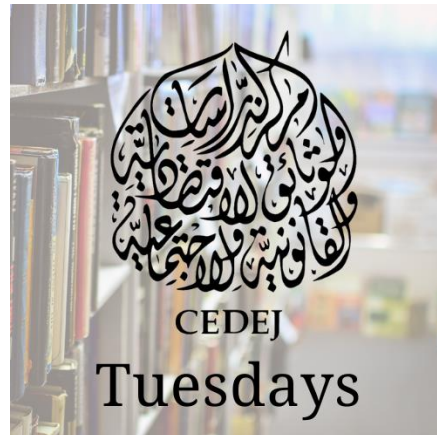


Centre d'études et de documentation
économiques, juridiques et sociales



On Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 11am at CEDEJ, **Jennifer Susanne Leath** will present her research: "Maât: Prototypical Womanism for Contemporary Justice Work".

This talk offers a comparative analysis between the roles of Egyptian women in contemporary justice movements in Egypt (2011 to Present) and the roles of women of African descent in contemporary justice movements in the United States (2012 to Present) – with special attention given to the religioethical underpinnings of these movements and women’s roles in these movements. Emphasis is placed on (a) the ways the concept, deity, and personage of Maât – the earliest records of whom date back to between 2375 and 2345 BCE – *have* informed these contemporary movements for justice and the women who participate in them and (b) the ways the concept, deity, and personage of Maât *could* helpfully inform movements for justice in the present.

This talk will introduce Maât, who represents truth and justice as well as harmony, balance, order, propriety, and reciprocity by extension. Maât will be examined as a critically important historic and contemporary conceptual persona, consistent with the work of Théophile Obenga and Maulana Karenga, renowned and prolific scholars who have balanced expertise in Egyptology with expertise in African and Africana philosophy. In contrast with Obenga's and Karenga's work, however, this talk demonstrates the special value of Maât for contemporary womanist and feminist approaches to and comparative analyses of justice movements, building with the work of Alice Walker and Fayza Haikal among others.

Jennifer Susanne Leath is the Queen's National Scholar and Associate Professor in Black Religions at Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario, Canada). Beyond her numerous articles, Leath's first monograph, *Black, Quare, and Then to Where: Theories*

of Justice and Black Sexual Ethics, was published in Fall 2023 (Duke University Press). Through this book, Leath reintroduces and develops quare possibilities for flourishing Black futures. Prior to Queen's, Leath served on the faculty of Iliff School of Theology (Denver, CO) as the Assistant Professor of Religion and Social Justice and Director of the Master of Arts in Social Justice and Ethics degree program after completing her A.B. at Harvard University, her M.Div. at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, and her Ph.D. at Yale University in Religious Ethics and African American Studies with a certificate in Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies. Leath helped establish the Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice (CARSS) at Columbia University, serving as its first Director of Research (2013-2015); Leath was a fellow in the Women's Studies in Religion Program at Harvard Divinity School (2014-2015). Leath is an Itinerant Elder, ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and has pastored churches in the United States and Canada. Also passionate about the ways diverse religious traditions can pursue and promote justice together through ecumenical and interreligious engagement, Leath serves as a Co-Moderator of the Joint Consultative Group between the World Council of Churches (WCC) and Pentecostal Churches and on the WCC Central Committee.