

Paper abstracts

Session 1: *Migrant trajectories and urban integration*

08:30-10:00

Marc PILON et Ibitola TCHITOU

Little maids in Lomé in 1958-59

Recent digitisation and processing of Togo's original 1958-59 urban census questionnaires makes more advanced analysis of this data source possible. The handbook for census agents included provision for families having servants, usually recorded as "boy" or "boyesse" in the question on relationship with head of household. Now that the migration of girls to towns and child labour are increasingly researched, this paper addresses the situation of maids in Lomé, the capital of Togo, in the late 1950s: extent of the phenomenon, profiles of the maids (age, educational qualification, ethnicity, migrant status), characteristics of the host family via that of the head of household. Initial analysis reveals the large number of servants, who were 14.5% of girls aged 5-9, 18% of those aged 10-14 and 11.1% of those aged 15-19. The proportion of migrants was 82%. Interviews will be held with elderly people to complement this statistical approach. Using more recent demographic data, the paper also examines how the phenomenon has developed in recent decades.

Yédodé AHOKPOSSI

Trajectories and destinies of little maids: the case of Cotonou

Insecure living conditions and the inability of many parents to meet the needs of their households oblige some woman to work away from home. Urban households especially have a high demand for child domestic labour in order to diversify their incomes. An added attraction for these households is that this labour is cost-free or cheap. This paper is based on the Survey of the Domestic Employee Sector in Benin held in 2005 and the National Survey on Child Trafficking in Benin. The results show that the girls come to Cotonou from all the departments in Benin; they mainly do domestic work but some benefit from other activities outside work such as education. The number of trajectories studied was 380. The arrangements are made by adults related to the victims. They operate at all the stages of the process (recruitment, accompaniment/transport, border crossing) that leads to the children being employed as domestic servants. They are locally born men and women, mainly shopkeepers, farmers, transporters, craftspeople or unemployed, and remarkably well organised.

Idrissou MOUNPE CHARE

Circulation of domestic workforce in Cameroon: an example of labour migration in the informal sector

As an effect of the 1980s crisis and the suicidal measures sometimes taken at that time, household incomes, until then mainly earned by husbands, became insufficient and even insignificant. Women's work increased in almost all sectors, with a resulting increase in the demand for domestic labour needed to support the household, particularly in towns. This labour comes mainly from girls not attending school or who have dropped out. The supply is provided by the transfer of country-dwellers to towns and from small towns to large cities. The demand for domestic services decides the pattern of child and female migration as individuals, sometimes accompanied by child trafficking and fostering/placement. In this anarchic and confused situation, the recruitment of these young people requires close attention, given the processes of proletarianisation and economic insecurity implemented by employers who may be condescending. The rationale and interests that control and structure these migrations and the supply and demand for domestic services need to be analysed according to the many facets of this migration. Because it involves private life and escapes all institutional control, households need to be examined using a micro-sociological approach.



Session 2: Gender and migration

10:00-11:30

Satvika CHALASANI*Migration patterns among adolescents from rural Malawi*

This paper identifies patterns of internal migration among adolescents from rural Malawi using bivariate and multivariate analyses, with an emphasis on highlighting the difference between girls and boys. The data come from the third and fourth rounds of the longitudinal Malawi Schooling and Adolescent Survey (MSAS). The sample consists of 2,341 adolescents aged 16-19 in 2010. Preliminary results reveal that adolescents in Malawi are quite mobile, with more than half of the sample having moved in the past year, mostly between rural villages and then trading centres. As expected, girls are less mobile than boys both in terms of proportion moved as well as distance moved. The main reason girls move is for marriage while boys move for economic opportunity. Greater proportions of adolescents from wealthier households move but this pattern is less evident for girls than boys. Related to this finding is the one that a greater proportion of in-school and never married girls move than out of school and married girls. Migrant girls are also more likely to be working than non-migrant girls. It is migrant boys, however, that are most likely to reap the benefits of an income stream via paid work, although they are also more likely to have discontinued their education than non-migrant boys.

Anne CALVÈS et Bilampoa GNOUMOU-THIOMBIANO*Migration of young men and women: experience of occupational and family integration in Ouagadougou*

Since the mid-1970s, there has been in Burkina Faso an increase in so-called “autonomous” female migration from country to town. Although most migrant Burkinabè women are still married women joining or accompanying their husbands, an increasing number are unmarried girls, who like boys of their age, come to town for educational reasons or to look for a job. Using unique biographical data collected in Ouagadougou in 2010 from 2,036 young men and women, this paper analyses the experience of occupational and social integration of young female and male migrants in Burkina Faso’s capital. First, it examines and contrasts the conditions of arrival in the city of young migrant men and women: their first job, employment sector for young men and women, residential and family arrangements. Next, it presents the profiles of the various migrants according to the purpose of migration (education, marriage or work) and gender. Finally, we analyse the differential impact of the experience of migration on the integration of young Ouagadougou residents of both genders into the urban labour market.

