

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Aïssata THIAM

Archaeologist and Cultural Heritage Specialist

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PROFILE SUMMARY

PhD in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage from Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Dakar. My expertise lies in settlement dynamics, agro-pastoral and food practices, cultural heritage management, and preventive archaeology. Over the past five years, I have taught at the Department of Heritage Studies (UGB Saint-Louis), the National School of Arts and Culture (ENAMC), and the Faculty of Social and Environmental Sciences (USSEIN). I lecture in archaeological research methods, heritage and site management, tourism industries, personal development, and cultural entrepreneurship. My research integrates cartography and digital tools to document and valorize heritage in West Africa. I also collaborate internationally, notably with the ARCAN Lab at the University of Geneva. I have a new postdoctoral position at Material History Lab, Department of History, Northwestern University. As an active member of ICOMOS and ICAHM, I contribute to global discussions on heritage preservation and transmission.

EDUCATION

- **2025:** PhD in Archaeology and Heritage Management, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar. **Dissertation:** *Settlement Dynamics, Technocultural, Agricultural and Food Practices at Mboumba (Jeejengol, Middle Senegal Valley)*. **Honors:** Highest Distinction with Jury Praise and Recommendation for Publication.
- **2019:** Master's degree in history, Prehistory, Archaeology, and Medieval History, UCAD, Dakar. **Thesis:** *New Archaeological Research in the Île à Morphil (Middle Senegal Valley): Study of Soubalo-Mboumba Sites*. **Honors:** Very Good.
- **2018:** Master's degree in business management and administration, IMAN, Dakar
- **2015:** BA in History and Archaeology, UCAD, Dakar
- **2012 :** Baccalaureate in Literature (L2), Lycée de Mboumba, Saint-Louis Region

Additional Training

- Nov. 28, 2024: Workshop on Eye-Tracking Techniques for Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (XScape: Material Minds Project)

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2024-2026: British Academy International Writing Workshop on Publishing Peer-Reviewed Articles
- 2022-2023: Swiss Confederation Excellence Research Fellowship (ARCAN Lab, University of Geneva)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION

- Sept 2025– August 2026: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Material History Lab, Department of History, Northwestern University, USA – *in collaboration with Dr Akin Ogundiran*.
 - Research focus on domesticity, household organization, and everyday life in the Yoruba region (400 BCE – 1800 CE)
 - Lab management and supervision of undergraduate students
- Public Relations Officer – Sub-Commission Archaeology for Massacre de Thiaroye
- Scientific Committee Member – Colloquium on the 171st Anniversary of the Battle of Dialmath (May 1854)
- External Research Collaborator – ARCAN Lab, University of Geneva

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Since April 2025:** Lecturer, Department of History, University of Sine Saloum El Hadj Ibrahima Niass (USSEIN).
- **March 2025:** Expert Trainer, UNESCO Dakar Panel on 'Archaeology and Digital Technologies in World Heritage Documentation and Conservation'
- **Since December 2024 :** Lecturer in Tourism Industry and Heritage Site Management, École Nationale des Arts et Métiers de la Culture (ENAMC).
- **Since July 2021 :** Lecturer in Research Methods, Site Management, Preventive Archaeology, and Personal Development, Département des Métiers du Patrimoine, Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis (UGB).
- **2017–2018:** Monitor, Ibnou Massaer Diagne Archaeology Lab, UCAD, under Prof. Alioune Deme

CULTURAL & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

October 19-20, 2023: Curator, scenographer, and cultural mediator for the second edition of the exhibition "Gares yi" by photographer Massow Ka EL-Junio, held during the International Forum on the Financing of Railway Projects in Africa, organized by the Chemins de Fer du Sénégal (CFS) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) at CICAD, Diamniadio, Dakar.

May 29-June 28, 2022: Curator and scenographer of the exhibition "Gares yi" by photographer Massow Ka EL-Junio, as part of the OFF events of the 2022 Dak'Art Biennale in Saint-Louis.

June 1-30, 2021: Assistant curator, scenographer, and head of cultural mediation for the exhibition "Matières, Manières et Sociétés", held at the Galerie du Fleuve of the French Institute of Senegal in Saint-Louis, curated by Aïssatou Diop and Marc MonSALLier.

