

Rogers Orock is a Lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He teaches courses in the ethnography of Africa as well as on secrecy, suspicion and conspiracy theories in the new world order. Through ethnographic fieldwork, Orock's research is framed around the politics and ethics of elite power in Francophone West Africa (Cameroon and Gabon) and increasingly so in relation to histories of political developments in Metropolitan France itself.

Framed in a comparative fashion, his current research examines the role of freemasonry as a Western institution of elite secrecy in Cameroon, Gabon and France. A collaborative research endeavor, this work seeks to situate ethnographically and historically forms of popular suspicions such as rumor, gossip, and outright accusations directed against elites in these countries in relation to a number of anxieties (witchcraft, homosexuality, colonial domination, etc.) due to their (presumed) membership in Masonic lodges. This work aims at elucidating the import of such non-official institutions of secrecy and their public representations for understanding the broader imaginations of elites, power and the state in both a Western and non-Western, African contexts that have remained intricately linked through the bonds of colonialism.

His previous work on elites, examined political liberalization and the contested politics of belonging and development in Cameroon. Specifically, Orock studied the cultural modalities and political moralities of elite corporate agency in regards to collective claim-making on the state. This work is being revised for publication as a monograph.