



**Call for papers for a dossier by the *Journal de la Société des Océanistes*:
“The Indo-Pacific axis: contextualization and issues of a growing notion”**

In the recent years, Oceania has been the subject of new strategic interests, contributing to the emergence of critical issues of a long-marginalized region within the international relations. Since the end of the Cold War, when insular Pacific passed as an “American lake”, powers have been showing their new interests for the political, diplomatic, economic and environmental issues of this vast region. The pronounced and growing Chinese presence in the zone as well as more recent interest shown by states such as Russia, India or the United Arab Emirates call the historically involved powers out (especially Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America, France and Japan) and push them to revise their policies concerning the Pacific states and territories. In President Macron’s speeches, made during his visit to Australia and New Caledonia in May 2018, he dedicated a large part to strategic issues occurring in the Pacific. He also clearly positioned France in an Indo-Pacific axis looking to narrow the Chinese influence while thriving for the opportunities given by its development. Indeed, the Indo-Pacific notion is not new, but it remains to define what it represents for the States (Australia, Japan, India, France) which claim their attachment to this notion, as well as determining if their visions are concordant and/or compatible and evaluating the echoes of that notion within the Pacific states and territories.

The *Journal de la Société des Océanistes* regularly dedicated articles to international and regional issues passing through the area and it seems important that the journal contributes to the ongoing thinking on the Indo-Pacific notion. After an introduction going back on the different definitions of Indo-Pacific and its historiographical construction, we wish for the contributions to the dossier to explore the geopolitical, social and cultural issues of this notion.

In particular, it is a matter of questioning the vision for the Pacific that the notion of the Indo-Pacific involves for the different actors who use it: how does the overtaking of the Pacific framework by that of the Indo-Pacific and the positioning towards China that it supposes, affect the way States that claim it view and/or policies towards the States and territories of the Pacific? Thus, does the Indo-Pacific notion that the French State has adopted a few months before the first referendum on self-determination in New Caledonia means a reassessment of France's position with regard to the future of this archipelago or, more broadly, of its overseas communities in the Indian and Pacific Oceans? It is also necessary to discuss the realisation of an Indo-Pacific axis and/or space beyond political and diplomatic declarations: does it lead to, for example, new political, diplomatic and/or military cooperation? Is it only a geostrategic narrative to accompany the Western strategy of containment against China or is it a new alliance based on many shared interests?

In addition, it appears essential to question the echoing of the notion within the Island States: is that axis invested by the local States? Does it influence their diplomacy? The questioning of the notion at the level of the States and territories of Oceania will be privileged.

Finally, this shift of geographical framework may call the social sciences out about the representations in which the Pacific is invested: Pacific basin, Asia-Pacific, Oceania, Indo-Pacific... are these multiple denominations which involve sets of scales relevant? What do they say about the interests of the States and institutions that support them? Are they used by the actors and populations concerned? Beyond that, does the notion of the Indo-Pacific have a societal reality or can it only be a representation of strategic short-term issues?

Although it questions a notion related to geopolitics and international relations, this dossier is multidisciplinary and cooperation (politicians/anthropologists; linguists/geographers, for example) will be particularly welcome. We will pay particular attention to proposals that question semantics; situating the historicity of the notion and its issues; questioning the representations it conveys and proposing a "bottom-up" approach.

Provisional timetable to be discussed with Isabelle Leblic and Raphaëlle Chossenot:
Diffusion of the call: Around February 20th, 2019
Return of the provisional titles and summaries: March 30th, 2019
Return of the first draft or the articles: Beginning of September 2019
Returns to authors and corrections: October to November 2019
Definitive submission of the article: December 2019 – January 2020
Possible publication planned: June 2020

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