



# Rogers Orock

📍 JOHANNESBURG, 27, SOUTH AFRICA

## Details

Department of Social Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, University of Witwatersrand, 1 Jan Smuts Avenue, 2000 Braamfontein, Johannesburg, 27, South Africa  
(+27) 713121296  
[Rogers.Orock@wits.ac.za](mailto:Rogers.Orock@wits.ac.za)

## NATIONALITY

Cameroonian

## Skills

Academic writing

Grant proposal writing

Social analysis for public policy

Social research methods: qualitative (ethnography)

Project management

## 🌐 Languages

English

French

Pidgin English

## ❤️ Hobbies

## 👤 Profile

Trained as a social anthropologist with expertise in political anthropology (focus on elites, governance, democratization and development) in West and Central Africa, I have about 10 years of experience in academic and policy research and analysis.

## 📁 Employment History

Lecturer in Social Anthropology at University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
[August 2016 – Present](#)

Postdoctoral Researcher at Institute for Development Policy (IOB), University of Antwerp (Belgium), Antwerpen  
[April 2014 – October 2016](#)

Project-based research on elites, governance and globalization in Africa

- Research project: large-scale landleases for agribusiness investment projects in Cameroon

Postgraduate teaching and supervision

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Centre for Research and International Studies (CERI), Sciences Po Paris (France), Paris  
[April 2015 – December 2015](#)

Research on French-African policy/politics

- Ethnographic fieldwork on French elites and the public representations of Freemasonry in France (Funded by the FMSH as Fernand Braudel Fellow for 2015)

Doctoral Research Fellow at Institute for Culture and Society, Faculty of Humanities, Aarhus University (Denmark), aarhus  
[September 2010 – August 2013](#)

Doctoral research on elites, political culture and democratization in Cameroon towards a PhD dissertation.

## 🎓 Education

Master of International Affairs (Human Rights, Humanitarian Action & African Studies), Paris School of International Affairs, SciencesPo Paris (France), Paris  
[September 2013 – July 2015](#)

PhD in Social Anthropology, Aarhus University (Denmark), Aarhus  
[August 2010 – December 2013](#)

MSocSc. in Social & Cultural Anthropology, University of Helsinki  
(Finland), Helsinki

August 2006 – May 2009

BSc. Honours in Sociology & Anthropology, University of Buea  
(Cameroon), Buea

October 2002 – July 2005

## RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

Present

### Professional Memberships

2012 – present African Studies Anthropological (ASA), USA (Member).

2012 – present Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), UK (Fellow).

2008 – present European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Europe  
(Member)

2017 – present African Studies Association in Africa (ASAA) (Africa) (Member)

### Selected Publications (Last Five years)

Forthcoming. 'Precarious "Bigness": a Big Man, His Funeral and His Women. In Deborah Posel and Ilana van Wyk (eds.) *Conspicuous Consumption in Africa*. Wits University Press. Book chapter.

n.d. 'Suspicious Times' (with Joshua Walker). Under review. Journal Article.

2015 'Elites, Culture and Power: the Moral Politics of 'Development' in Cameroon.' *Anthropological Quarterly* 88 (2): 533-568.

2014 'SWELA, Ethnicity, and Democracy in Cameroon's Patrimonial State: An Anthropological Critique.' *Critique of Anthropology* 34 (2): 204-233.

2014 'Welcoming the 'Fon of Fons': Anglophone Elites and the Politics of Hosting Cameroon's Head of State.' *Africa* 84 (2): 226 - 245.

2014 'Crime, In/Security and Mob Justice: the Micropolitics of Sovereignty in 2012 – Cameroon'. *Social Dynamics* 40 (2): 408-428.

2013 'Manyu Youths, Belonging and the Antinomies of Patrimonial Elite Politics in Contemporary Cameroon'. *Cultural Dynamics* 25 (3): 269-290.

### Teaching Experience

2016-2017 "African Ethnography" (postgraduate) & "Introduction to Anthropology" (undergraduate) University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

2015 "Global Value Chains" (GVC). Institute of Development Policy & Management (postgraduate). University of Antwerp, Belgium.

2012 "Culture and Society in Contemporary West Africa" (undergraduate). Aarhus University, Denmark.

2011 "African Social Thought" (with Prof. Oben Timothy Mbuagbo), Dept. of Anthropology, University of Buea, Cameroon.

