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

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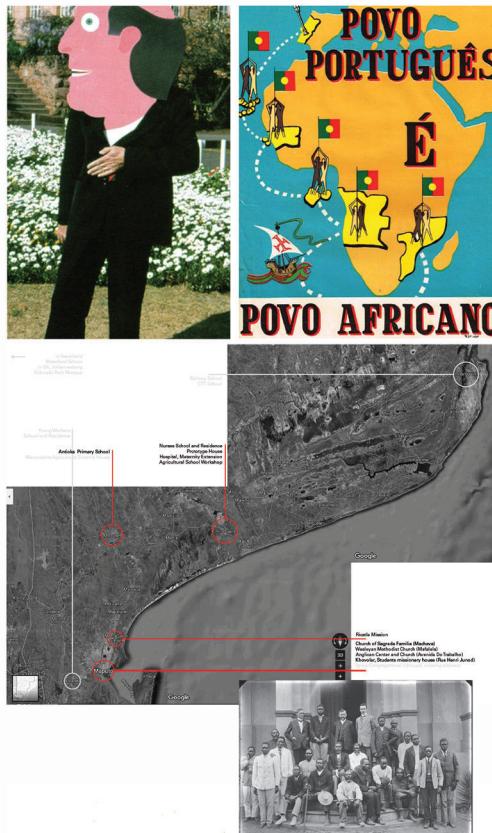
**23–24 October 2020**

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# The work of Amâncio (Pancho) Guedes for the Swiss Mission

An ethnographic and historical account of modernist colonial architecture in postcolonial Mozambique



CASE STUDIES  
1 The Maxaquene Kovo Lar, Boarding School, Maputo, 1966



2 'Eduardo C. Mondlane' Primary School, Magude, 1964



3 Anglican center and St.Cipriano Church, Maputo, 1969-74

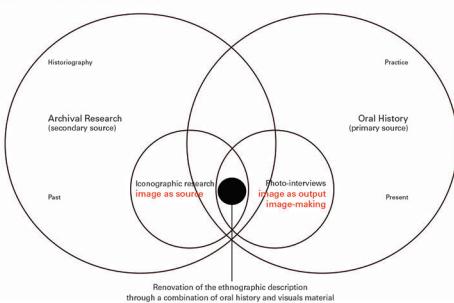


## Central Research Question and Assumption

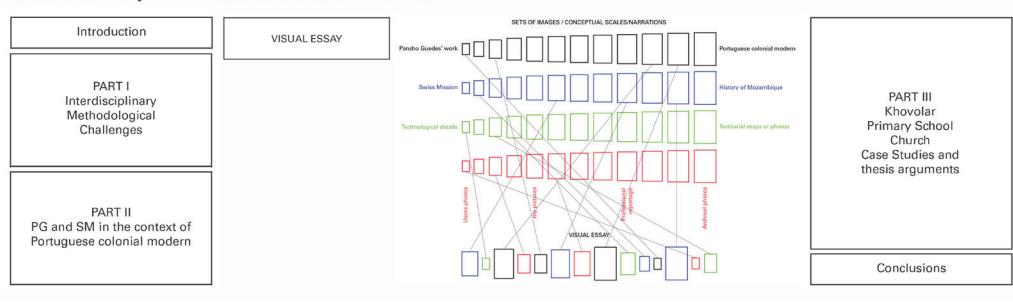
How do social actors engrave their localized practices "on the ground" (in their everyday life) onto the normativity of the colonial modern project?

Through a historical ethnography methodological perspective, this Ph.D. thesis points to problematize the nature of these architectures as **political spaces**, performing an **ambivalent resistance** in colonial time and activating a form of **resiliency** to the global neoliberalism

## Research Method



## Research Outputs Provisional Ph.D. Structure



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Silvia is an archaeologist, designer & PhD candidate at the Social Anthropology Department of the University of Basel and a research assistant at the Visual Communication Institute of HGD HAWH Basel, where she is part of the SHF funded research project "Visualie Kommunikation in partizipativen Stadtplanungsprozessen". She holds a master's degree in Architecture from IUAV University of Venice, Italy and TU Delft, NL, and an MA in Visual Communication and Iconic Research from the University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland. Prior to starting her research at PHWK Academy of Art and Design University of Basel, Silvia worked for creative office clients and teaching institutions such as the Urban Think Tanks Chair of Architecture and Urban Design at ETH Zurich.

