

# CURRICULUM VITAE.<sup>1</sup>

Souleymane Bachir DIAGNE.

Born in 1955 in Saint-Louis, Senegal.

Senegalese citizen.

Status in the US: Permanent resident.

Professor: Philosophy, Religion and Program of African Studies at Northwestern University.

## EDUCATION

-1988 . Doctorate (Doctorat d'Etat). Sorbonne. Paris.

Dissertation on : *Philosophie symbolique et algèbre de la logique. Les Lois de la Pensée de George Boole*. (Mention « Très Honorable »).

-1982. Doctorate (Doctorat de Troisième Cycle). Sorbonne. Paris.

Dissertation on : *De l'algèbre numérique à l'algèbre de la logique*. (Mention « Très Bien » : *Summa cum laude*).

-1979-1980. Study and research at Harvard University after having been selected for an exchange program between Harvard and *Ecole Normale Supérieure* in Paris.

-1978. « Agregation » in Philosophy.

-1977. Successfully passed the test to get into *Ecole Normale Supérieure de la Rue d'Ulm* (Paris) and, thus got the highly valued title of « Ancien élève de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure de la rue d'Ulm ».

(alumnus of *Ecole Normale Supérieure* in Paris).

-1973-1977 Studies at Louis Le Grand, in Paris, to prepare the test to get into *Ecole Normale Supérieure* ( *Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles*) while successfully completing undergraduate studies at the Sorbonne with a *Licence* in philosophy (Sorbonne 1976) and a « *Maîtrise* » on Nietzsche : *Les catégories économiques dans la Généalogie de la morale*. (1977. Mention « Très Bien »).

- 1973. « Baccalaureat » in Senegal.

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<sup>1</sup> Brought up to date on February 8, 2005.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

- Current position: Professor at the Department of Philosophy and of Religion at Northwestern University, Evanston.
- Professor of Philosophy, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (1993-2002) and Inspector for the teaching of philosophy in Senegal's « *Terminales* » (The last year of High School with an introductory course in philosophy).
- 1989-1993 « Maître de Conférences » (Assistant Professor) in Philosophy, Cheikh Anta Diop University.
- 1985-1989 « Maître-assistant » in Philosophy, Cheikh Anta Diop University.
- 1982-1985. « Assistant » in philosophy, Cheikh Anta Diop University.

## **SPECIAL AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES.**

- Visiting Professor in 1984, for two months at the University of Bayreuth. Germany.
- Visiting Professor in 1985 for six weeks at the University of Cotonou, Benin.
- 1992-1996. Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Cheikh Anta Diop University.
- 1993-1999. Special advisor to the President of Senegal for cultural and educational policy.
- Preceptor of the Institute for Advanced Study and Research in the African Humanities April-June 1999. Northwestern University. Evanston, Illinois. U.S.A.
- Visiting Professor (Spring 2000, 2001 and 2002) at Northwestern University. USA.

#### **MEMBERSHIP IN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.**

- Co-director of *Ethiopiennes*, a Senegalese Journal of Literature and Philosophy (in charge of the philosophy section).
- Member of the editorial board of *Revue d'Histoire des Mathématiques*. (A Journal of history of Mathematics published by the Mathematical Society of France).
- Member of the editorial board of *Présence Africaine*. Paris.
- Member of the International Scientific Committee for *Diogenes*. (A journal of philosophy and social sciences published in Paris by the International Council for Philosophy and Social Sciences with the support of Unesco.)
- Member of CODESRIA, the Pan-African Council for the development of research in social sciences (elected twice as a member of the Executive Committee and currently Chair of its Scientific Panel).
- Member of the African Scientific Committee on Higher Education (for a four years mandate starting October 2002).
- Member of the “Conseil du Futur” (Unesco).

#### **LANGUAGES.**

- spoken : French ; English; Wolof.
- read : Latin, Greek, Arabic.

