

# SPEAKING BACK TO THEORY: AFRICANIST MIGRATION RESEARCH BEYOND THE CATEGORIES

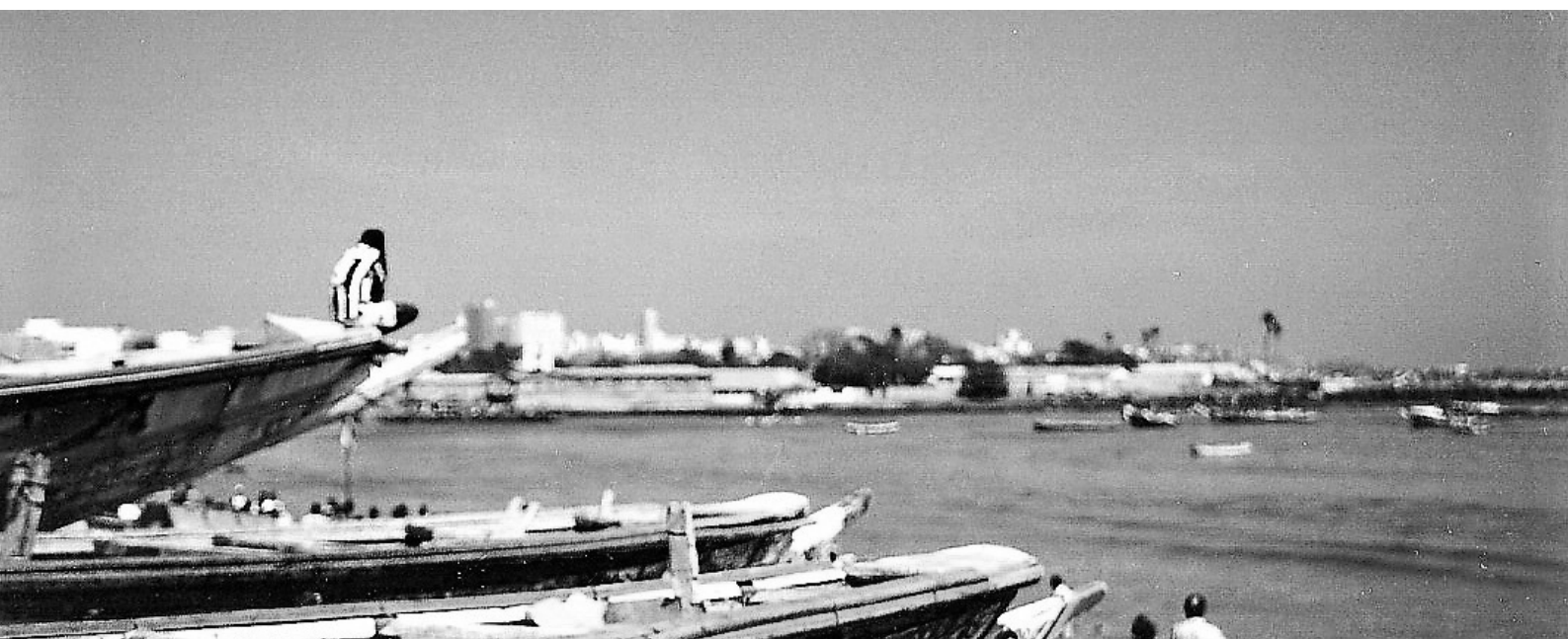
**AMMODI**

*African migration,  
mobility and  
displacement*

## Symposium on African Migration, Mobility and Displacement

15-18 March 2023

Accra / Cape Coast, Ghana



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA  
CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES

**DFG**

**A3I**

Arnold-  
Bergstraesser-  
Institut



THE NORDIC  
AFRICA INSTITUTE  
NORDISKA AFRIKAINSTITUTET

# Concept Note

Migration, mobility and displacement remain key dynamics and practices shaping African social, political, economic as well as physical landscapes. These dynamics intersect with fundamental issues on national, regional and global scales, including securitisation processes, generational conflicts and labour market configurations. Migration, mobility and displacement practices also speak to the politics of belonging, to urban and rural infrastructures, and asylum and migration bureaucracies. In all their diversity, these movements are at the forefront of political changes affecting African futures both on the continent and in other parts of the globe.

