

Patrick O'Brien Political Science Graduate Prize: Executive Summary

Raphael de Vietri

Raphael's research in Africa focused on the development of democratic institutions in Mali. This research took him to Mali's capital city, Bamako, where he was an observer at government institutions such as the Parliament, the Supreme Court, and the executive branch of government. He also conducted interviews with government officials and ministers. During this period he was based at the Centre for Strategic Studies, a government think-tank located within Mali's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The aim of the internship was to experience the 'real world' of international politics in West Africa and to report on the emerging democratic institutions of Mali. Overall, although a very young Republic, Mali's institutions were found to reflect the people's strong enthusiasm and commitment to developing democracy both procedurally and substantively.