

# SÉVERINE AUTESSERRE

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## PRESENT AND FUTURE POSITIONS

### **Assistant Professor, Barnard College, Columbia University, July 2007 -**

Teach classes in international relations and African politics

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

### **Post-Doctoral Associate, Yale University, Sept. 2006 - May 2007**

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

Teach research seminar on African Civil Wars and Peace Processes (spring semester)

## 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 Tim Mitchell (co-chairs), Stephen John Stedman, Jean-Claude Willame, Shepard Forman, Kevin Dunn

### **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

## SELECTED HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Ph.D. Dissertation nominated by NYU politics department for the APSA Helen Dwight Reid prize, awarded to the best dissertation in international relations, law, and politics, 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

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Book manuscript in progress**

*Local Violence, International Indifference? Post-conflict 'settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo (2003-2006)*

### **Articles in refereed journals**

"Explaining Peace Building Failures: Looking beyond Macro-Dynamics of War and Peace in the Eastern D.R. Congo (2003 – 2006)," *Review of African Political Economy*, June 2007 (revise and resubmit)

"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](http://www.jha.ac)

### **Other articles**

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

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

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **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

### **INVITED SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

"Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", University of Ottawa (Canada), Conflict Studies Program, December 2006

"Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", University of Toronto (Canada), Political Science Department, 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, December 2006

"Local violence, International Indifference? Post-Conflict 'Settlement' in the Eastern D.R. Congo", Barnard College - Columbia University, Political Science Department, December 2006

"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

"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

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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

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

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

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

"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**

### **Workshops and conferences**

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

Participant to workshop on "Post-Conflict State Building: The Academic Research", the New School, November 2005

### **Professional organizations**

Member of African Studies Association (2004 - 2007).

Member of Peace Science Society (2004 - 2006).

Member of American Political Science Association (2003 - 2004, 2006 - 2007)

## **LANGUAGES**

French: native

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

Spanish: proficient

Swahili: basic knowledge

German: basic knowledge