



**Swiss Society for African Studies  
Société suisse d'études africaines  
Schweizerische Gesellschaft  
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**Thèses africanistes en cours ou récemment soutenues dans les universités suisses**

**Laufende und kürzlich abgeschlossene Dissertationsprojekte an Schweizer Universitäten**

**Ongoing and recently completed PhD projects at Swiss universities**

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**Journées suisses d'études africaines  
Schweizerische Tage der Afrika-Forschung  
Swiss Researching Africa Days**

Berne, 4-5 November 2016

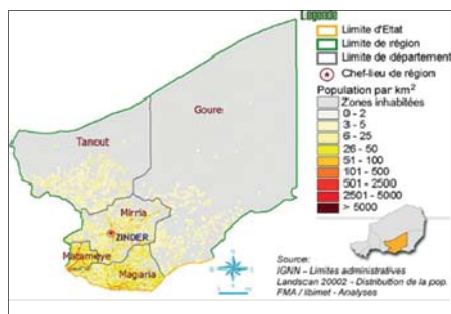
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# JEUNESSE ET ESPACE PUBLIC AU NIGER

## ESSOR DES « FADA » DE ZINDER

**L'objectif de cette recherche est de comprendre l'émergence de la jeunesse citadine dans l'espace public au Niger.**



Zinder est située à 900 km de Niamey et à 150 km du Nigéria. C'est la deuxième grande ville du pays par sa population (350.000 habitants), essentiellement constituée par des jeunes.

Au Niger et dans la ville de Zinder en particulier, les jeunes de moins de 30 ans représentent 75% de la population. Ils sont traditionnellement connus pour leur attachement aux structures de socialisation communément appelées « fada ».

Les « fada » sont des groupes de 5 à 15 membres dans lesquels les jeunes citadins se retrouvent autour du thé pour :

- ♦ discuter librement,
- ♦ développer la solidarité et,
- ♦ parfois entreprendre des actions citoyennes.



Comment aujourd'hui les « fada » des jeunes s'inscrivent dans l'espace public et se constituent en acteurs porteurs d'un discours social et politique dans la ville de Zinder au Niger ?



Oisiveté

Chômage

Marginalisation sociale et politique

Précarité

Migration



Les « fada » deviennent des espaces sociaux où ces jeunes développent une culture de contestation de l'ordre social et politique. Ils s'organisent de plus en plus en associations qui constituent aujourd'hui le porte-étendard de la jeunesse dans l'espace public.



**Mamane Tassiou Amadou**  
Etudiant en doctorat  
Institut d'Anthropologie Sociale  
Université de Bâle

**Direction :** Prof Till Förster

**Méthodologie :**  
repose sur les procédés qualitatifs propres à l'anthropologie :

- ♦ Observation/participation
- ♦ Entretiens et Focus-groups
- ♦ Etude de cas
- ♦ Documentation

**Groupes stratégiques :**

- ♦ Jeunes des « fada »
- ♦ Population locale
- ♦ Acteurs publics et privés (autorités, chefferie, ONG/ projets, religieux, politiques)
- ♦ Jeunes hors « fada »



# STRUCTURES DÉFENSIVES PRÉCOLONIALES AU SÉNÉGAL ORIENTAL

étude archéologique, ethnographique et historique

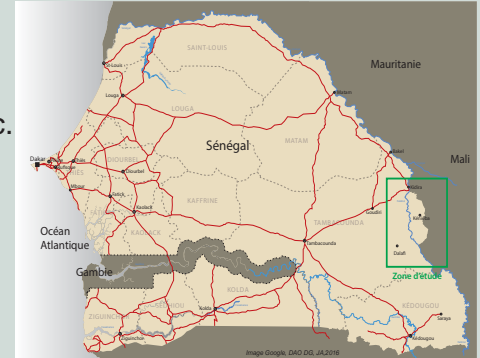
Jacques AYMERIC<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction:

Depuis 2012, le laboratoire Archéologie et Peuplement de l'Afrique entreprend des recherches au Sénégal Oriental, le long de la rivière Falémé. Au cours de ces prospections, plusieurs types de sites ont été découverts: des ateliers de taille de la pierre, des habitats, des sites de métallurgie, des ruines de Tata etc.

Tata est le nom que les populations ouest africaines donnaient aux fortifications qu'elles construisaient autour des villages avant l'ère coloniale européenne qui commence au 19e siècle. Face aux menaces de toutes sortes (razzias, esclavages, guerre), ces populations avaient le choix entre se soumettre, partir ou se défendre. Certains villages du Sénégal oriental choisirent de se défendre en édifiant des fortifications.

**Objectif:** A travers les ruines que nous découvrons, notre thèse vise la compréhension de ce système de défense, leur modalité d'utilisation des fortifications et la connaissance des techniques architecturales utilisées pour leur construction.



Situation de la zone d'étude



Aperçu des ruines du Tata d'Hamdallaye



Aperçu des ruines du tata de Koba Sansanghoto

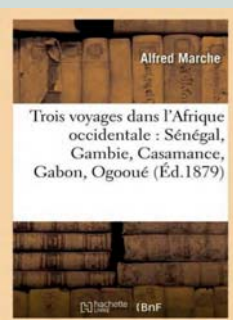
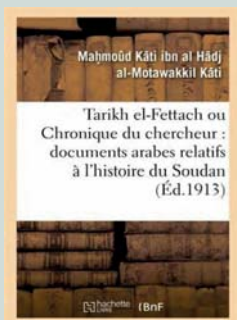


Aperçu des ruines du Tata de Samba Yaye

## Méthodologie de recherche

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, nous avons opté pour une approche combinant trois méthodes complémentaires:

- Recherche bibliographique et analyse textuelle: lecture et étude des recits de voyages précoloniaux.
- Enquêtes orales auprès des populations actuelles, riveraines des ruines de tata.
- Recherches archéologiques: prospections, sondages et fouilles des ruines.

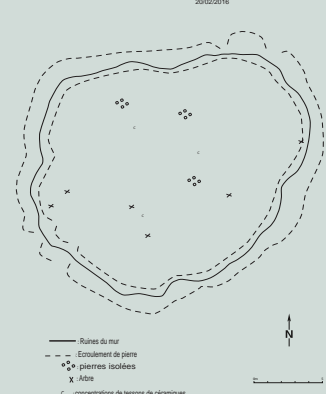


Textes anciens et chroniques de de voyages



Photo avec les anciens de Senoudebou après un entretien

RELEVÉ DES RUINES DU TATA DE SAMBA YAYE  
DESIGN Jacques Ayméric  
Maurice Barthelemy & Nicolas Gassman  
Echelle 1:200  
2010/2016





# THE CONTRIBUTION OF FASHION TO AFRICA RISING

Adwoa Owusuaa Bobie

The African fashion industry is making bold strides on the international fashion platform. There is a new crop of designers, mostly youth, who through their creativity and innovation are driving African fashion beyond the continental boundaries. Their display of creativity is changing the perception about African fabric and "traditional" fashion (Austin 2012). African designers are balancing contemporary fashion trends with an appreciation of the ideals of beauty and adornment that are deeply rooted in Africa's cultural and social consciousness (Jennings 2011). This makes their designs originally African as well as internationally appealing and thus, has attracted the attention of big fashion houses in the West. Doran (2012) talks of the work of the Tuaregs done for Hermes and the bags that are created in Kenya for Ilaria Fendi and for Stella McCartney and Vivienne Westwood. Now, African designs are all "over Europe, finding their way into the collections of [famed designers like] Louis Vuitton and Diane von Furstenberg, making the African print ubiquitous" (Catch a vibe, 2010).

While the above propositions connote a contractual relationship between the Western fashion houses and African designers, my own study on youth and fashion in Ghana shows a situation where some designers have their own shops and agents in Western countries that sell their products. Those who have not yet opened a shop outside Africa hope to do so in the near future because they already have clients in Europe and America. Based on these prepositions, I assume African fashion is now widely accepted and it is also internationally competitive. It is no more perceived as merely an inspiration to the West (Rovine, 2008) but rather a full blown industry in its own right. In addition, consumers of African fashion are not only Africans (in and outside the continent) but people of other continents and races who appreciate and accept African designs as styles in vogue.

