

BERNY SÈBE

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EMPLOYMENT

Since Sept. 2008 ***Department of French and 'Culture, Society and Communication'
Programme, Centre for European Languages and Cultures, University of Birmingham,***
lecturer in colonial and post-colonial studies.

Oct. 2007 - Sept. 2008 ***Department of History, Durham University,*** fixed-term lecturer in
imperial and African history.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Jan. 2003-Sept. 2007 ***Keble College and Faculty of Modern History, University of
Oxford***

- D.Phil in Modern History - Thesis title: "*Celebrating*" *British and French imperialism: The Making of Colonial Heroes Acting in Africa (1870-1939)*. **Supervised** by Dr John G Darwin (Nuffield College). Submitted 21 June 2007 - *Viva voce* examination passed on 11 September 2007 (examiners: Prof. Judith M. Brown and Prof. John M. Mackenzie).

- **Funded** by the **AHRC**, by an **Entente Cordiale Scholarship**, by the Keble College Association (**Open scholarship**) and by a **Beit Fund Research Scholarship**.

- Research focusses on the individuals who explored, conquered or administered vast shares of African territory on behalf of or in connection with Britain and France, the two major imperial powers of the XIXth century. It intends to show how British and French imperial heroes were 'selected', constructed, packaged and promoted; in so doing it delivers a detailed picture of the ideologies that lay behind European imperialism. In addition, it reveals the political, commercial and individual interests that supported imperial heroes.

- *Sept. 2002-Jan. 2003* ***Keble College and Faculty of Modern History, University of
Oxford***

- M. St. in Historical Research (transfer to Probationer Research Student in Jan. 2003).

- 2001-Sept. 2002 *University of Alicante, Spain*
(visiting student from the *University of Aix-en-Provence, France*)
 - *Maîtrise* (fourth year of Higher Education) - Dissertation title: *The Legend of Ma-al-Aynîn in Spain and in France: an Image under Colonial Influence.* (130 pages)
 - Supervised by Prof. Jean-Louis Triaud (*Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme*)
 - Research supported by an Erasmus award.
 - *Maîtrise* from sending institution, **University of Aix-en-Provence**, mention “Très Bien” (**First Class**).

- 2000-2001 *University of York, UK* (visiting student from the *University of Aix-en-Provence*)
 - Funding by an Erasmus award, and awards from the *Conseil Général des Bouches du Rhône* and the *Conseil Régional Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur*.
 - *Licence* (BA) from sending institution, **University of Aix-en-Provence**, mention “Très Bien” (**First Class**)

- 1998-2000 *‘Classe préparatoire à l’Ecole Normale Supérieure de Fontenay Saint-Cloud’*
 - Diplomas (*D.E.U.G.*) in History, Geography, and Philosophy from the University of Aix-en-Provence, and Literature from the University of La Garde. *Equivalence D.E.U.G.* in History and Geography from the *Ecole Normale Supérieure de Fontenay Saint-Cloud*.
 - (Admitted in September 1999 at the *Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris* - admission declined).

ACADEMIC LECTURES

- Forthcoming: ‘Under Livingstone’s shadow? The making of French imperial heroes under the Third Republic’, Modern French Seminar, **Institute of Historical Research, University of London**, 2 February 2009.
 - ‘Imperial confrontation: the “English argument” of Third-Republic colonial advocates’, **Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of French History (SSFH)**, Aberystwyth, 4 July 2008
 - ‘La gloire des empires français et britannique : les représentations des héros coloniaux en Afrique (1870-1939)’, **Centenary of the Franco-British Exhibition (London 1908) International Conference, Arts et cultures au tournant du siècle, Institut Français du Royaume-Uni (IFRU)**, London, 25-27 June 2008.