However, not least since the so-called 2015 European refugee 'crisis', irregular migration across the Mediterranean Sea has become central to the EU (im)migration policy, and a dominant topic of wider debates and concerns regarding the governance of migration and mobility. In these discourses, which often project a highly selective understanding of the real dynamics and proportions of movement within and outside the continent, African migrants have increasingly become the targets of familiar colonial stereotypes and prejudice (cf. Andersson 2014). This Eurocentric and hostile atmosphere has left migration researchers in a delicate position between the academic urge to design and conduct research 'beyond the categories' of popular, policy, and legal discourses (Bakewell 2008) and an inclination to engage in these discourses in order to challenge their underlying assumptions. This symposium invites critical reflection on the research topics, categories, theories and methodologies of Africanist migration research, foregrounding strategies to avoid reproducing societal and global power relations, and the need to challenge their underlying assumptions.

At the same time, global academia is in the midst of renewed debates and interventions against the persistent inequalities and prejudice in African and Africanist higher education following calls for decolonising academia. Migration patterns and policies, as well as research on them, are often deeply informed by post-/colonial relations, and migration research has been slow in exposing and addressing its post-/coloniality (Mayblin/Turner 2021; Lemberg Pedersen et al. 2022). The symposium therefore seeks to address the structural inequalities embedded in Africanist migration research in its epistemological, ontological, and institutional dimensions.

Overall, the symposium seeks to address these parallel trends of restrictive public discourses on African migration and the calls for "decolonising", or critically reassessing our analytical categories and assumptions. It thereby offers a space for critical reflection and commentary on the possibilities of power-analytical, decolonial and critical research on African mobilities in all

their diversity, through research-based analyses rather than opinion-based conjecture. It explicitly aims to open space for a conversation between African and European migration, mobility and displacement scholars, with a clear focus on centering African perspectives.

Symposium participants will be assigned different roles (i.e. speakers, discussants etc.) but in your preparations, we encourage all of you to reflect on your own work and particularly to:

- suggest theoretically innovative approaches to African mobilities (African mobilities covering African mobility, migration and displacement broadly)
- present empirical cases that challenge dominant (policy and/or public) assumptions regarding the motives, trajectories, circumstances, and effects of different forms of movement in Africa/by Africans
- outline theories, methodologies, or policy analyses that go against the grain of the Eurocentric status quo

All participants are further invited to critically interrogate their own positionalities and their implications for, on the one hand, the approaches and assumptions that inform their research agendas and, on the other hand, the unequal access to scholarly voice and visibility within global academia.

The idea for this symposium was developed in a collaboration between the Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana (CMS), the Centre for Mixed Migration and Diaspora Studies (CeMMiDS) at the University of Cape Coast, and the Collaborative Research Group on African Migration, Mobility, and Displacement (AMMODI) within the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS).

We are very much looking forward to inspiring exchanges with you.

Mary B. Setrana, Samuel Agblorti, Leander Kandilige, Franzisca Zanker, Jesper Bjarnesen and Laura Lambert

# Formats and Roles

The symposium is structured in three overarching streams, following AMMODI's main focus areas: migration, mobilities, and displacement. The migration stream focuses on the migration-development nexus as well as a critical analysis of migration policies more broadly; the mobilities stream on questions of inequality in the distribution of access to various forms of movement, and the displacement stream will highlight debates and reflections around policy and conceptual categories relating to refugees and internally displaced people.

The symposium brings together researchers from African and European institutions who are at different levels of their careers and part of different disciplines. Though everyone will have assigned roles, we are aiming for a conducive discussion atmosphere and joint reflections in smaller breakout groups where everyone is encouraged to contribute equally.

## **Tandem Talks**

The symposium will feature three 'tandem talks' with two well-established African and European scholars respectively. These tandem talks cover the three streams of research on migration, mobilities, and displacement. Each tandem partner will introduce their respective research fields and perspectives in 15-minute introductions, before reacting to each other's contributions and then discussing with the workshop participants. The emphasis will be on how the presenters have experienced and dealt with the politicisation of migration research and its concepts from their particular vantage points, and what these experiences can teach us in terms of 'speaking back to theory', that is, what theoretical and methodological pointers and ideas the presenters want to bring forward.

## **Thematic interventions**

Participants will present papers on their ongoing research on migration, mobility or displacement and discuss how their cases speak back to migration theory and the potentials and pitfalls of 'decolonising Africanist migration research'. Presentations should be 15 min long and be supported by a power point presentation. Presentations can be held in English or French (if held in French the powerpoint should be in English). Presenters are asked to submit their papers in advance, and no later than 15 February 2023 to [laura.lambert@abi.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:laura.lambert@abi.uni-freiburg.de).

