

Sémanalyse d'une figure iconique : héroïsme et mythologie identitaire dans les stratégies discursives de Kémi Séba (2017)

Semanalysis of an iconic figure: heroism and mythological identity in the discursive strategies of Kémi Séba (2017)

Riccardo Raimondo

Abstract: The article explores the dynamic interplay of heroism and “mythological identity” within the rhetorical strategies employed by pan-Africanist leader Kémi Séba. Using a semiotic framework, the study analyses Seba’s discourses, focusing on the iconic act of burning a CFA Franc banknote as an act of civil disobedience. It examines how Seba’s language embodies extremist characteristics while fostering a collective African identity against neo-colonial oppression. The analysis highlights how his mythopoetic creativity not only challenges external economic and political structures but also mobilizes emotional and symbolic resources to reconstruct and empower a unified African community. This research sheds light on the broader implications of language as a tool for political resistance and identity formation within contemporary francophone African contexts.

Keywords: Kémi Séba, mythology, iconicity, scapegoat, heroism, imaginary