December 20, 2019-January 31, 2020: Cultural mediator for the exhibition "Fadiidi" (Welcome to the Serer World), organized by the label Nunu Design by DK and curated by Wagane Guèye.

October 22-November 23, 2019: Cultural mediator for the exhibition "J'ai dû tout quitter" (I Had to Leave Everything Behind), commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Kampala Convention, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), curated by Aïssatou Diop.

June 1-July 31, 2019: Administrative officer (collections management and cultural mediation) at the Musée de la Mer in Gorée, IFAN Cheikh Anta Diop.

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Coordinated, field supervision and participated in settlement, preventive and rescue excavations across Senegal from 2016 to 2025, including memory sites such as Thiaroye and mining zones. Roles include excavation director, team leader, logistics coordinator, and student field school supervisor.

Key sites: Mboumba, Soubalo-Mboumba, Diongui-Thikité, Walaldé, Saint-Louis, Thiélao, Thièyène, Louga, Kébémér, Thès, Delta du Saloum (Niodior, Dionewar, Diorom Boumak), Kédougou, Kaffrine.

International programs: MAESAO (Swiss Archaeological-Ethnoarchaeological Mission in West Africa), MSV Project (Middle Senegal Valley Project, with Yale University), Sinergia Project: foodways in west Africa: from pots, bones and plants.

PUBLICATIONS

Aïssata THIAM, Alioune DEME et Moustapha SALL, 2025, Accepted, « Soubalo Mboumba : archéologie d'un site de la moyenne vallée du Sénégal étouffé par l'expansion urbaine », Actes du 18e colloque de l'Association Ouest-Africaine d'Archéologie.

Aïssata THIAM et Moustapha SALL, 2025, « Patrimoine culturel immatériel des pêcheurs du Fouta Toro (Nord-Sénégal) : Changements et Continuités », Edités par Ba D. C., Baldé M. Y. et Ba Ndiaye E. H.A : Problématique des marges ou actualité du décentrement dans la production des savoirs scientifiques, Mélanges offerts au professeur titulaire Ousseynou Faye, Tome 1 : « Savoirs, cultures et identités au miroir de l'histoire d'Afrique » Harmattan-Sénégal, pp : 325-341.

Aïssata THIAM, Ladjji Dianifaba, Moustapha SALL, Oumar SOW, Mamadou NDIAYE et Fatou SAKHO, décembre 2024, « Premières données sur la métallurgie ancienne du fer à Diongui (Jeejengol, moyenne vallée du fleuve Sénégal) », Nyame Akuma N°102, pp : 44-48.

Aïssata THIAM, 2023, « Nouvelles recherches archéologiques dans la Moyenne Vallée du Fleuve Sénégal : Prospections à Mboumba (Jeejengol) », Society for Historical Archaeology, Vol 56, N°2, pp : 13-22.

Aïssata THIAM, Ladjji DIANIFABA et Moustapha SALL, décembre 2022, « Compte rendu de conférence du 18e colloque de l'Association Ouest-Africaine d'Archéologie (AOAA) 27-30 décembre 2023, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Sénégal », Eds Ba I., Loukou Y. S. B. et Faye L. : Espaces, échanges et réseaux en Afrique dans la longue durée, Revue Sénégalaise d'Histoire, N° 13, Harmattan Sénégal, pp : 153-158.

Alioune DEME, Moustapha SALL, **Aïssata THIAM** et Mariama BA, 2021 : “Découvertes d'épigraphies islamiques à Diongui-Thikité (Moyenne Vallée du Sénégal)”, Annales de la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, ETHOS, Nouvelle série N° 51/B, pp : 83-99.

Alioune DEME, Moustapha SALL, Ousmane SOW, Mariama BA, **Aïssata THIAM**, Oumar SOW, 2021, « Artifacts, heritage, identity, and site protection: A journey into public archaeology in the Middle Senegal Valley », O Ideário Patrimonial, N. 15, pp: 184 – 203.

CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA

Aïssata THIAM, Moustapha Sall, Louis Champion, Patricia Chiquet et Anne Mayor, Landscapes and livelihood strategies in face of climate change in the middle Senegal valley (MSV): Adaptive responses over the long terms, 27th Biennial Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAFA 2025). Algarve University, Faro (Portugal), July 21-28 2025.