## **Keynotes**

The two keynote speakers will discuss ongoing research based at the University of Cape Coast, centered on gender and political ecology approaches to migration research, respectively. In addition to presenting their research in these fields, the keynote speakers will be asked to reflect on the theoretical and methodological approaches that have influenced them, and on how their institutional anchorage at an African university has affected their outlooks and interests as scholars.

## **Break-out groups**

Participants will be divided into breakout groups (ca. 8-10 participants) to further develop their thoughts on how to refine migration theory by addressing empirical realities in Africa and pursuing decolonisation agendas in research according to the three streams of migration, mobilities, and displacement. These break-out groups will also be used to discuss the possibilities for joint publications and blog posts after the symposium. Participants will be clustered in breakout groups at the beginning of the symposium and remain in the same group throughout the symposium.

## **Discussants**

Discussants will facilitate breakout groups and interventions in the thematic stream they are responsible for as well as discussing the paper presentations.

# **Output**

We envisage a joint edited volume at the Brill AEGIS series and, potentially, a Special Issue in an international open-access journal. Furthermore, we encourage all participants to contribute a short AMMODI blog post based on their presentation.

# PROGRAMME

## **14 March 2023**

### **|| Arrival in Accra**

International Participants: Arrival at Kotoka International Airport,  
Transfer from Airport to Mensvic Hotel

Accommodation 14-16/03, 18-19/03: Mensvic Hotel  
(<https://mensvichotels.com/>), Accra

Individual Dinner at Mensvic Hotel

## **15 March 2023**

### **|| Inequalities in Migration and Mobilities Research**

Venue: Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, Accra

#### **8:30 Bus Transfer from Mensvic Hotel to Campus**

#### **9:00-10:00 Opening: Welcoming Notes**

Assignment to Breakout Groups:

- Migration and Development (Linda Oucho, Jesper Bjarnesen)
- Mobilities and Inequalities (Heike Drotbohm, Hassan Ould Moctar)
- Displacement and Categorisations (Paolo Gaibazzi, Boris Nieswand)

#### **10:00-11:00 Tandem Talk 1: Migration and Development**

Mary B. Setrana: New Insights Into African Mobility And Development

Oliver Bakewell: The Critical Role of Mobility in Development

Chair: Takyiwaa Manuh

# PROGRAMME

## **11:00-11:30 Coffee Break**

## **11:30-13:00 Thematic Interventions: Migration and Development**

Elizabeth Nana Mbrah Koomson-Yalley: A Situational Analysis of Street Children from Migrant Families in Cities in Ghana

Yacouba Cissao: Migration and Mobility Related to the Circulation of Agricultural Products between Burkina Faso and its Neighboring Countries

Rose Jaji: Africanising Mobility and Critical Reflections on the Migration-Non-migration Binary

Discussant: Augustine Tanle

## **13:00-14:00 Lunch Break**

## **14:00-15:00 Tandem Talk 2: The Mobility Turn and Inequalities**

Nauja Kleist: Moving Matter(s): Reflections on Scale and Infrastructure in Climate Change Affected Mobilities

Henrietta Nyamnjoh: Refugeeism, Invisibility and Visibility: The Challenges of Ethiopian Children (Migrants) living in Permanent Temporalities

Chair: Jesper Bjarnesen

## **15.00-16.00 Thematic Interventions: Mobility and Inequalities**

Almamy Sylla: Les expérimentations dans la gestion des migrations de retour dans le Mali postcolonial

Iriann Freemantle: A Racial Project: The European 'Management' of African Migration

Discussant: Faisal Garba

## **16:00-16:30 Coffee Break**

# PROGRAMME

## **16:30-18:00 Breakout Sessions: Inequalities in Africanist Migration Research**

- Daily Wrap-up: how do the tandem talks (so far) relate to your research? How would you go beyond what was already discussed?
- Specific Theme: Which types of inequalities/power relations are relevant in your research topics? In what way are they (not) sufficiently addressed by migration research? How could a conceptual and methodological framework look like that addresses, reflects and counters these inequalities?

