



**Colloquium Series  
Sociology of Transnationalization  
“The Transnational Lens”**

# **Forced Migration Infrastructures. The Case of African Migrants through the Americas**

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Based on the findings of a recent ethnographic research project (2021-2023), this presentation provides the latest insights of the dynamics of the relatively new migrant flow of African migrants through the Americas. The presentation will point out to the three main findings, namely: the production of statelessness and the state’s ambivalence in dealing with forced migrants, the instrumentalization of women in the global refugee system, and the problematization of the concept of “smugglers”. In doing so, this presentation will address the idea of emerging “forced migration infrastructures” which leads to dynamics of multiple displacements and increased vulnerability for those on the move. The presentation is based on ethnographic data collected with 20 African migrants in transit between June 2021 and December 2022 in three different locations in Mexico. Besides presenting empirical data and the main theoretical contributions, I will also aim to present some methodologically relevant issues. The case of African migrants through the Americas represents a very rich case to analyze how this dynamic takes place within the global migration management policies.

**Tuesday, 09th May 2023  
16:15 – 17:45**

**Bielefeld University  
Room: X-B2-103**

\*Ester Serra Mingot is a social anthropologist with a focus on migration, gender and social protection of African migrants. She is currently a P.R.I.M.E. Fellow at Bielefeld University, where she is now finalizing the project “Protection on the move. Transnational social protection trajectories of African migrants in Mexico.” In 2018 she completed her PhD at the Universities of Maastricht and Aix Marseille,

where she explored aspects of transnational social protection for Sudanese immigrants and refugees in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and her families in Sudan. She worked as a senior researcher at the Bonn International Conversion Center (BICC), Germany, where she worked on a project on return migration and reintegration in Ghana.