

African Middle Classes Beyond the Buzz: Economic, Social and Political Dynamics

■ January 25th 2018 - 10:00-17:15 - Paris, France

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Brief - Agenda - Biographies

Thursday, January 25, 2018 | 10:00-17:15 | Paris, France

“African middle classes”, popularized by the 2011 African Development Bank report, often stand as a symbol of the economic and demographic dynamism of the continent. Their announced emergence feeds into a certain number of expectations in the economic and political spheres: growth driven by domestic demand, potential new markets, democratization, and so on. Yet, the category “African middle class” and associated interpretations must be considered carefully. In Africa, as elsewhere in the world, the notion of middle class remains controversial: consensus is lacking on both, its definition and its criteria. Polysemous, vague, and encompassing, the term can cover a wide range of socio-economic situations.

This conference aims to understand the major issues underlying the “African middle class” category and, through various case studies, provide nuanced interpretations of the ongoing socio-economic dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa.

Agenda

Venue : Ifri, 27 rue de la Procession, 75015 Paris - France

10:00-10:15

Opening Remarks

Thomas Gomart, Director, Ifri

Karim El Aynaoui, Managing Director, OCP Policy Center

10:15-12:15

Debate on African Middle Class Categories

Global economic and demographic challenges in the past century have spurred the emergence and popularization of the category “African middle class”. The category is in itself problematic, often associated with unverified positive correlations of economic or political development. Nevertheless, it does raise genuine questions with respect to ongoing socio-economic transformations. This session will aim to revisit the implications of constructing the middle class as a category, its definitions, and its uses, as well as to discuss the forms of its empirical reality.

Chair

Clélie Nallet, Research Fellow, Sub-Saharan Africa Center, Ifri

Speakers

Abebe Shimeles, Director and Manager of the Development Research Division, African Development Bank

Dominique Darbon, Professor, Sciences Po Bordeaux

Dieter Neubert, Professor for Sociology of Development, Faculty for Cultural Sciences, University of Bayreuth

Florence de Bigault, Head of Francophone Cluster, Ipsos Sub Saharian Africa

Larbi Jaïdi, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

12:15-14:00

Lunch Break

Lunch invitation only for panelists

Afternoon sessions: Political and Socio-Economic Realities of African Middle Classes

Different case studies based on qualitative and/or quantitative methods will be addressed to understand the socio-economic realities of middle classes, as well as their economic and political practices.

14:00-15:30 Socio-Economic Dynamics: The Cases of the Ivory Coast, Morocco and Cameroon

Chair

Anda David, Research Officer, Agence Française de Développement

Speakers

Jean-Philippe Berrou, Economist, Sciences Po Bordeaux

Abdallah Saaf, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Yves Mintoogue, PhD Candidate, Sorbonne University – Paris 1

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:15 African Middle Classes and their Political Practices: The Cases of Kenya, South Africa and Ethiopia

Chair

Alfredo Valladão, Professor, Sciences Po Paris & Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Speakers

Kenya

Simone Schotte, Research Fellow, GIGA Institute of African Affairs

Clélie Nallet, Research Fellow, Sub-Saharan Africa Center, Ifri

Biographies

Jean-Philippe Berrou, Economist, Sciences Po Bordeaux



Jean-Philippe Berrou is Assistant Professor in Development Economics and Member of the Research Unit *Les Afriques dans le Monde* (LAM) at Sciences Po Bordeaux. His main researches are based on an interdisciplinary perspective and deal with (i) the dynamics of urban labor market and informal entrepreneurship in developing countries (mostly African countries), (ii) social networks analysis, (iii) the social construction of markets, and (iv) growth and structural changes in Africa. He has led several field surveys in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Colombia. He currently coordinates three research programs:

(i) The role of social networks on the access to jobs on Bogota's labor market (Colombia); (ii) ICT uses and the dynamics of informal micro and small enterprises in Dakar (Senegal); (iii) The rise of middle classes in developing countries.