**19:00 Joint Dinner (Jam Rock, tbc)**

## **16 March 2023**

### **|| Displacement and Categorisations**

Venue: Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, Accra

#### **9:00-10:30 Roundtable: Categorising whom and to what Effects? Migration Policies from a Civil Society Perspective**

##### **Moderators**

1. Leander Kandilige
2. Faisal Garba

##### **Panel members**

1. Munkaila Aminu (AFDOM)
2. Alfred Mbinglo (RECFAM)
3. Bernice Boafo, Migration Advisory Centre (MAC)
4. Samuel Doodoo (Media Response)

**10:30-11:00 Coffee Break**



# PROGRAMME

## **11:00-12:30 Thematic Interventions: Displacement and Questioning Categorisations**

Rebecca Murray: 'Beyond Displacement'. Transcending, Ungrounding and Moving beyond the Binaries that Shape Displacement.

Ronald Kalyango Sebba: Negotiating Agency and Belonging among Sudanese Refugees in Uganda

Laura Lambert: Everyday Categorical Labour. Moral and Political Economies of Refugee Deservingness in Niger

Discussant: Franzisca Zanker

## **12:30-13:30 Lunch Break**

## **13:30-14:30 Tandem Talk 3: Recognising Refugees**

Veronica Fynn Bruey: Dehumanisation, Indignation and Precarity of Migration: The UNHCR Refugee Convention Legally Preferencing Refugees

Cathryn Costello: Refugee Recognition Practices in Africa and Europe Compared and Contrasted

Chair: Laura Lambert

## **14:30-15:00 Coffee Break**

## **15:00-17:00 Break-out Sessions**

- Daily Wrap-up: how do the tandem talk and presentations relate to your research? How would you go beyond what was already discussed? How do you see the interaction with civil society for (your) academic work? How can research collaboration beyond academia look like? What is it relevant for, what are its risks?
- Daily Topic: Which problems do you see with migrant categorisations in your work? What are their power effects? When and how should we reconceptualise our analysis to address these issues?

# PROGRAMME

**19:00 Dinner (Mensvic Hotel)**

**17 March 2023**

## **|| Colonialism and Displacement**

**9:00 Transfer from Mensvic Hotel to Cape Coast (ca. 3 h)**

**12:30-13:30 Lunch**

Venue: Sasakawa Conference Centre, University of Cape Coast

**13:30-15:00 Keynote Lecture**

Dr Samuel Agblorti (University of Cape Coast): "Political Ecology as a Framework for Understanding Refugee Integration in West Africa"

Chair: Leander Kandilige

Open to wider audience/students

**15:00 Transfer from University of Cape Coast to Castle**

**15:30-17:30 Guided Field Visit to the St. George/ Elmina Slave Castle in Cape Coast**

Cape Coast is the regional capital of the Central Region of Ghana. The region used to host colonial castles where slaves were shipped through the Gulf of Guinea to the Americas. Participants will be taken on a guided tour of St. George / Elmina Castle

# PROGRAMME

**17:30 Walk/Transfer to Beach-side Location tbc**

**18:00- Break-out Sessions along the beach alongside snacks**

- Daily Wrap-up: How does being in a different location today feel? How do different locations affect research and topics discussed throughout the last few days, including the experience and locality of migration?
- Daily Topic: Which colonial legacies do you see in contemporary migration governance, mobility patterns and migration research? Which examples of decolonial approaches in migration studies have inspired you? What would be needed to decolonise migration policy and research?

**18 March 2023**

## **|| Gender and Mobility, Breakout Sessions, and Conclusion**

Venue: Sasakawa Conference Centre, University of Cape Coast

**9:00-10:30 Keynote Lecture**

Prof. Akua Opokua Britwum (University of Cape Coast): "Gendered Migration in the Social Reproduction of Labour"

Chair: Mary Setrana

Open to wider audience/ students

**10:30-11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00-11:45 Break-out Sessions**

Wrap and summarise discussions from the break out groups, talk about potential special issues etc.

# PROGRAMME

**11:45-12:30 Personal Reflection Writing Time**

**12:30-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00 Concluding Discussion**

Taking stock of the symposium and summarising our strategies for publications and future events and collaborations.