This research project sets out to examine the situation of contemporary African designers and the position of African fashion in the international fashion industry. Its ultimate goal is to establish the role the fashion industry plays in contemporary social transformations.



## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Who are the contemporary African designers?  
What do these designers produce?  
Is African fashion internationally competitive?  
Who are the consumers of African fashion?

## METHODOLOGY

Semi-structured interviews with designers in Lagos  
Observations and interviews at the Lagos, Milan and London fashion weeks  
Snowballing and accidental sampling  
Photographs and fieldnotes.

## INFO

**Adwoa Owusuaa Bobie** is a PhD student at the Centre for African Studies Basel. She earned her MA in Sociology at the University of Ghana, Legon.

**Supervision:** Prof. Elisio Macamo (University of Basel)

**Funding:** Oumou Dilly Foundation

**Start date:** 19 September 2016

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# Governance of Agro-pastoral Resources and Use Conflicts between Farmers and Herders in Tienko, northern part of Côte d'Ivoire

Climate variability in the Sahel promoted early the arrival of transhumant pastoralists in host areas generally located in coastal South. However, these areas recorded a population explosion due to the introduction of perennial crops and cash crops in the local agrarian systems. This precarious situation has worsened considerably in Côte d'Ivoire due to the sociopolitical crisis (2002-2011).

Indeed, a rebellion split the country from 2002-2007. This crisis has contributed to accelerate the transformation of institutions for natural resource management in northern Côte d'Ivoire due to the retreat of the state in an area where the rebellion of the Forces Nouvelles (FN) took over the power. The FN rebels established new rules for resource management, especially in regulating access to pastoral resources by transhumant pastoralists from the Sahel. This institutional dynamic led to a change in the interaction between various actors of resource management, exacerbating resource-use conflicts between transhumant pastoralists and local farmers. With the signing of the Ouagadougou peace agreement in March 2007, the situation started to normalize. Several state structures were redeployed in the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, but this led to an overlapping of state authorities and rebels authorities on the regulation of agro-pastoral areas and conflict in this zone.

In the post-crisis context (after the post-electoral crisis of 2011), it became important to question the way power relations are renegotiated between various actors.

Tra Goin Lou Tina\*,  
University of Basel

Till Förster,  
University of Basel

Akides Francis  
University of Alassane  
Ouattara, Bouaké



Study Area: Tienko, northern part of Côte d'Ivoire

## Key messages

- Causes of conflicts do not fundamentally change, but several changes occur in the governance of conflicts (introduction of new actors and new rules)
- Overlapping of instances involved in the resolution of conflicts
- The "supposed" reduction of conflicts can be explained by the change of character of conflict (from visible to invisible)

## Lead Author

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## Collaborating Institutions



## Objectives

Understand the resource-use conflicts between herders and farmers from changes in the governance of agro-pastoral areas in the Northern of Côte d'Ivoire

- Identify the changes in the regulation of agro-pastoral areas
- Develop a typology of conflict over the agro-pastoral resources
- Identify the actors involved in the conflicts
- Analyze the interactions of actors involved in the management of conflicts
- Analyze the interactions between administration and rebels' governance

## Methodology

### Targeted populations

- Actors involved: herders (settled herders, nomadic transhumant), farmers
- Arbitrations bodies: village committee, traditional authorities, state authorities, mayor
- Mediators: leaders (religious and community) head of herders and farmers associations

### Data collection

- Reading: identify the livestock issues in the literature and also governance of natural resources which helping me to reframe my topic.
- Interviews: understand use-conflicts, the way of resolution of these conflicts and several changes in the breeding in this area.
- Observations: collect praxeology aspect in the interactions of actors.
- Focus Group Discussion: use to explore range of opinion/views on conflicts over access to the resource.

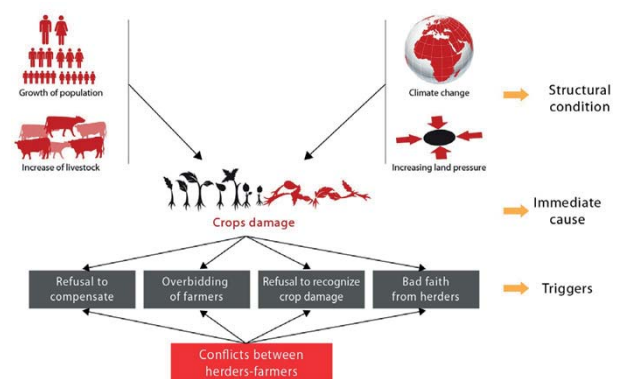
### Methodological approach

- Theory of conflict: used to shed light on the range of interests of actors and also show how conflicts shape their interactions.
- Bargaining approach of Samuel Bacharach: highlight on the one hand, motivation, intentions and actions of bargainers determined by the frame of bargaining and, on the other hand, the capability of bargainers for adjusting their intentions and actions depending to their opponents.
- Governance approach: Underscore the complex forms of interaction and coordination between the different actors involved in the conflict.

## Results

### Result 1

#### Causes of conflicts



### Result 2

#### Pluralism of actors involved in the governance of agro-pastoral areas

| Before the socio-political crisis in 2002      | From 2002 to 2007                           | From 2007 to 2011  | From 2011 to 2016   |
|--|---|--|---|
| - Customary authorities<br>- State authorities | - Customary authorities<br>- FN authorities | - Customary authorities<br>- State authorities<br>- FN authorities | - Customary authorities<br>- State authorities<br>- municipality (unclear role) |

### Result 3

I have observed the reduction of conflicts. However, conflicts are not fundamentally diminished, they became invisible. This situation can be explained by, on the one hand, the changes in the relationship between herders and farmers (which were perceived as problematic in the past, but are now unproblematic) and, on the other hand, the several taxes imposed on access to the agro-pastoral resources. Furthermore, instead reduction, we recorded the displacement of conflicts areas.

# Land use, land degradation dynamics and options for Sustainable Land Management in Northwest Tunisia

## Background

In general, land degradation in Tunisia has posed a tremendous challenge to increasing agricultural productivity, economic growth, and healthy environment. The underlying causes for land degradation are largely related to inappropriate land use and land use management. They mostly result from a desperate attempt by farmers to increase production for the growing population, which aggravates land degradation more in the developing countries, which mainly depend on natural resources (agriculture). Socioeconomic and political issues, such as land tenure, capital, and infrastructure, can also stimulate misuse of natural resources that leads to degradation...

In order to make sound decisions regarding sustainable land use systems, knowledge of degradation related to different land use scenarios is essential. It is therefore most important to assess land degradation of different land use and soil management systems.

## Objective

The overall goal of this research is to achieve a systematic understanding of the dynamism of land degradation phenomena. It starts with an initial assessment representing land degradation under current conditions, then integrates a historical perspective on a regional scale in order to develop sound knowledge of the potentials of assessment tools for spatially explicit scenario and model the impact of land cover and land use change on land degradation and sustainable land management.

## Research approach

This research is based on the assessment of LUCC, Soil Organic Carbon, NDVI, Erosion risk and Livelihoods indicators under current conditions, integrating a historical perspective on a regional scale in a typical watershed in the northwest of Tunisia, through the analysis of land use and in land management changes, using innovative methods of geo-informatics and scenario modelling.