- ‘Aventurières et voyageuses en Afrique de l’Ouest’, **Colloque international Lucie Cousturier, Les tirailleurs sénégalais et la question coloniale**, Espace culturel de Port-Fréjus, Fréjus, 13-14 June 2008.
- ‘Perspectives on European sea-borne imperialisms: the British and French experiences’, **Conference “Echoes of Imperialism: Re-Thinking European Colonialisms”**, **University of Oxford**, 9 May 2008.
- ‘British and French popular culture of Empire’, Departmental Seminar, **University of Durham**, 20 February 2008.
- ‘Explorateurs et conquérants du Sahara’, **Villa aurélienne**, Fréjus, 20 November 2007.
- ‘L’inscription des héros coloniaux dans le quotidien français et britannique’, **Marc Bloch Centre for Social Sciences** (in partnership with the **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**), Berlin, 6 July 2007.
- ‘*Celebrating* British and French imperialism: The Making of Colonial Heroes acting in Africa, 1870-1939’, Imperial History Seminar, **Institute of Historical Research, University of London**, 5 February 2007.
- ‘Icons of Empire: British and French Imperial Heroes, 1870-1930’, 1st Conference in Imperial and Commonwealth History, **Sheffield Univeristy**, 25 May 2006.
- ‘Spreading universalities: British and French imperial heroes, 1850-1940’, Sixth Harvard Graduate Student Conference, **Harvard University**, 17-18 March 2006.
- ‘The Making of the Kitchener Legend: George Warrington Steevens and *With Kitchener to Khartum*’, Graduate Workshop in Imperial and Commonwealth History, **Oxford University**, 17 May 2005.
- ‘L’appel du désert’, **Ecole Supérieure de Commerce**, Clermont-Ferrand, 12 May 2005.
- ‘The Making of British and French Imperial Heroes (1870-1930)’, Cambridge World History Workshop, St Catharine’s College, **Cambridge University**, 3 February 2005.
- ‘Imperial marketing and *entente coloniale*: The making of French colonial heroes (1870-1930)’, **Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies, Second annual conference, London, Institut français**, 26-27 November 2004.
- ‘National hero or partisan icon ? Major Marchand, Fashoda and the Nationalists, 1890-1930’, Graduate Workshop in Imperial History, Faculty of Modern History, **Oxford University**, 12 November 2003.
- ‘Celebrating British and French Imperial Heroes, 1870-1930’, Commonwealth History Seminar, Faculty of Modern History, **Oxford University**, 7 March 2003.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ORGANISED

- Co-convenor with Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch and Dr John Darwin (History Faculty,

Oxford) and Dr Kalypso Nicolaidis (European Studies Centre and St Antony's College, Oxford) of the international and inter-disciplinary conference '**Echoes of Imperialism: Re-Thinking European Colonialisms**', 9-10 May 2008, Faculty of Modern History, **Oxford University**, in partnership with the **European Studies Centre (Oxford University)** and the **Maison Française d'Oxford**.

- Co-convenor with Dr Cherry Leonardi of the **Durham Colonial and Post-Colonial Centre Seminar series** for Epiphany and Easter terms 2008.

- Organiser of the Second Annual Summit of the Franco-British Student Alliance on *Higher Education in Global Competition*, London and Oxford, 14-16 December 2006 (more details p. 5).

- Co-convenor with Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch (St-Cross College, Oxford) of the **Commonwealth History Research Seminar** for Hilary term 2006, Faculty of Modern History, **Oxford University**.

- Chairman of the **Graduate Workshop in Imperial and Commonwealth History**, supported by the Faculty of Modern History and the Beit Fund (Oxford University), from 2003 to mid-2006.

- Post-graduate helper for the conference **Paris and the Right in the Twentieth Century** organised by Dr Jessica Irons-Wardhaugh (Christ Church, Oxford), 8-9 July 2005, and for the conference **Spoken French in the Twenty-First Century** organised by Dr Michaël Abecassis, Dr Laure Ayosso and Dr Elodie Vialleton (Oxford University, Sub-Faculty of French), 23-24 June 2005.

