

Matthew CAREY, [University of Copenhagen](#), Shock-troops of the state ? Primary-school teachers in montane Morocco

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the first state schools finally reached the remote Tachelhit-speaking communities of Morocco's central High Atlas mountains. These were not only the first state institutions to establish a permanent presence in the area, but their teaching staff were also the first "outsiders" (*aït virra*) to settle en masse in the villages and were widely recognised as agents not merely of the state, but also of a particular form of modernity. As such, they can be seen as Foucauldian shock-troops of the modern state. And shock-troops they undoubtedly were; indeed, this aspect of the teacher's role is something that has been thoroughly explored both in Morocco and elsewhere by anthropologists and historians alike. In this paper I suggest that rather than implementing or facilitating a more structured and transparent form of state order, the types of social change and reorganisation that indubitably emerged out of these encounters are the product of the multiplication of confusion and the generation of interactional opacity.