



MME Marielle Debos

ENSEIGNANT / ENSEIGNANT-CHERCHEUR

Fonction

MCF / Associate Professor in Political Science, Junior Member of the Institut Universitaire de France (IUF)

Coordonnées

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Site personnel

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Structure(s)

[UFR de Droit et Science Politique \(DSP\)](#)

Disciplines enseignées

- Relations internationales (L1, CMC)
- Construction des savoirs et des technologies sur/dans le monde post-colonial (Séminaire de M2)

Thèmes de recherche

Marielle Debos' research interests include armed conflicts and violence. Her research based on ethnographic fieldwork in Chad shows how men in arms make their living in the twilight between war and peace and explains why armed violence is such an integral part of our global political economy. She pays particular attention to the routine forms of violence that mark the "inter-war", the times and spaces in which war seems to be suspended. She continues to conduct research in Chad with a new project on the impunity of the "big men" and the (de)politicization of sexual violence. Her most recent research (supported by the Institut Universitaire de France) explores the historical and social

construction of the biometric identification market in Africa. She wants to understand how biometric identification technologies have emerged as an obvious solution to the supposed “failures” of the state and elections in Africa. By using empirically-rooted research, the project aims to contribute to the understanding of the spread of a new technology which, on the African continent as in other parts of the world, may radically modify our conceptions and practices of identity and citizenship.

Curriculum Vitae

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Publications

Books

Living by the Gun in Chad: Combatants, Impunity and State Formation. London, Zed Books, 2016.

The book is an extensively revised and updated version of:

Le métier des armes au Tchad: Le gouvernement de l'entre-guerres, Paris, Karthala, 2013.

Politique africaine published a “debate around the book” with contributions by Laurent Gayer (Sciences Po CERDI), Mirjam de Bruijn (Universiteit Leiden) and Morten Bøås (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs), and a response by the author (n°131, 2013, pp. 175-196). It has also been reviewed in peer-reviewed journals (*Revue française de science politique*, *Genèses*, *Politique étrangère*, *Revue internationale et stratégique*, *Afrique Contemporaine*, *Politique africaine*, *Tiers Monde*, etc.), as well as in the popular press (*Le Monde diplomatique*, *Alternatives internationales*, etc.).

Special issue of journal

Corps habillés: Politique des métiers de l'ordre. Special issue *Politique africaine*, n°128, December 2012, with Joël Glasman.

Journal articles and book chapters

“Milices et sous-traitance de l’(in)sécurité”, in Badie Bertrand, Vidal Dominique (ed.), *Nouvelles Guerres: L’Etat du Monde 2015*, Paris, La Découverte, 2014, pp. 129-134. [Militias and the outsourcing of (in)security]

“La guerre des préfets: Répression, clientélisme et illégalismes d’État dans l’entre-guerres tchadien”, *Politix*, n°104, 2013, pp. 47-66. [The Prefects’ War: Repression, Clientelism and State Illegality in the Chadian Inter-War]

“Réponse de l’auteur: débat autour du livre *Le Métier des armes*”, *Politique africaine*, n°130, 2013, pp. 175-196, with Laurent Gayer, Mirjam de Bruijn and Morten Boas. [The author’s response: debate around the book *Le Métier des armes*]

“*Conflits armés*”, in Achin Catherine, Bereni Laure (ed.) *Dictionnaire genre et science politique: Concepts, objets, problèmes*, Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 2013, pp. 103-114. [Armed conflicts]

“Débat autour d’un livre: *The War Machines* de Danny Hoffman”, *Politique africaine*, n°130, June 2013, pp. 225-247, with Mariane Ferme, Paul Richards, and Danny Hoffman. [Debate around the book *The War Machines* by Danny Hoffman]

“Quand les ‘libérateurs’ deviennent des ‘bandits’: Guerre et marginalisation sociale à la frontière tchado-centrafricaine”, in Bazenguissa-Ganga Rémy, Makki Samy (eds.), *Sociétés en guerre: Ethnographies des mobilisations violentes*, Paris,

Éditions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 2012, pp. 93-110. [When 'liberators' become 'bandits': War and social marginalization at the Chad-Central African Republic border]

"Politique des corps habillés : État, pouvoir et métiers de l'ordre en Afrique", *Politique africaine*, n°128, December 2012, pp. 5-23, with Joël Glasman. [Corps habillés' politics: State, power and security forces in Africa]

["Living by the gun in Chad: Armed violence as a practical occupation"](#), *Journal of Modern African Studies*, Vol. 49, n°3, September 2011, pp. 409-428.

"Le conflit au Darfour, au Tchad et en République centrafricaine", in Durand Marie-Françoise et al. (ed.), *Atlas de la mondialisation*, Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 2010. [The conflict in Darfur, Chad and Central African Republic]

["Fluid Loyalties in a Regional Crisis: Chadian combatants in the Central African Republic"](#), *African Affairs*, Vol. 107, n° 427, April 2008, pp. 225-241.