## PUBLICATIONS .

### As author (books).

- *Boole, l'oiseau de nuit en plein jour*. Belin. Paris.1989 ( a book on George Boole's algebra of Logic).
- *Logique pour philosophes*. NEAS . Dakar. 1991 . (A text-book in mathematical logic as well as a presentation of the most important moments in the history of Logic).
- *Les Lois de la Pensée de George Boole*. Vrin. Paris 1992. (a translation in French and a presentation of George Boole's *Laws of Thought*).
- *The cultural question in Africa*. Written with Henri Ossebi. Codesria. Dakar. 1996.
- *Islam et société ouverte : la fidélité et le mouvement dans la philosophie d'Iqbal*. Maisonneuve et Larose, Paris, 2001. (A presentation of Muhammad Iqbal's philosophy as an illustration of modernist philosophical thought in the Islamic world).
- *Reconstruire le sens. Textes et enjeux de perspectives africaines*. Codesria. Dakar. 2001.
- *100 mots pour dire l'islam*. Maisonneuve et Larose. Paris, 2002. (A dictionary of notions, personalities, dates and places to explain Islam).
- *100 palabras para explicar el Islam*, El Barquero, Barcelona, 2002. (a Spanish translation of *100 mots pour dire l'islam*).

### **As editor.**

- *Culture du développement*. Codesria. Dakar.1991. (A book on the *Culture of development*).
- *Autour de la méthode, de Descartes à Feyerabend*, Presses Universitaires de Dakar, 1995. (On the notion of method, from Descartes to Feyerabend).
- *Gaston Berger, introduction à une philosophie de l'avenir*. NEAS. Dakar. 1997. (On the philosophy of French philosopher Gaston Berger).
- *Time and development in the thought of subsaharan Africa*. Rodopi. Amsterdam. Atlanta GA. 1998. (Co-editor: Prof. Heinz Kimmerle).

### **As contributor.**

- *Note sur la question : faire des mathématiques en wolof*. In *Langues africaines et échange des connaissances*. Série d'études pour l'Unesco par le Conseil Interafricain de philosophie. Editor : Paulin Hountondji. CIAP. 1982. (A reflection on the translation of modern science in African languages, in particular logic and mathematics in wolof.)
- *Sur le concept d'identité*. In *Africa and the problem of its identity*. Editors : Alwin Diemer and Paulin Hountondji. Verlag Peter Lang, Frankfurt am Main-Bern-New-York. 1985. (A reflection on the notion of « African identity ».)
- *Science : the stranger in our midst*. In *Unesco meeting of experts on comparative philosophical studies on changes in relations between science and society (Jamaica 21-24 June, 1983)*. NISTAS. New-Delhi. 1986.
- *Contre l'autorité de la tradition : une analyse du doute d'Al Ghazâlî*. In *Ghazâlî, la Raison et le miracle*. Paris. Maisonneuve-et-Larose. 1987. (A philosophical reflection on Al Ghazâlî's

doubt as exposed in his *Munqidh min ad-dalâl*. An illustration of a skeptical approach to truth in Islamic philosophy.)

