

Dr. Aurélien Mokoko Gampiot
16, rue Collange, 92300 Levallois, France
elikialuka@gmail.com, agampiot@crimson.ua.edu

SOCIOLOGIST OF RELIGIONS

Research Interests

- 1 Christianity in Africa and the African Diaspora
- 2 Judaism and Black Jewish Studies
- 3 Francophone studies: Francophone African Literature

Teaching and Research Experiences : From 2000 to the present

-The Groupe de Sociologie des Religions et de la Laïcité (GSRL UMR 8582 EPHE-CNRS), Sorbonne University: Docteur associé, sociology of African religions and the African diaspora.

-Kent University, United Kingdom, Associate Researcher: In charge of a research project on urbanization. in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, aiming to assess the impact of faith-based and secular NGOs working for development in matters of health and education.

-The Capitol School, Alabama's International School (Tuscaloosa, AL): French instructor, teaching French as a second language and French culture to middle and high school students.

Duties and Responsibilities: communication and interpersonal skills, interaction with students, parents, other teachers, administrators, and other school personnel.

- University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, AL): French Department: French instructor, teaching a graduate course on African Francophone Literature.

Duties and Responsibilities: In charge of informal meetings of students, holding conferences.

- Nursing School (Institut de Formation en Soins Infirmiers Franco-Britannique), Levallois-Perret; Hôpital Foch, Suresnes; GRETA (Val de Seine): Professor of sociology of health and sociology of the family at undergraduate level. Supervisor of hospital internships and master's theses.

- Women's studies Department, University of New Hampshire (Durham, NH): Visiting Scholar, fieldwork on Black Jews in the Boston area, giving seminars upon invitation by colleagues.

Duties and Responsibilities: Participation in staff meetings.

- University Paris Ouest Nanterre: In charge of supervision of exams, inquiries and follow-up of former students (Department of Student Affairs).

Duties and Responsibilities: Supervision of exams, facilitating communication between students or former students and the Department of Student Affairs, by holding conferences, telephoning, and sending written communications.

Languages

French (native competence); Congolese languages: Lingala, Kikongo (native competence); English (Advanced Level).

Education

University of Rennes 2 (France), 2003: Ph. D. in sociology, under the supervision of Prof. Pierre-Jean Simon. Title of the dissertation: *Le Kimbanguisme de la terre d'origine à la terre d'accueil* (Kimbanguism from the African homeland to the host society.) Degree earned *summa cum laude*.

University of Rennes 2 (France), 1997: Master in Human Sciences: university of Rennes 2, under the supervision of Prof. Pierre-Jean Simon. Thesis: *Le Kimbanguisme en France. Réflexion sur une communauté noire d'origine congolaise* (Kimbanguism in France: Reflections on a Black community from the Congo.) Degree earned *summa cum laude*.

University of Rennes 2 (France), 1997: B.A. in Sociology earned *magna cum laude*.

Thesis : *La vie étudiante en résidence universitaire à Rennes* (Student life in dormitories in Rennes.)

University of Brazzaville Congo Brazzaville) 1991-1993: B.A. in Social Sciences earned *magna cum laude*.

Participation in Research Programs and Institutions

2014-2018 : **GSRL**: Fieldwork and conferences on Black Jews in the greater Paris area, as part of the project "Judaïsmes contemporains" led by Dr Sophie Nordmann and the project "Dieu Change à Paris, mutations religieuses et laïques en région parisienne" led by Dr. Sébastien Fath and Prof. Martine Cohen.

2008: Fieldwork on urban life in the city of La Courneuve, in collaboration with Dr. David Garbin, Kent University and Dr. Gareth Millington, University of York. This fieldwork led to the

publication of “Territorial stigma and the politics of resistance in Parisian banlieue” in *Urban Studies*, 49, 2012. The project was renewed in July-October 2017.

2011: Member of ISSAJ (International Society for the Study of African Jewry), London, UK.

2011: Member of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), USA.

2007-2008 : Post-doctoral scholar at the Groupe sociétés religions et Laïcité (GSRL-CNRS).

2007-present : Member of the Institute of Signifying Scriptures (California, USA).

2006-present : Member of the ISSR (International Society for the Sociology of Religions).

2004-present : Member of the Association pour la promotion de la Littérature Africaine (APELA), Université de Metz, France.

