

**Workshop Program Point Sud 2019**  
**Dynamics of Everyday Life within Municipal Administrations in Francophone  
and Anglophone Africa**  
**16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2019, University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar**

**Convenors**

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**Abstract**

Municipal administrations in sub-Saharan Africa have become the focus of ‘good governance’ projects to fight corruption, build responsive institutions and hold officials to account. International support target municipal elections, results-for-aid interventions and currently, municipal bonds for infrastructural projects. Still, we know very little about the everyday life of municipal administrations. At best, extant studies focus on actors inside central state bureaucracies. Everyday life with regard to the relationship between administration and citizens is largely taken for granted. We miss knowledge on how municipalities work in relation to their particular local context. This includes service provision and the impact of decentralized institutions on local communities and on the local power structures.

The workshop aims is not only to point out the view from actors inside local bureaucracies but also those who are outside and on the interface between bureaucracies and other local ‘authorities’ on the margins of public policy. These may include, among others chiefs, honorary councillors, faith-based groups, youth groups, and local entrepreneurs. Inspired by the notion of everyday bureaucratization, we are interested in how ordinary citizens appropriate this interface and bureaucratic techniques of the state to organize, adapt and challenge the daily practices of municipal bureaucracies.

Against this backdrop, questions such as everyday meaning of local councils, the interaction and tensions between municipal officials and residents, emolument of councillors, social pressure and demands for accountability are among the themes of particular interest to us. From this framing, the empirical and theoretical projects in the workshop may not only go beyond the usual Francophone and Anglophone divide but also shed light on practical ways in which municipal administrations do their work and are, in turn, influenced by the constituencies they serve.