclusive trainings of progressive imams (Muslim leaders). Since 2008, CALEM (co)supervised dozens of publications, trainings, and public events, in different languages, in more than thirty countries (Europe, but also North Africa, Middle East, Caucasus, South Africa, Americas, South East Asia). CALEM received the SOS Homophobia in 2010, was supported by the European Council in 2012, was an advisor to the British court of justice to the status of refugees, was advisor to the French government regarding the law on marriage for all, and advisor to the constitution of ILGA Africa (Biggest LGBT NGO worldwide). In 2019 CALEM was a consultant speaker in Geneva for the United Nations.

We also organize at the CALEM Institute (Marseille), retreats, individualized trainings, psycho-spiritual counselling, religious ceremonies opened to all ...



Empowering customers in their process of expertise, appropriation and transmission, based on:

- Academic intersectional knowledge (theoretical contributions, case studies, field dynamic participation in France, Europe, Middle-East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world)
- The development of reflective and ecological capacities, in collaboration with all clients / participants to be empowered (reproducible skills)
- The awareness of contemporary issues at the heart of social dynamics, in connection with social cohesion, and a secular representation of public sphere
- Developing a holistic approach paradigm (*Neuro-Psychosocial-Theology*) - <https://www.calem.eu/francais2/Manifesto-CALEM-2024-EN.html>

**CALEM structures are available
to assist you in all your endeavors.
CALEM is based in Marseille (France).**

*Our contributions, our advices,
can be elaborated in English, French or Arabic.*

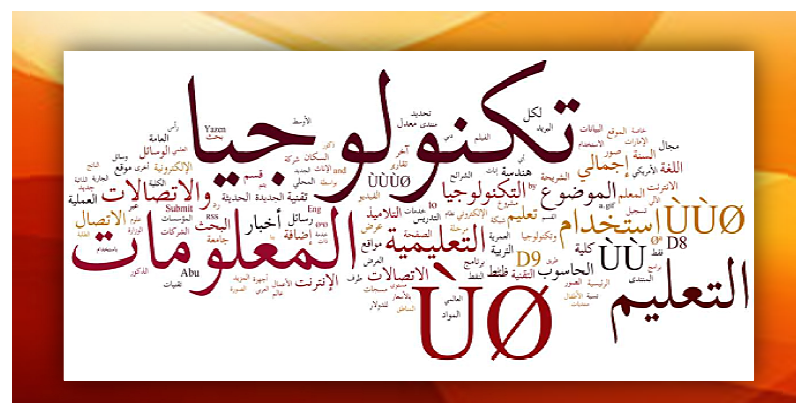
- o **Accompanying interpersonal and institutional dynamics related to freedom of consciousness**, accommodations between the Republic and religious communities about inclusive interpretations of religious ethics, respecting the law and human dignity (UE definition);
- o **Support for social interventions, both the breadth, diversity and topographic complexity of the field** that we are keen to understand, based on universally inclusive and ecological definitions of Secularism (*Laïcité*) and Republican social dynamics (bergsonian & todian perspective);
- o **Support in the deconstruction of discriminating analysis grids, in order to understand the wealth of different epistemological referents** without categorizing individuals in a performative manner, based neither solely on their origins nor on the social categories they belong to (butlerian perspective);
- o **Accompanying the understanding, interpreting, and appropriating will to reinforce a practice of the spiritual traditions**, within a universally egalitarian paradigm, consistent with an ethic based on the well-being of all, adapted to social contexts times (bourdivian perspective);
- o **Development of specialized indicators to put social and political data in perspective** concerning what is freedom of consciousness, and what reveals a radicalization process (psychological effects of infrahumanisation, stages of radicalism in a context of social agentivity quest, responsibility of the various social and political actors. leyensian & moscovician visions);
- o **Support in task planning which assesses the discriminatory / radicalization process** (changes in socio-cognitive representations, group dynamic manipulation between honest people, *hysteresis* and "radical" rupture of feedback loops).

