



# Theatre and Performance as Social Commentary in West Africa: A Policy Analysis of Senegal's Cultural Landscape

Oumar Sène<sup>1</sup>, Djibril Diallo<sup>1</sup>, Samba Gassama<sup>2</sup>, Toumani Diop<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar

<sup>2</sup> Department of Research, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA),  
Dakar

<sup>3</sup> Department of Research, Université Gaston Berger (UGB), Saint-Louis

**Published:** 01 August 2010 | **Received:** 25 March 2010 | **Accepted:** 22 June 2010

**Correspondence:** [osne@gmail.com](mailto:osne@gmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18909434](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18909434)

## Author notes

*Oumar Sène is affiliated with Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Djibril Diallo is affiliated with Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Samba Gassama is affiliated with Department of Research, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Dakar and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Toumani Diop is affiliated with Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Theatre and performance in Senegal serve as a critical medium for social commentary, reflecting and influencing societal values and norms. A qualitative approach was employed to examine existing policies and practices related to theatre and performance in Senegal. Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders including artists, policymakers, and scholars. The findings indicate that approximately 70% of theatrical productions address social issues such as gender equality and environmental conservation. Policy makers should prioritise funding for socially relevant theatre projects to enhance public discourse on important societal concerns. Develop a dedicated cultural policy unit within the Ministry of Culture to oversee and support socially engaged theatre initiatives. Encourage collaboration between government, private sector, and civil society organizations.

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Theatre Studies, Social Commentary, Cultural Policy, Postcolonial Theory, Performance Anthropology, Decolonial Perspectives*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge