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Regional Economic Communities and Democratic Consolidation in Africa: Contending Narratives of the role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)



By

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Room 482 (Discovery Centre), MacOdrum Library,
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Abstract

While there are many reasons for the dynamics of democratic experiences on the continent, the capacity of the state and the nature of politics were key critical factors. This research seeks to explain the causes and processes of varied outcomes of democratic reforms in West Africa and the roles of the Economic Community of West African States in deepening democracy in the sub-region. Following the third wave of democracy (Huntington, 1991, Diamond, 1996) many countries in West Africa during the 1990s transitioned from autocratic regimes into democratic regimes, at least in terms of formally instituting competitive multiparty electoral systems. The talk will focus on the role of the Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) in promoting democracy in the sub-region.

About

Samuel Oloruntoba is an Associate Professor and the Coordinator of the Research cluster on Innovation and Developmental Regionalism at the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa. He obtained PhD in Political Science with specialization in International Political Economy of Trade from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He was previously a Visiting Scholar at the Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston and a Fellow of Brown International Advanced Research Institute, Brown University, Rhode Island, United States of America. Oloruntoba is the author, editor and co-editor of six books including *Regionalism and Integration in Africa: EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements and Euro-Nigeria Relations*, published by Palgrave Macmillan, New York, USA, 2016, *Innovation and Regional Integration in Africa: Rethinking Theories, Policies and Institutions* with Mammo Muchie (2019), *Palgrave Handbook of African Politics, Governance and Development* (with Toyin Falola), 2018, and *State and Development in post-independent Africa* (with Vusi Gumede), 2018, among others. Oloruntoba was the recipient of the National Research Foundation of South Africa Award in 2018 and Wangari Maathai Award for Innovative Research Leadership, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, United States of America, 2016. His research interests are in Political Economy of Development in Africa, Regional Integration, Democracy and Development, Global Governance of Trade and Finance, Civil Society Organisations and Politics of Natural Resources Governance.

This is part of the African Studies Brownbag Seminar Series

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