

**ECOLE DOCTORALE**  
**Researching Politics and Culture in Local African Arenas**  
**19-20 May 2005**  
**Uppsala University**

**Venue:** Uppsala University, Sweden

**Organisers:** Associate Professor Sten Hagberg, Uppsala University, and Professor Christian Lund, Roskilde University

**Practical assistance and queries:** Ms. Titti Schmidt, Uppsala University

**Theme**

The interaction of politics and culture has received increased attention in the wake of democratisation and the subsequent decentralisation. It is as if the distinctions between politics and culture are more blurred than ever. According to one perspective it could be argued that local political competition arises at moments of opportunity. Political opportunities emerge from many corners, but the fecundity of national events, decentralisation and governance reforms and national politics in general is often impressive in this respect. Analysis of local politics and government reforms easily lends itself to an administrative perspective where the process is assessed on its deviance from 'the plan'. Indeed national policies and politics matter a great deal as they create intended and unintended dependencies and opportunities. It is important, though, to caution against seeing either end of the causal relationship, local or national, as simply an inert or wholly predictable force.

Yet from another perspective one could legitimately argue that local politics is immensely cultural. This does not merely concern what has been called 'political culture', but include how notions of the self and other, the individual and the community, the environment, the cosmology, and life worlds are embedded in political processes. Cultural processes are at work in various kinds of politics. For instance, the activities of NGOs, political parties, state services and home area associations carry cultural meanings in addition to their stated objectives. So, various activities, organisations, reforms and procedures also provide moments of political opportunity as 'side effects' which merit focus as well. They constitute moments of opportunity for local political players to assert, or re-assert, to negotiate, or re-negotiate entrenched or more volatile positions in the fabric of local politics. In these processes cultural repertoires are transformed, making 'culture' a political stake. These movements bring together an amalgamation of legal, political and cultural conflict, and passionate invocation of history and tradition in an intense courtship and lobbying for support from without as well as from within the locality.

The *École doctorale euro-africaine pour l'étude du changement social et du développement* has over the last decade emerged out of a common research interest on

local perspectives on social change and development among scholars affiliated to different European institutions. The planned *École doctorale* is co-organised by the universities of Uppsala and Roskilde. It will particularly focus on politics and culture in local African arenas thereby providing a privileged opportunity for the study of political and cultural processes where the capacity to regulate and control is not neatly stored within the state. A set of questions concerns how individuals' and organisations' political competition and cultural production articulate notions of the State, public authority, citizenship and belonging. This *école doctorale* aims to discuss an analytical approach to politics and culture in contexts where clear distinctions are rare and where ideological registers and political practices are composite and often contradictory.

### **Format**

The PhD seminar/*Ecole doctorale* is primarily organised around student paper presentations with lecturers/senior researchers and/or supervisors as primary discussants.

### **Languages**

While the *Ecole doctorale* is originally French-speaking, presentations and discussions may also be in English.

### **Doctoral candidates and paper titles**

*Making Politics through the Eyes of a Medicine Practitioner*

By

Ulrika Andersson

Department of Cultural Anthropology & Ethnology

Uppsala University, Sweden

*La progression du front d'urbanisation et la décentralisation : remise en cause des anciennes relations de coopération et/ou de voisinage séculaire*

Par :

Issa Bakayoko

Department of Social Anthropology and African Studies

University of Mainz, Germany

*The Interface between Tradition and Modernity: The Struggle for Political Space at the Local Level in Malawi*

By

Blessings Chinsinga

Department of Social Anthropology and African Studies

University of Mainz, Germany

*Sida et sorcellerie : l'efficacité des discours en quête de cohérence à l'heure de la pandémie du sida*

Vincent Dississa

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marseille, France

*Constitution des savoirs et pratiques des professionnels de santé face à la tuberculose dans les centres de santé urbains au Sénégal*

Par :

Fatoumata HANE

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)/Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marseille, France

*La lutte contre le sida en Éthiopie. Socio-anthropologie des formes de l'engagement*

Par :

Judith Hermann

Doctorante en Anthropologie

Institut des Etudes Africaines

Université de Provence/ MMSH, France

*Les conflits autour de l'histoire dans la ville de Koudougou (Burkina Faso)*

Par :

Hilgers Mathieu

Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgique

*Opening up "avenues of possibilities" - Transnational Pentecostalism and processes of local politics*

By

Karen Lauterbach, Ph.D. candidate

Dept. of Geography and International Development Studies

Roskilde University, Denmark

*Constructions identitaires et gestion politique de l'altérité : le cas des « alliances à plaisanterie interethniques » au Burkina Faso*

Par :

A. Natacha Marchive

Institut d'Etudes Africaines, MMSH,

Université de Provence, Aix en Provence, France

*Constructions identitaires des universitaires ouagalais de l'après ajustement structurel*

Par :

Jacinthe Mazzocchetti

Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgique

*Analyse socio-anthropologique des gestions socio-médicale et populaire de la fécondité féminine en milieu urbain nigérien*

Par :

MOUSSA ABDALLAH Hadiza

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marseille

*Savoirs et pratiques des professionnels de santé relatifs à la prévention et à la prise en charge du paludisme au Sénégal*

Par :

Tidiane NDOYE

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)/Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marseille, France

*Inuit de l'Arctique canadien au travers de leur production artistique*

Par :

Pascale Visart de Bocarmé

Institut de Sociologie

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgique

*Historique des forêts classées et des forêts protégées : les interfaces de la gestion communautaire. Cas du chantier d'aménagement forestier de Bougnounou (province du Ziro – Burkina Faso)*

Par :

Sita Zougouri

Dept. of Cultural Anthropology & Ethnology

Uppsala University, Sweden

### **Attending supervisors/ERASMUS coordinators**

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Christian Lund, Roskilde University

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