

Thierno Thiam

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EDUCATION

November 2008 Ph.D., Political Science, Purdue University

Dissertation: The Paradigmatic Logic of the Emergence of International and Security Communities in Africa

Abstract:

In this thesis, I use the cases of three African communities - the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) - in order to test the explanatory power of three major paradigms of international politics, notably liberalism, constructivism and realism. My findings suggest that none of the paradigms provide a satisfactory explanation for the emergence of communities or security communities in Africa. Although liberalism and constructivism, in general, offer more elaborate theories of communities and security communities, their explanations for the emergence of the AU, ECOWAS and the SADC are faced with insurmountable obstacles. As for realism, although confronted with serious limitations, it constitutes a closer fit to all three African cases. Such a finding runs counter to the general literature about communities and security communities, which remains characterized by its Eurocentric approach.

Areas of Specialization: International Relations, Comparative Politics and Political Institutions and Behavior

August 2003 Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL
M.A., Political Science with a major in International Relations and a minor in Comparative Politics

Thesis: Political Leadership and the Quest for Unity and Development in Africa

July 1999 University of Dakar, Senegal
M.A., English (July 1999)
B.A., English with honors (June 1998)
Certificate of Specialization in American Literature and Civilization with honors (June 1998)

TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

February 2009 – Present Post Doctoral Research Associate - Purdue Terrestrial Observatory
(Co-Author for Book; NATO Science for Peace Kamal Ewida Earth Observatory Project)

January 2009 – May 2009 Graduate Assistant - Purdue Summer Research Program (SROP)

Summer 2008 Independent Instructor (International Relations)

August 2006 – Jan 2009 Research Assistant for Prof. Bert A. Rockman (Department Head)

August 2006 – Dec 2009 Teaching Assistant

Aug 2005- Aug 2006 Purdue University
Residence Counselor

Jan 2004 – May 2005 Indianapolis Public Schools, Indianapolis, IN
Guest Teacher

Aug 2002 – Aug 2003 Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL
President of Association of African Students

Nov 2000 - Aug 2002 Mintel International Group, Chicago, IL
Editor and Translator (French to English)

Jan 2000 – Jun 2000 Central High School, Rapid City, South Dakota
Assistant French Teacher

Oct 1998 – Jun 1999 University of Dakar, Senegal
Independent Instructor

TEACHING INTERESTS AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Relations, Comparative Politics, International Political Economy, International Integration, Comparative Economic Development, and International Law & Organization.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Aug 2002 International Graduate Scholarship
April 2003 Travel Grant for the Illinois State Conference
April 2008 Travel Grant for the Midwest Political Science Association
April 2009 Travel Grant for the Midwest Political Science Association

PUBLICATIONS

“Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Corporate, Academic and Governmental Transfer of Sustainable Technologies to Developing Countries.” (with Gilbert L. Rochon, Dev Niyogi, Souleymane Fall, Joseph E. Quansah, Larry Biehl, Bereket Araya, Chetan Maringanti, Angel Torres Valcarcel, Lova Rakotomalala, Hildred S. Rochon, and Bertin Hilaire Mbongo) in *Clean Technologies & Environmental Policy*, Berlin: Springer (March 2009).

Political Leadership and the Quest for Unity and Development in Africa. Germany: VDM Verlag Publishing House Ltd (May 2009).

“The United States: The Political Context of Administrative Reform.” (with Bert A. Rockman) In *The International Handbook of Public Management Reform*, eds. Shaun Goldfinch and Joe Wallis (August 2009).

WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Emergence of the African Union and the Limits of the Paradigms of International Politics.” Under Review at the *Journal of Southern African Studies*

“The Essence of Pan-Africanism.” (with Gilbert Rochon)

African Unification, Sustainable Development and Emerging Technologies. (with Gilbert Rochon)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

July 2009. “Real-Time Remote Sensing in support of Ecosystems Services & Sustainability.” With Gilbert L. Rochon, Larry Biehl, Darion Grant, Souleymane Fall, Thierno Thiam, Bereket Araya, Bertin Hilaire Mbongo, Jinha Jung, Sohaib Ghani, Madgy Abdel Wahab, Gamal Salah El Afandi, Gülay Altay, Okan Ersoy, Angel Torres Valcarcel & Cesar Javier Gonzalez. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Advanced Research Workshop (ARW): *Achieving Environmental Security: Ecosystems Security and Human Welfare*, Pell Center for International Relations & Public Policy. Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island, USA.

April 2009. “The Emergence of ECOWAS and the limits of the Theories of International Politics.” The Midwest Political Science Association Annual National Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

March 2009. "Advances in High Performance Computing and in Satellite Remote Sensing to support Sustainable Development and Disaster Mitigation in Africa." With Gilbert L. Rochon, Joseph E. Quansah, Larry Biehl, Darion Grant, Souleymane Fall, Bereket Araya, Jinha Jung, Bertin Hilaire Mbongo, Sohaib Ghani and Angel Torres Valcarcel. Bowie State University Computer Science Forum. Bowie, Maryland.

April 2008. “The Emergence of the African Union and the limits of the Theories of International Politics.” The Midwest Political Science Association Annual National Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

April 2003. "Political Leadership, the African Union and the Quest for Unity in Africa: What Explains the Creation of the African Union?" 11th Annual Illinois Conference for Students of Political Science. Normal, Illinois.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The American Political Science Association
The West African Research Association (WARA)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2007-2008. Mentor in department of political science, Purdue University.
President of African Student Union at Eastern Illinois University (August 2002 – August 2003)
Editor of the Journal of the English Club (1997-2000)

SKILLS

Word Processing, SPSS, Media Plus, Power Point, Internet

LANGUAGES

French (fluent), Wolof (fluent), Portuguese (advanced reading capability, passable speaking and writing skills)

CERTIFICATES

October 2005. Certified in CITI Course (Ethical Research in the Protection of Human Subjects).
November 2005. Center for Instructional Excellence (Teaching Workshop).

REFERENCES

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