Dominique Darbon, Professor, Sciences Po Bordeaux



Dominique Darbon est professeur de science politique à l'Institut d'études politiques de Bordeaux. Diplômé en science politique, en études africaines et en droit, ses principaux thèmes de recherche porte sur la réforme administrative, l'analyse des politiques publiques dans les pays africains, le management des administrations et les systèmes administratifs comparés, les transformations des structures sociales et l'émergence de capacités de marchés. Il est responsables du programme " classes moyennes africaines et mutations sociales dans les pays pauvres" (CRA, DAS; AFD) et du Working Package 4 " transferts

de normes et appropriations" de l'ANR APPI (politique publique du foncier et de l'eau en Afrique de l'Ouest) dirigé par Catherine Baron (sciences po Toulouse). Il gère le projet "politiques publiques et action publique dans les pays africains et les ESF". Ses enseignements portent sur l'analyse des politiques publiques, le management des administrations et les administrations comparée, la sociologie des organisations et du changement, la sociologie politique des pays africains.

Anda David, Research Officer, Agence Française de Développement



Anda David is an Economist at the French Development Agency (AFD) in charge of research projects on inequality, poverty and international migration. She completed her PhD at DIAL (University Paris Dauphine and IRD), specializing in development economics, with a focus on migration and the labor market in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. She did a post-doctorate at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, as part of a research project on return migration in a context of crisis. Her current research focuses on the impact of emigration on countries of origin, inequalities and social cohesion and aid effectiveness. In

connection with her research, Anda worked on the development of computable general equilibrium models for simulating the effects of migration policies and on migration impacts and profiles. Since 2004, she has worked regularly with various international organizations that are very active on these issues (OECD, ILO and the World Bank). Anda joined AFD's research division in December 2015 and she is the scientific coordinator of the EU Research Facility on Inequalities.

Florence de Bigault, Head of Francophone Cluster, Ipsos Sub Saharian Africa

Karim El Aynaoui, Managing Director, OCP Policy Center



Karim El Aynaoui is currently Managing Director of OCP Policy Center, a think tank based in Rabat. He also serves as advisor to the CEO and Chairman of OCP Group, a global leader in the phosphate sector. From 2005 to 2012, he worked at Bank Al-Maghrib, the Central Bank of Morocco. He was the Director of Economics and International Relations, where he provided strategic leadership in defining and supporting monetary policy analysis and strategy. He was also in charge of the Statistical and International Relations Divisions of the Central Bank, led the research division and was a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Before joining Bank Al-Maghrib, Karim El Aynaoui worked for eight years at the World Bank, both in its Middle Eastern and North Africa, and Africa regions as an economist. He has published papers, books and articles in scientific journals on macroeconomic issues in developing countries. Recently, he co-authored a book outlining a growth strategy for Morocco and was the guest editor of a special issue on food price volatility in Oxford Economic Papers. Karim El Aynaoui is a board member of the OCP Foundation, a member of the Strategic Advisory Board of the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri) and a member of the COP22 Scientific Committee. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Bordeaux, where he taught for three years courses in statistics and economics.

Thomas Gomart, Director, Ifri



Dr. Thomas Gomart is Director of Ifri. He previously was its Vice President for Strategic Development (2010-2015) and the director of its Russia/NIS Centre (2004-2013).

His academic and professional background has been closely related to post-Soviet space, but also to wider international issues (security, energy, and digital governance). As Researcher, he is currently working on Russia, digital governance, country risk, and think tanks.

He recently published "The Return of Geopolitical Risk - Russia, China and the United States", *Études de l'Ifri*, Apr. 2016; *Notre intérêt national*.

Quelle politique étrangère pour la France ?, (ed., with Thierry de Montbrial), Editions Odile Jacob, Jan. 2017; "Foreign Policy Challenges for the Next French President", (ed., with Marc Hecker), *Études de l'Ifri*, Apr. 2017, as well as « La France face aux trois grands (Etats-Unis, Chine et Russie) », *Revue des deux mondes*, septembre 2017.

Larbi Jaïdi, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center



Larabi Jaïdi is a former Professor at the Mohamed V University in Rabat-Agdal. His area of expertise includes Economic Policy, International Economic Relations (Europe and the Arab World) and Economy of the Regions. He is a founding Member of the *Centre Marocain de Conjoncture* and of the *Groupement d'Etudes et de Recherches sur la Méditerranée*. He is a Member of the Research Group within the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Networks. He has also acted as Adviser to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Economy and Finance. He is an independent Expert to the Moroccan Competition Council and the Moroccan Authority for the fight against Corruption. Mr. Jaïdi is a Member of the Adderrahim Bouabid Foundation Board (Body of Research-Action on matters relating to State Reform) and also acts as a Consultant to Moroccan and foreign entities. He is the author of various publications relating to economic and social development and to international economic relations.