TEACHING

- Department of French and 'Culture, Society and Communication (CSC)' programme, Centre for European Languages and Cultures, University of Birmingham: in charge of teaching a variety of collaborative modules to undergraduates. In French, I teach prose to fourth-year students and I contribute to the teaching of the 'Cinema, Media and Visual Culture' module. For CSC, I teach on the First Year modules 'Media, Culture and Communication' and 'Cultural Analysis: Media and Cultural Research Methods', as well as on the Second Year modules 'Cultural Theory: Analysis and Application' and 'European Media Culture'. I convene with Dr Joanne Sayner the module 'Media, Culture and Communication' and I co-ordinate the Year Abroad dissertation students for CSC.

- Department of History of the University of Durham: in charge of two undergraduate modules:

- 'Experiencing Empire: Britain, Imperialism and the World, 1880-1997', first-year module, 20 lectures, 6 seminars. (ca. 100 students registered).

- 'The Making of Modern Africa: Change and Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1880-2000', second-year module, 20 lectures, 6 seminars. (ca. 60 students registered).

- Dissertation supervisor for third-year students.

- Tutor for the **Oxford Programme for Undergraduate Studies (OPUS)** and the **Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford Programme (SCIO, Wycliffe Hall)**: tutorials on *The British and French Empires 1880-1960*, as well as *Europe and Africa*. September-December 2007.
- Tutor for the **Oxford Programme for Undergraduate Studies (OPUS)**: course on *The End of the British Empire*, January-April 2007.
- ‘*Greater France: A History of French colonial expansion and its consequences on Modern France*’, **Deutsches Historisches Institut in Paris / University of Zürich**, Master in Applied History, 23 March 2006.
- Graduate assistant. Special Subject class in French history ‘France from the Popular Front to the Liberation’ run by Prof. Robert Gildea and Dr Martin Conway (Merton and Balliol College, Oxford University), Michaelmas term 2005.
- ‘Why study the Commonwealth and Imperialism in an age of globalisation’, Faculty of Modern History, **Oxford University Sutton Trust**, Professional Development Week for Teachers, 7 July 2005.
- Co-examiner with Dr Michaël Abecassis (Wadham College, Oxford University). Examinations in French history and culture taken by second and third-year students, April 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.
- Private tuition: French language and European and French history on various occasions.
- I have attended the *Tutorial teaching skills* and *Teaching skills* courses organised by the Modern History Faculty and Institute for the Advancement of University Learning, Oxford University.

PUBLICATIONS

- ‘From Thoissey to the Capital via Fashoda: Major Marchand, partisan icon of the Right in Paris’, in J. Irons (ed.), *Paris and the Right in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2006).
- ‘Comment écrire l'histoire contemporaine en huit questions ?’, *Vingtième Siècle*, No. 92, Oct.-Dec. 2006. (With other authors).
- Forthcoming: ‘Colonial celebrities in popular culture: Heroes of the British and French empires in the media, 1850-2000’, in R. Clarke (ed.), *Celebrity Colonialism* (forthcoming: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008).
- Forthcoming: ‘Aventurières et voyageuses en Afrique de l’Ouest’, in R. Little (ed.), *Actes du Colloque international Lucie Cousturier, Les tirailleurs sénégalais et la question coloniale*, (forthcoming: L’Harmattan (Paris), 2008).
- Two journal articles accepted for publication:
 - ‘In the shadow of the Algerian war: the United States and the Common

Organisation of Saharan Regions/*Organisation commune des régions sahariennes* (OCRS), 1957-62'. *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*.

- 'Porte-drapeaux de l'Empire : la promotion des héros coloniaux français et britanniques de la conquête de l'Afrique à la Seconde Guerre mondiale'. *Synergies Royaume-Uni et Irlande*.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

• I have travelled throughout Africa and Europe since I was a baby. From the age of nine years, I began to be initiated by my father, the French photographer Alain Sèbe, into professional photography and publishing (through the publishing house 'Alain Sèbe Images', dedicated to the creation of high-quality large format picture books on the Sahara).

