EDITORIAL

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This volume of Langues et Littératures is coordinated by Yamina El Kirat El Allame and organized around the theme “Language(s), Media, and Globalization” (Language(s), Médias et Mondialisation). The articles included aim to extend our understanding of the impact of global and transnational media on local languages and social practices. Contributors address the politics of social and global media as integrated systems of political and social organization and reflect on their impact on local languages and “determinitorialized” communities. In this, language and media emerge as a nexus of local and transnational worldviews and systems and sites of collective memory and cultural identity. Along with Thomas (2000:10), the authors show that reporting “is not by any stretch of the imagination interest-free” and “[r]epresentation, like speaking, is always a political act” and “needs to be analysed within a context in which meanings are linked to interests, political, economic, civilizational.”

The authors challenge the more usual focus on cosmopolitan Northern cities as centers of creativity and redirect attention to the pivotal role community media plays in the mediation and preservation of social and cultural practices in the Global South. While they probe the ways in which social and global media and related ICT are changing expressions and understandings of emerging cultural, political, and aesthetic forms, the articles in this volume also seek to examine how these forms relate to local languages and residual social practices within Morocco and African countries. In the most part, the authors call for the preservation of minority languages and residual cultural practices in the face of hegemonic global media. At the same time, though the articles do not openly grapple with the ideology of populism, they articulate an alternative ethics of inclusive solidarities and belonging which is a timely response to the populist calls for nativist ideologies.

REFERENCE