**15:00 Travel back to Accra (approx. 3h)**

**Individual Dinner**

**Accommodation: Mensvic Hotel, Accra**

**19 March 2023**

**|| Individual Departure**

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

**Samuel Agblorti** holds a PhD in geography from the University of Calgary, Canada. Samuel's thesis was on the nexus between refugees' use of environmental resources, resultant environmental conflicts between refugees and host populations, and the feasibility of local integration of refugees. His current research interests focus on the analysis of host-refugee environmental conflicts, mainly from the perspective of power and economic considerations and the implications for the local integration of refugees in protracted situations. He holds a faculty position at the Centre for Mixed Migration and Diaspora Studies at the University of Cape Coast.

**Oliver Bakewell** is a Reader in Migration Studies at the Global Development Institute (GDI), University of Manchester. His works on the intersections between migration and mobility and processes of development and change, with an empirical focus on migration within Africa. Much of his current research is focused on the Horn of Africa, looking at migration and development, transnational lived citizenship and diaspora, the effects of externalisation of EU migration policy, the relationship between migration, poverty and income inequality. He teaches on the MSc Global Development specialist pathway on migration, mobility and displacement. Prior to joining GDI, he was one of the founder members of the International Migration Institute at the University of Oxford, of which he became Director. Before taking up this role at Oxford, Oliver spent many years working with migrants and refugees both as a researcher and a practitioner with a range of development and humanitarian NGOs.

**Jesper Bjarnesen** is a senior researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) and Associate Professor in cultural anthropology. He works primarily on the grey zones between forced and voluntary migration in West Africa. His interests include the generational variations of displacement, the dynamics of integration among urban youths, and the broader themes of urban resettlement and transnational families. His current research focuses on the 'soft infrastructures' of regional labour mobilities across and between secondary cities in West Africa. He is the cofounder of the African Migration, Mobility, and Displacement (AMMODI) research network.

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

**Yacouba Cissao** is a socio-anthropologist and researcher at the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (INSS) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST) in Burkina Faso. His research interests include conflict management, migration, mobilities, religious issues, gender, urbanization, insecurity and cross-border issues in West Africa. He is the author and co-author of several articles, book chapters and books. He is a 2022 African Studies Centre Leiden visiting fellowship awardee (Netherlands) and a 2019 Coimbra Group scholarship awardee at KU Leuven (Belgium). His current research focuses on internal and regional mobilities as well as security and cross-border issues in Burkina Faso.

**Cathryn Costello** is Professor of Fundamental Rights and Co-Director of the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School, Berlin and Andrew W Mellon Professor of International Refugee and Migration Law at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. She is co-editor with Michelle Foster and Jane McAdam of the Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law (OUP 2021). Her monograph on the Human Rights of Migrants and Refugees in European Law (OUP 2015) was co-awarded the 2016 Odysseus Academic Prize. She researches international refugee and migration law, and the intersections of migration and labour law. On the latter theme, she co-edited (with Professor Mark Freedland) *Migrants at Work: Immigration and Vulnerability in Labour Law* (OUP 2014). She has undertaken several studies for the European Parliament and the UNHCR, including on Article 31 of the Refugee Convention. She is currently the PI of an ERC project, RefMig, a global study of the institutionalisation of the refugee / migrant binary ([www.refmig.org](http://www.refmig.org)).

**Heike Drotbohm** is a Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. Her research, conducted in transatlantic social fields (Haiti, Cape Verde), concentrated on the intersection of im/mobility, kinship, and care. More recently, she followed migrant trajectories across urban and cross-border spaces (in Brazil and Central America), and explored configurations of care and control in solidarity and humanitarian settings. Publications appeared in *Ethnography*, *Citizenship Studies*, the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Population, Space and Place* as well as *Humanity* and several co-editions. She was fellow at the research centre "work and the life course in global history" (HU Berlin) and at the New School for Social Research (New York City).

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

**Iriann Freemantle** is a research consultant and Associate Researcher with the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Over the past decade, Iriann has worked extensively on migration, xenophobia and social cohesion in South Africa. Her current work focuses predominantly on old and new forms of racism expressed in European policies on migration in and out of Africa.

**Veronica Fynn Bruey** is a multi-award winner and a passionate academic-advocate. Holding six academic degrees from four continents, she has researched, taught, consulted, and presented at conferences in over 30 countries. She's authored five books, several book chapters, and journal articles. She is the founder/editor-in-chief of the Journal of Internal Displacement; the co-lead of Law and Society's Collaborative Research Network (CRN-11): "Displaced Peoples"; the lead of Law and Society Association's International Research Collaborative (IRC-10): "Disrupting Patriarchy and Masculinity in Africa"; the founder the Voice of West African Refugees in Ghana at the Buduburam Refugee Settlement in Ghana. She is also the Australian National University International Alumna of the Year, 2021, the president of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration, and a Co-Chair, Africa Interest Group, American Society of International Law. Currently, she is an Action Canada Fellow (2022-2023), Director of Flowers School of Global Health Sciences, and an assistant professor of Legal Studies at Athabasca University. Veronica is a born and bred Indigenous Liberian war survivor.