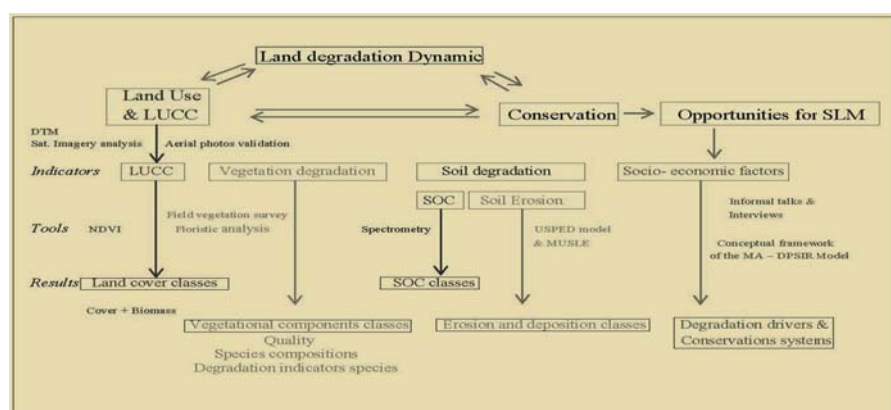


Figure : Conceptual framework for the proposed study

## Expected results

This research will make visible the dynamics of land degradation and help to understand them. Furthermore simple patterns of land use change and land use management related to degradation pressure are derived through the application of remote sensing and GIS methods. It focuses on finding appropriate spatial units and categories for the assessment of land degradation and the effectiveness of conservation in the relevant case. Therefore the proposed project will seek collaboration with other researchers active in the region and possibly serves for understanding the consistent relationship between land degradation and existing conservation practices.

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### Supervision:

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Dr. Hanspeter Liniger<sup>1</sup>

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This attempt can help policy makers to make decisions, plan intervention strategies and consolidate national support and support to its analysis. It can also serve as a means to take necessary measures to deal with land degradation phenomenon.

**Funding:** The Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for Foreign Scholars (FCS) and the Islamic Bank for Development (IDB).

**Duration:** October 2014 – October 2017.



# Food restrictions and determinants of social and health risks among *Agnis* communities of Bongouanou in Centre-East of Côte d'Ivoire.



## Key messages

- Strategies proposed by authorities for disease control are considered insufficient by certain populations.
- Communities remain strongly attached to their culture through their health seeking behaviors.
- Resilience strategies are mainly based on social capital, but they need to be reinforced by institutional support.

Access to food is one of the most important issues in the world. Providing sufficient quantity and quality of food is one of the main targets for developing countries. Despite various efforts over decades for food self-sufficiency, Côte d'Ivoire is still a food deficit country in 2015. However, to better manage their health security, some communities have established food restrictions. It becomes then important to examine the reasons why a community as observed in Côte d'Ivoire has voluntarily banned certain foods that abound in the immediate environment, despite the current food crisis and high cost of living. The search for health equilibrium in particular raises the issue of health in relation to food and culture. In other words, how do ideologies and representations contribute to the construction of the health narrative, especially in regards to food restrictions? This study tries to link environmental sustainability, food choice, and health risk- issues that have little prominence until now in health social science research.



## Study site

Bongouanou (Eastern Côte d'Ivoire)  
Region : Moronou  
Population: 247635 Hbts,  
Superficies : 6670 Km<sup>2</sup>  
T°(min-max): 30 °C [24-36°C]  
Main ethnic group Agni

## Lead author



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• PhD Student in Sociology of health and food  
• Associate researcher  
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**Gnabely Yao Roch**,  
University of Felix Houphouët Boigny  
**Brigit Obrist**,  
University of Basel

## Collaborating institutions



## Study theme related 4 main references:

- 1- Harris M. (1985). Good to Eat.
- 2- Apfelbaum M (dir). (1998). Risques et peurs alimentaires.

## Research objectives

### General objective

To understand the beliefs and representations associated with food restrictions, and the social mechanisms set up by populations in order to minimize health risk in the context of metabolic diseases.

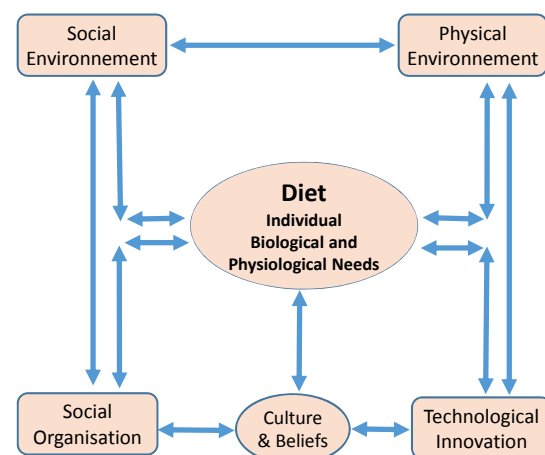
### Specific objectives:

- Understand the beliefs and representations associated with food restrictions;
- Analyze social and health determinants of food taboos;
- Analyze the social mechanisms set up by populations to minimize health risks related to food.

## Data and methods

This study combines qualitative and quantitative approaches for understanding the socio-sanitary determinants of the dietary restrictions of Bongouanou.

### Conceptual framework



Based on Jerome, Kandell, and Peltó, 1980

## Preliminary results

**Result 1 :** Food restriction is a social prescription for avoidance of some diseases, allergies and malaise. According to the population, some allergic reactions and diseases appear just after the consumption of certain food.



**Result 2:** Food restrictions have a social function. I have observed that this food restriction contributes to the Agni de Bogouanou Identity. The fish that come from the Socotai lake are forbidden to eat. Even non-Agni people are obliged to respect this tradition. They use this food restriction to regulate their society.



**Result 3:** Food restriction contributes to preservation in an ecological context. The prohibition of eating the catfish in Socotai lake have resulted in an avoidance of interfering with the lake altogether. This lack of human interference creates a protected environment for the fauna and flora of this lake as well.

- 3- Fischler C. (1990). L'hommeivore.
- 4- Fischler C. (s.d.) (1994). Manger magique: Aliments sorciers, croyances comestibles.



# DIVERSITÉ DE SITES DE PLEIN AIR AU MIDDLE STONE AGE (125 000-20 000 ANS) : LE CAS DE MISSIRA (SÉNÉGAL ORIENTAL)

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Le Sénégal oriental est riche de sites préhistoriques de toutes périodes. Le Middle Stone Age ou Paléolithique moyen (125-20 ka avant le présent) se distingue par la diversité des occupations présentes. Seul le mobilier lithique étant préservé, cette diversité se mesure grâce à leur étude. Notre projet de thèse s'intéresse particulièrement aux industries à pièces bifaciales, dont le site de Missira, découvert très récemment, est emblématique.

## PROJET

Thèse intitulée « **Le façonnage bifacial au Middle Stone Age en Afrique de l'Ouest et dans les régions avoisinantes : technologie, rythme et discontinuités** »