Supervisors:

Prof. Till Förster, University of Basel

Prof. Tom Avermaete, ETH Zürich



### BACKGROUND

- Archaeological research is recent in the Faleme Valley, so **we don't know much about its ancient occupations**
- Between the 8th and the 18th c. AD the nearby **Bambuk area** is widely famous for its **gold mines**
- Gold was traded in the trans-Saharan trade in the form of powder, but **we know little about gold manufacturing in West Africa**
- Djoutoubaya is a settlement near the bank of the Faleme River dated **from the 9th to the 14th c.**
- Several **crucibles** and a **singular building in mudbricks** have been discovered on the site



Map showing the localisation of Djoutoubaya and the Bambuk area.

### QUESTIONS

- ?
- What was the history of the settlement of Djoutoubaya ? Who lived there ? What were the different production activities ? What did people eat ?
- ?
- Was there a gold manufacturing activity on the site of Djoutoubaya and, if so, in what form ?
- ?
- If so, is the presence of the singular building linked to it ?
- ?
- Where does this building technology come from ?



The King of Mali Empire holding a gold nugget, as drawn in a European portolan (the « Atlas Catalan ») in the 14th c. (©BnF)

### METHODS

- Carry out wide excavations on the site of Djoutoubaya
- Study the excavated material with a pluridisciplinary approach
- Analyse the crucibles with a Scanning Electron Microscope to determinate the presence of gold
- Look for similar building in mudbricks in the literature
- Compare the site of Djoutoubaya with the other sites excavated in the Faleme Valley and, more widely, in West Africa



One of the 24 crucibles found on the site of Djoutoubaya (2020).



The building in mudbricks excavated on Djoutoubaya (2017).

### RESULTS

LOADING...



# Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change project

Anna Shoemaker<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca Kariuki<sup>2</sup>, Colin Courtney-Mustaphi<sup>3</sup>



Linus Munishi<sup>2</sup>, Claudia Capitani<sup>4</sup>, Anneli Ekblom<sup>1</sup>, Robert Marchant<sup>4</sup>, Paul Lane<sup>5,1</sup>

Affiliations: 1 Uppsala University, Sweden; 2 Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, Tanzania; 3 Geoeology, University of Basel; 4 University of York, UK; 5 University of Cambridge, UK.

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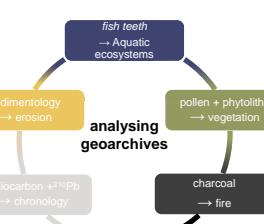
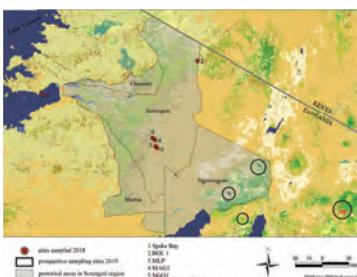
<https://twitter.com/acshoemaker1>

Web: <http://www.real-project.eu/arcc>



## Introducing ARCC and northern Tanzania

Global climate change and managing resources and economic development are important in semi-arid regions. Less predictable environmental conditions within and around the **Greater Serengeti Ecosystem** (GSE) in Tanzania adds to the complexity for future economic development, food security, socio-political functioning, human health and biodiversity. Adding to these complications is the fact that existing conservation and sustainable development policies reflect societal decisions made with different environmental knowledge and social values and rules; and reformulating land management policy requires synthesis and new information on historical climates, land cover, and land use dynamics. The ARCC project addresses this challenge by collating and generating new data on how people and landscapes in the GSE have responded to changes in socioeconomic and environmental conditions



## The ARCC approaches

ARCC aims to enhance understanding of the variable degrees of resilience among human and wildlife populations within and adjacent to a key Protected Areas in Tanzania, and to facilitate the transfer of this knowledge to diverse audiences including researchers, stakeholders, and policy makers at local, national, and global levels. To achieve these ambitious scientific and training objectives the ARCC project

takes a multi-disciplinary approach with a core team comprised of palaeoecologists, ecologists, archaeologists and participatory stakeholder scenario analysts; from the University of Basel, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Uppsala University, University of York, and University of Cambridge.

## Palaeoecology @Geoecology, University of Basel

Environmental dynamics operate on a range of scales, including those that extend far beyond the temporal limits of ecological field studies, documentary sources, and oral histories. We collected sediment cores from Lake Victoria, wetlands, and kopje soils in Serengeti and a volcanic lake in Ngorongoro. Analysing the sediment deposits for pollen, phytoliths, charcoal, invertebrate fossils (zooplankton), and chemical elements will provide a better understanding of change and continuity in vegetation, hydrology, biodiversity, and fire regimes across central northern Tanzania on decadal, centennial, and millennial time scales.



