



Protection on the move – Transnational social protection trajectories of African migrants in Mexico

Ester Serra Mingot *

CALAS, Mexico

This research project aims to investigate the trajectories of social protection (TSP) 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. Migration is a social-protection strategy for individuals and families throughout the globe. 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 most protection practices are carried out *ad hoc* by the third sector and informal social networks. This project aims to contribute to the theorisation of current approaches of TSP, which to date have only focused on the circulation of resources across sending and receiving countries.

Wednesday, 8th December, 2021

16:15 – 17:45

Zoom event, to register:

kerstin.schmidt1@uni-bielefeld.de

*Dr Ester Serra Mingot is a social anthropologist with a focus on migration issues, return, reintegration, social protection and gender in African contexts. In 2018 she completed her PhD at the University of Maastricht and the University of Aix Marseille, where she conducted a multi-sited matched sample ethnography on the transnational social protection strategies implemented by Sudanese migrants and refugees in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and their families “back home”. She was a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at the University of Maastricht, and later on a senior researcher at the Bonn International Conversion Center (BICC), Germany, where she worked on a project on return migration and reintegration in

Ghana.

Ester has a degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Alicante (Spain), and a Master's Degree in Migration and Intercultural Relations from the Universities of Oldenburg (Germany), the University of Stavanger (Norway) and the Ahfad University for Women (Sudan). In 2021 she became a Transatlantic Fellow at the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS) in Guadalajara, Mexico, where she started researching the topic of transnational social protection infrastructures for African migrants in transit through Mexico. Ester is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Bielefeld University and CIESAS-Mexico under the DAAD's P.R.I.M.E. Fellowship programme.