

**Abstract: The Indigenization of Social Sciences in
Africa: Research Efforts of Fatima Mernissi and John
Mark Ela**

This article examines the sociological indigenisation experience of sociologists from two different regions in Africa. It proceeds from the basic concept in the work of each of them: the concept of Ha'arim in the research of Moroccan sociologist Fatima Mernissi, and that of Social Bricolage (Le Bricolage Social) in the writings of Cameroonian sociologist John Marc Ela.

This work assumes that the concept of bricolage, the basis of John Mark Ela's research, translates the awareness of the sociological indigenisation stakes advocated by African sociology since the 1950s, and continues to this day, while no such concern is present in the writings of Fatima Mernissi, who works to regionalize the concept without engaging directly in debates on the subject.

This is despite the preoccupation of sociological thinking in Morocco, after independence, with the problem of decolonizing sociology and adapting it to the social reality as initiated by Abdelkebir Al-Khatibi.

The article adopts a comparative analytical approach to the indigenisation of concepts experience, which enables broader consideration from a conceptual

nucleus of thought pushing it further through a “zoom out” to cover concepts framing theories and intellectual trends. This is in order to clarify the way in which John Mark Ela and Fatima Mernissi moved the concepts from their western frameworks; their usual contents, and the critique of the intellectual structures within which the issue of women and development is contemplated.