

***Child and Youth Migration in West Africa:
Research Progress and Implications for Policy***

9th-10th June 2009, Hotel Alisa, Accra

Biographies

Nana Akua Anyidoho – ISSER, University of Ghana

Nana Akua Anyidoho is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana. She has a PhD in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University, and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Ghana.

She is interested in the strategies that people employ to attain their visions of personal development, and the ways in which the policy context helps or hinders this quest. In recent research, she has investigated the pathways of empowerment for women, the career trajectories of young people, and the aspirations of migrants in the agro-export sector.

Melanie Jacquemin - Centre d'Etudes africaines, Paris

Mélanie Jacquemin received her Ph.D in Sociology from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris in 2007. She also has a master degree in Contemporary History and Anthropology. She is an associate post-doctoral researcher of the African Centre Studies (EHESS/IRD, Paris), and she is currently looking for a research position.

By focusing on working children and youth in a gender perspective, as well as on the economic role and value of female (child) work performed in the domestic arena, her research interests include child, youth and female migration; gender and ethnic social relations; urban domestic economy; school, education and work; children's voice and agency; working children's mobility and future; research methods and procedures for generating data on child migration and child labour; international, state and development policies implementing children's rights; media representation of child migration and labour. She's currently working on a book manuscript from her Ph D thesis, which dealt with a sociology of child domestic service in Abidjan (Côte-d'Ivoire), exploring how the practices evolved, over the past 30 years, from a family work linked to educational process, into the kind of wage work that exist today.

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Dorte Thorsen – Migration DRC, University of Sussex

Dorte Thorsen has studied child and youth migration in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire since 2005 and has carried out research in rural Burkina Faso since 1997. Her research has provided a window on the household negotiations preceding children's migration; child and youth migrants' experience at urban destinations; their social networks; working lives; and strategies to ameliorate their future. The findings emerge from a total of twelve months' fieldwork during which fifteen migrants were interviewed every year to build up detailed biographies. Furthermore, around 160 migrants were interviewed in Ouagadougou and Abidjan and 50 parents in rural Burkina Faso. Finally, twelve children carried out interviews with other children in their village.

Dorte Thorsen holds a PhD in African studies from the University of Sussex. She has until recently worked at the Nordic Africa Institute in Sweden and is currently back at Sussex as a visiting research fellow.

Dorte Thorsena fait des recherches sur la migration des enfants et de la jeunesse au Burkina Faso et en Côte d'Ivoire depuis 2005 et elle a fait des recherches dans les zones rurales au Burkina Faso depuis 1997. Ses études ont fourni des informations sur les négociations de ménage précédant de migration des enfants, l'expérience des jeunes migrants aux destinations urbaines, leurs réseaux sociaux, leur travail, et leurs stratégies pour améliorer le futur. Les données de ces études sont basées sur les travaux au terrain pendant d'un total de douze mois, pendant lesquels des biographies détaillées étaient accumulées de quinze migrants qui ont été interviewés chaque année. En plus environ 160 migrants à Ouagadougou et à Abidjan et 50 parents dans le Centre Est au Burkina Faso ont été interviewés et des autres entretiens ont effectué pare douze "enfants chercheurs" avec d'autres enfants dans leur village. Dorte Thorsen a achevé les études doctorales à l'Université du Sussex. Elle a travaillé à l'Institut des Etudes Africaines pour les Pays Scandinaves en Suède et a rejoint l'Université du Sussex tout récemment.

Guy Massart – Mindelo, International Art School, Cape Verde

Guy Massart is a Belgian social anthropologist, he holds a PhD in Communication Sciences from the Ecole Normale Supérieure – Lyon. Currently, consultant and professor of anthropology at the Mindelo Escola Internacional de Arte (M_EIA), based in Cape Verde. Has coordinated for Plan International regional ethnographical research projects in West Africa (2004-2008) about and with youth and children.

Massart's work focuses on pursuing experimental ethnographical projects, both in terms of communication (multimedia, website, arts, events), and in terms of participatory research methods, namely with children and youth. His other research interests focus on the impact of contemporary social changes on the daily experience and identities of men in Portuguese speaking Africa.

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Albertine de Lange – Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

Albertine de Lange (1977) studied anthropology and non-western sociology at the University of Amsterdam. Her MA thesis was based on field research on the "imagination of the West" in the Upper East region of Ghana in 2001.

From 2003 to 2007, Albertine worked for IREWOC, a research institute which specializes in child labour and education issues. During this period, she set up and carried out research on "child labour migration in the cotton sector in Burkina Faso" and on "perceptions of education in rural areas in Northern Ghana and Burkina Faso" (in collaboration with Plan Netherlands, Ghana and Burkina). Since October 2007, she works for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), at the Regional Office for Africa. As the rural employment officer, she assists in the design of policies, research and tools for the promotion of rural youth employment and the prevention of child labour in agriculture, especially its worst forms.

Abou Bakari Imorou - University of Abomey Calavi, Benin

Abou Bakari Imorou received his PHD from the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in France. He is currently lecturing at the University of Abomey Calavi in Benin, and is a researcher at Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL). His research interests include health, justice and youth and child migration.

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