Exploratory sampling of colluvial soils and sediments in arid lands of Serengeti National Park

Collecting sediment samples in Serengeti

## Archaeology @Uppsala, Cambridge and Basel

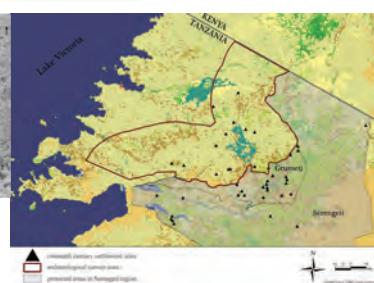
To varying degrees of success, people play a key role in transforming the landscapes they inhabit and societies are likewise ever adapting to their changing environments. To better understand the long-term settlement and land use history of the GSE, the ARCC project is conducting systematic archaeological surveys. This fieldwork entails identifying and characterising material culture, anthropogenic landscape features, and test-excavating promising sites in areas that have been devoid of archaeological exploration to date, such as the western Serengeti. Our archaeological results, in combination with archival and oral historical sources will be used to elucidate the changing nature of land use during the late Iron Age and into the colonial period. Ultimately, this research aims to reconstruct the long-term ecological footprints of varied land use strategies and reframe older narratives that portray 'baseline' pre-colonial ecological conditions as essentially devoid of anthropogenic influences.



Stone tools (obsidian)



Historical air photos

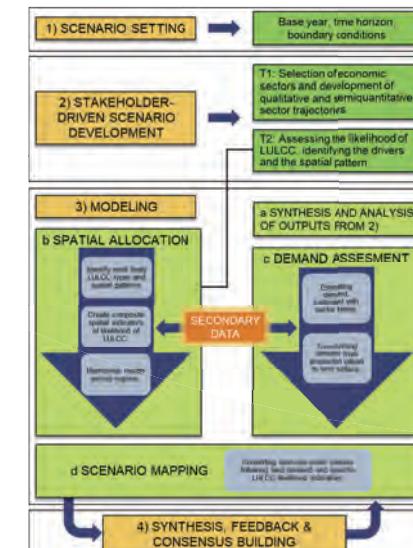


Stone tools (obsidian)      Historical air photos

## Stakeholder Scenario Analysis @Nelson Mandela AIST, Tanzania

Scenarios are widely used to explore consistent and realistic narratives of possible future land cover/use patterns, to disseminate co-produced land cover/use change information, and can inform policy formulation dialogues. The ARCC project incorporates the KESHO framework for the participatory modelling of 'land use change scenarios'. Insights generated from a series of workshops held in Karatu, Mugumu, Bariadi, and Amboseli are being used in combination with existing climate projections and ecological data to

model potential future land use change trajectories at 2030 and 2063. These years were selected as they connect to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Development agendas. The iterative process in which these model outputs are created, which includes their presentation to workshop participants for feedback and recalibration, is facilitating deep consideration of the implications and outcomes of land use change on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being.

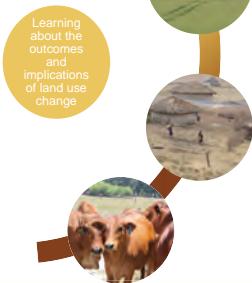


## The KESHO framework

— Figure modified from Capitani, C. et al. 2016. From local scenarios to national maps: a participatory framework for envisioning the future of Tanzania. *Ecology and Society* 21(3): 4.



Workshop participants in Karatu

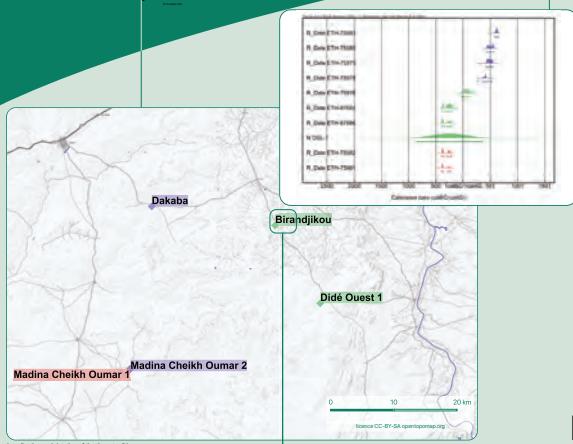


The next steps integrate the results of long term environmental change learned from the Palaeoecology with Archaeological and Historical results with the lived memories and anticipated futures of local communities to facilitate exploration of how land cover and land use will continue to change.

