

SÉVERINE AUTESSERRE

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

Research 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

The Trouble With the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding.
Accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. Under final revisions, forthcoming 2010

Articles in refereed journals

"Hobbes and the Congo – Frames, Local Violence, and International Intervention in the Congo," *International Organization*, 63, pp. 249-280, 2009

"D.R. Congo: Explaining Peace Building Failures, 2003 – 2006," *Review of African Political Economy*, 113 (34), pp. 423-442, 2007

"Local violence, National Peace? Post-war 'settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo," *African Studies Review*, 49 (3), pp. 1-29, 2006

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

Book chapter

"Penser les Conflits Locaux: L'Échec de l'Intervention Internationale au Congo"
(Understanding Local Conflicts: the Failure of the International Intervention in the Congo), *L'Afrique des Grands Lacs : Annuaire 2007-2008*, Paris: L'Harmattan, pp. 179-196, 2008

Policy articles

"Peacetime Violence - Post-Conflict Violence and Peace-Building Strategies." Program on States and Security, 2009. www.statesandsecurity.org

"The Trouble with Congo - How Local Disputes Fuel Regional Violence", *Foreign Affairs*, 87 (3), pp. 94-110, May/June 2008

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

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Mellon Faculty Diversity Fellowship and New Faculty Fellowship, Barnard College, 2007
Nominated for APSA Helen 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 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 led 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 tutored 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 strategies

Established 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 facilitate 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 (Lecture class, Columbia University, Fall 2008, Spring 2010)

Senior Research Seminar (Barnard College, Columbia University, Fall 2007-Spring 2008; Fall 2008-Spring 2009, Fall 2009-Spring 2010)

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

TALKS AND CONFERENCES

Invited Presentations

- The Trouble With the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding," Program on African Studies, Yeshiva University, USA, October 2009
- The Trouble With the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding," Program on African Studies, Northwestern University, USA, October 2009
- "The Trouble With the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding," Panel on "Promoting Local Peace," Seminar on *The Post-Conflict State in the Democratic Republic of Congo*, Egmont Institute / Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria, South Africa, August 2009
- "Penser les Conflits Locaux : l'Échec de l'Intervention Internationale au Congo," Research Workshop on *Reconstructions de l'Etat en sortie de violence* (Rebuilding States After Violence), Sciences-Po – CERI / CNRS, Paris, France, Mai 2009
- "Eastern Congo: finally an end to violence? A panel discussion," School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, USA, April 2009
- "Failing the Congo," University Seminar on Studies in Contemporary Africa, Columbia University, USA, April 2009
- "The Responsibility to Protect in the Congo: the Failure of Prevention," Symposium on "Imperfect Duties? Humanitarian Intervention in Africa and the Responsibility to Protect in a Post-Iraq Era," De Pauw University, Greencastle, USA, March 2009
- "Failing the Congo and State of the Field," Research Workshop on African Politics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA, February 2009
- "Failing the Congo," speaker series on "Governance and Security in the Democratic Republic of Congo," John Hopkins University, Washington, D.C., USA, October 2008
- "Hobbes and the Congo: Frames, Local Violence, and International Intervention", workshop on "Inside the Practice of Peace- and State-building," Norwegian Institute for International Affairs, Oslo, Norway, June 2008
- "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 / Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria, South Africa, May 2008
- "The Trouble with Congo: International Intervention and Local Violence," De Pauw University, Greencastle, USA, May 2008
- "Local violence and International Intervention," Roundtable on "Ending the War and the Building the Peace in the Congo," Yale University, New Haven, USA, February 2008
- "Local violence, International Indifference? The Failure of Peace Building in the Congo", African Studies Institute Brown Bag Lecture Series, Columbia University, New York, USA, September 2007
- "Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Council on African Studies, Five Colleges, Amherst, USA, March 2007
- "International Peace Building Failures in Post-Conflict Environments," workshop on "Post-Conflict State Building", the New School, New York, USA, January 2007

