



## AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICTS FOR LANDFILLS ALLOCATION IN SENEGAL**

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### ABSTRACT:

Waste management policies in Senegal have been at the center of the political debate over the last two decades. Starting from the protests of the late 80s due to urban unhealthiness (Set-Setal), the birth of trash-labor unions in 2000 (SNTN) and the exponential growth of entrepreneurship based on recovery activities, coming to the contemporary "threat" of Mbeubeuss landfill, waste management entered clearly into the 'political field'. Waste itself may constitute the object of research, thanks to the encounter between the historical sociology (the process of subjectivation) and the material culture practices (J.F. Bayart, J.P. Warnier, 2004). The closure of Dakar landfill, which receives the garbage of the entire region since 1970, and the opening of a new treatment centre in Sindia, strongly supported by the state and local authorities and bankrolled by Apix and World Bank, points out the ambiguities and contradictions related to the public service delivery (waste management and landfill allocation) with which the state has to deal . If on one hand the recovers of Mbeubeuss (which live and work inside it) contest the closure of the historic landfill because they would lose everything without a proper compensation, on the other the rural community of Sindia and Diass contest the opening since such decision was taken unilaterally without consulting the local population which, furthermore, will engage with the health and environmental consequences of this political choice.

Currently, the waste issue represents crucial political competition is played over the waste issue: the heterogeneity of the actors involved is clearly indicative of how many interests are at stake and how complex is the articulation of the political field within which the debate on waste is inscribed (decentralization, environmental and territorial defense, local communities autonomy, etc)

### AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

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