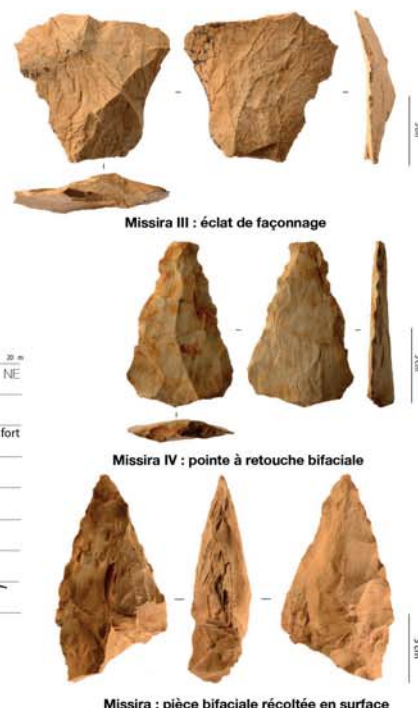
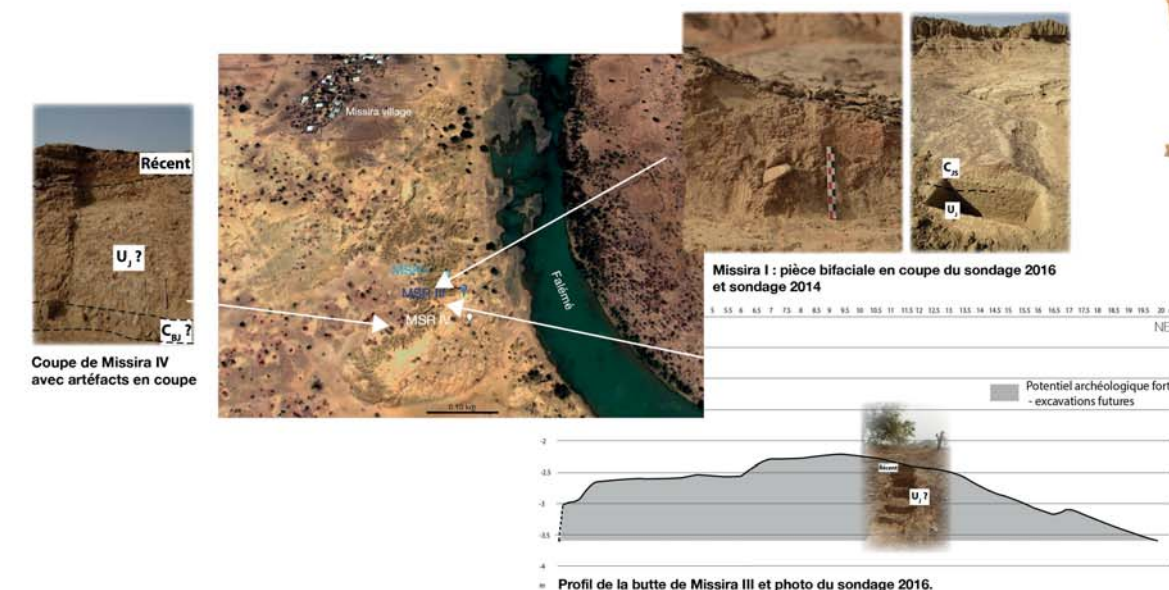
Programme ANR-FNS Chronology of Rapid Climatic Changes and Human Adaptation in West Africa (CHERCHA)

## OBJECTIFS

- Caractérisation précise des industries lithiques à pièces bifaciales de l'Afrique occidentale
- Mise en perspective avec d'autres industries contemporaines et associées
- Réflexions sur les adaptations et les renouvellements culturels et géographiques des populations modernes (125000-20000 ans avant le présent)

## MÉTHODE

- Travail de terrain intensif (prospections, fouilles, sondages archéologiques)
- Étude de mobilier issu des fouilles récentes et futures au Sénégal et au Mali ; dégager des caractères fonctionnels et technologiques



## LE FAÇONNAGE BIFACIAL

**Des outils taillés sur les deux faces**

**Le façonnage est une méthode de taille d'un support ou bloc par détachement d'éclats (supports fins et courbes qui sont des déchets) sur les deux faces («bifacial») pour obtenir un outil unique ou un support polyvalent.**

Méthode existant depuis 1.5 million d'années en Afrique et présente dans tous les régions du monde à la Préhistoire. Cette méthode de taille coexiste avec des méthodes de débitage d'éclats, ces derniers constituant eux-mêmes les outils.

Au Sénégal comme au Mali, des sites à façonnage ont été reconnus et publiés ou sont en cours d'étude (Toumboura III, Songona, Oumounaama Butte).

## MISSIRA

Trois sondages sur trois buttes résiduelles ont été réalisés en 2014 et 2016.

Ce complexe de trois sites se caractérise par :

- Une bonne stratification des sédiments
- Des assemblages lithiques différents sur roches diverses
- Un façonnage de pièces bifaciales *in situ*

Les trois sites à Missira ne livrent pas le même mobilier lithique.

À Missira III (MSR III), seuls de grands éclats de façonnage (déchets ?) ont été retrouvés associés à de petits éclats.

À Missira I (MSR I), une pièce de façonnage bifacial cassée a été récoltée combinée avec de grands éclats provenant d'un débitage simple ou sur enclume.

À Missira IV (MSR IV), une pointe à retouche bifaciale (ne concernant qu'une partie du support et non sa totalité) ainsi qu'un fragment de pièce bifaciale ont été retrouvés dans la coupe, associés à d'autres éléments.

## CONCLUSION

L'étude des peuplements paléolithiques au Middle Stone Age en Afrique de l'Ouest et sur tout le continent permet de constater la présence, comme à Missira, de plusieurs types de sites sédimentaires stratifiés, de différents assemblages lithiques et des datations OSL échelonnées entre le MIS 3 et le MIS 2. Au delà de ces différences, il existe une même méthode de taille : le façonnage bifacial. La différence entre les sites s'explique-t-elle par une variabilité fonctionnelle ou culturelle ?

Remerciements : Nous sommes soutenus par le projet conjoint ANR-FNRS (n°100019E-164071) que nous remercions, ainsi que la fondation SLISA. Nous remercions également la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université de Genève, le Ministère français des Affaires Etrangères (Mission Falémé), l'Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, l'Ambassade suisse au Sénégal, l'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN) à l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), l'équipe administrative et technique de l'Unité d'Anthropologie du département Génétique et Evolution (Université de Genève), les ouvriers de Toumboura et Missira (Sénégal), l'équipe de Dimbal (Mali), les étudiants et l'équipe organisatrice des 4<sup>èmes</sup> journées suisses d'études africaines de la Société suisse d'études africaines (SSEA) les 4 et 5 novembre 2016.

# Life course of African students in Switzerland

## Laboratory of transnational studies and social processes

### Mamadou Pathé Barry

#### University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

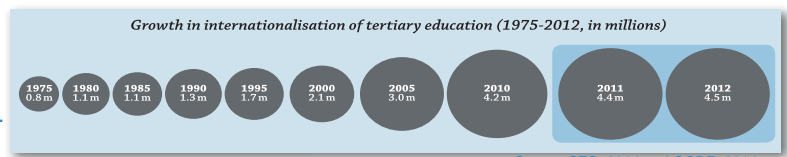
## Introduction

Students are increasingly crossing the national borders to spend one or several years to study in a foreign country. According to the OCDE, in 2012, 4.5 million students were enrolled in a tertiary education outside their country of citizenship. Australia, Luxembourg, NewZeland, the United Kingdom and Switzerland are the countries that host the most international mobility students. Asian students represent 53% of students enrolled worldwide. Student migration mainly follows the north-north or south-north directions with much higher flows in the north-north directions.

African students represent 12% of students enrolled worldwide. We are interested in the Swiss case by studying African students life course and by comparing statistical methods of life course analysis. Very few studies have focused on the mobility of students and even less on their life course. This research project will first describe some statistical tools of life course analysis. Second it will analyse the life course of african students in Switzerland by using the most appropriate statistical method to my data and research questions. Targeted statistics methods are classified into three categories: parametric, non-parametric and semiparametric models.

## Objectives

- ✓ Comparing statistical methods of life course analysis.
- ✓ Identifying the advantages and limitations of each method.
- ✓ Understanding African students life course in Switzerland



## Research questions :

### Which life course analysis methods for which research question, and for which type of data?

This research question is the main objective of this thesis project. We will conduct a comparison of some statistical models of life course analysis

### What are the life course of international students in Switzerland ?

In this research question, we will study the life course of international students (African and non-African students )

### What are the life course of African students in Switzerland ?

In this research question, we will study the life course of African students who left their country to study in Switzerland with a permits B

## Data

Data are those of the NCCR on the move project, which will be transmitted to us by the OFS. These are quantitative longitudinal data from 1998 to 2012.

## Methods

Non-parametric models: Kaplan-Meier and actuarial

Parametric models: Exponential distribution, Weibull, Gamma, lognormal,...