CALEM history

- Early 2000, it started as an interindividual counseling network (mainly towards HIV/AIDS vulnerable individuals)
- Five years later, in 2005 our first official grass-root NGO has been launched (based in Paris, with partners in more than 30 countries on four continents)
- Five years later, in 2010 we formalized our inter-NGO informal CALEM Euro-African confederation (more than thirty conferences, colloquies, retreats and numerous publications in different languages, with partners operating worldwide)
- In December 2014, the progressive and the queer Muslim initiatives merged to create an even more inclusive movement. In January 2015, we established our international counseling CALEM Cabinet (according to grassroots feedbacks in terms of our clients' needs and desiderata)
- In 2016, we systemized our edition process; in 2017 we formally launched our program of progressive Islamic trainings, aimed at imams and engaged citizens. CALEM is now an Institute which aims are: research, publishing, training and counseling.

For more than fifteen years, we are grateful to our main partners:

- European Council
- British court of Justice
- ANRS (National AIDS Agency)
- Different Ministries in Europe
- Church of Sweden
- CALEM informal Confederation
- GIN-SSOGIE interfaith network
- INIMuslim inclusive network
- NGOs and foundations in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Americas...



Some of our Services per se

We mainly work with such partners:

- Law Firms (or courts of justice) specializing in the rights of refugees or minorities
- Ministries, town halls having the will to craft cross discrimination and to work towards more inclusive politics and against any radicalization
- Firms dealing with identity claim, more or less difficult to integrate into their business dynamics
- Schools, colleges, recreation centers wanting to equip young people in terms of inclusive secularism and for a better live altogether
- Associations, foundations, community networks aiming at fighting against discrimination, in need of training materials, etc.

Our interventions can take many forms, depending on the wishes and needs of our customers:

Example 1: Writing and expression workshops, Laic trainings

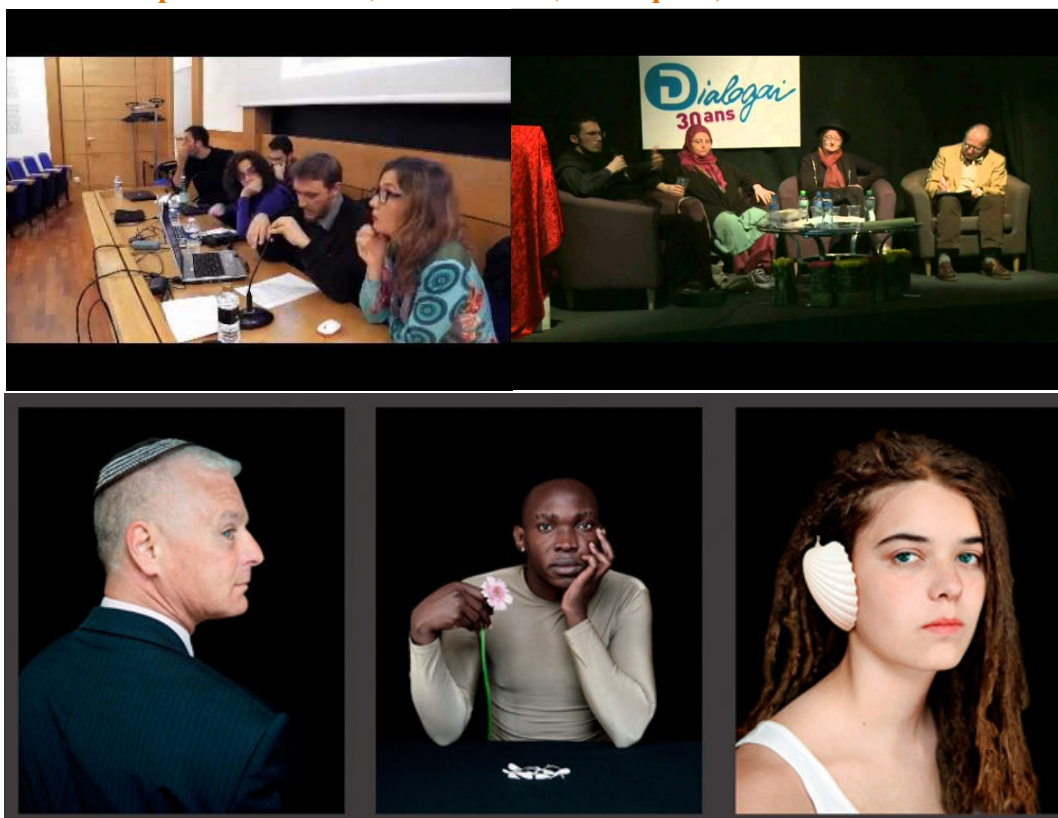


0

Example 2: TOT (training of trainers), Prevention, Workshops



Example 3: Seminars, Conferences, Colloquies, Diverse exhibitions



*Amsterdam exhibition *I Believe I am Gay* – [Biblical Museum](#).

