

## **The Work of Discourse. Patriotic Orators, Paths of Subjectivation and Performance in Abidjan's Public Parliaments.**

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The paper, based on field-research, draws on the practices and strategies of moral and political subjectivation undertaken by young nationalist orators who speak in Abidjan's public parliaments (known as "agora"). Elements from a in-depth ethnography focusing their daily life, their performances in public spaces and their inclusion in hierarchical frames of political relations will be recalled. It will be shown how the process of becoming a "full-time orator" provides ways of access to status, employment and resources. At the same time I will bring to light how such a construction implies and imposes habits, disciplines and forms of subjection shaping the militant's self. In particular, I will address a set of rhetoric, organizing and performance devices enabling the patriotic movement to encompass the creativity, the desires and the subjectivity of the orators, rendering them congruent with and functional to the (re)production and diffusion of nationalist discourse.