# Ancient iron-making along the Falémé river (Senegal) : 1000 years of technological and cultural (dis)continuities

Pierre Lamotte  
under the supervision of  
Anne Mayor and Vincent Serneels

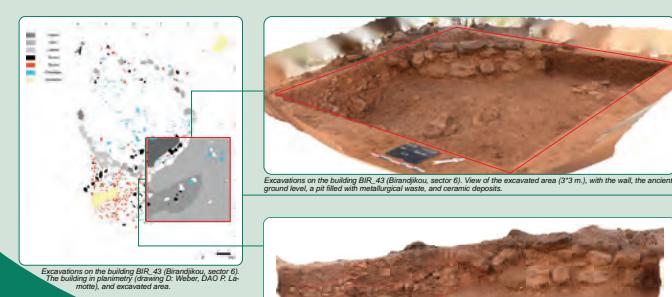
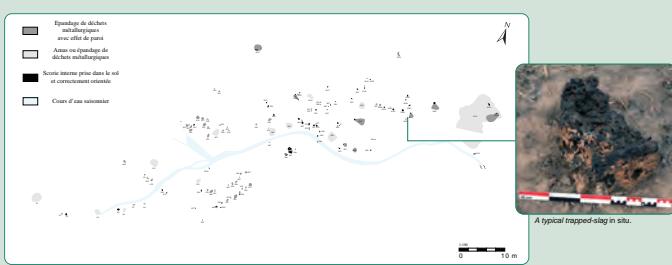
## Introduction



The archaeological study of ancient iron metallurgy ultimately aims to produce a better understanding of ancient societies, by **assessing the economical importance of iron production and utilisation, and the interactions between past populations**, through the technical and stylistic characteristics of each technology. Two major steps are required to access these informations :

**The characterisation of the technologies** through **archaeological excavations** and **archaeometric laboratory analyses**. The reconstitution of the chaîne opératoire, of the spatial organisation, and of the technical functioning of the furnaces are used to define the different technocomplexes.

**The datation and quantification of the production of each technology**, through **archaeological survey, topographic mapping** and laboratory analyses, to evaluate the intensity of production and its destination market.

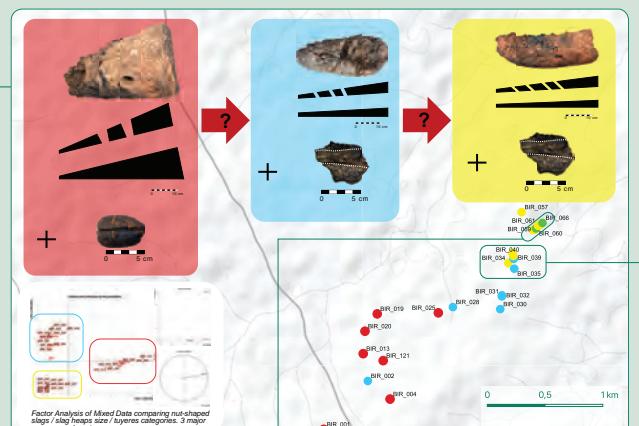


Still very little is known of ancient iron metallurgy in West Africa, despite its importance in the development of societies. In 2017, an ancient iron production region was discovered along the western Falémé river bank in Senegal. A first study identified three traditions, with one dated from the 5th c. C.E., and two dating back to the 4th and 5th centuries B.C.E., making them among the best preserved and most ancient iron production sites known in Western Africa (Walmsley et al. 2020).

One in particular, in Didé Ouest 1 and Birandjikou, is dated from the 5th c. B.C.E. to the 1st c. C.E., and maybe up to the 5th c. C.E., forming a chronological bridge between the other two. This technology, only known through slag heaps, is characterised by **two particular kinds of vestiges : nut-shaped fayalitic slags, and laterally pierced tuyeres**. The latter are the most surprising, and constitute a technological enigma. This technocomplex reveals a **mature understanding of the iron smelting process**, and the deliberate and advantageous use of manganese-iron ore.

This new area offers the possibility to **study the developpement of a tradition over a millennium, and its interactions with the surrounding technocomplexes**, which is the purpose of my PhD thesis.

## Methodology



## Early results

My first survey and excavation campain, conducted in 2020, focused on the Didé tradition, near the first discovered site of Birandjikou. **More than 200 features were found on a 3 km radius**, most of which were slag heaps of less than 20 m. radius.

