

AFRIQUE CONTEMPORAINE

Call for papers

For a special issue of the scientific quarterly, *Afrique Contemporaine*

“The African Diaspora and Political Engagement: Migrant Voting Behavior”

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Studies devoted to the relationship of immigrants to politics have gradually started to unearth unheeded, even unknown swaths of political practices and know-how. Attesting to the prominence of the assimilationist model in migration studies, such studies have long focused exclusively on the political integration of migrants within their countries of residence. The recent diffusion of the transnational paradigm across the social sciences has helped to revitalize this approach. This shift has allowed researchers specialized in migration studies to break free from methodological nationalism and thus pave the way for an investigation of migrant participation in political life in both their countries of residence and countries of origin.

Increasingly, countries of origin grant double nationality, dual citizenship and voting rights to non-resident citizens, bolstering diaspora participation in political life. Since 1991, the number of countries that have facilitated the ability to cast absentee votes has multiplied four-fold, rising from almost 30 to more than 100 by the end of the 2000s. In Africa alone, more than half of the countries allow citizens living abroad to vote in national elections.

Most research on external voting has centered on countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico and the Dominican Republic), Europe (Italy and Portugal), and Asia (the Philippines). However, the historical, political and social conditions that enfranchise the African diaspora have received less attention.

This special issue of *Afrique Contemporaine* proposes to present pioneering works by historians, political scientists and sociologists specialized in studying the African continent, focusing on migrants abroad voting in the elections of their country of origin.

TOPICS

The following list presents some but not all of the topics suitable for this edition:

(1.) Modalities for “absentee voting” or “external voting”

What relationships can we draw between external voting and political changes, such as “democratic transitions”, post-conflict situations, and revolutions like “The Arab Spring”?

What is the history of external voting’s implementation?

What typology(s) of external voting systems may be drawn?

What are the practical obstacles and implied costs of absentee-voter registration and voting for States and potential voters?

(2.) Political mobilization: Electoral and non-electoral practices

To what extent does African diaspora political engagement correlate with other types of engagement — for example, with civic associations or trade unions?

What is the role of local grass-roots organizations?

How are electoral campaigns conducted abroad?

What possible links exist between voting in national versus local elections?

(3.) Voters, candidates and elected officials

What are the social and demographic characteristics of first- or second-generation immigrant voters?

To what extent do “external” voters make the same electoral choices as “internal” ones, all other things being equal?

What effects do emigration and socialization in the residence country have upon voting practices, outcomes, and political engagement in general?

Do we need to make a distinction between the diaspora within and outside Africa?

If we use prosopography to analyze candidates and elected officials in national and local elections, can we discern an impact from the intensified migratory flows of recent decades?

(4.) Monetary remittances and social remittances

How far can the expansion of diaspora voting rights allow us to rethink the relationship between monetary and social remittances?

Do the monetary remittances from migrants to families left behind affect the latter's voting behavior?

How much and under what conditions can we see migrant voting behavior influenced by families left behind?

(5.) Methodologies

What scales of analysis are relevant in examining external voting?

How can we frame the question of context, e.g., family, friends, colleagues, party and associative networks, etc., in the local and transnational perspectives that characterize external voting?

How can we remedy the lack of homogeneity and reliability of statistics on migrations?

COUNTRIES

Except for Mali, Senegal and Tunisia, which the editors of this special issue will address themselves, all African countries, from Egypt to North Africa to sub-Saharan Africa, are eligible; articles may focus on a single country or compare several.

TIMELINE:

This special issue has the following timeline:

- Interested authors will submit a one-page précis, describing the topic, argument outline (in brief), and the relevant data or fieldwork; submissions are due by 20 January 2015.
- The editors will select article topics and authors by 10 February 2015.
- Selected authors must submit a first draft of their articles by 1 June 2015.
- The special issue will be published in the 4th quarter of 2015.

In their published versions, the articles will have one of two formats:

Most articles will be 35-40,000 characters in length, including spaces, footnotes and bibliography.

Articles of 8-10,000 characters in length, including spaces, footnotes and bibliography, will also be welcome if they address countries less covered by the extant literature, in particular those where data have been scarce.

We especially welcome articles that feature maps, drawings, chronologies and photos.

Each article will be blind peer-reviewed by two anonymous referees, the *Afrique Contemporaine* editorial board and the special issue editors.

SUBMISSIONS

Please submit your response to this call for papers via our online Editorial Manager:

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/afriquecontemporaine/>

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