• 1994: author of the texts of the book *Une traversée du désert* (about the Algerian Sahara)

• 1996: co-author of the book *Redjem, Sahara garamante* (about the Libyan Sahara) (translated into German : *Faszination der Libyshen Sahara*, Schillinger Verlag)

• 1998: Article published in the review *Le Saharien* : 'À l'École du Sahara' (about my childhood experience of the Sahara desert).

• 1999: co-author of the book *Alain Sèbe : l'image du Sahara* (recounting the career and experience of multiple award-winning desert-photographer Alain Sèbe from 1966 to 1999).

Author of a second article in the review *Le Saharien* : 'Reconnaissance en Égypte'.

Exhibition of a series of pictures of the Sahara desert at the Institute of the Arab World, Paris.

• 2000: co-author of the book *Redjem, Libye des grands espaces* (about the Libyan desert).

Exhibition of a series of pictures of the Libyan desert at the Institute of the Arab World, Paris.

Author of an article for the collection of essays entitled *Brèves de désert* (Ed. de la Boussole)

• 2001: co-author of the book *Saharas, entre Atlantique et Nil* (Ed. du Chêne - Hachette), encompassing five Saharan countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. Translated into German in 2002 (*Sahara : Unbekannte Wüste vom Atlantik bis zum Nil*, Belser Verlag) and into English in 2003 (*Sahara. The Atlantic to the Nile*, Hachette Illustrated).

• 2003: co-ordinator and co-author of the catalogue for the exhibition *Saharas d'Algérie* held at the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris (about the Algerian Sahara).

• 2004: contributor to Chris Scott's handbook *Sahara Overland* (2nd edition).

Speaker at the ‘Desert and Savanna’ workshop, *Explore 2004*, Royal Geographical Society (20 November 2004)

- 2005: contributor to and co-ordinator of a new book on the Tibesti Mountains (North of Chad), *Tibesti : Sahara interdit*, which includes essays by film director and photographer Raymond Depardon, archaeologist Prof. Henri-Jean Hugot and ethnologist Dr Philippe Frey.

- 2005: consultant for Dorling Kindersley publishing (London) for their new children’s book *24 hours Desert*, to be published in June 2006.

- 2005: 30-minute interview between Berny Sèbe and Dr Michaël Abecassis featured as a bonus on the DVD *L’Esclave blanc*, shot by Jean-Paul Paulin in Italian Somaliland in 1934 (new version released by Les Documents Cinématographiques, Paris).

- 2007: Author of two articles in the Royal Geographical Society’s *Geographical*, and in *Ship Management International*, about the ships' graveyard of Nouadhibou, Mauritania.

- Since 1997, I have lectured about the Sahara desert in various places (Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), ‘Explore’ Expedition Seminar organised by the Expeditions Advisory Center of the RGS (with IBG), Bordeaux Book Fair, Institute of the Arab World, Paris, Oxford University Exploration Club, etc.)

OTHER INFORMATION

- In September 2004, I led the **Oxford University expedition to Mauritania**, the aim of which was to study the shipwrecks in and around the port city of Nouadhibou. The object of this expedition was to make as complete as possible a visual record of the ships’ graveyard before it disappears as a consequence of an EU-funded clearance programme, and to investigate the cultural and economic roles the wrecks play in the lives of the local population. In so doing, the expedition also investigated the development of this former French fishing outpost. I presented the expedition’s results at the Royal Geographical Society, on the occasion of the ‘In the Field’ event (19 November 2004), and it also gave rise to a photographic exhibition at the Maison Française d’Oxford (June and July 2006).

- In 2006, I was the Executive President of the **Franco-British Student Alliance**, which brings together the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford and the London School of Economics and Political Science (on the British side) and HEC (top business School), the École Polytechnique and Sciences-Po (on the French side), under the joint patronage of Her Majesty The Queen and the President of the French Republic. I was also the President of the Oxford FBSA committee, which was in charge of organising the second annual Summit on

Higher Education in Global Competition, which took place in London and Oxford, 14-16 December 2006.