From West to East, the **morphology of the vestiges seems to be gradually changing**. From massive tuyeres with few perpendicular holes and nut-shaped slags, common to Didé and Birandjikou 1, to smaller heaps with smaller tuyeres and stem-shaped slags, three groups of sites are distinguished. **This spatial organisation evokes a chronological evolution**.

In the Easternmost sector of Birandjikou, **several series of aligned trapped-slags were found, along with perpendicularly-pierced tuyeres**. This spatial organization, usually associated with single-use furnaces, goes against the initially assumed multiple-use furnaces functioning of the Didé tradition. Did this technology evolve from multiple to single-use furnaces, or has the peculiar trait of pierced tuyeres been adopted by other groups of iron-producers ?

## Perspectives

**Numerous questions remain open**. The furnaces of Didé and Birandjikou 1 are still to be found, while the more recently discovered sites, thought to be younger, are poorly conserved, making their chronology difficult to establish.

However, a **potential bridge between technical aspects of reduction and the cultural environment of the metallurgists** may be found by the excavations of **buildings associated with metallurgical remains**, such as Birandjikou sector 6, on which a charcoal fragment trapped in a slag was dated of the 5th c. C.E., or the village of MCO-7, close to MCO-1, and probably contemporaneous. Who were these early metallurgists ? What did they share in common, and why and how did they make iron differently ? **The techno-cultural influences, the transmission of knowledge inside and outside groups of metallurgists and the importance of iron production in the early "iron age" of West Africa** are among the questions this new region of study may contribute to answer.

www.Swiss Researching Africa Days (Bern, October 23 - 24, 2020), Swiss Society of African Studies (SSAS)



FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES  
Laboratoire Archéologie et Peuplement de l'Afrique  
Département de Génétique et Évolution  
Unité d'Anthropologie



