

Sanata Sy-Sahande  
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## **Education**

### **Princeton University**

Ph.D. Politics (Expected May 2018)

M.A. Politics, May 2014

Dissertation Title: The Politics of Local Tax Collection in Benin

My dissertation examines how clientelist expectations—an exchange of goods for votes—mediates the ways citizens perceive and interact with state actors, to the detriment of state capacity building. I address a pressing question in development policy, as states seek to implement intervention projects that require direct citizen participation to improve public service delivery. My test case is Benin, a documented patronage democracy, via a study of municipal taxation. I find that citizens' expectations to gain or lose from their votes for the mayor's party affects support for their local government's right to tax, and their willingness to defy tax laws. I highlight a challenge often faced by new democracies as their leaders affect citizen political attitudes and behavior in ways that challenge state legitimacy and state governance.

### **University of Maryland, College Park**

B.A. Government & Politics and French, 2012

Minor in International Development and Conflict Management

Certificate in Honors Humanities

## **Teaching**

Quin Morton Teaching Fellow and Lecturer, Princeton Writing Program, 2017-18

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Princeton Programs for Access and Inclusion, 2017-2018

Teaching Assistant, "Introduction to Comparative Politics," Princeton University, Fall 2015

Visiting Researcher, Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy, Benin, 2014-2016

## **Research Interests**

African Politics

Clientelism and Redistributive politics

Political Economy of Development

Experimental Methods

## **Working Papers**

"Contingent Partisans: New Forms of Partisan Identities in Africa"

"Migration or Redistribution? State-sponsored Migration and Remittance Flows in Africa"

## **Presentations**

"Taxing Clients: The Effect of Clientelism on Citizen Tax Attitudes"

Public Finance in Developing Countries Workshop, Oxford University, 2017

"When will citizens make demands of their politicians? Exploring Citizen-politician linkages in Benin"

Midwest Political Science Association, 2017

“How Party Affiliation Shapes Preferences for Taxation and Redistribution in Benin”  
Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS), Spring 2017

“Citizen Opposition to Local Taxation in Africa”  
American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2016

“Using Administrative Data to Evaluate Tax Policy: Benin Case Study”  
ISS-African Development Bank Leading Institutional Reform in Africa Workshop, 2016

"Conditional Ethnic Favoritism: Exploring the Costs of Targeted Public Goods Provision"  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2015

“Foreign Direct Investment in Africa: The Economic Dimensions of Ethnic Protest”  
American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2011

### **Awards and Honors**

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Doctoral Fellowship, 2017-18 (Declined)

Princeton Program in African Studies Research Grant, 2016

Mahmoud Bobst Center for Peace and Justice Grant, 2015-2016

PIIRS Summer Research Grant, 2013- 2015

Phi Beta Kappa, 2010

Banneker/Key Full Scholarship, University of Maryland, 2008-2012

National Merit Scholar, 2008

Verizon Foundation Scholar, 2008

### **Languages**

French, high proficiency in written, oral, and translation

### **Technical Skills**

Statistical data packages: R, Stata, Python

Geographic information packages: ArcGis

Survey software: SurveyToGo, Qualtrics

### **Fieldwork**

Senegal: 07/2013-08/2013

Benin: Summer-Fall 2014, Summer-Fall 2015, Spring-Summer 2016, Winter 2016

### **Membership**

American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, African Studies Association

### **References**

Leonard Wantchekon, Princeton University: [lwantche@princeton.edu](mailto:lwantche@princeton.edu)

Christopher Achen, Princeton University: [achen@princeton.edu](mailto:achen@princeton.edu)

Grigore Pop-Eleches, Princeton University: [gpop@princeton.edu](mailto:gpop@princeton.edu)

Rory Truex, Princeton University: [rtruex@princeton.edu](mailto:rtruex@princeton.edu)