Books:

Kimbanguism: An African understanding of the Bible, Signifying (on) Scriptures series, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2017. Available in Open Access at the following URL: <http://www.oapen.org/search?identifier=627658>

Kimbanquisme et Identité noire, (Kimbanguism and Blackness) Paris, France : L'Harmattan, 2004. Book reviewed in a very detailed article (in French) published on the online review *Religioscope* in the following webpage: http://religion.info/french/articles/article_260.shtml

Les Kimbanguistes en France, Expression messianique d'une Eglise afro chrétienne en contexte migratoire. (Kimbanguists in France. The Messianic Expression of an African Initiated Church in a Transnational Context), Paris, France: L'Harmattan, 2010. Book reviewed in the *Canadian Journal of African Studies*: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00083968.2014.893959>

Chapters in Peer-reviewed Collective Works:

« La Fédération internationale des Juifs noirs et Ami-Farafina », in *Atlas des minorités religieuses*, edited by Anne-Laure Zwilling and Joëlle Allouche-Benayoun, forthcoming in 2017.

“The Colour of Judaism: Black Jews in France”, in *The Shadow of Moses: New Jewish movements in Africa and The Diaspora*, eds. Daniel Lis, William Miles, Tudor Parfitt, Los Angeles: TSEHAI/Loyola Marymount University, 2016.

“Reading Black Identity: Kimbanguism and the Bible”, in *Refractions of the Spiritual*, edited by Vincent Wimbush, London and New York: Routledge, 2016.

“Inspired Hymns as a Belief System in the Kimbanguist Church: A Revelation of the Meaning of Blackness, in *Churches, Blackness, and contested multiculturalism: Europe, Africa, and North America*, edited by R. Drew Smith and William Ackah, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

“L'éthique Kimbanguiste et l'esprit de développement”, in *Simon Kimbangu le prophète de la libération de l'homme noir*, edited by Elikia M'Bokolo and Jacob Kivilu Sabakinu. Vols. 1 and 2. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2014.

“The Transnational Dynamics of Black Jews in France” in *Imagining the Religious 'Other': The Public Face of African New Religious Movements in Diaspora*, edited by Afe Adogame, Ashgate/Inform Series on Minority Religions and Spiritual Movements, 2014.

“La quête des origines chez les Juifs noirs en France”, in *Mondes Séfarade, Proche-Orient et Africain*, edited by Joëlle Allouche-Benayoun, 2014.

“Being a Black Convert to Judaism in France” in *Religious Conversions in the Mediterranean World*, edited by Olivier Roy and Nadia Marzouki (“Islam and Nationalism” series, Palgrave-MacMillan) 2013, pp.115-138.

“Les Juifs africains et antillais en région parisienne”, in *Religions et frontières*, edited by Fatiha Kaouès, Chrystal Vanel, Vincent Vilmain and Aurélien Fauches, Paris: Editions du CNRS, 2012, pp.131-141.

“Kimbanguism as a migrants' religion in Europe”, in *Christianity in Africa and the African Diaspora. The Appropriation of a Scattered Heritage*, edited by Afe Adogame, Roswith Gerloff, Klaus Hock, London/New York: Continuum international, 2008, pp. 304-313.

“Religion et politique dans les nationalismes congolais”, in *Nationalismes et régionalismes. Des Nations avec ou sans Etat*, edited by Michel Feith, Cahiers du CRINI (Centre de Recherche sur les identités nationales et l'Interculturalité, Université de Nantes), 2005, pp. 221-229.

Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals:

“Être kimbanguiste et agir au féminin”, in "Penser, créer, agir les féminismes dans le champ religieux" *Religiologiques*, edited by Roxanne Marcotte (UQAM), forthcoming in 2019.

“Black Judaism in France: An Example of the Intersection Between Religion and Ethnicity”, in *Contemporary Jewry*, Vol 36, Special Issue No. 3, “Transformation and Evolution in the Jewish World: Judaisms and Judaicities in Contemporary Societies”, edited by Joëlle Allouche and Harriet Hartman, 2017. (<http://rdcu.be/tGYG>).

“Kimbanguism: An African initiated church”, in *Scriptura*, [S.l.], v. 113, p. 1-11, April 2014. ISSN 2305-445X.: <<http://scriptura.journals.ac.za/pub/article/view/101>>. Date accessed: 16 May. 2014. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.7833/113-0-101>.