- "Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Job Talk, Conflict Studies Program, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, December 2006
- "Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Job Talk, Political Science Department, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, December 2006
- "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, New Haven, USA, December 2006
- "Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Job Talk, Political Science Department, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, USA, November 2006
- "Local violence, national peace? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Job Talk, School of International Affairs, American University, Washington D.C., USA, November 2006
- "Hobbes and the Congo: Framing Processes and Continued Local Violence during the Congolese Transition (2003 – 2006)", International Relations Workshop Seminar Series, Yale University, New Haven, USA, November 2006
- "Local violence, national peace? Local dynamics of violence during the transition in the Eastern D.R. Congo", African Studies Brownbag Lunch Series, Yale University, New Haven, USA, 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)," Order, Conflict, and Violence Speakers Series, Yale University, New Haven, USA, September 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, New Haven, USA, April 2006
- "Local Violence, International Indifference? Post-conflict 'settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo (2003-2005)," United States Institute of Peace, Washington D.C., USA, November 2005
- "Research Findings on International Intervention in the Congo," Workshop on "Post-Conflict State Building", the New School, New York, USA, November 2005
- "Explaining the Humanitarian Policies of States: US Policy in Afghanistan after 9/11," International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University, New York, USA, April 2003
- "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, the New School, New York, USA, December 2004

Conference Papers

- "International Peacebuilding Failures: Lessons from the Congo" American Political Science Association Conference, September 2009
- "The Peacebuilding World," American Political Science Association Conference, August 2008

- Substantially revised and presented at the International Studies Association Conference, March 2009
- "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

Policy Talks

- "MONUC as a Case Study in Multidimensional Peacekeeping in Complex Emergencies," panel for the seminar on "The UN Security Council and the Responsibility to Protect: Policy, Process, and Practices," International Peace Institute and Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Vienna, Austria, June 2009
- "Warring Parties: Conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo," Panel for the Congo Awareness Day, Yale University, New Haven, USA, February 2009
- "Local Violence and International Intervention," panel on "War Again in the Eastern Congo: International Engagement," Great Lakes Policy Forum and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., USA, January 2009
- "The Trouble with Congo," *Le Cercle*, Washington D.C., USA, November 2008
- "Understanding the Congolese Conflict," Senior Manager Course in National Security, US Department of Defense, George Washington University and MIT, New York, USA, April 2008
- Opening remarks for roundtable "Consolidating the Peace in DRC: The Challenge of Eastern Congo," Council on Foreign Relations, Center for Preventive Action, Washington D.C., USA, November 2007
- "Understanding the Crisis in the Eastern Congo," Team Meeting, Action Against Hunger, Kinshasa, D.R. Congo, June 2007
- "Understanding the Congolese Political, Security, Social, and Humanitarian Contexts," Management Meeting, Action Against Hunger, Bukavu, D.R. Congo, June 2007
- "The Current Situation in the Kivus," General Assembly, Action Against Hunger, 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, New York, USA, 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, London, UK, October 2000

Guest lectures

- "Failing the Congo - African Security Issues: Local vs. Global," graduate seminar on Globalization and Politics in Africa, Columbia University, February 2009
- "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

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- TV: Appeared on the *Charlie Rose Show* (PBS, USA)
- Radio: Participated in Worldfocus Talk show (BlogTalkRadio, USA), Worldstreams Guests from Around the World (Worldstreams radio, USA), and Global News Roundup (WKCR, USA)
- Newspapers and magazines: Quoted in *The Politics* (USA), *Valeurs Actuelles* (France), *El Nacional* (Venezuela), *El Mercurio* (Chile), *Expresso* (Portugal), *the Washington Post* (USA), *Newsweek* (USA), *Reliefweb* (UN), *the Columbia Political Review* (USA), *Inter Press Service News Agency* (Italy)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial Contributions

- Reviewer for *International Studies Quarterly*, Routledge, and the *Journal of International Relations and Development*
- Member of advisory group for International Peace Institute's project on *Understanding Compliance with Security Council Demands in Post-Cold War Civil Wars* (2009-2010)
- Member of advisory group for Council on Foreign Relations' Special Report on the Democratic Republic of Congo (2008)
- Member of advisory board of *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development* (2007-present)
- Member of advisory group for conference on "The Democratic Republic of Congo at a Crossroads: Finding Its Way," Columbia University, March 2006

Ph.D. supervision

- Outside examiner on four Ph.D. Dissertation defenses, Columbia University

Service

Liaison officer for exchange program between Barnard Political Science department and Sciences-Po Paris

Member of Selection Committee for the 2009-2010 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships, Columbia University Institute of African Studies

Organized panels for the International Studies Association Conference (2008 and 2009) and the African Studies Association Conference (2007 and 2009)

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)

LANGUAGES

French: native

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

Spanish: proficient

Swahili: basic knowledge

German: basic knowledge