

## From Craving Money to Looking Ahead

### A Study of Young Youth Migrants from Rural Burkina Faso



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## From Craving Money to Looking Ahead

### Focus

- Young youth migrants
- Social fields

### Aim

- How does integration into social networks shape young youth's decision-making ?



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## Methodology

- 15 detailed case studies build up over 3 years
- Interviews
  - 60 young youth in Ouaga
  - 60 young youth in Abidjan
  - 40 rural parents
- Rationale of methodology



## From Individual Migrants to Individuals in Migrant Networks



### Problematic categorising

- Separation of children and youth as social categories
- Distinguishing between independent child migrants and other migrants

### Young Youth's Migrant Trajectories

	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Souleyman</b> *1987/88 from Loanga	Ouagadougou Dishwasher in cafeteria	Village Junior blacksmith	Village Junior blacksmith	Village Junior blacksmith
<b>David</b> *1987 from Sassemma	Ouagadougou Itinerant shoe-shiner	Ouagadougou BBQ attendant	Ouagadougou Mechanic apprentice	Ouagadougou Mechanic apprentice
<b>Ibrahim</b> *1983 from Mohom	Ouagadougou Waiter in restaurant	Ouagadougou Waiter in bar	Ouagadougou Itinerant trader in telephone cards	Abidjan Watchman & manual labourer (brick site)



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### Young Youth's Migrant Trajectories

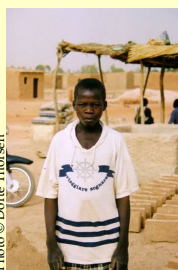


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**From insecure, low-paid work towards**

- Consolidating vocational skills
- Avoiding cheat by self-employment
- Labour markets with higher wages
- Young youth's social fields
  - family migrant networks
  - peer migrant networks

## Family Migrant Networks

- Not a break with family, even when running away
- Kin & residence
  - Wider network of migrants from home region
  - Making choices
- Marginal position in networks



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## Peer Migrant Networks

- Scope of network depends on work
  - Street-workers
  - Employees in food places
- Bonding through shared experiences
  - Working conditions (Ouaga)
  - Living conditions (Abidjan)



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## Conclusion

### Young youth's strategic decisions & tactical choices

- Choice of *when* to rely on kin and on *whom* to depend
- Minor distinction between adult and youth social networks
- Migrant moralities according to destination and income-level rather than to age



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