

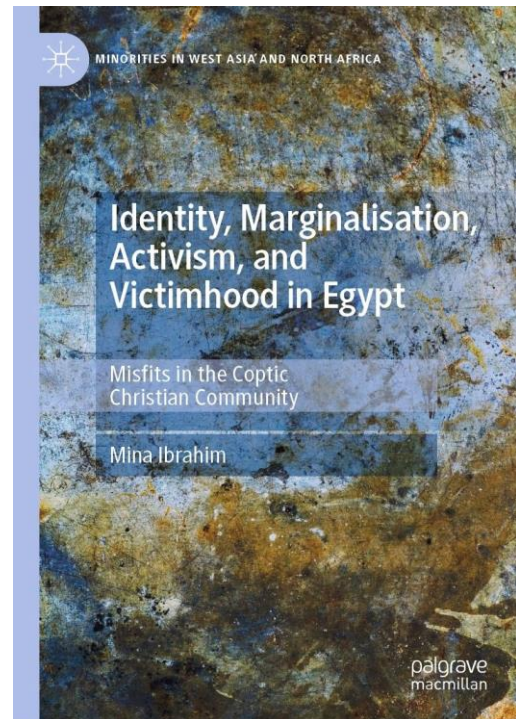


Centre d'études et de documentation économiques, juridiques et sociales

On Tuesday, October 1st, 2024 at 11am at CEDEJ, **Mina Ibrahim** will present his research: "Academic (Dis-)enchantments: An Alternative Scenario for the Coptic Misfits".

Abstract

Mina Ibrahim will provide an overview of the key themes and insights from his book: *Identity, Marginalisation, Activism, and Victimhood in Egypt: Misfits in the Coptic Christian Community*. He will reflect on the broader implications of his work, in relation to community engagement and archival practices. Mina frames this reflection within what he terms "academic disenchantments"—a period when the allure of academic research and the value of academic writing are questioned and may risk being diminished. A crucial aspect of his journey has been the establishment of Shubra's Archive, Egypt's first community, neighborhood-based archive initiative. This project emerged from his academic investigation into the scarcity of archival resources about and in the Shubra neighborhood in Cairo. The initiative seeks to bridge academic research with the lived experiences of local residents, grappling with a more inclusive narrative that respects and honors their stories. During the talk, he will detail how this initiative, among other learning and research programs, strives to allow community members to engage with the book through their own histories and contribute to ongoing discussions about their experiences. In doing so, he will reflect on how his perspectives have evolved since the publication of his book a few years ago. Revisiting his work, he will emphasize the importance of translation—not just in language but in making academic discourse accessible to his own neighborhood, church community, and the broader Egyptian public. This talk therefore aims to initiate a dialogue about the role of academia in community contexts, the significance of local archives, and the necessity of maintaining connections with the communities we study. It invites attendees to join the researcher in this exploration and consider how we can collectively enrich our understanding of our shared theoretical and methodological enchantments.



Mina Ibrahim is an anthropologist and archivist from Cairo, Egypt. He is the founder of Shubra's Archive, Egypt's first community-based neighborhood archive, and a post-doctoral researcher at the Center for Conflict Studies at the University of Marburg, Germany. Mina completed his doctoral thesis in Cultural Studies at the University of Gießen, Germany, which was later published as his first monograph, "Identity, Marginalisation, Activism, and Victimhood in Egypt: Misfits in the Coptic Christian Community" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). He has also (co-)authored numerous academic and non-academic articles and book chapters on topics related to Shubra, Coptic Christians in

Egypt, migration, and human rights in the MENA region and Europe. Mina previously served as the project coordinator and project manager for the MENA Prison Forum and teaches courses on anthropological, artistic, ethnographic, and archival methods and practices.