Simplice Kitleur LEKEUMO*Migrant integration in a capital of the South: differential analysis by gender. The case of Yaoundé*

The economic crises of the 1990s seem to have accelerated urbanisation as country-dwellers flooded into towns looking for work after the fall in commodity prices. On the basis of the EDIJ survey, held by the sub-regional Institute for Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSEA) specifically to examine the dynamics of the labour market for 14-34-year-olds in Yaoundé, I use a binary logistic regression model and differential analysis to identify the socio-demographic and family characteristics that favour or impede the integration of female and male migrants to the city. The results show that migrants are more subject to unemployment than non-migrants. Migrant integration is influenced by the characteristics of their migration (place of origin and duration of residence in Yaoundé), the migrants’ socio-demographic characteristics and the characteristics of the household where the migrants live. However, the influence of these variables may diverge or converge according to the migrant’s gender, apparently justifying the existence of differential access to the labour market according to the migrant’s gender.



Session 3: Migration and rural dynamics

12:00-13:30

Nasima MOUJOURD*Mountains, Post-colonial Migration and Domesticity among young women in Morocco*

Various studies have demonstrated the links between mountains, migration and work. Laurence Fontaine has made a critical analysis of these in her “attempt at an overall comparison, 15th-20th centuries”. She also focuses on the links between mountains, migration and the work of mercenaries, bricklayers and porters born in the Alps to see how far these are comparable with market-driven migration. What of non-European mountains in the present day? Laurence Fontaine has examined the analytical categories that make non-European mountains invisible, and has raised the question of the specific nature of mountains in general in all labour migration. Many anthropologists have studied labour migration from the mountains of Asia and Latin America. However, the sexual division of labour has not been greatly analysed. Meanwhile, there are fewer studies of Africa and North Africa in particular. In this paper, I propose to address the mountain features of women’s labour migration in Morocco, assuming that most of it is for domestic service. I use my fieldwork with young women from the High Atlas working in Casablanca to examine the links between domestic service and the dynamics of inequality of class, origin and gender in the mountains, both within domestic service and in urban space.

Claudine SAUVAIN-DUGERDIL*Youth mobility in an isolated population of the Malian Sahel: A mitigating factor to cope with new uncertainties or a dimension of social disintegration*

Circular short-distance migration is part of the subsistence strategies that the populations of the Sahel have developed to survive in a particularly harsh environment. It is considered to become an important mechanism to mitigate the impact of global warming. We analyse here the role played in this respect by the new mobility habits of the young people of the Samyééré Dogon, a small population witnessing a brutal opening to the global world in a context of extreme aridity and precariousness. The issue is whether the youth mobility will enable this population to adapt to economic and social challenge or will precipitate the disintegration of this society already weakened by the start of social change, especially as refers to family values. The temporary individual migration of very young people is a new phenomenon of the present decade which distinguishes itself from previous migratory family strategies. We shall analyse to what extent these new mobility habits have an economic dimension, both as refers to the reason to migrate and in terms of their consequences for the individual wellbeing and the family subsistence, but also their socio-cultural impacts. We shall expand a previous analysis of the sexual transition and choice of spouse to consider inter-generational and gender relationships.

Kouadio Raphaël OURA*From Assamabo to Abidjan: the impact on the village of young women’s migration*

Migration, whether of refugees or workers, reflects inequalities in the world. Within Côte d'Ivoire, where rural households are more affected by poverty, the movement is from villages to towns. Because Abidjan provides more employment, it has attracted people since it was made a capital city in 1934. Despite the socio-economic crises that have worsened city-dwellers’ living conditions, the big city remains a focus of attraction for young people. As a proportion, the migration of young women is increasing. The reason is that poverty at home and dropping out of school encourage young women to migrate in the hope of integrating into the urban social fabric and remitting money to their families back in the village. But when they arrive in the city, they can only find work as maids because of their low human capital. Their average monthly wage of FCFA 20,000 (€30.49), below the legal minimum (FCFA 36,000–€54.88), is not enough to meet their own needs let alone remit anything to the village. Rather than improving their position, migration only accentuates the difficulties in the emigration areas in social, economic and cultural terms.