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

# WHAT IS GOOD WORK?

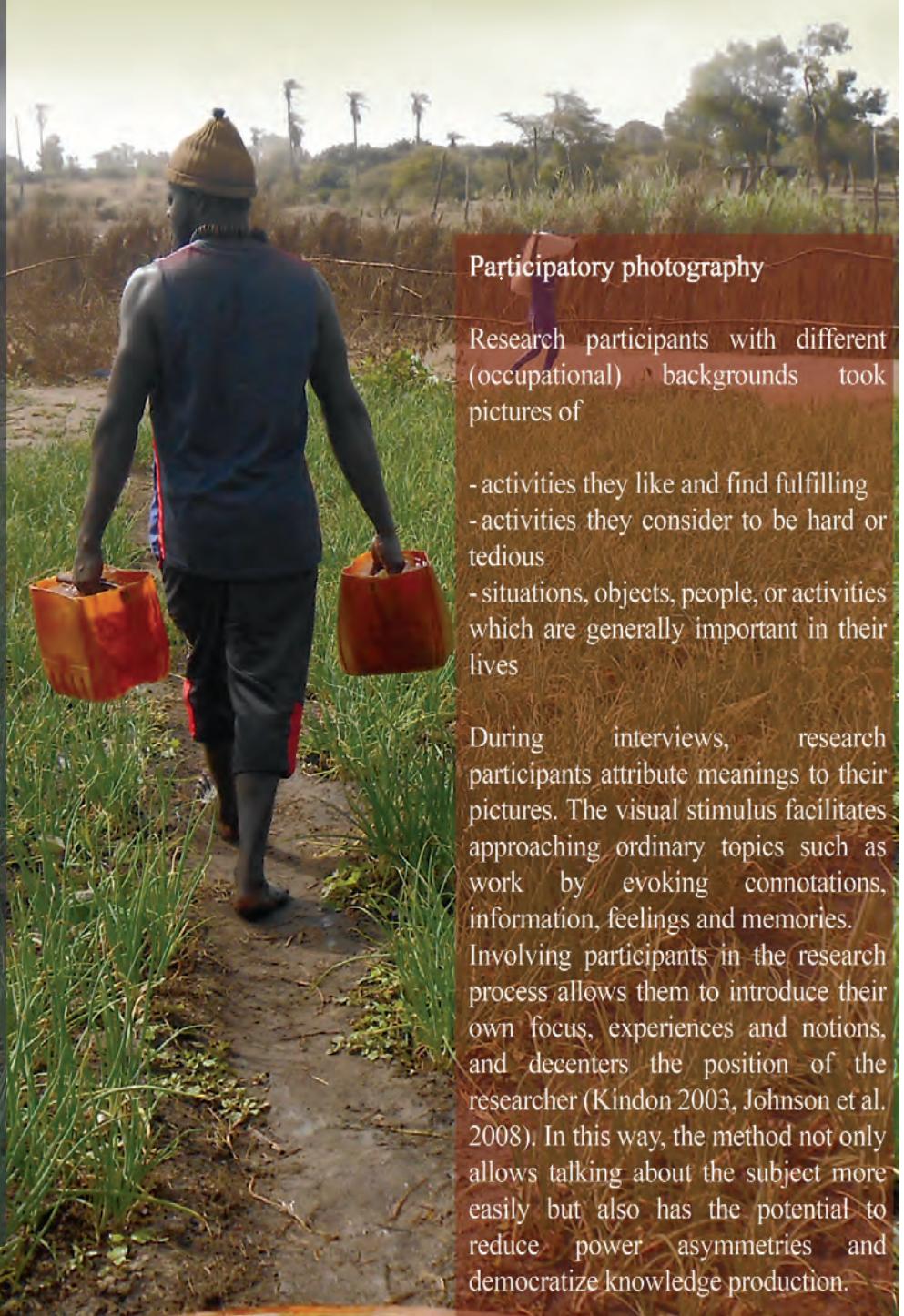
## Participatory Photography Research

### The project

In Senegal, international NGO's and governmental development agencies have recently intensified their efforts to foster agroecological and organic farming, justifying it with discourses of climate change adaptation and improved working conditions.

While it is commonly acknowledged that agroecological farming is more labor-intensive than industrial agriculture, some authors argue that agroecology has the potential to improve working conditions and enhance work satisfaction (Van der Ploeg 2008, Timmerman 2018). However, this empirical evidence mainly stems from the Global North. In rural Sub-Saharan Africa, work is often considered a 'vital necessity' and research fails to consider its qualitative aspects that ground in local understandings of work-life quality and subjective well-being (Rist 2013).

This PhD project aims to address this gap by investigating situated knowledges (Haraway 1986) and situated perceptions of work. It is interested in the components that make work fulfilling or worth aspiring for different groups of people and eventually asks, if agroecology possibly fits into these imaginations.



### Participatory photography

Research participants with different (occupational) backgrounds took pictures of

- activities they like and find fulfilling
- activities they consider to be hard or tedious
- situations, objects, people, or activities which are generally important in their lives

During interviews, research participants attribute meanings to their pictures. The visual stimulus facilitates approaching ordinary topics such as work by evoking connotations, information, feelings and memories.

Involving participants in the research process allows them to introduce their own focus, experiences and notions, and decenters the position of the researcher (Kindon 2003, Johnson et al. 2008). In this way, the method not only allows talking about the subject more easily but also has the potential to reduce power asymmetries and democratize knowledge production.

# La construction des périphéries urbaines en Afrique

## Cas d'étude : Yaoundé (Cameroun) and Lomé (Togo)

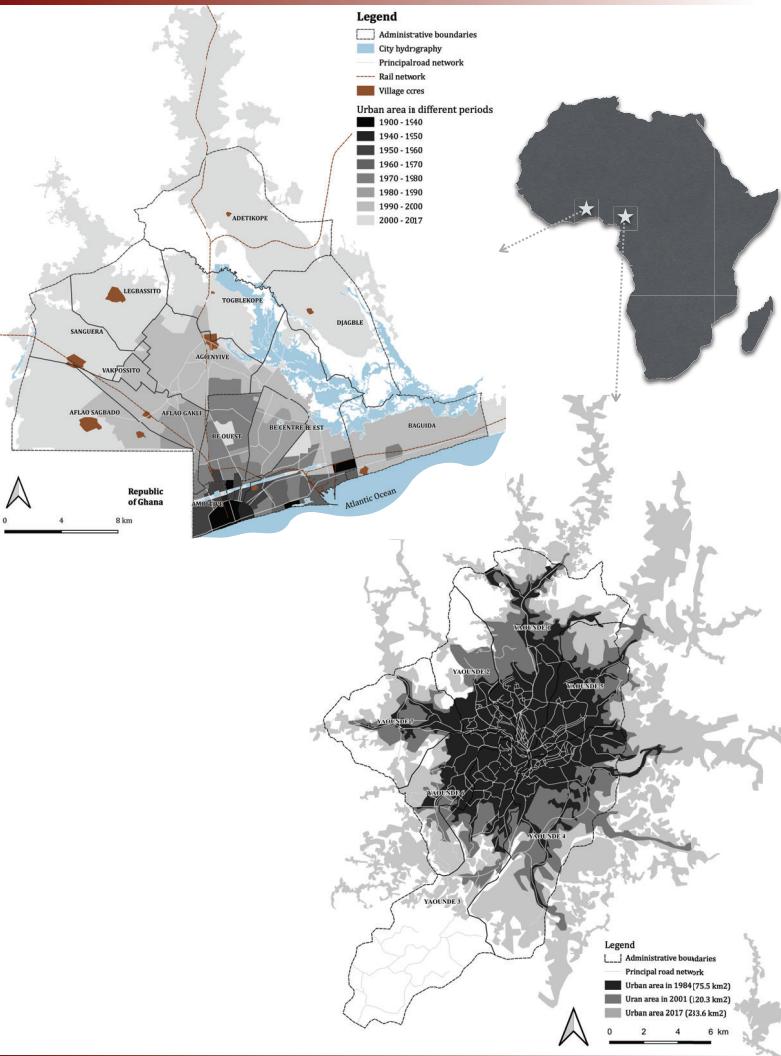
Doctorant : Armel Kemajou | Communauté d'études pour l'aménagement du territoire (CEAT),  
Directeur de thèse : Dr. Jérôme Chenal | École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