Kenya

Yves Mintoogue, PhD Candidate, Sorbonne University – Paris 1



Yves Mintoogue est jeune chercheur en science politique à l'université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne et au Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique (CESSP). Il a été membre du groupe de recherche « Les Classes moyennes en Afrique » de LAM/Science Po Bordeaux de 2011 à 2013. C'est dans ce cadre qu'il a mené, en 2012, l'enquête sur laquelle s'appuie cette note. Lauréat de la Bourse « Mondialisation et Études culturelles » du Centre Pompidou en 2013, il a travaillé au service « Recherche et Mondialisation » de cette institution. Il a aussi été lauréat de la Bourse doctorale de la Fondation Martine Aublet (Musée du Quai Branly) pour l'année académique 2013-2014. Sa thèse en phase terminale porte sur les mobilisations populaires et la créativité politique durant la lutte d'indépendance au Cameroun (1945-1960).

Clélie Nallet, Research Fellow, Sub-Saharan Africa Center, Ifri



Clélie Nallet is a Research Fellow with the Sub-Saharan Africa Center at Ifri. Her research focuses on African socio-economic transformations and urban dynamics. She holds a PhD in political science from Sciences Po Bordeaux, where she devoted her thesis to the study of Ethiopian “middle classes”.

She has conducted numerous surveys on living standards and lifestyles, mainly in Addis Ababa, Niamey and Kinshasa.

Clélie is also an expert on issues related to the private sector in the South and was deputy editor in chief of Private Sector & Development magazine.

Dieter Neubert, Professor for Sociology of Development, Faculty for Cultural Sciences, University of Bayreuth



Abdallah Saaf, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center



Abdallah Saaf is a Professor of Political sciences at Mohamed V Rabat University, Director of the Center for Studies in Social Sciences Research (CERSS), Founder of the Moroccan Association of Political Science, as well as Director of the Abhath Review. Professor Saaf was a Member of the Commission in charge of revising the Constitution in July 2011, and Member of the Scientific Committee at the Global Forum for Humans rights. He is the former Minister of Education (1998-2004). Since 1995, Professor Saaf manages an annual publication called “Strategic Report of Morocco”.

Simone Schotte, Research Fellow, GIGA Institute of African Affairs



Simone Schotte is a doctoral Research Fellow at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies and a member of the Globalisation and Development (GlaD) research training group at the University of Göttingen. In her dissertation she investigates the economic and political role played by the new middle classes in emerging and developing countries with a focus on South Africa.

Abebe Shimeles, Director and Manager of the Development Research Division, African Development Bank



Abebe Shimeles is currently the acting Director and Manager of Development Research Division, African Development Bank. Previously Mr. Shimeles has worked for The World Bank, UNECA, ACTIONAID, and Addis Ababa University in different capacities. His recent research interest includes labour market integration, migration issues in Africa and impact evaluation of policy interventions. He holds a PhD in economics from University of Goteborg, MSC from Delhi School of Economics and undergraduate degree in economics from Addis Ababa University.

Alfredo Valladão, Professor, Sciences Po Paris & Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center



Alfredo Valladão is Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) of Sciences Po Paris. Alongside this position, he is the President of the Advisory Board of the EU-Brazil Association in Brussels, the Director of the Latin America Research Chair at CESEM-HEM, in Morocco, a Member of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR, and a columnist for Radio France International (RFI). He previously held a position as Director of the Mercosur Chair of Sciences Po (1999-2010), and he is the former Coordinator of the Working Group on EU-Mercosur Negotiations and of the International Conference of Forte Copacabana on European-South American Defense and Security Dialogue. Professor Valladão has published extensively on geopolitics, global economics, regional integration and trade negotiations, Brazil and Latin America. He holds a PhD in Political Sciences from Sciences Po Paris.