



Transnationalism, identities's dynamics and cultural diversification in urban post-migratory situations

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– Concerted research actions – Wallonia-Europe Academy*

migration & change



ARC – Concerted Research Action

- Frenchspeaking Community of Belgium
- Wallonia-Europe University Academia
- Pluriannual research programme
- 2009-2014
- Fund

3 partners – University of Liège

- CEDEM – Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies

<http://www.cedem.ulg.ac.be>

- CLEO – Centre for the Study of Public Opinion

<http://www.cleo-ulg.ac.be>

- Pôle SUD – Research Centre on Urban Societies of Developing Countries

<http://www.polesud.ulg.ac.be>

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Team & organization

- Professors and supervisors (5)
- PhD students (4+)
- Researchers (3+)
- Collaborators (3+)

Steering committee – advisory committee -
coordinator

Background

Belgian research on migration shortcomings

- Understudied issues
- Fragmented research along discipline, along qualitative and quantitative, between migration experts and integration experts
- Research on Development / research on migration

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Objectives

Relationships between migration and change?

- transnational social space
- issues of majority and minority identities
- role of immigrant arts and cultures
- issue of migration and development

Patterns of coexistence between majorities and minorities shaped by transnational processes

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The TRICUD dimensions

- **Post-migratory city and transnational flows**

How and under which conditions **the exchanges** (cultural, religious, economic, political, etc.) between “diasporic” communities and networks, and corresponding communities in the southern urban setting of origin develop ?

- **Dynamics of identities**

Effects of migration and transnational practices of migrants on **public opinion** and **identity formation**

- **Cultural diversification**

How is **cultural production** used by majority and minority groups to interact, or to prevent social interactions in neighbourhoods and cities?

Case-studies

- Congolese

~22 000 >

- Moroccans

4th group (after Italians, French and Dutch)

~82 000 > ~250 000

Research projects

1. Research question
2. Theoretical framework and hypothesis
3. Empirical approach
4. First findings

Migration, Transnationalism and Development: the Moroccan-Belgian Household



Caroline
ZICKGRAF

CEDEM

post-migratory city and transnational flows

1. How do Oujdi families create, maintain and structure a transnational familial space in both sending and host countries?
2. 'Transnational families are...families that live some or most of the time separated from each other, yet hold together and create something that can be seen as a feeling of collective welfare and unity, namely 'familyhood', even across national borders"(Bryceson and Vuorela 2002).

Transnational practices : "occupations and activities that require regular and sustained social contacts over time across national borders for their implementation"(Portes, Guarnizo, and Landolt 1999).

3. Fieldwork – Liège - Oujda

Transnational Relations and Family

Transformations: Congo-Kinshasa-Liège/Bruxelles-Kinshasa



Bénédicte
MEIERS

Pôle-Sud

post-migratory city and transnational flows

1. Social changes induced by migration from the relationships that Congolese migrants have with people in DRC
2. Ethnographic approach, observations, interviews /Liège – Kinshasa (Ndjili)
3. Some findings:

Liège: District-family + spiritual family

Transnational activities (cars & pastors)

Kinshasa: Alumni Association of the ULg

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Joint research projects

International migration:
households situation in the
country of origin

Bienvenu SOLO (UNIKIN)

- MAFE + interviews
<http://mafeproject.site.ined.fr/>
- Discretion strategy
- Migrant=family pivot
- Press(ur)ing the migrant

Transformation of
Congolese family in Liège
Marie Jeanne OMARI (ULg)

- Focus groups
- Family crisis
- Women role

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Ethnic majority-minority relations: Attitudes and representations



Petar
KOVINCIC

CLEO

Identities 's dynamics

1. How can we explain attitudes between ethnic majority and ethnic minorities (Maghreb & Subsaharian Africa) in Belgium?

2. >< Groups competition \Rightarrow groupism

Rogers Brubaker approach, *Ethnicity without groups*, 2006

Attitudes between majority and minority emerge from the play of categorization and temporary groups construction

3. Analysis of surveys and interviews

4. Categorization – contact hypothesis

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Artists and Politics: Representation, identity and Political Mobilization



Fatima
ZIBOUH

CEDEM

Cultural diversification

1. Interactions between artistic practices of Congolese and Moroccan minorities with public institutions in Brussels and Liège
2. Social movement theory
3. Semi-structured interviews

Related project

PIT - Politics, Immigration and Theater

- Pilot project – inventory
- Theater as political action
- Links with public policies

Perspectives

- A unique opportunity to study migration (emigration/immigration)
- Activities (seminars, exchanges for PhD students)
- A international conference - 2014

Gracias por su atención !

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