Semi-parametric model: The Cox model

Sequence analysis

## Expected results

Identify what statistical methods are suitable for what kind of available data according to the research question

Identify the strengths and weaknesses of these methods

Identify the life course of African students in Switzerland

Identify how the life course of African students differ from those of other international students



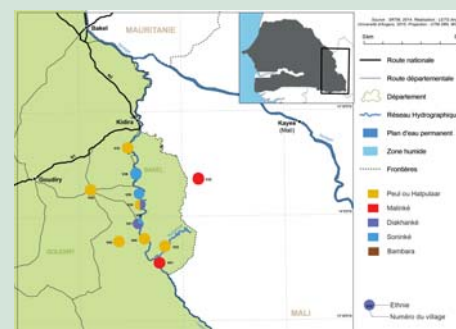
# ETHNOARCHEOLOGIE DE L'HABITAT AU SENEGAL ORIENTAL

Thomas PELMOINE

## Introduction et objectifs

Notre thèse intitulée «Etude ethnoarchéologique de l'architecture vernaculaire au Sénégal oriental», dirigée par Anne Mayor, s'insère dans le programme pluridisciplinaire international « Peuplement et paléoenvironnement en Afrique » coordonné par le laboratoire « Archéologie et Peuplement de l'Afrique » de l'Université de Genève. Ce programme se concentre actuellement sur le peuplement de la vallée de la Falémé au Sénégal oriental. Différentes populations d'agro-pasteurs sédentaires (Peul, Malinké, Diakhanké, Soninké, Bédik...) y vivent dans des habitats relativement proches architecturalement.

L'habitat est une composante essentielle du mode de vie de ces sociétés, mais les études à ce sujet sont encore très rares dans cette partie de l'Afrique. Notre thèse commencée en 2014 vise donc à constituer un référentiel ethnoarchéologique de l'architecture en zone des savanes, pour permettre de mieux comprendre les structures architecturales découvertes sur les sites archéologiques et contribuer à constituer une archive patrimoniale de techniques en voie de transformations rapides.



## Méthodologie



Scène d'enquête avec le chef du village de Sansangoto

Afin d'appréhender au mieux la variabilité de l'habitat, nous cherchons à travailler dans un maximum de groupes culturels, de villages et de concessions différentes.

Pour chaque concession étudiée, une enquête orale semi-directive est réalisée auprès du chef de village puis du chef de concession, afin de connaître l'histoire et les significations sociales, techniques, économiques, culturelles et matérielles de chaque structure construite.

Un relevé planimétrique de la concession est ensuite réalisé en utilisant les techniques habituellement employées dans les dessins archéologiques. Il représente les différentes constructions, leurs matériaux ainsi que les différentes structures composant l'habitat (lit, réserve d'eau, foyer...).

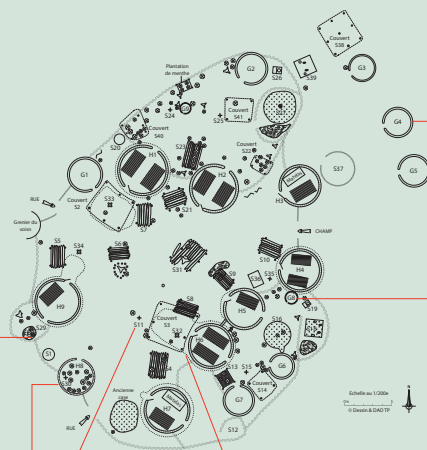
La mise en corrélation des données matérielles et de leurs significations permet de construire des modèles utiles à l'interprétation des vestiges archéologiques.



Douche circulaire sur sole de moellons pluridécimétriques

SANSANGOTO  
V.01 - C.1

- Case de bambou non crépi
- Case en briques de terre crue
- Case en bambou crépi
- Lit surélevé en bois
- Négatif d'ancienne construction
- Palissade de bambou
- Limite de surélévation
- Limite de couvert
- Palissade de bois planté
- Lit de perches/intérieur
- ▲ Arbre
- Pieu porteur
- Pieu non porteur
- Arbre
- Contenant
- Entrée de concession
- Foyer architecturé
- Foyer non architecturé
- Zone cimentée
- Zone empierrée



Grenier surélevé pour ustensiles et réserves alimentaires



Cuisine en bambous tressés



Foyer composé d'un support de trois pierres



Case d'habitation et d'enseignement avec un lit surélevé et un espace couvert



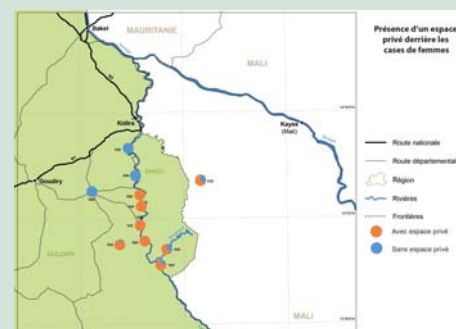
Grenier surélevé pour arachides

## Premiers résultats

Les deux premières missions de terrain se sont concentrées sur la moyenne vallée de la Falémé. Les villages étudiés montrent que de nombreuses caractéristiques architecturales sont homogènes, malgré les différences culturelles des habitants. Les concessions possèdent toutes une palissade en matériaux périssables circonscrivant des cases d'habitation placées autour d'une cour centrale. Dans cette cour se trouvent des foyers pour cuisiner et des lieux de confort.

Cependant, il existe des différences quant à l'emplacement de certaines structures au sein des concessions et qui changent selon les villages. L'exemple le plus représentatif (fig. ci-contre) est celui des espaces privés. Au sud, de tels espaces existent à l'arrière des cases de femmes afin de restreindre l'accès aux douches, aux toilettes et aux réserves d'eau. À l'inverse, ces espaces sont inexistantes au nord, permettant un libre accès à ces structures. Il existe donc une différence de perception et de gestion spatiale de la notion du « privé ».

À l'avenir, il s'agira de définir les modalités intervenant dans la construction de la notion d'espace privé. Il sera également nécessaire de comprendre à quoi sont dues d'autres différences observées, concernant notamment les formes et les matériaux des habitations et des greniers.



Swiss Researching Africa Days (Bern, 4-5 November 2016), Swiss Society for African Studies (SSAS)



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>The project</b></p> <p>The research project aims in developing and evaluating a system to assess Wikipedia articles for primary education and seeks to involve a wide network of scholars and researchers in the project. The research project is developed within a Swiss-South African cooperation (2014-2017) and it aims at increasing the quality and quantity of a selection</p> | <p><b>Research team</b></p> <p>The research is developed within a Swiss-South African cooperation lead by the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) and the University of Cape Town in partnership with Wikipedia Switzerland and the Africa Centre based in Cape Town, and with the support of SNF and the South African National Research Foundation (NRF).</p> |
|--|---|

**Research team**  
The research is developed within a Swiss-South African cooperation lead by the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) and the University of Cape Town, in partnership with Wikimedia Switzerland and the Africa Centre based in Cape Town, and with the support of SNF and the South African National Research Foundation (NRF).

**Switzerland**  
 Iolanda Pensa (principal investigator)  
 Luca Botturi  
 Florence Devouard  
 Giancarlo Gianocca  
 Erica Litrenta  
 Giovanni Profeta  
 Marta Pucciarelli

**South Africa**  
 Tobias Schönwetter (principal investigator)  
 Isla Haddow-Flood  
 Kelsey Wiens

### Research problem

Wikipedia is meant to be an educational tool and it is currently available online, via mobile phones and offline. Experiences have shown that Wikipedia does not generally provide information that responds directly to curriculum-based questions. The project relies on Wikipedia as an existing and growing resource, it solves the need for an encyclopedia capable of responding to curriculum-based questions, and it fosters Wikipedia content, quality and outreach.

**Giovanni Profeta**  
Ph.D. Candidate in Design at Politecnico di Milano

Giovanni Profeta's research thesis focuses on the representation of stream data coming from the Internet. The thesis aims to provide a theoretical model and visual tools for the analysis of the increasing amount of data daily generated through the web (by collaborative platforms, social networks, connected appliances etc.). Furthermore, the thesis tries to investigate the physical representation of data as a means to increase accessibility and user engagement.

For the Wikipedia Primary School project Giovanni Profeta is leading the evaluation process of the articles under examination through digital quantitative methods.