- *Pascal et « les sottises de Montaigne »*. *De deux façons de philosopher*. In *Montaigne, penseur et philosophe (1588-1988)*. Paris. Librairie Honoré Champion. 1990. (A comparison of the philosophical « temperaments » of Montaigne and Pascal.)
- *Expliquer le monde, rêver le monde*. In *Le salon de Madame du Deffand High-Tech*. Paris. Publications du GLACS (Groupe de Liaison pour l'Action Culturelle Scientifique. 10, Square Adanson 75005). 1991. (A reflection on imagination in science).
- *The future of tradition*. In *Senegal. Essays in Statecraft*. Editor : Momar Coumba Diop. Dakar. Codesria. 1992 (French version). 1993 (English version).
- *George Boole*. In *Logique et fondements des mathématiques. Anthologie (1850-1914.)* Editors : François Rivenc and Philippe de Rouilhan, Paris, Payot, 1992. (A presentation of George Boole's algebra of Logic in an anthology of logical and mathematical texts from 1850 to 1914.)
- *Grammaire, Logique et vérité*. In *Entre les Grâces et les Muses. Eléments historiques de culture générale*. Editors : D.Dauvois, C.Simon, J.Hoarau. Paris. Ellipses. 1994. (A presentation of the history of Logic in the Islamic world and the debate about this « alien » science in the intellectual world organized around « Islamic » sciences.)
- *La tolérance et les cultures*. In *Tolérance, j'écris ton nom*. Paris. Saurat-Unesco. 1995. (A reflection on tolerance and cultural pluralism.)
- *Tolérance et hospitalité*. In *Jusqu'où tolérer ?* Paris. Le Monde Editions. 1996. (a reflection on the notion of tolerance in relation to the question of what is intolerable.)
- *De l'oralité à l'écriture : transcription et création*. In Papa Samba Diop (Ed.) *Sénégal-Forum. Littérature et histoire*. IKO. Verlag für Interkulturelle Kommunikation. Frankfurt. 1995 (on orality and writing in Africa)

- *De « qui suis-je » à « qui sommes-nous » ?* In *Qui sommes-nous ?* Editor : Ayyam Sureau. Paris. Gallimard. 1996. (A reflection on the notions of subject and of humanity developed during *The Philosophical encounters of Unesco organized by Ayyam Sureau.*)
- *A square for Human rights all over the world.* In *Taking action for Human rights in the twenty-first century.* Editors : Federico Mayor in collaboration with Roger-Pol Droit. Paris: Unesco, 1998.
- *Sociétés urbaines en Afrique de l'Ouest : le discours des valeurs et la corrosion du sens.* In *State and Civil society in Africa.* Editor : Yacouba Konaté. *Special Issue of Quest*, Netherlands. 1998. (A reflection on the « loss of meaning » and the « no future » young generations in West African urban societies.)
- *Une fable africaine.* In *Les clés du XXIe siècle.* Editor : Jérôme Bindé, Seuil, Paris, 2000. (A short reflection on predictability in a collective volume devoted to our vision of the 21<sup>st</sup> century).
- *-Esprit cartésien et mathématique de l'esprit.* (The text of the lecture I gave at the Sorbonne in September 1996, for the four hundredth anniversary of Descartes; published by the *Association des Sociétés de Philosophie de Langue française*) in *L'esprit cartésien.* Vrin. Paris. 2000.
- *Théorie et expérience.* In *Philosopher 2.* C. Delacampagne and R. Maggiori (Eds.). Fayard. Paris. 2000.
- *A laboratory to transmute lead into gold.* The legend of the Center of Low Nuclear Energies of the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire. In *Laboratorium.* Edited by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Barbara Vanderlinden. Dumont Antwerpen Open Roomade. 2001.
- *La leçon de musique. Réflexions sur une politique de la culture.* Pp243-259 in *Le Sénégal contemporain.* Edited by Momar Coumba Diop. Karthala. Paris. 2002. (On Senegalese cultural policy from Senghor's time to today).
- ***Precolonial African Philosophy in Arabic. In A Companion to African Philosophy.* Edited by Kwasi Wiredu. Blackwell Publishing, 2003.**

- *Islam in Africa: Examining the notion of an African identity within the Islamic world.* In *A Companion to African Philosophy.* Edited by Kwasi Wiredu. Blackwell Publishing, 2003.
- *Savoirs islamiques et sciences sociales en Afrique de l'Ouest.* In *Mélanges d'archéologie, d'histoire et de littérature offerts au Doyen Oumar Kane.* Dakar, Presses Universitaires, 2003.
- *L'idée réformiste en Islam.* In *Vers de Civilisations mondialisées? De l'éthologie à la prospective.* Edited by Jean-Eric Aubert and José Landrieu. Colloque de Cerisy. Editions de l'aube, 2004 (on Islamic philosophy of reform).
- *Religion and the Challenge of the Spiritual in the Twenty-First Century.* In *The Future of Values.* Ed. Jérôme Bindé. New York ; Oxford : Berghahn Books, 2004.