“Les Kimbanguistes en Europe: d'une génération à l'autre”, in *Archives des Sciences sociales des Religions* n°143, July-September 2008, pp. 111-128.

“Harrisme et Kimbanguisme: deux églises afro-chrétiennes en Ile-de-France”, in *Hommes et Migrations* n°1239, September-October 2002, pp.54-66.

“Le Kimbanguisme en France : un exemple du rapport religion/ethnicité et d’intégration d’une église indépendante africaine en France”, *Cahiers du CERIEM* n°6, December 2000. Republished in *L’Arbre à Palabres* n°10, January 2002.

Lectures and Conferences

20-21 February 2019: “Experiences among Black Jews in France: From Christian Identities to Jewishness”, to be given at the “New Judaisms, New Diasporas, New Perspectives on Jewish Identity in the Twenty-First Century” International Conference, organized by Dr. Edith Bruder and Prof. Magdel Le Roux at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

21-23 June 2018: “Religion and the Alter-City: Faith-Based Urbanization and Infrastructural Lives in African Contexts”, sponsored by the Religion and Urbanization in Africa Project (University of Kent) at the University of Nigeria, Lagos.

28 March 2018 : “[Messianisme congolais : espérance et fin des temps](#)”, given at Centre civique d’étude du fait religieux ([CCEFR](#)), [Montreuil](#).

8 March 2018 : “ Être juif et noir en France”, given at the one-day workshop “Universalités et particularités en mondes juifs” on “Être juif et noir en France, en Afrique, en Israël”, organized by Prof. Sophie Nordmann, GSRL Paris.

3-7 July 2017: “Les Juifs noirs au sein de la diaspora juive”, given at the 33rd conference of I SSR (International Society for the Sociology of Religion) at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

26-30 June 2017: “Black identity and religions in France”, given at the 7th Transatlantic Roundtable on Race and Religion: “Religion, Race, and Contested Globalization”, Howard University, Blackburn Center, Washington, DC, USA.

2-7 May 2017: “Mediumship in Kimbanguist inspired hymns”, given at the CASCA/IUAES Congress, Ottawa, Canada.

January, 12-15, 2016: “Simon Kimbangu: A Black Messiah or a Congolese Hero?” given at the conference “Heroines and heroes of the back to Africa movements, Pan Africanism, African nationalism and global Africanism: Their philosophies, activities and legacies” at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

November 10-11, 2015: “The Emergence of Black Jews within the Jewish diaspora in France,” given at the International Conference of ISSAJ (International Society for the Study of African Judaism), “The Surge of Judaism across Africa, the African Diaspora and Asia in the Twenty-first century,” organized by Dr. Edith Bruder and held at the Museum of Jewish History and Art, Paris, France.

November 4-6, 2015: “Kimbanguism and the African American Diaspora,” International Conference, “Pan-Africanism and Negritude: Dialogues between Africa and the African Diaspora (Past, Present, Future),” Howard University, Washington, DC, USA.

July 2-5, 2015: “African Judaism : a case of religion and ethnicity,” presented at the 33rd conference of the ISSR (International Society for the Sociology of Religions), held at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

August 24-28, 2015: « Etre kimbanguiste et agir au féminin » (the empowerment of women in Kimbanguism), presented at the international conference “Penser Créer, Agir le féminisme dans les champs religieux”, held at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Montréal, Quebec.

October 3-7, 2012: “Kimbanguism: An African initiated church. Popular and emerging theologies,” presented at the 2nd Colloquium “Voice and Voicelessness : Religion and Theology beyond the Ivory Tower,” University of South Africa (UNISA), The Institute for Diasporan and African Culture (TIDAC), and Drew University; at Berkeley College New York, USA.

July 15-18, 2012: “The quest of Origins among Black Jews in France,” at the 32nd IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Hotel Marriott Paris Rive gauche, Paris, France.

June 20-21, 2012: “The Transnational Dynamics of Black Jews in France,” at the 2012 ISSAJ Conference “Black Judaism: 21st Century Perspectives”, organized by Dr. Edith Bruder at the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

May 29-30, 2012: “Inspired Hymns as a Belief System in the Kimbanguist Church: A Revelation of the Meaning of Blackness,” on the Conference “Black Church Activism and Contested Multiculturalism in Europe, North America, and South Africa” organized by Drs. William Ackah (Birkbeck,) R. Drew Smith (Morehouse College,) and Rothney Tshaka (University of South Africa) at The Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, University of London, UK.