- Analysis of the state of the art of articles relevant to primary education for South African primary school curriculum.
- Verification of the project impact to Wikipedia content
- Evaluation of significant variables of interest

The visual evaluation is conceived as an iterative process. All the data visualizations are designed and optimized thanks to the feedback of team members involved in the qualitative evaluation. Giovanni has developed a web scraper to gather data about Wikipedia articles and a set of data visualizations, as objective as possible, in order to provide visual tools for understanding the actions that should be undertaken by the research team. Giovanni has also released in open source the datasets and the code for web scraping and data visualization (as a GitHub project called Wikimole).

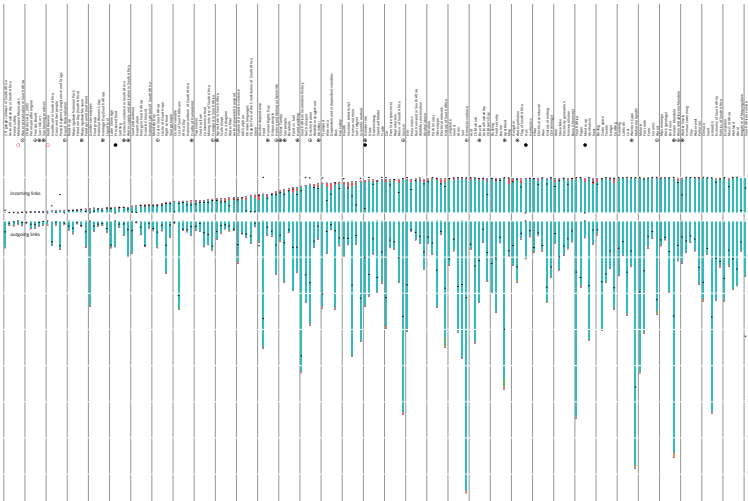
**Network of the articles  
under examination\***

The visualization shows relationships among the selected 176 articles and their incoming links (in Wikipedia: "What links here"). Clusters of circles refers to the areas of interest from which incoming links come. The size of the bubbles shows the amount of incoming links. Bubbles with the same colors are clusters of articles with incoming links in common. The closest the bubbles, the more correlated the articles. The circles show the areas of interest from which incoming links come.

| August 2015                          | March 2016                   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| articles under examination           |                              |
| <b>174</b>                           | <b>176</b> (+2 new articles) |
| incoming links per article (average) |                              |
| <b>309</b>                           | <b>342</b> (+10,6%)          |
| outgoing links per article (average) |                              |
| <b>386</b>                           | <b>667</b> (+73,3%)          |
| Google page rank (average)           |                              |
| <b>5,19</b>                          | <b>5,18</b> (-0,003%)        |
| total amount of editors              |                              |
| <b>845</b>                           | <b>773</b> (-8,5%)           |
| number of edits                      |                              |
| <b>1463</b>                          | <b>1481</b> (+1,2%)          |
| reuses per article (average)         |                              |
| <b>0,59</b>                          | <b>0,52</b> (-12%)           |

### Incoming and outgoing links

The visualization shows the balance between incoming links (in Wikipedia: "What links here") and links to other Wikipedia pages (Wikilinks). On the top the bars show the amount of incoming links. On the bottom the bars show the amount of outgoing links. From left to right, articles are in ascending order of incoming links.



## Methodology

- Establishment of a scientific committee.
- Establishment and implementation of a Wikipedia Scientific Journal.
- Partnerships with scientific journals and scholars.
- Partnerships with institutions working in education.

### Milestones

Since its commencement, the project has progressed through the following key milestones:

1. Analysis of the South African primary school curriculum and identification of relevant themes and content.
2. Identification, selection and involvement of a scientific committee comprised of international subject-matter experts (education, open content, OER, Wikipedia and Wikimedia, expertise on African topics) to assist with content-related questions.
3. Review of relevant literature to inform the review articles.
4. Review of relevant literature to inform the review articles.
5. Review of relevant literature to inform the review articles.
6. Review of relevant literature to inform the review articles.
7. Review of relevant literature to inform the review articles.
8. Review of relevant literature to inform the review articles.
9. Pilot launch of the journal review process. Selection of articles, identification of potential journals, and invitation to review articles.
10. Development and testing of approaches to trigger article creation and improvement directly on Wikipedia.
11. Selection of criteria and data collection for the evaluation (information design).

3. Identification of Wikipedia articles in English that are relevant to the South African primary school curriculum with feedback from the scientific committee.
4. Development of games for the review process.
5. Development of a survey to involve teachers in the process.
6. Drafting of Issue 0 ("pilot issue") of the Wikipedia Scientific Journal.
7. Identification of academic experts and pertinent scientific journals to contribute to the review process of the Wikipedia articles selected.
8. Launch of the review process. Selection of articles and invitation of potential reviewers to review articles. 25 experts are currently reviewing the review of 37 articles.
9. Pilot launch of the journal review process. Selection of articles, identification of potential journals, and invitation to review articles.
10. Development and testing of approaches to trigger article creation and improvement directly on Wikipedia.
11. Selection of criteria and data collection for the evaluation (information design).

12. Organization of three events (edit-a-thons) in South Africa to improve articles related primary school curriculum. 17 articles have been edited and expanded.
13. Meetings in South Africa (Cape Town and Johannesburg) to discuss project methodology and expected outcomes with around 15 stakeholders working in the education sector as well as 30 Wikimedia community members.

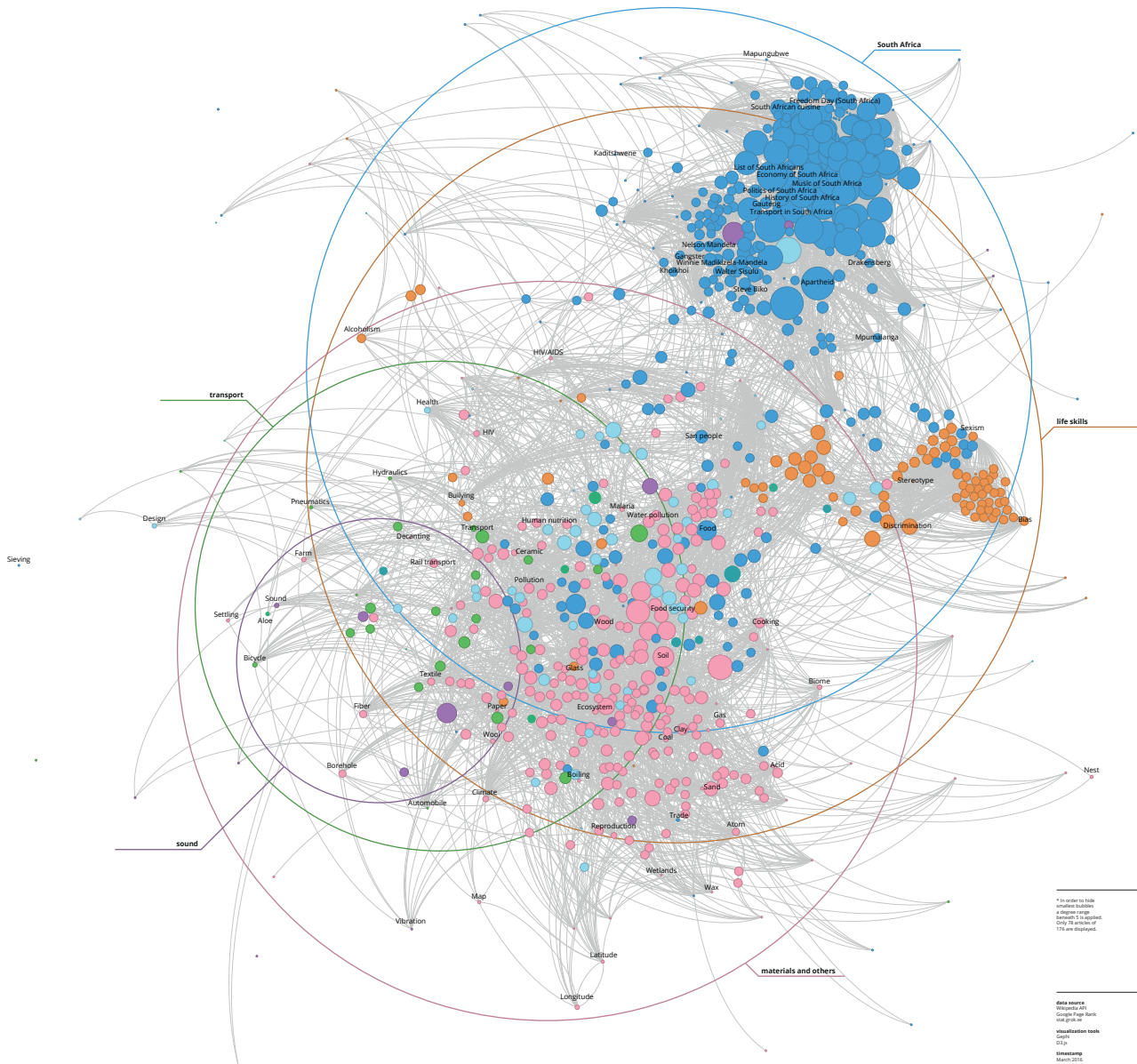
**For more information**  
<http://bit.ly/WikipediaP5>