Example 4: Press releases, Information booklets, Studies, Books



*A complete list of our publications is [available online](#).

Summer inclusive and intersectional Festival AOZIZ (Marseille, since 2018)

AOZIZ is a network that we want to be open, inclusive and intersectional, in order to fight against social exclusion in the cultural sector. This structure creates the conditions for greater diversity in the sector. This network was formed in Marseille, from 2018, around intersectional issues...

More information online:

<https://aoziz-marseille-80.webselfsite.net/>



More about our previous research programs

In 2016, the international expertises CALEM Cabinet strengthens the following areas of interventions: SECULARISM - INTERCULTURALITY - CORPORALITY - RELIGIOSITY. Our Cabinet, created early 2015 built on a unique expertise (more than fifteen years of seniority), assists various European, North African and international institutions to focus on these areas:

Studies and research, field work, project endeavors, training of trainers, citizens' training, conferences, symposiums, prevention, communication. Indeed, the primary objective of our past research was to analyze the reasons of contemporary emergence in France, compared to similar situations elsewhere in the world, of citizens groups advocating for the recognition of minority rights, from within Islam. The public emergence of these minorities is done through an inclusive mutations of *Islam de France*, but also by developing alternative social and identity representations (feminist, gay-friendly, environmentalists, against the transphobia and anti-Semitism), in a political context characterized by the rise of obscurantisms on one hand and nationalisms on the other hand.

Our future research proposes to update the results set about the formation of gender identities, and participation to republican dynamics in Europe compared to other fields, stressing the inclusion of new political issues, particularly related to citizens bodies' inclusiveness within religious communities, as well as ownership of these emerging environmental challenges. The main questions of this research program focuses on the conditions of coexistence, in the same religious community, of different categories of citizenship based on gender and these categories transformations into one political body, including Citizens without distinction of origin, religion, sex, gender or sexual orientation, through the development of alternative universal identities. This will establish precisely how the dehumanizing discourses of religious and community leaders, through an often violent fascist political ideology, motivate minorities, particularly within Islam in France and elsewhere, to deploy a continuum of alternative ecological identities: at a community, local, regional and global level.

Taking as an aim community, civic and alternative mobilizations, this project is part of a participatory approach and contemporary anthropology of religions, to provide understanding of the elements involved in the transformation of the definition of citizenship in France, elsewhere in Europe and in the world. Our research project is thus situated at the intersection of contemporary reflections on religion, gender, radical violence and alternative political identities.

For a full detailed report about our previous research, [please click here:](http://www.calem.eu/publications/ARTICLES/Report%20past%20research%20-%20Cabinet%20CALEM%202010-2015.pdf)

<http://www.calem.eu/publications/ARTICLES/Report%20past%20research%20-%20Cabinet%20CALEM%202010-2015.pdf>

Examples of our future research projects

NPT, what is it?

A. Definition - It is the study of the theoretical substrate and the practical consequences of the construction of our theological representations, on the spiritual well-being of the communities and individuals who compose them.

b. Goals - Explore the link between spirituality and individual or collective well-being, particularly the effect of psycho-spiritual practices from different traditions on our bodies and minds.

c. Intersectional paradigm - Use the tools of neuroscience and artificial intelligence to explore these still little-known links between psychology, social ecology and religious systems or spiritual traditions.

d. Operationalization of research - Demonstrate how spirituality is involved in individual and collective well-being and health (“salutogenesis”), notably through brain imaging, social psychology and artificial intelligence.

NPT & artificial intelligence ?