**Paolo Gaibazzi** is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Bologna. He has previously been Heisenberg Fellow at the University of Bayreuth, Senior Researcher at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin, and Lecturer of Anthropology at the University of Latvia. He is the author of *Bush Bound: Young Men and Rural Permanence in Migrant West Africa* (Berghahn 2015), an ethnography of immobility and social reproduction in rural Gambia. He has subsequently worked on West African Muslim traders in Angola, and on Europe's externalized border management in Africa. On the latter topic, he has co-edited *EurAfrican Borders and Migration Management* (Palgrave 2017). In addition to regimes of im/mobility, Gaibazzi has published extensively on post-slavery and on economies of fate, fortune and potentiality in West Africa.

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

**Faisal Garba** (Ph.D) is a senior lecturer of Sociology at the University of Cape Town (UCT) where he convenes the Global Studies Programme and leads the Migration and Mobility Hub. He works on political economy and inequality, migration and mobility, social theory, historical sociology, and working-class forms of organising. He is active in working struggles for alternative sociality.

**Rose Jaji** is senior researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS). Her research areas of interest are migration/refugees and conflict and peacebuilding. She has published peer-reviewed articles on migrant/refugee masculinities and femininities, refugees and social technology, identity and refugee hosting, asylum seekers and border crossing, return migration as well as gender and peacebuilding. She is the author of *Deviant Destinations: Zimbabwe and North to South Migration* (Lexington Books, 2020).

**Leander Kandilige** is an Academic at the Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana. His areas of academic research interest include migration policy formulation; migration and development nexus; labour migrations in Africa; return migration and reintegration and theories of migration. He has been Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator and Researcher for several large projects that have been funded by diverse international funders including the 'Migration for Development and Equality' (MIDEQ), a five-year GCRF/UKRI-funded project and the 'Aligning Migration Management and Migration-Development Nexus' (MIGNEX) project, a five-year project funded by the EU. He has consulted for international organisations including the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), GIZ, ILO, OECD, EU and DFID.

**Nauja Kleist** is a senior researcher in the Migration and Global Order Research Unit at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) in Copenhagen. She holds a PhD in sociology, and works with emphasis on qualitative research and (often) multi-sited and longitudinal fieldwork. Her research focuses on linkages between (im)mobilities, belonging, gender, and social order, in particular regarding how migration and (im)mobility is perceived, practiced and governed by different actors, hope and uncertainty



# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

in migration, imaginaries of the future and good life, and the transnational development and humanitarian engagement of diaspora groups. Nauja has done research on Ghanaian (return) migration and climate-related mobilities and is the PI of the collaborative research project Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises (D-Hum), with focus on Somali diaspora groups and Somalia.

**Elizabeth Koomson-Yalley** is a lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Social Work in the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. Her research engages with vulnerable populations and focuses on irregular migration, gender, health, development and social welfare policy while promoting the use of innovative efforts for improved social, economic and cultural dynamics for the well-being of disadvantaged groups. Elizabeth is currently a member of the Swiss Sub-Saharan Africa Migration Network (S-SAM) and a fellow of Neuchatel University, Switzerland.

**Laura Lambert**, Dr. des. phil., is interim head of the research cluster "Patterns of (Forced) Migration" at Arnold Bergstraesser Institute in Freiburg, Germany. Her prior PhD research "everyday externalization" (funded by the Max Planck Society) is an ethnographic exploration of the EU externalization of refugee protection to Niger and its unintended consequences in the everyday life of the cooperating third state. Her wider research interests include refugee recognition and protection, bureaucracies, migration regimes and migrant struggles, future-making and infrastructures. She is the co-founder of the West Africa working group at [migration-control.info](http://migration-control.info).