### Project Leaders

University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

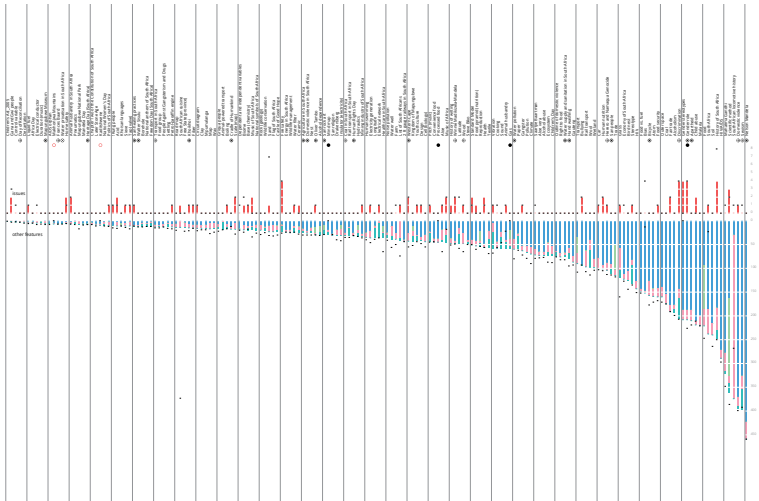


## Partners



### Articles' features

The visualization shows the amount of issues, references, notes, images and see also for every article. On the top the bars show the number of issues. On the bottom the bars show the amount of references, notes, images and see also. From left to right, articles are in ascending order of features.



# Interpreting the Administration: Burkina Faso's Courts in Translation

Natalie Tarr, Center for African Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland

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«Je sais que je suis en train de sauver quelqu'un,  
je suis en train de sauver des innocents.  
Quand tu interprètes là,  
tu es en train de sauver un innocent qui ne comprend  
pas quelque chose»

Court interpreter,  
Bobo-Dioulasso, March 2015



Instruction on all levels of education continues in French only, contributing to the formation of an educational elite and the marginalization of African varieties of French and African languages.

## Background

Plurilingualism in Burkina Faso continues to be regulated through post-colonial state institutions. French is codified as the only official language admitted for use in education, in politics, and in court. It is a requirement, which had been imported with the French justice system during colonization – it was one of the main mechanisms to discipline and control the local population. After independence in 1960, the new Burkinabè administration appropriated the French justice system and its bureaucratic apparatus for local use. Today, participating in the courtroom space is still highly prescribed and choreographed; one requirement is the mandatory use of French, a language only an educational elite can speak. This language ideology re-enforces differences between judges and defendants in the courtroom. An interpreter is employed to translate from French into Jula, the language of the public space in Bobo-Dioulasso, where this research is being carried out.

«ń jún, ń jigi,  
kunlakolontágama ká  
fisa o bée yé.»

Help me, my head, to put down my load, it is better to carry nothing on one's head.  
It is better not to carry anything on your head than to load or unload for you.  
«You do not have to look for problems where there are none.» Jula proverb

## Objectives

The courtroom is seen as a chamber play, the main actors are the judges, the interpreter, and defendants. Looking at the historicity and mechanics of bureaucratization will produce knowledge on how language norms have become institutionalized and how they are perpetuated today. What role the interpreter is accorded or carves out for himself in the courtroom can show how his work undermines or legitimizes existing linguistic and societal inequalities between courtroom actors. How judges as experienced courtroom participants interact with the inexperienced, disciplined defendants in the choreography of the courtroom play can bring to the fore how power relations and hierarchizations are maintained.

## Research Questions

Why are language norms and linguistic formalizations of court interaction maintained in this context?  
What bureaucratic rules or templates do judges employ to manage and stage a trial?

## Methods

- Observation
- Informal talks, interviews, focus group discussions
- Transcription and back-translation of audio recorded trials by Jula expert
- Archival research

## Supervisors

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Center for African Studies,  
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Switzerland, and  
Alexandre Duchêne,  
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## Duration

2015–2019

## Funding

FAG, Freiwillige  
Akademische Gesellschaft

## Link

[https://zasb.unibas.ch/  
research/phd-projects/  
natalie-tarr/](https://zasb.unibas.ch/research/phd-projects/natalie-tarr/)



Universität  
Basel







# Glass beads from West Africa: an archaeometrical study

Miriam Truffa Giachet



**Keywords:** glass beads, compositional analysis, provenance study, archaeometry, West Africa

**Glass beads** are one of the most encountered class of artefacts in African archaeological sites, and they mainly represent proof of **commercial activities** within the continent and with the rest of the world. Only few African sites show evidence of **primary production** from raw materials whereas **glass beads recycling** is more common. Though chemical analysis is crucial to understand glass beads technology of production and patterns of trade, very few **systematic compositional studies** were performed on West African assemblages.

## Research program

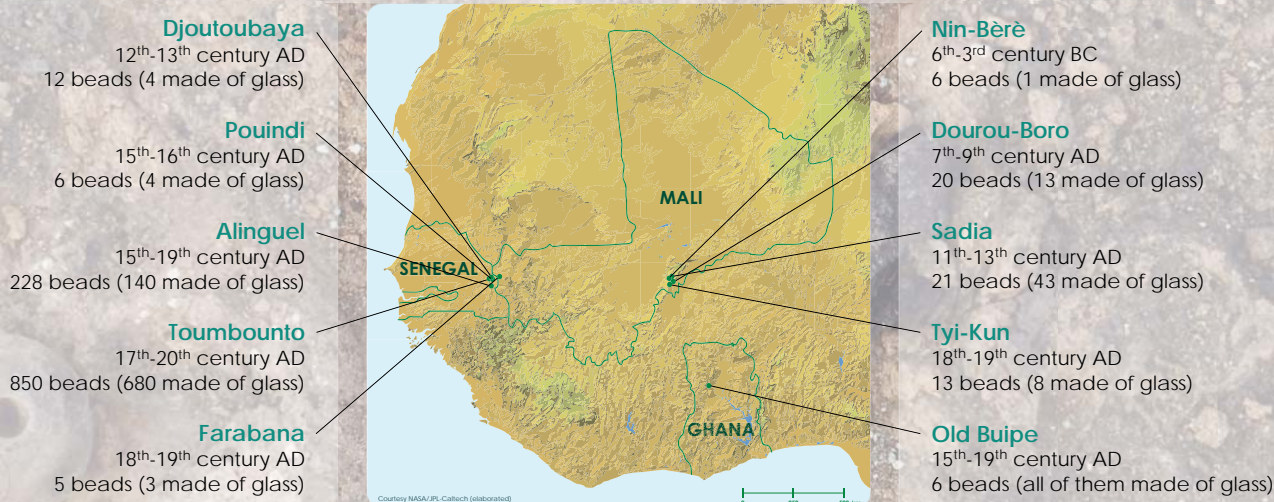
"Human population and palaeoenvironment in Africa" is an international research program led by the **APA** (Archéologie et Peuplement de l'Afrique) laboratory of the University of Geneva. Its main aim is to study the interactions between human population and climatic and environmental variability in West Africa from prehistory to modern times. The program began in 1997 in the Dogon Country in **Mali** and continues today in the Falémé Valley in **Senegal**, in the Îles Ehotilé national park in **Ivory Coast**, and in **Ghana**.