Session 4: What are the links between migration, education and employment?**14:30-15:30****Sylvain Landry FAYE***Young women's migration, urban labour markets and school attendance in the Fatick region of Senegal.*

The Senegalese government has worked hard to improve girls' school attendance. But in Fatick, although girls attend more, they find it harder to stay on in primary education or move on to the next stage. This is due to the domestic and other work they have to do. Although domestic work is part of a child's socialisation, their labour is also used for the family's survival in economic difficulties. This has increased their labour migration to Dakar, particularly for young women. I analyse the relationship in Fatick between urban labour migration and girls' school attendance. I use the results of a secondary analysis of statistical sources on school attendance and young people's labour migration and a qualitative survey of factors determining school dropout. I consider that girls' labour migration and school attendance are self-reinforcing: although economic difficulties justify migration and dropping out of school, the insecurity of the school environment also increases both. Perceptions of the opportunity costs for girls of school and migration and the benefits of migration experience may also influence whether they stay on at school in Fatick.

Mohamed BOUBACAR GOUBE GAOH SANI*Domestic work: is this the sequel to the migrating girl's school career?*

Persistent poverty forces girls to leave their villages for towns and drop out of a school career that has hardly begun. Niamey, the capital of Niger, is familiar with this phenomenon, in which migrant girls are employed as maids working at household tasks, etc. The aim of this study is to point out the influence of young women's migration to Niamey on their school attendance. It seeks to determine how many girls drop out of school to migrate and work as maids; the main reason for migration by gender; the socio-demographic characteristics of the people involved in the girl's decision to migrate; and the instantaneous risk of leaving school after migration. The analysis uses the database of the 2011 national migration survey. It is descriptive, initially univariate and bivariate to determine the proportions of migrants, then multivariate in a regression. Instantaneous risk is determined by a Cox regression.



Session 5: Comparative views on adolescent female migration

15:30-17:00

Ina GANKAM TAMBO*Child Domestic Workers in Nigeria. Conditions of Socialisation and Measures for Intervention*

The project is a qualitative research based on a one-year field-research in Nigeria (2008/09) investigating multiple stakeholders (i.e. child domestic workers, employers, parents, middlemen, ministries, NGOs). Using intersectional multilevel analysis the generated data are analysed towards intersections of age, social background and migration of child domestic workers in Enugu and Lagos. Thereby the perspectives of the child domestic workers concerning their own situations are central. They regard their work as their only chance to realise their rights to education, development and survival and partly migrate voluntarily, in order to escape from the deficient infrastructures of the rural areas. Though, numerous child domestic workers have to suffer severe violations of child rights within their working and living environment. Since the promulgation of the Nigerian Child Rights Act (2003) they are stuck in a dilemma: their work is prohibited, if undertaken in unfamiliar households – yet uncountable Nigerian children work as domestic servants. Measures of interventions deducted from international legislation by International Organisations (IGO) and implemented into Nigerian legislation (like above-mentioned Child Rights Act) and civil society are analysed by the author with their impacts on socialisation, life and work of the child domestic workers.

Mingnimon Alphonse AFFO*Community leaders' perceptions and factors in children's rural-urban mobility in Benin*

This paper examines community leaders' perceptions and the causes of children's rural-urban mobility in Benin. It is based on the national survey on child trafficking in Benin (ETEB-2006). The results demonstrate different perceptions among community leaders and those involved in children's labour mobility. Local leaders appear to abhor this mobility whereas popular discourse and practice consider it as an economic strategy or symbolically as a sign of solidarity. The purposes behind this phenomenon are many and some are ambivalent. It was once part of traditional child-rearing systems and has gradually become a "crisis behaviour". However, the children's labour mobility currently discussed and attacked appears to be absent from the Holli community. The cases of mobility observed continue to be gestures of fraternity and solidarity. The social structure does not see them as an economic issue. Indeed, those requesting child labour do not seem to be interested in these children, because of their inaptitude as a result of the cultural practices of their upbringing.

Dimi Théodore DOUDOU*Phenomenological analysis of the management of health and sexuality by country girls working as maids in town*

This qualitative study was launched in 2011 to examine the components of experience of health and sexuality among country girls working in town as "maids" or "nannies". It covers thirty or so maids in households in Abidjan, who gave in-depth interviews and life histories. We now know, for example, that these maids consider that they have been disadvantaged and have not received the support necessary to successfully enter adulthood. They see their job as maid as an opportunity to get a better job after saving money. Otherwise, migration to town improves the country girls' contact with information about HIV/AIDS, especially its prevention. Life in rural areas exposes them to early sexual relations.