**Takwiwaa Manuh** is Emerita Professor of African Studies at the University of Ghana. She served as Director at the Social Development Policy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Ethiopia, and Professor of African Studies at the University of Ghana where she was also Director of the Institute of African Studies between 2002 and 2009. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Law from the University of Ghana, Legon, and the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and a Ph.D in Anthropology from Indiana University, Bloomington. Her research interests are in African development; women's rights and empowerment; contemporary African migrations, and African higher-education systems, and

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

she has published widely in those areas. She has practiced as a lawyer and is active in the women's movement in Ghana and Africa, and serves on the boards of several international, continental and national organizations. She is a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has received other awards including the University of Ghana's Meritorious Service Award for 2007, Ghana's Order of the Volta (Officer Class) in 2008, and an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Sussex, UK, in 2015.

**Rebecca Murray** is a Lecturer in Sociological Studies teaching across Sociology and Social Work. She is a member of the Sanctuary advisory group and the Migration Research Group at the University of Sheffield. Rebecca sits on the national University of Sanctuary steering committee, following the merger of the Article 26 project, which she founded and directed. Rebecca's extensive practice and research in relation to bordering and post compulsory education developed from young migrant-led grassroots campaigning and advocacy initiatives. Rebecca's current project '(Re)imagining the Higher Education Border', seeks to quantify the higher education border and facilitate a '(re)imagining of its scale and impact in participation with young migrants.

**Boris Nieswand** studied Sociology in Bielefeld and received his PhD in Ethnology in Halle/Saale. He worked at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle/Saale) and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Göttingen). Since 2017, he is a professor with the focus on migration and diversity at the Institute of Sociology of the University of Tübingen. Boris' research focuses are on migration and diversity studies, urban studies and the sociology of morality. Theoretically, he describes his research perspective as reflexive. It is meant to be a way of dealing with the irreducible plurality of world interpretations and moral evaluations. <https://uni-tuebingen.de/index.php?id=30901&L=0>

**Henrietta Nyamnjoh** is a researcher with the South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub at the university of Cape Town. She holds an MPhil degree in African Studies/Development Studies and Doctor of Philosophy both from Leiden University. Her research within the hub focuses on Childhood migration and Inequalities, to understand the levels of inequality faced by unaccompanied Ethiopian Children during their migration journey and in the host country. She has researched extensively on female

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

migrants and recently completed a study titled 'Migrant Margins: City-Making Across Durable Borders' which explores the everyday lives of Congolese women. Before this, she also did more research on childhood, focusing on the left-behind children of Cameroonian economic migrants in Cape Town. Her research interests include migration and mobility, transnational studies, and migration and health. Additionally, she is also interested in understanding religion in the context of migration. Henrietta has researched and published widely on migration, transnational studies, migrants' economy and everyday lives, food and migration, religion in the context of migration and Hometown associations.

**Akua Opokua Britwum** is an Associate Professor at the Department of Labour and Human Resource Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. She previously served as Director of the Centre for Gender Research, Advocacy and Documentation at the University of Cape Coast. She has been connected with the University of Kassel in Germany, where she held the Ela Bhatt-Guest Professor Chair with the Faculty of Social Sciences and the University of Johannesburg, South Africa as a Senior Research Associate. She has also served as the Convenor of the Network for Women's Rights in Ghana. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the International Review of Social History and the Global Labour Journal. Her research and publication cover gender and trade unionism, trade union history, informal workers' rights, gendered land rights, and gender mainstreaming in Ghanaian universities. Her most recent publication is: Britwum, Akua O (2022) Trades Union Congress Ghana: Seventy-Five Years of Achievements, Challenges and Prospects. Accra: Digibooks.

**Linda Adhiambo Oucho** is an established migration expert and Executive Director of the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC), an independent research think tank leading in policy-based research on migration and development issues in Eastern Africa and beyond. Dr. Oucho holds a PhD in Ethnic Relations from the University of Warwick contributing to research on internal, regional, and international migration related to poverty, climate change, youth-employment-migration nexus, forced displacement as well as diaspora return migration and reintegration among others. She has also undertaken consultancies with several international agencies including African Union, IOM, ICMPD, UNDP, GIZ, FAO, IDRC and FES among others. She is a Migration Research and Publishing High Level

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Advisor for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and an active member of the National Coordination Mechanism for Migration (NCM) led by the Government of Kenya.