**Awards (Since 2016)**

April 2018: Africa-Oxford Collaborative Travel Grant (with Professor Wale Adebani), Africa-Oxford (AfOx) Initiative (£4500).

October 2017: International Fellow for 2018-2019 (Summer Program in the Social Sciences, SPSS), Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton (convened by Professor Didier Fassin, Professor Sarah Nuttall and Professor Mara Viveros Vigoya).

July 2017: Andrew Mellon Foundation Staff Development Grant in Support for Younger Scholars on the Wits Staff, Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand (R33 000).

April 2017: American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)' African Humanities Program (AHP) Postdoctoral Fellowship 2016-2017 (\$19 000)

**Invited Presentations at Conferences, Workshops and Seminars (Since 2012)**

'Freemasonry as Colonial Durability in Francophone Africa: Cameroon and Gabon.' Paper presented at the International Summer Program in Social Science (SSS), Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. 17th– 29th June 2018, Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

'Elites, Rumour and Freemasonry in Cameroon: Re/Visions of Occult Imaginaries.' Paper presented at the International Symposium on Suspicion and the Contemporary", Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand. 18-20 April 2018, Johannesburg, South Africa.

'Elites, Freemasonry and Anxieties of Decolonization in Francophone Africa: Cameroon and Gabon', Paper Presented in the Archie Mafeje Seminar Series, Co-organized by Professor Shahid Vawda (Archie Mafeje Chair) and the Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town. 12 April 2018, Cape Town, South Africa.

'Elites, Freemasonry and the Politics of Suspicion in French-AFRICAN Relations: Cameroon and Gabon.' 68th African Studies Association Meetings, Chicago Marriot Hotel Downton (USA), 15th-19th November 2017.

'Crisis and the Pan-Africanist Critique in French-African Relations: Contemporary Trajectories in Francophone Africa.' International Workshop on Locations of African and African Diaspora Critical Thought. Hosted by the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), University of the Witwatersrand and the African Diaspora Knowledge Project in the Africana Studies Department at Brown University. Johannesburg, South Africa 12th -15th August 2017.

'Elites, Freemasonry and Secrecy: Conspiracy Theory in the Politics of Franco-African Relations.' Paper Presented at Panel 'Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theory: the Politics of the Unknown,' the 7th Biannual European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), on the theme Urban Africa-Urban Africans: New Encounters of the Urban and Rural. University of Basel (Switzerland), 28th June-1st July 2017.

'Figuring Patrimonial Power in Cameroon: Chief, Technocrat and Rich Man', Invited Presentation at the Permeable Boundaries Seminar on "'BIGNESS", Entrepreneurship & Inequality: Notes from Uganda & Cameroon' (with Dr. Nanna Schneidermann), Department of Anthropology, University of Cape Town (South Africa), 29th May 2017.

'French-Cameroon Relations in Times of Duress: Terrorism, Rumors, and Suspicion as Critique.' Paper Presented at the Session 'Discussions of War,' the Annual Meeting

of the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA), Austin (USA), 12th- 15th April 2017.

'Elites, National Elections and Ethnic Campaign Financing in Cameroon: the October 2011 Presidential Polls.' Paper Presented at the 3e Rencontres des Études africaines en France, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de l'Université de Bordeaux (France), 30 June- 2 July 2014.

'Manyu youths and elite politics in contemporary Cameroon. Paper Presented at the 12th Biannual Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) on the theme Uncertainty and Disquiet, Panel: Agency and Factionalism in Conflict and Crisis in Africa. Paris, University of Paris 10, Nanterre, (France) 10th - 13th July 2012.

### **Service at the University of Witwatersrand**

2017 – present Member of the Advisory Board of the Program in Development Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

I have peer-reviewed journal articles for the following journals: *Critique of Anthropology*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Africa*, *Social Dynamics*, *Review of African Political Economy*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, etc.

I have also served as expert in the selection committee for grant applications at South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF), 2017.

### **Research Experience**

2017: 4 weeks of fieldwork in France (Paris)

2015: 9 months of archival research and fieldwork in Paris, France  
4 weeks archival work and fieldwork in Buea, Douala and Yaoundé, Cameroon.

2014: 3 months of fieldwork on land disputes in Southwest Cameroon

2011- 12: 11 months of fieldwork on elites, the politics of belonging and social improvement in Cameroon.

2007: 6 weeks of field work on elites in Anglophone Cameroon (for MSocSc thesis ).