



vital elements Seminar Series

The past, present and future of biodiversity: crabs, chouettes and colonial legacies

This seminar will explore the relation between life and death. It focuses on entanglements between *vital elements* such as water, minerals, food on the one hand, and pressing global issues like environmental crises, migration, and colonialism, on the other.

Presentations in English, with Q&A in Arabic, French and other languages. Join us to foster a collaborative dialogue beyond disciplines and borders!

**Friday, 29
November 2024**

14:00-16:00

FLSH
Sousse Université
Cité Erriadh 4043

**Amphi Taher
Elhaddad**

Speakers:

Dr Mohsen Kalboussi

Massimiliano Fantò

Vital Elements Seminar Series

Vital Elements is a team-based ERC-advanced research project led by Amade Aouatef M'charek, Professor of Anthropology of Science at the University of Amsterdam and implemented in partnership with the University of Sousse. The project aims at understanding migrant death in relation to, and in the context of, sources of life that we call *vital elements*. These are materialities that are crucial for life or spur on death in their absence, think of water, phosphate, salt, oil, seeds, fish or sea sponges. The project focuses mainly on the south of Tunisia and explores how these essential resources are connected to major global challenges - not only migration, but also pollution, environmental crises, climate change and colonial relations.

The Vital Elements Seminar Series brings together researchers from around the world to discuss these critical issues. The seminar is a space for experimenting and conversing about these complex questions across worlds. Crucially, given the nature of these issues the seminar attends to *how* we know; it attends to our methods of research. We thus hope to open up conversations about methodology and epistemology in relation to the issues we study.

The Vital Elements Seminar Series is a moving seminar, travelling between the universities of Sousse, Gabès, Sfax, Gafsa and Amsterdam. While sessions are mainly in English, questions can be asked in French or Arabic. questions can be asked in French or Arabic.

