



Vortrag im Rahmen des Afrikakolloquiums

8. Mai 2013

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(IFRI, Paris)

Waste management in Accra (Ghana) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso): the political trends behind a technical issue

Accra and Ouagadougou have been “decentralized” during the 1990s. This process gave more powers and responsibilities to these capital cities. In parallel, waste management became a crucial issue for the local government because reforms were necessary to ensure the population’s health and because, politically, local governments cannot afford to let “their” city be dirty. They rather have to show that they control their territory and are able to manage local issues.

The waste management reforms implemented in Accra and Ouagadougou are very similar, but their results differ greatly. This presentation aims to understand why the implementation of these reforms appeared to be successful in Ouagadougou, and difficult in Accra. My hypothesis is that, while these reforms are presented as a technical issue, their implementation follows political agendas and is deeply embedded in local political culture.

The presentation will highlight these trends and try to show that, even if their outputs are unexpected, these reforms contribute to create a “local” way of fashioning politics and can strengthen the decentralization process.

Hélène Quénot-Suarez is a research fellow at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI). She is part of the institute’s Sub-Saharan Africa Program. She holds a PhD in Political Science on “The Building of a Local Political Field in Ouagadougou and Accra”. She focused on reforms with regard to solid waste management.

She spent about two years in Ghana and Burkina Faso for her research and also lived in western Kenya.

**Ort: Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften,
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 410**

Zeit: 18.00 Uhr

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!