November 3-6, 2011: “Simon Kimbangu’s Pan-African Prophecies”, at the Sixth biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Pittsburgh, PA, USA: Theme of the conference: “African Liberation and Black Power: The Challenges of Diasporic Encounters Across Time, Space, and Imagination”, organizers: Dr. Leslie Alexander and Prof. Michael Gomez.

July 24-28, 2011: “Kimbanguist Ethics and the Spirit of Development”, paper presented at the International Conference on *Simon Kimbangu (1887-1951)* organized by Prof. Elikia M’Bokolo at the Centre Kimbanguiste d’Accueil et de Conférences, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

June 30-July 3, 2011: Three papers given at the 31st Annual Conference of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR), Sciences Po Aix, Aix-en-Provence, France: “The Kimbanguist Diaspora and the Development of EJCSK Facilities in the Democratic Republic of Congo”, “Messianism and Politics in Congo”, “The African and West Indian Experience of Judaism in France.” Theme of the conference: “Religion and Economy in a Global World”.

March 17-19, 2011: European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Florence, Italy: “Being Jewish and Black in France.” Theme of the conference: “Converts as Commuters: Conversions in the Mediterranean World”, organizers: Prof. Olivier Roy and Dr. Nadia Marzouki.

April 08, 2010: Center for African and African diaspora studies, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta: “African Initiated Churches in Africa and the Diaspora: A Black God in the Service of the Black Man” (co-presented with Cécile Coquet-Mokoko, Ph.D.) upon invitation by Dr. Rosa Bobia.

February 6, 2010: Annual conference of Association of Foreign Language Teachers (AATF), Bevill Center, University of Alabama at Huntsville Campus. Paper on “La place de l’Afrique francophone dans l’enseignement du français” (Teaching Students of French About Francophone Africa).

July 27-31, 2009, 30th Conference of the International society for the Sociology of Religions (ISSR), Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Paper on “Les bouleversements sociaux et politiques vus par les Kimbanguistes”.

April 22, 2009, Emory university. Paper on “Race and Christianity Revisited by an African Messianic Church : Kimbanguism in Africa and Europe” (co-presented with Cécile CoquetMokoko, Ph.D.) upon invitation by Prof. Theophus Smith.

April 19, 2009, Alliance française of Montgomery. Paper on “Métissage et Mixité en France” (Multiracialism and Social Mixing in France), upon invitation by Dr. Pamela Gay-White, Alabama State University.

April 8, 2009, University of Alabama, Religion in Culture Lunchtime Discussion of the Religious Studies Department. Paper on “An African Messianic Church in a Diasporic Context: Kimbanguism in the Congo and Europe”.

February 7, 2009, Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers' annual conference. Paper on “The situation of immigrants and their descendants in French inner cities.”

Radio Interviews:

July 7 and 14, 2010 : Interviews in the show *Mémoires d'un continent*. Title: “Les mythes fondateurs du Kimbanguisme.” Host : Prof. Elikia M’Bokolo. Producers : Isabelle Godineau and Elikia M’Bokolo, Radio France Internationale (RFI), Paris. The two interviews of 20 minutes each may be downloaded by clicking on the URLs below:

<http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20100807-simon-kimbangu-mythes-fondateurs-kimbanguisme>

<http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20100814-kimbanguistes-france>

August 22, 2010 : Interview in the show *Religions du monde*. Title : “Cinquantenaire des indépendances et religions africaines. ” Host: Corinne Mandjou. Producers: [Geneviève Delrue](#) and Corinne Mandjou, Radio France Internationale (RFI), Paris, 15 minutes.

<http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20100822-1-le-centenaire-mere-teresa-independances-religionsafricaines>

April 18, 2006: Interview in the show *Fréquence Paris Plurielle*. Title: “Kimbanguisme et identité noire.” Hosts : Paul Heutching and Zunga Mbasi, Paris, 15 minutes.

September 2005: Interview in the show *Afrique-midi*. Title: “Kimbanguisme et identité noire.” Hosts : Madeleine Mukamabano and Laurent Sadoux, Radio RFI MONDE, Paris, 20 minutes.