Aïssata THIAM, *Trans-Saharan Trade Witnesses at the Sites of Mboumba and Diongui (Jeejengol, Middle Senegal River Valley)*, Conference in Tribute to Professors Boubacar Barry and Abdoulaye Bathily, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (Senegal), February 20–22, 2025.

Aïssata THIAM, Roundtable on *Ongoing Research on Traditional Conservation Practices*, Conference on Situated Conservations with a Tribute to Fatima Fall Niang, Heritage Specialist, Saint-Louis (Senegal), January 23–25, 2025.

Aïssata THIAM, Champion L., Chiquet P., SALL M., Mayor A., *Agricultural and Food Practices at the Medieval Archaeological Site of Mboumba, Senegal River Valley*, 8th Conference of the Swiss Society for African Studies (SSEA), Panel 6a: Food and Nutrition in Africa Facing Transformations: Past, Present and Future, Bern (Switzerland), October 25–26, 2024.

Aïssata THIAM, DEME A., *The Senegal River and Its Tributaries in the Settlement Dynamics of the Middle Senegal River Valley: Survey Synthesis (1990–2022)*, Conference on the Senegal and Niger Rivers, Dakar (Senegal), November 11–12, 2024.

Aïssata THIAM, Dianifaba L., SALL M., et al., *Preliminary Data on Ancient Iron Metallurgy at Diongui (Jeejengol, Middle Senegal River Valley)*, First Edition of the Metallurgist's Day, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), December 20, 2024 (online).

Malergue A., Martignac L., Drieu L., Fleuriot L., Debayle D., Debels P., Cervera C., **Aïssata THIAM**, Vieugué J., Mayor A., Regert M., SALL M., *Exploring Past Food Practices in Senegal: Searching for New Indicators from Organic Residues in Pottery*, 18th Conference of the West African Archaeological Association (WAAA), Dakar (Senegal), November 27–30, 2023.

Aïssata THIAM, Debels P., Martignac L., SALL M., Mayor A., *Ceramic Vessel Studies from the Mboumba Settlement Complex (Jeejengol, Middle Senegal River Valley)*, 18th Conference of the West African Archaeological Association (WAAA), Dakar (Senegal), November 27–30, 2023.

Aïssata THIAM, Champion L., Chiquet P., Martignac L., *Food Practices in Mboumba (5th–11th Century): Ceramic (Use-Wear and Chemical), Zooarchaeological, and Archaeobotanical Approaches*, Fifth Sinergia Workshop “Foodways in West Africa: Pots, Bones and Plants”, Dakar (Senegal), November 23–25, 2023.

Aïssata THIAM, Chiquet P., *Archaeological Research in the Middle Senegal River Valley: Study of the Jeejengol Sites*, 26th Biennial Meeting, June 1–6, 2023, Rice University, Texas (USA).

Aïssata THIAM, *Settlement Dynamics and Foodways at the Medieval Site of Mboumba*, Fourth Sinergia Workshop “Foodways in West Africa: Pots, Bones and Plants”, Nice (France), November 23–25, 2022.

Aïssata THIAM, Champion L., *New Evidence on the Development of Pearl Millet Economies in Senegal: Preliminary Archaeological and Archaeobotanical Results from Mboumba (Jeejengol, Middle Senegal River Valley)*, 16th PanAfrican Congress for Prehistory and Related Studies, Zanzibar (Tanzania), August 7–12, 2022.

Aïssata THIAM, *Preliminary Results of New Archaeological Research on the Île à Morphil: Study of the Soubalo and Mboumba Sites*, 17th Conference of the West African Archaeological Association (WAAA).

LANGUAGES

French : Fluent - English : Fluent - Pulaar : Native - Wolof : Proficient

DIGITAL & TECHNICAL SKILLS

Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop)

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Member of: Senegalese Historians Association (**AHS**) - 2025, International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (**ICAHM**)-2025, International Council on Monuments and Sites (**ICOMOS**) - 2023, Society of Africanist Archaeologists (**SAFA**) -2022, PanAfrican Archaeological Association (**Panaf**)-2022, Swiss Society for African Studies (**SSAS**)and Geneva Africa Lab-2022 and West African Archaeologists Association (**WAAA**)-2021. Founding and President, of National Association for the Promotion of Senegalese Heritage (**AN2PS**)- 2017.