Artificial intelligence offers fascinating potential for studying consciousness and spirituality, although these topics remain highly complex and subject to debate. Advances in AI can help analyze large data sets from research in neuroscience, psychology, philosophy and religious studies. Machine learning algorithms can potentially spot patterns or correlations in this data that could inform our understanding of consciousness and spirituality.

For example, AI could help analyze patterns of brain activity to identify correlations between spiritual experience and certain brain activities. Additionally, by processing large quantities of religious, philosophical, and literary texts, AI could help highlight recurring themes or perspectives on spirituality across cultures and eras.

However, it is important to note that consciousness and spirituality are areas that extend beyond simple data analysis. These concepts involve subjective experiences, personal beliefs, and deep philosophical questions that can be difficult to quantify. AI alone cannot capture all of these complex aspects, but it can significantly contribute to interdisciplinary research in these areas.

Ultimately, the use of AI to study consciousness and spirituality should be framed by ethical reflection and a thorough understanding of its limitations. AI can offer unique perspectives and powerful tools, but it can never replace the depth of human experience and spiritual quest.

ILIT, what is it ?

ILIT (Islamic Liberation Intersectional Theologies) is a current of theological thought emerging in the context of contemporary Islam. Much like liberation theology in Christianity, Islamic liberation theology seeks to interpret the faith through the lens of social justice and the emancipation of the oppressed.

This theological movement calls on Muslim believers to actively engage in the fight against social injustice, poverty, oppression and other forms of marginalization. It seeks to emphasize the Islamic teachings of compassion, solidarity and equitable redistribution of resources.

Islamic liberation theology often integrates elements of Western critical and scientific thought and hermeneutic methodologies, to interpret religious texts in light of contemporary challenges facing Muslim communities. It aims to connect the Islamic tradition to current struggles for justice and human dignity, emphasizing the social and political engagement of believers.

A fundamental aspect of Islamic liberation theology is its challenge to unjust power structures both within Muslim societies and on the international stage. It calls for criticism of forms of authoritarianism, neo-colonialism, economic exploitation and social discrimination, while encouraging mobilization for social and political change.



CALEM Publishing

CALL FOR PAPERS

The CALEM editions (a structure that has existed since the early 2000s) aim to offer a rich catalog of references dealing with theological, sociological, sexual and cultural themes, particularly in connection with Islamic religiosities, so-called "Arab" cultures, feminisms, homosexualities and trans-identities.

In order to give the floor to talented authors who owe subjects that are still too confidential, today, CALEM editions decline an editorial line inscribed on three axes:

- 1 - Autobiographies (in connection with our multidisciplinary expertise)
- 2 - Scientific publications (doctoral theses, explanatory booklets, articles)
- 3 - Institutional or associative publications (teaching booklets, reports, etc.

Address us your manuscripts and proposals by email:

info@calem.eu

The CALEM thematic collections are as follow:

- **AVERROES** (sociology, historiography, philosophy)
- **JALALUDIN RUMÎ** (autobiographies, essays)
- **IBN 'ARABI** (Inclusive Liberation theologies, progressive trainings)
- But also our *collaborations* with our partners

For all our publications (in French and other languages),

<http://www.calem.eu/francais2/CALEM-edition.html>

CALEM's interventions (Dr. Zahed as a speaker or trainer)

DESCRIPTION	TAXES	AMOUNT
Marriages / Prayers / Benedictions	0%	0€
Reports / Booklets	0%	100€ / hour
Books / Articles	0%	1000€ / 25 pages
Seminars / Conferences / Trainings	0%	500 / 1000 €
Per diem	0%	150€ / day

** Indicative honorarium list (2023). Special attention and support could be given to grassroots (none politicized) associations which support the empowerment of the people in the following priority actions areas: HIV / AIDS - Women, LGBT+ - Asylum seekers, refugees - Interreligious, intercultural dialogue.*

*** Transports (by train, for health and ecological issues) or accommodation (if any needed): these costs will be borne by the organizers and fully paid by them in advance.*

If you have any further question, please contact us by email:

info@calem.eu | www.calem.eu



CALEM RUMI's Isiphephelo



**GENDERS - CULTURES
PREVENTIONS - MIGRATIONS**