

SÉVERINE AUTESSERRE

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CURRENT POSITION: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Barnard College, Columbia University, July 2007 - Present

Research on civil and international wars, international interventions, and African politics, and disseminate research findings through seminars, conferences, and scientific articles

Teach undergraduate and graduate classes in international relations and African politics

Affiliated with the Columbia University Institute for War and Peace Studies, Columbia University Institute for African Studies, and Barnard College Africana Studies Program

PUBLICATIONS

Book manuscript in progress

Local Violence, International Indifference? The Failure of Peace Building in the Congo

Articles in refereed journals

"D.R. Congo: Explaining Peace Building Failures, 2003 – 2006," *Review of African Political Economy*, September 2007

"Local violence, National Peace? Post-war 'settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo," *African Studies Review*, December 2006

"The United States' 'humanitarian diplomacy' in South Sudan," *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs*, January 2002, www.jha.ac

Revise and Resubmit

"Hobbes and the Congo – Representations, Local Violence, and International Intervention in the Congo," Third Revise and Resubmit to *International Organization*

Book chapter

"Penser les Conflits Locaux: L'Échec de l'Intervention Internationale au Congo" Forthcoming in *L'Afrique des Grands Lacs : Annuaire 2007-2008*. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2008.

Policy articles

"The Trouble with Congo - How Local Disputes Fuel Regional Violence", *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2008.

"Peacetime Violence. Post-Conflict Violence and Peace-Building Strategies." Program on States and Security, Forthcoming. www.statesandsecurity.org

"Kongo'da siddet ve ölüm kültürü" (Violence and the Culture of Death in the Congo), *Birikim* (Turkey), Volume 174, October 2003, 88 – 96, translated by K. Caliskan

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Mellon Faculty Diversity Fellowship and New Faculty Fellowship, Barnard College, 2007
Nominated for APSA Helen D. Reid award for best dissertation in international relations, 2007
Graduate Student Paper Prize Award, African Studies Association, 2006
Mellon Dissertation-Writing Fellow in Security and Humanitarian Action, 2006
Peace Fellow, United States Institute of Peace, 2004-2005
Mellon Research Fellow in Security and Humanitarian Action, 2004
McCracken Fellow, New York University, 2001 – 2004 / 2005 – 2006
Fulbright Fellow, Columbia University, 1999 – 2000
Summa Cum Laude and top 5% (*Mention Lauréat*), M.A., *Sciences-Po*, 1999
Valedictorian (*Major de la Promotion*), *Summa Cum Laude (Mention Bien)*, B.S., Sorbonne University, 1997

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Post-Doctoral Associate, Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence, Yale University, Sept. 2006 - May 2007

Researched on civil and international wars, international intervention, and African politics
Disseminated research findings through seminars, conferences, and scientific articles
Taught graduate research seminar on African Civil Wars and Peace Processes (spring)

Independent Advisor, Action Against Hunger

Democratic Republic of Congo, March - May 2005, July - Aug 2006, May - July 2007

Analyzed political, military, human rights, and humanitarian situation based on in-depth interviews, field observations, and review of secondary sources
Wrote reports for field team and headquarters and conducted in-depth briefings

Consultant, Doctors Without Borders – Spain

Democratic Republic of Congo, May - July and Oct. - Nov. 2004

Analyzed political, military, human rights, and humanitarian situation based on in-depth interviews, field observations, and review of secondary sources
Wrote reports for field team and headquarters and conducted in-depth briefings

Teaching Assistant, New York University, Sept. 2001 - Dec. 2003

Taught sections for undergraduate classes in International Relations (core class, Spring and Fall 2003) and Perspectives on Political Economy (introduction to social sciences; Fall 2001): taught weekly lectures and class discussion for up to 30 students per class; assigned and graded students' papers and exams; collaborated with professors to adapt classes and lessons to students' needs

Graded papers, occasionally taught lectures, and helped students in undergraduate classes on Civil Liberties (Fall 2002) and British and Irish Politics (Spring 2002)

Context Analyst and Deputy Head of Mission, Doctors Without Borders - Spain

Democratic Republic of Congo, June - Aug. 2003

Afghanistan, May - Aug. 2002

Analyzed political, military, and humanitarian situation based on in-depth interviews and review of secondary sources, and wrote reports for field team and headquarters

Participated in daily management of the mission, including representation, security monitoring, strategy development, and program implementation

Replaced Head of Mission during absences, managed projects, supervised human resources, and made final decisions in terms of security, program, and strategic issues

Administration & Finance Coordinator / Context Analyst, Doctors Without Borders - Spain

Democratic Republic of Congo, Feb - July 2001

Conducted exploratory mission to analyze political and social situation, wrote reports with recommendations for headquarters, and helped identify new mission's strategy