L'objectif de cette recherche est d'acquérir une compréhension approfondie des mécanismes contemporains de développement des périphéries des villes d'Afrique, et de proposer des pistes de solutions pour maîtriser leur expansion aujourd'hui fulgurante. Nous analysons le contexte dans lequel se produit cette croissance, selon trois perspectives différentes : juridico-légale, socioéconomique, et technique. Ce contexte est ainsi caractérisé par un cadre réglementaire impérial, une configuration du système foncier qui permet une relative démocratisation de l'accès au foncier et dissipe les limites administratives de la ville, et l'individualisation massive des services urbains, notamment les transports, qui retire à la route son rôle primordial dans l'urbanisation. Dans ce contexte, nous analysons ensuite les stratégies individuelles d'accès à la propriété des résidents pionniers, ceux qui portent l'urbanisation, en s'installant les premiers dans de nouveaux quartiers d'extension, souvent loin de tout.

En mettant l'individu au centre de la question, on postule que la compréhension fine des pratiques devrait être au départ de toute politique d'urbanisme se voulant efficace, et plus largement, de la construction de modèles d'urbanisme propres à l'Afrique sub-saharienne. L'étude se base sur deux zones d'étude : Yaoundé et Lomé, respectivement capitales du Cameroun et du Togo.

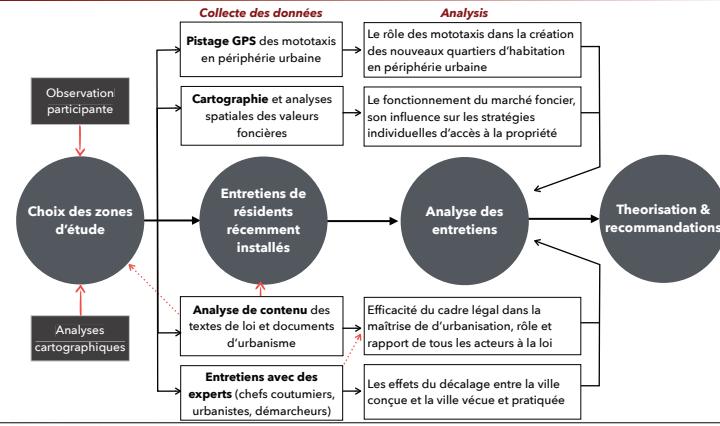
## Question

Quels sont les mécanismes contemporains de la construction des périphéries urbaines dans les grandes villes d'Afrique ?



