



**UNIVERSITÄT
BIELEFELD**

Faculty of Sociology

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

Protection on the Move. Transnational Social Protection Infrastructures for African and Haitian Migrants in Mexico

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This presentation will address the development and main challenges encountered in a current research project investigating the trajectories of social protection of African migrants in Mexico, a new but increasingly visible migrant group that has emerged in the past years as a result of a combination of global processes. In the past decades, migration and social protection have taken new forms and consequently different relations between the State and society. Many studies have investigated aspects of social protection for migrants from the Global South in industrialized countries of the Global North, with powerful welfare-states. Yet, such focus on origin and destination countries has failed to understand the complexities during the migration process, where people often spend uncertain periods of time in transit countries, frequently affected by violence, socio-economic crises, and a volatile formal social-protection system. Through a mixed-methods approach (ethnographic methods and social network analysis), this project aims to advance our understanding on how mobile populations devise and shape their social protection strategies during their migration trajectories in a transnational manner, beyond sending and receiving states. To do so, this research draws on the case of African migrants in Mexico, a context characterized by inefficient state protection and where social protection practices are carried out informally by individuals and their social networks.

**Wednesday, 06th July, 2022
16:15 – 17:45**

**Zoom event, to register:
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*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 the University of Bielefeld, where she is working on 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 contributed to a project on return migration and reintegration in Ghana.