"Les limites de l'accumulation par les armes. Itinéraires d'ex-combattants au Tchad", *Politique africaine*, n°109, March 2008, pp. 167-181. [The limits of accumulation by violent means: The pathways of ex-combatants' in Chad]

"Mass violence in Chad (1900-1960)", *Encyclopaedia of Mass violence*, Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 2008, 13 p.

"La création de la Cour Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples. Les dessous d'une ingénierie institutionnelle multiculturelle", *Cultures & Conflicts*, n°60, Winter 2005, pp. 55-82. [The creation of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights: Observing a Multicentric Institutional Engineering process]

"Les ONG et la fabrique de l'opinion publique internationale", *Raisons Politiques*, n° 19, August-September 2005, pp. 63-80, with Alice Goheneix. [NGOs and the Making of International Public Opinion]

Other articles and research reports (selection)

["Behind the cliché of the Chadian 'desert warriors': militarized politics and Idriss Déby's global political capital"](#), Research Briefing for the Programme on African Peace Missions n°22, World Peace Foundation, June 2016.

"Acheikh Ibn Oumar", *Maitron: Biographic Dictionary of African Mobilisations and Contestations*, 2015.

["'Hate' and 'security vacuum': How not to ask the right questions about a confusing crisis"](#), Fieldsights - Hot Spots on the Central African Republic, *Cultural Anthropology*, 2014.

["International Interventions and the Human Cost of a Militarized Political Marketplace in Chad"](#), Contribution to the blog "Reinventing Peace", World Peace Foundation/FletcherSchool at Tufts University, 2014.

"Tchad: l'escalade de la crise", *Ramses 2009*, Paris, Dunod, 2009, pp. 211-213. [Chad: how the crisis deepened]

"Porous borders and fluid loyalties: Patterns of conflict in Darfur, Chad and the Central African Republic", Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Online Africa Policy Forum, June 2008.

"Tchad", *Encyclopedia Universalis*, Paris, 2008 (with Jean-Pierre Magnant and Roland Pourtier), 15 p.

"Darfour, Tchad, Centrafrique: le développement d'une crise régionale", *Ramses 2008*, Paris, Dunod, 2007, pp. 269-273. [Darfur, Chad, Central African Republic: The unfolding of a regional crisis]

"Tchad: les ressorts locaux et régionaux de la crise politico-militaire", *Universalis 2007*, March 2007, pp. 267-271. [Chad: local and regional dimensions of the politico-military crisis]

Op-eds and interviews (selection)

["Biometric voting in Chad: new technology, same old political tricks"](#), *The Conversation*, 4 May 2016.

["Silence de la France sur le sort des militaires tchadiens disparus"](#), *Le Monde*, 11 May 2016.

"On réactive le mythe du guerrier tchadien", Interview by Maria Malagardis, *Libération*, 5 February 2015.

["Les armes comme mode de vie"](#), Interview by Milena Jakši, *Contretemps*, October 2014.

["Centrafrique: attention aux mots"](#), *Le Monde*, 20 February 2014.

["Pendant la guerre au Mali, au Tchad..."](#), *Libération*, 28 May 2013.

Corps

Maîtresse de conférences

Informations complémentaires

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Participation in ANR-funded research programmes

Research programme “The social and political life of ID papers in Africa”, coordinated by Richard Banégas (Sciences Po-CERI) and Séverine Awenengo Dalberto (IMAF-CNRS) (2016-2019).

Research programme “No war, no peace? The interweaving of violence and law in the formation and transformation of political orders”, coordinated by Dominique Linhardt at the LIER (IMM-EHESS)(2013-2016).

Research programme “Transformations of wars. Public and private dimensions of armed violence”, coordinated by Michel Agier and Rémy Bazenguissa-Ganga at the School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences, Paris (EHESS) (2007-2011).

Editorial positions

Member of the editorial board “Chad” of the *Maitron:Biographic Dictionary of African Mobilisations and Contestations* (since 2014).

Member of the editorial board of *Politique africaine*(Karthala, Paris) (since 2011).

Member of the editorial board of *Cultures & Conflits* (L’Harmattan, Paris) (since 2006).

Education and previous positions

2009-2010: Marie Curie post-doctoral researcher, University of California, Berkeley, Anthropology Department

2009: PhD in Political Science, Sciences Po Paris-CERI

2006-2008: Teaching and research fellow (ATER), University Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne, Political Science Departement

2003-2006: Teaching and research fellow (Allocataire de recherche et monitrice), Sciences Po Paris-CERI.

Mis à jour le 14 juin 2017

Maîtresse de conférences en science politique
Chercheuse à l'Institut des Sciences sociales du Politique (ISP)
Membre junior de l'Institut Universitaire de France

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