## PhD project

The thesis called "Archaeometrical study of West African glass beads: towards a better understanding of the technical and commercial dynamics during the precolonial period" relates to the **physicochemical study** of glass beads found in several archaeological sites in Mali, Senegal and Ghana by the APA team. The aim is the assessment of glass composition in order to identify the raw materials and techniques used for **manufacture**, and to trace **production sites** and **trade networks** in Africa.

## Geographical context and samples assemblages

Chronology based on radiocarbon dating of the stratigraphic layers where the beads were found

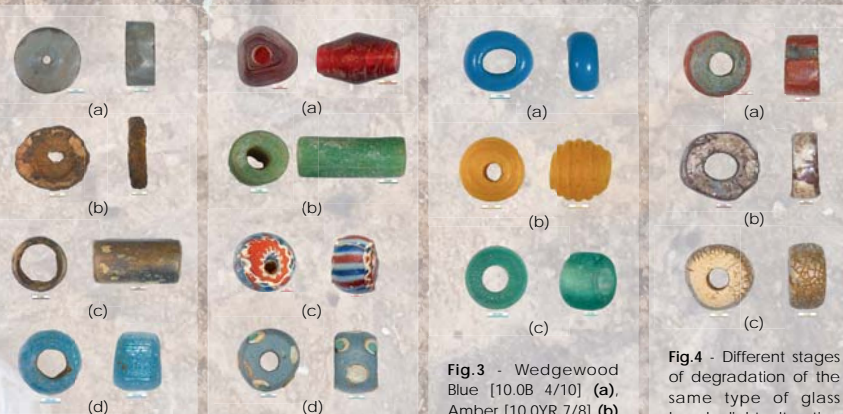


## Methodology

- Macroscopical and microscopical** analysis by optical microscope in order to evaluate manufacturing technique and degradation
- XRF** to discern between the macro-categories of glass by identifying major and minor elemental composition (e.g. SiO<sub>2</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>O, K<sub>2</sub>O, MgO, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MnO, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)
- Raman spectroscopy**, combined with XRF, to characterise the glass matrix and the pigments or chromophore used as colouring agents (e.g. Cu, Co, Mn, Fe, Ni)
- LA-ICP-MS** to study trace and ultra-trace element patterns in glass (e.g. U, Sr, Ce, Zr, As, Sb, Bi), and evaluate the different sources of raw materials
- Crosscheck of physicochemical results with **archaeological, ethnographical, and historical data** to better understand the dynamics of production, diffusion and utilisation of glass beads in West Africa

## Preliminary results

- Microscopical analysis was performed on all samples allowing the **cataloguing** of the beads based on material (Fig.1), size, fabrication technique (Fig.2), colour (Fig.3), and degree of alteration (Fig.4)
- A **typology** of beads was established to show **macro-groups** and study their geographical and chronological **distribution**
- Representative samples** were chosen for the compositional analysis



**Fig.1** - Stone bead (a), bone bead (b), metal bead (c), and glass bead (d)

**Fig.2** - Wound glass bead (a), drawn glass bead (b), chevron glass bead (c), and eye glass bead (d)

**Fig.3** - Wedgewood Blue [10.0B 4/10] (a), Amber [10.0YR 7/8] (b) and Emerald Green [10.0G 5/10] (c) glass beads (reference for colour coding: Munsell Bead Color Book)

**Fig.4** - Different stages of degradation of the same type of glass bead: slight alteration (a), flaking and some alteration products on surface (b), opaque weathering products and iridescence (c)

### Supervisors

Eric Huysecom

### Funding

Anne Mayor  
FNS project n° 100012\_143445 SENEGAL  
FNS project n° 101211\_163055/1  
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### Duration

2015-2018

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### Links

www.ounjougou.org  
http://ua.unige.ch/fr/apa/



# Cervical cancer prevention in sub-Saharan Africa: how many patients are eligible for a screen-and-treat approach?

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2- Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Dschang, Cameroon

3- Saint Damien Medical Centre, Ambanja, Madagascar

4- Departement of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University Centre Hospital, Yaoundé, Cameroon

5- Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Geneva, Switzerland

## Background

As the burden of cervical cancer weights mainly upon women living in developing countries, it is fundamental to implement efficient screening and treatment strategies. Thermo-coagulation represents an attractive possibility for the treatment of precancerous lesions. It is a rapid procedure, with the only requirement for its use being the presence of electricity. Despite its known advantages, very little has been published about its use in low and medium income countries.

## Aims of our study

1. Determine the number of patients who are eligible to be treated with thermo-coagulation.
2. Assess the side effects of the procedure:
  - Immediately after treatment → pain, technical issues
  - one month later → pain, vaginal discharge, tissue healing

## Material and methods

Between July and December 2015, all non-pregnant women, aged 30-49 years, residing in the area of Dschang, Cameroon, were invited to take part in a cervical cancer screening campaign. The enrolled women performed HPV self-sampling as a primary screening test. The study design is shown in **Figure 1**.

## Results

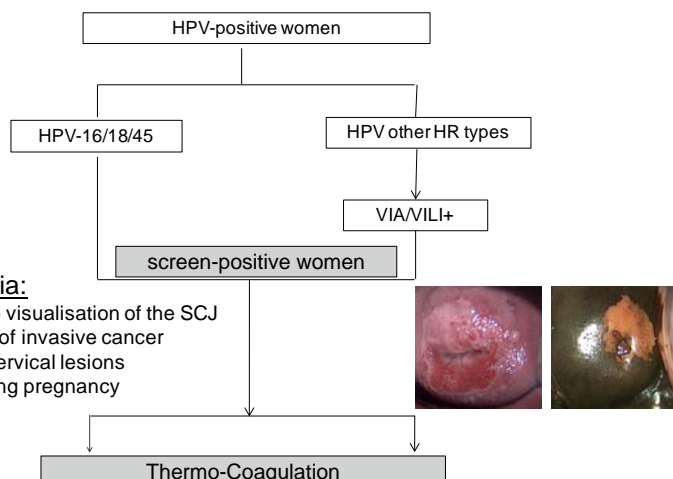
Out of the 1013 women recruited in the study, 121 of them were screen-positive. Among these, 110 (90.9%) fulfilled the eligibility criteria and were successfully treated with thermo-coagulation. The results of the side effects' assessment both at 1 month and right after the procedure are reported in **Table 1**.

**Table 1**

**Thermo-coagulation assessment**

|                                | Variable                        | N         | %    |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Right after treatment          | Women treated                   | 110       | 90.9 |
|                                | Pain reported                   | 105       | 95.5 |
|                                | VAS pain score (mean ± SD)      | 3.0 ± 1.5 |      |
| At the one-month control visit | Women seen at the 1-month visit | 109       | 99.1 |
|                                | Pain reported                   | 34        | 31.2 |
|                                | VAS pain score (mean ± SD)      | 0.8 ± 1.4 |      |
|                                | Pain duration, days (mean ± SD) | 2.1 ± 4.8 |      |
|                                | Vaginal discharge reported      | 108       | 99.1 |
|                                | Tissue healing observed         | 100       | 91.7 |

**Figure 1**



## Conclusions

The majority of screen-positive women meet the criteria to undergo thermo-coagulation. The procedure is very well tolerated by most patients.

Further studies are currently underway in order to determine the long-term cure rates and impact on fertility. Such complementary aspects could be decisive in determining whether this procedure can become the new gold standard for the treatment of cervical precancerous lesions in resource-constrained settings.