• I took part in the '**Second Decolonisation Seminar**' (5 July - 6 August 2007) at the **Library of Congress** under the aegis of the American Historical Association. This seminar was led by Wm. Roger Louis, Kerr Professor of British History at the University of Texas at Austin. This stay also allowed me to undertake archival research at the American National Archives in view of the publication of an article entitled 'In the shadow of the Algerian war: the United States and the *Organisation Commune des Régions Sahariennes* (O CRS), 1957-62', which is now under consideration by the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*.

• **Excellent IT Skills.** Experienced user of Microsoft Word , Excel & PowerPoint, Quark XPress, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop & In Design, Dreamweaver MX. Experienced in internet academic research. Experienced at developing websites (see www.alainsebeimages.com)

LANGUAGES

- English (fluent, six years spent in Britain)
- Spanish (fluent, one year spent in Spain)
- French (mother tongue)
- Italian (spoken)

MEMBERSHIPS OR POSITIONS HELD

- Fellow of the **Royal Geographical Society**, London.
- Member of the **American Historical Association**, Washington DC.
- Former Chairman of the Graduate Workshop in Imperial and Commonwealth History, **Oxford University**, Modern History Faculty, former D.Phil representative on the board of the **Graduate Joint Consultative Committee**, Oxford University, Modern History Faculty, and former representative on the External Advisory Panel of the Modern History Faculty of the University of Oxford.
- Member of the *Centre d'Études sur l'Histoire du Sahara* (Center for Saharan Studies), Paris.
- Member of *La Rahla, Amicale des Sahariens* (Association of Sahara travellers and French officers who served in the Sahara), Paris.

DESCRIPTION OF DOCTORAL RESEARCH

My doctoral research (completed in June 2007) sought to analyse and document the ways in which British and French imperial heroes involved in the exploration, conquest or administration of Africa between 1870 and 1930 were selected, created and packaged in their

respective countries. The representations of these envoys of the Western civilisation (who consisted mainly of explorers, missionaries, officers and administrators) reveal how Britain and France conceptualised their imperial role in Africa and how they projected their civilising mission. This work includes an analysis of the new media and journalistic trends, improved printing techniques and new pictorial means which were used in order to promote in the metropolis the reputations attached to imperial heroes. It also uncovers the networks of patronage, promotion and diffusion of cultural products that informed the perception of the Empire at home.

The analysis of these various factors helps historians establish an ‘epistemology of imperialism’ through the case-study of colonial heroes. Outstanding individuals conquering little-known African lands for the good of their homeland represent the last instalment of the enduring tradition of Victorian heroes, and therefore deserve particular attention. The Indian Mutiny had provided grounds for new heroic accounts in the 1860s, with military figures like Sir John Nicholson, John and Henry Lawrence and above all Sir Henry Havelock elevated to mythic status. Then Africa, by far the most mysterious continent by the early 1870s, provided the appropriate mixture of remoteness, danger and ‘savagery’ to enhance the unique appeal of either bold, daring and dashing military heroes, or simple, altruistic and exemplary religious figures.

In their attempt to carve out large shares of the African continent for themselves, Britain and France sought moral reasons to justify their endeavour. Social Darwinism was indeed a convenient rationale, and heroes embodied the racial superiority of their fellow-countrymen. Those who brought the Union Jack to remote places were cheered in Britain, and the same happened in France to these few Frenchmen who unfolded the tricolour in the heart of swampy rainforests or inhospitable deserts. Red and pink surfaces were expanding quickly on African maps, representing respectively British and French colonies. Once back to their home countries (or after they had been killed in service), these standard bearers of the ‘civilising mission’ were widely celebrated. They gave rise to a series of cultural constructions reflecting the values and ideologies of the societies in which they were produced. They served to explain –and justify– the rise of the imperial state, personified national greatness and offered examples of self-sacrificing service.

My thesis (which I am currently revising for publication) offers the first historical analysis of the contemporary and posthumous discourses developed about British and French imperial heroes who acted in Africa, as well as the hidden mechanisms of hero-making which ensured their promotion to the public. It also produces new evidence about the reception of these heroes among metropolitan audiences.