**Hassan Ould Moctar** is a Fellow in International Development at the London School of Economics. His research focuses on the relationship between migration, borders, and development processes, with a regional focus on Mauritania, the West African Sahel, and the Sahara. In particular, he is interested in how the illegalisation of migration interacts with the racial and territorial legacies of colonialism, contemporary uneven development processes, and conflict and displacement dynamics. He is currently preparing a monograph based on his PhD thesis, which details how the EU border externalisation processes intervenes within social relations and structures in Mauritania. Prior to joining LSE, Hassan was an ESRC postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Development Studies at SOAS, University of London, where he also obtained his PhD in May 2021. He holds an MSc in Migration and Ethnic Studies, which he obtained with distinction from the University of Amsterdam.

**Kalyango Ronald Sebba** is a lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences Kyambogo University, Kampala Uganda. Formally with the School of Women Studies and the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, Makerere University. He teaches courses on Forced Migration, Social Policy Analysis, Gender and Development. Currently he is a co-coordinator on a Certificate course-Migration Health run by Makerere University, Center for health and Migration university of Vienna and supported by the IOM. He has coordinated two collaborative programs between Makerere University and the University of Oldenburg, Germany. He also served as Senior Education and Training Officer for the Refugee Law Project in Kampala. Is a Co-investigator Displacement in Africa: The Politics and Stakeholders of Migration Governance with the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute at the University of Freiburg.

**Mary Boatemaa Setrana** is the Director of the Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana. She is a sociologist by training and holds a PhD in Migration Studies from University of Ghana and Radboud University, the Netherlands. She participates (either as a PI or Co-I) in large research pro-

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

jects funded by EU, IOM, ILO and OECD, Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), Carnegie Corporation for New York (CCNY). She is currently a member of the consortium working on the following projects: West Africa Chair for Forced displacement, Migration Decisions and the COVID-19 Pandemic project funded by Swiss Government; GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub, funded by UKRI; Climate Change, Migration and Social Transformation project funded by EU; Culture for Sustainable and Inclusive Peace Project, funded by UKRI; and Crises as Opportunities project, funded by EU. Mary has contributed to migration policy development in Ghana and other African countries. Specifically, she was part of the team that drafted the Diaspora Engagement policy in Ghana. She was also one of the consultants that facilitated the development of national migration policies in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as the labour migration policy in Malawi. She is the facilitator for the finalization of the National Migration Policy for Botswana. She is a member of a number of migration governance advisory groups and networks. For instance, she served as a technical advisor to the African Union Commission (AUC) on migration governance. She is also an Advisory Board member of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence on Migration & Mobility. Mary is editorial member for the African studies review and the journal of African Diaspora. Her research interests include migration governance, African mobilities including pastoralism, cross-border trading, etc, Gender, migration and development, forced displacement, Return Migration and Reintegration, Youth Migration and Aspirations, Transnational Migration and Diasporas.

**Almamy Sylla**, PhD, est Enseignant-chercheur en Anthropologie à l'Université des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Bamako (ULSHB) et membre du Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale (LACET). Il est membre aussi du projet de recherche 'Soft infrastructures : Labour mobilities across and between secondary cities in West Africa' au sein duquel il s'intéresse aux transformations et dynamiques des 'soft' infrastructures de mobilité régionale dans le Sud du Mali. Ses recherches portent essentiellement sur les migrations de retour forcé, les mobilités régionales, les politiques migratoires, le genre et les innovations sociales au Mali.

# SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

**Augustine Tanle** is a Professor of Migration Studies in the Department of Population and Health, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast. He holds a PhD in migration and livelihoods studies from the same university. His research interests are migration and livelihoods, and gender and migration. He has expertise in qualitative research methodologies but often adopts pragmatism as his research philosophy. Prof. Tanle teaches courses such as Migration and Development, Population Movements and Population, Environment and Development among others at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in his Department and other Departments within the Faculty of Social Sciences. Over the years, he has been serving as a supervisor, internal and external examiner for both M. Phil and PhD theses in his Department, other Departments within the Faculty of Social Sciences, and at other universities in Ghana. Prof. Tanle has research networks with colleagues at some universities both in Ghana and abroad.

**Franziska Zanker** is a Senior Researcher and head of the research cluster 'Patterns of (Forced) Migration' at the Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute. Her research interests include the political interests of African governments in migration governance and refugee protection as well as the role of migrant communities and civil society in these processes. She has previously led research projects on these topics in Nigeria, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, South Africa and Uganda. Together with Jesper Bjarnesen she is the co-founder of the AEGIS Collaborative Research Group on 'African Migration, Mobility and Displacement' (AMMODI).