Opened mission and project, focusing on administration, human resources, and financial issues

Participated in daily management of the mission, including logistics, strategy development, program implementation, as well as supervision of all financial and administrative matters

Protection Officer and Assistant Head of Mission, Doctors of the World - France

Kosovo, July - Dec. 2000

Analyzed political, military, and humanitarian situation based on in-depth interviews and review of secondary sources, and wrote reports for field team and headquarters

Coordinated program on ethnic minorities, including documentation of human rights abuses, preparation of advocacy report, and organization of lobbying campaign on violations of minorities' rights

Participated in daily management of the mission, including representation, security monitoring, strategy development, fundraising, and program implementation

Relevant professional experience through internships and volunteering, 1997 – 2000

Consultant - intern for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Jan. - May 2000): drafted speeches and correspondence on behalf of the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs; set up instrument to booster coordination between humanitarian actors

Consultant - intern for International Organization for Migrations (Nov. 1999 – May 2000, USA and Kosovo): evaluated IOM's Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration program

Program Assistant - Intern for Action Against Hunger (Oct. 1999 – May 2000, USA): wrote context analysis reports on Albania and Sudan

Program Officer – Volunteer for Association France-Amérique Latine (July – Aug. 1999, Nicaragua): identified and implemented development projects

Journalist - Intern for Voice of Soweto and Cape Talk Radio (Sept. – Oct. 1998, South Africa):
conducted interviews, wrote and digitally edited news stories

Program Assistant / Auxiliary Nurse - Volunteer for Youth Charitable Organization and Mother
Teresa's Hospital (July – Aug. 1997, India): helped with fundraising and cared for
patients

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, New York University, June 2006

Specialization in International Relations and Comparative Politics

Dissertation Title: *Local Violence, International Indifference? Post-conflict 'settlement' in the
Eastern D.R. Congo (2003-2005)*

Committee: Elisabeth Jean Wood and Timothy Mitchell (co-chairs), Stephen John Stedman,
Kevin Dunn, Jean-Claude Willame, Shepard Forman

M.A., International Affairs, Columbia University, June 2000

Specialization in Economic and Political Development and in Humanitarian Affairs

M.A., Political and Social Sciences, *Sciences-Po*, France, July 1999

Specialization in Communication and in International Relations

B.A., Political Science, Sorbonne University, France, July 1997

Specialization in Political Science, with minor in Literature and Communication

CLASSES TAUGHT

Graduate

Civil Wars and Peace Settlements (Seminar, SIPA, Columbia University, Fall 2007, Fall 2008)

Civil Wars and Peace Settlements in Africa (Research seminar, Yale, Spring 2007)

Undergraduate

Civil Wars and International Interventions in Africa (Columbia University, Fall 2008)

Senior Research Seminar (Barnard College, Columbia University, Fall 2007-Spring 2008; Fall
2008-Spring 2009)

Aid, Politics, and Violence in Africa (Colloquium, Barnard College, Columbia University, Spring
2008, Spring 2009)

CONFERENCES

Invited Seminar Presentations

"Local Violence and International Intervention in the Congo," Conference on "Fragile
Statehood in Africa: A Useful Paradigm for Action?," session on "International
Intervention," Observatoire de l'Afrique, Pretoria (South Africa)

- "The Trouble with Congo : International Intervention and Local Violence," De Pauw University, May 2008
- "Local violence and International Intervention," Roundtable on "Ending the War and the Building the Peace in the Congo, Yale University, February 2008
- "Local violence, International Indifference? The Failure of Peace Building in the Congo ", African Studies Institute Brown Bag Lecture Series, Columbia University, September 2007
- "Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Council on African Studies, Five Colleges Inc., March 2007
- "Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", University of Ottawa (Canada), Conflict Studies Program, December 2006 [Job Talk]
- "Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", University of Toronto (Canada), Political Science Department, December 2006 [Job Talk]
- "Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Barnard College - Columbia University, Political Science Department, December 2006 [Job Talk]
- "Local violence, national peace? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", American University, School of International Affairs, Comparative and Regional Studies, November 2006 [Job Talk]
- "Hobbes and the Congo: Framing Processes and Continued Local Violence during the Congolese Transition (2003 – 2006)", Yale University, International Relations Workshop Seminar Series, November 2006
- "Local violence, national peace? Local dynamics of violence during the transition in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Yale University, African Studies Brownbag Lunch Series, October 2006
- "Why a Thousand Daily Deaths in a Post-Conflict Setting? Looking Beyond Macro-Dynamics of War and Peace in the Eastern D.R. Congo (2003 - 2006)," Yale University, Order, Conflict, and Violence Speakers Series, September 2006
- "Local Violence, International Indifference? Post-conflict 'settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo (2003-2005)," United States Institute of Peace, November 2005
- "Explaining the Humanitarian Policies of States: US Policy in Afghanistan after 9/11," New York University's International Center for Advanced Studies, April 2003

