



# Wednesday Seminars

SOMMERSEMESTER 2018

## Dominique Casajus

### *The Tuareg alphabets, their contemporary use and their history: an overview*

Mittwoch 23.05.2018, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock



**Dominique Casajus** is anthropologist, fellow emeritus at the Institut des Mondes Africains (CNRS, Paris). His work focused mainly on Sahelian Tuaregs. He studied their family and social life, considering in particular

the status of women, before approaching their love poetry and their warrior poetry. He later devoted himself to the history of the first contacts between the Tuaregs and the French, which led him to look into the works and destiny of the French explorer Henri Duveyrier and of Charles de Foucauld. He has also been interested in courtly poetry, as well as in debates related to the Homeric question.

<https://cv.archives-ouvertes.fr/dominique-casajus>

#### ...kommende Termine

#### WS-Focus on Climate Change:

DO 24.05.2018 **Tony Crook**

**Climate Change Cosmologies**

30.05.2018 **Paul "Jim" Roscoe**

**Climate Change and the End-Times:  
Anticipating Apocalyptic Responses  
to Climate Change**

The Tuareg use alphabets with characters called tafineq (plural: tiffinagh). Used today to engrave inscriptions on rock or on certain objects and write small messages to relatives, these alphabets – almost exclusively consonant – derive from much older alphabets called “Libyc” or “Libyco-Berber”. Sometimes associated with Punic or Latin inscriptions, there are Libyc epigraphs throughout the Maghreb today, from Libya to Morocco and even to the Canary Islands. The only Libyc inscription that has been dated (139 BCE) with a reasonable degree of certainty is bilingual (Libyco-Punic) from Dougga in Tunisia. But the “Libyc” alphabets apparently already existed, several centuries earlier. Their creators borrowed a few – at least four – letters from the Phoenician/Punic alphabets; and apparently used simple geometric procedures for the other letters. Some centuries later, probably at the time of the Arab invasions, the Libyc alphabets disappeared from North Africa, to subsist only in the Sahara where they became the Tuareg alphabets. For some decades, Berber intellectuals – Tuareg, Kabyles or Moroccans – have undertaken to modernize them by adding vowels, which leads to forms of writing very different from those of the past.