## Articles.

- *Le dépit d'un logicien devant la manière du géomètre.* In *Revue sénégalaise de philosophie.* No 3. 1983. (On George Boole's application of his logical algebra to the analysis of philosophical arguments, Clarke's and Spinoza's).
- *Les difficultés de la notion d'universalité latérale.* In *Bayreuth African Studies Series.* No 4. *Approaches to African identity.* University of Bayreuth. Germany. 1986. (A reflection on cultural pluralism and universality using Merleau-Ponty's notion of « lateral » universality.)
- *Les procédures algébriques de George Boole et leur signification logique.* In *Annales de la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences humaines de Dakar.* No 15. 1985.



- *Sur le caractère littéraire de la littérature orale.* In *Komparatistische Hefte*. No 11. Bayreuth. 1985. (A reflection on the concept of « oral literature » and on its aesthetic value, beyond its ethnographical import.)
- *Sciences, techniques et cultures africaines.* In *Bayreuth African Studies Series*. No 5. *Language and Education in Africa*. 1986.
- *Pour la création de centres d'Histoire, Philosophie et Sociologie des Sciences et des Techniques dans les Universités du Sud.* In *Le Koré*. No26. University of Abidjan. Ivory Coast.1990.
- *La raison dans le langage.* In *Revue sénégalaise de Philosophie*. No 17. Dakar. Fondation Léopold Sédar Senghor. 1993.
- *Esprit scientifique, société ouverte et **Ijtihad**.* In *Ethiopiennes. Revue négro-africaine de littérature et de philosophie*. No 60. Fondation Léopold Sédar Senghor. Dakar. 1998. (A reflection on science in the Islamic world.)
- *Etat de la pensée en Afrique. Le questionnement des intellectuels.* In *50ème anniversaire de la Revue Présence Africaine. Special issue of Présence Africaine, cultural Review of the Black world.* Paris. 1999.
- *Revisiter la philosophie bantoue.* In *Philosophie et politique en Afrique*. No 77 (March) of *Politique africaine*. Karthala. Paris. 2000.
- *Africanité et écriture en français.* In *Revue des Deux Mondes*. No 11-12. Novembre-Décembre 2001. Paris.
- *Philosophie et théologie en Islam. Usages de la raison.* In *Ethiopiennes. Revue négro-africaine de littérature et de philosophie*. No 66-67. Fondation Léopold Sédar Senghor. Dakar. 2001.
- *Africanity as an open question.* In *Identity and beyond: rethinking Africanity*. Discussion Paper 12. Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, Uppsala. Sweden 2001.
- *Keeping Africanity open.* In *Public culture*, Vol. 14, Number 3, Fall 2002.

- *Islam et philosophie: leçons d'une rencontre.* In *Diogène, Revue internationale des sciences humaines.* No 202, Avril-Juin, Paris, PUF, 2003.
- *Islam and philosophy: lessons from an encounter.* Diogenes, ICPHS. London, 2004.
- *On Prospective: Development and a Political Culture of Time.* Africa Development, Vol. XXIX, No. 1, 2004, pp. 49-63. Published by Codesria.
- *La force de vivre et l'utopie du post-humain.* In *Diogène, Revue internationale des sciences humaines.* No 209, Janvier-Mars, Paris, PUF, 2005.

**Articles in journals published online.**

*Beyond the Hyphen-Syndrom. Tasks for an African Philosopher.* In Polylog. Forum for Intercultural Philosophy 4, 2003. Online: <http://them.polylog.org/4/ads-en.htm>