Workshops Presentations

- "Hobbes and the Congo: Frames, Local Violence, and International Intervention", workshop on "Inside the Practice of Peace- and Statebuilding," Norwegian Institute for International Affairs, Oslo, June 2008
- "International Peace Building Failures in Post-Conflict Environments," workshop on "Post-Conflict State Building", the New School, January 2007
- "Hobbes and the Congo: Framing Processes and Continued Local Violence during the Congolese Transition (2003 – 2006)", Workshop of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Folke Bernadotte Academy and Yale University, December 2006

"Researching Local Conflict in the D.R. Congo: Challenges, Dilemmas, and Serendipities" and "Ethical Dilemmas and Human Subjects", Graduate Student Workshop on "Designing Research on the Micro-dynamics of Civil Wars," Yale University, April 2006

"Research Findings on International Intervention in the Congo," Workshop on "Post-Conflict State Building", the New School, November 2005

"Local Violence, International Indifference? The Politics of the Peace Process in the Eastern D.R. Congo," Inter-University Consortium on Humanitarian Aid's Annual Conference, December 2004

Conference Presentations

"Understanding the Congo: International Peace Building and Local Violence," American Political Science Association Conference, August 2008

"Hobbes and the Congo: Framing Processes and Continued Local Violence during the Congolese Transition (2003 – 2006)," African Studies Association Conference, November 2006

- Substantially revised and presented under the title: "Conceptualizing local conflict: international intervention in the eastern D.R. Congo," African Studies Association Conference, October 2007
- Substantially revised and presented under the title "Working in a Bubble: International Peace Building in the Congo", International Studies Association, San Francisco, March 2008

"Local Violence, National Peace? Local Dynamics of Violence during the Transition in the Eastern D.R. Congo," African Studies Association Conference, November 2005

Guest lectures

"Post-conflict reconstruction in the Congo," undergraduate seminar on Humanitarian Interventions, De Pauw University, April 2008

"Local violence, International Indifference? The Failure of Peace Building in the Congo ", Undergraduate lecture class on Comparative Politics, Barnard College, Columbia University, November 2007

"Local violence, International Indifference? The Failure of Peace Building in the Congo ", Graduate Seminar on Low-Intensity Conflict, SIPA, Columbia University, September 2007

"Conducting Fieldwork in the Midst of Continuing Violence: Congo, 2004 - 2006," Guest Speaker, Qualitative Field Research Seminar, Political Science Department, Yale University, September 2006

Public service

"Understanding the Congolese Conflict," Senior Manager Course in National Security, US Department of Defense, Georges Washington University and MIT, April 2008

Opening remarks for roundtable "Consolidating the Peace in DRC: The Challenge of Eastern Congo," Council on Foreign Relations, Center for Preventive Action, Nov. 2007

"Understanding the Crisis in the Eastern Congo," Action Against Hunger, Team Meeting, Kinshasa (D.R. Congo), June 2007

"Understanding the Congolese Political, Security, and Social, and Humanitarian Contexts," Action Against Hunger, Management Meeting, Bukavu (D.R. Congo), June 2007

"The Current Situation in the Kivus," Action Against Hunger, General Assembly, Bukavu (D.R. Congo), April 2005

"Afghanistan: a Report from the Field," Global Perspectives on the 'War on Terror' Conference, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, New York University, March 2003

"The Current situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo," *Medicos Sin Fronteras*, Barcelona (Spain), August 2003

"The Current situation in Afghanistan," *Medicos Sin Fronteras*, Barcelona (Spain), August 2002

"Kosovo: Point of View of a Humanitarian Field Worker," Panel on "the International Intervention in Kosovo," International Academy of Achievement, October 2000

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial Contributions

Member of Advisory Board of *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development* (2007-present)

Member of advisory group for Council on Foreign Relations' Special Report on the Democratic Republic of Congo (2008)

Reviewer for *International Studies Quarterly* (2007)

Professional organizations

Member of American Political Science Association since 2003

Member of African Studies Association since 2004

Member of International Studies Association since 2007

Member of Peace Science Society (2004 - 2006)

Other

Advisor for conference on "The Democratic Republic of Congo at a Crossroads: Finding Its Way," Columbia University, March 2006

LANGUAGES

French: native

English: bilingual (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English, 1997)

Spanish: proficient

Swahili: basic knowledge

German: basic knowledge