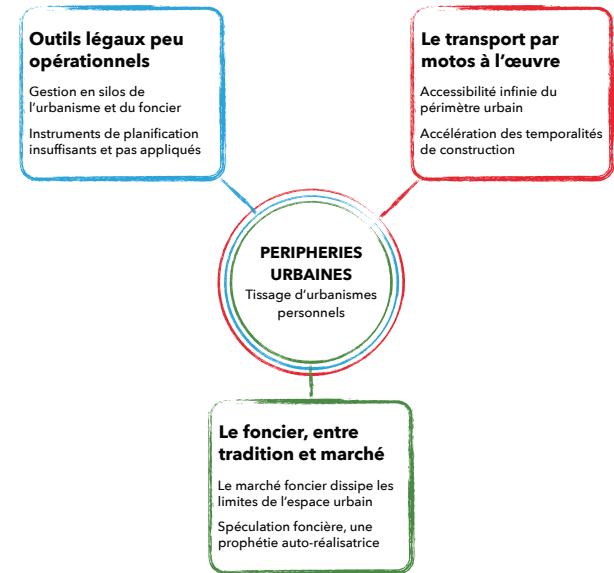
## Méthodologie et outils

Triangulation méthodologique

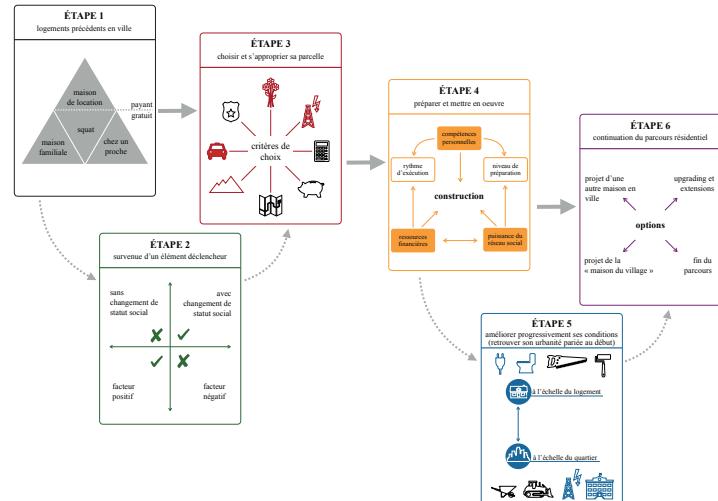


## Quelques résultats

La croissance spatiale fulgurante des deux villes résulte d'un tissage d'urbanismes personnels, de paris à long terme, dans un contexte légal, technique et socioéconomique qui l'accélère



## Processus d'installation résidentielle des habitants pionniers



## Six figures du résident pionnier en périphérie urbaine

Une planification urbaine efficace ne peut se faire sur la base d'un habitant moyen ayant pour objectif de se loger le moins cher et le plus vite possible. Les stratégies d'accès à la propriété résidentielle, autrement dit manières d'enchaîner les 6 étapes, sont diverses. Une différenciation de ces dernières peut se faire en fonction de trois variables principales, et six figures du nouveau résident se dégagent ainsi :

- l'élément déclencheur ou la motivation à l'origine du projet;
- le niveau d'exigence dans les choix du quartier, de la parcelle, du modèle;
- le niveau de préparation du projet (financière, technique, logistique).



## (Anti) recommandations opérationnelles

L'expansion urbaine est loin d'être maîtrisée dans nos deux villes, mais il est possible qu'elle s'accélère davantage si les conditions

- Évoluer vers une vraie démocratisation de l'accès (légal) à la propriété foncière;
- Réformer pour assouplir et/ou aligner aux pratiques le cadre légal existant;
- Développer davantage le transport par moto-taxis pour répondre à la demande;
- Évoluer vers l'individualisation des services urbains pour plus d'autonomie des habitants et des collectivités par rapport à la puissance publique.

# Bestiaire et biotope végétal dans la littérature de jeunesse de Côte d'Ivoire

Katiengnimin Seydou Konate

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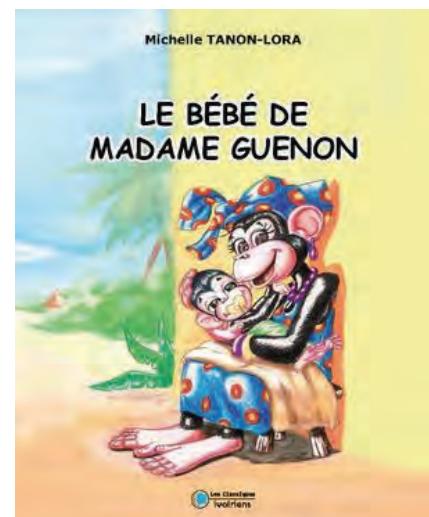
## Approche interdisciplinaire d'un système de valeurs associées à la nature

Ce doctorat soumet la littérature de jeunesse ivoirienne, qui émerge vers 1950 et reste peu étudiée, à un questionnement inédit. Dans un corpus voué à former enfants et adolescents au monde qui les entoure et à assurer une certaine unité intergénérationnelle, nouant traditions et futur, comment animaux, plantes et espaces naturels sont-ils mis en scène et avec quelles valeurs éthiques, politiques ou « identitaires », à la croisée d'un triple processus d'appropriation de modèles textuels occidentaux, de différenciation par représentation de réalités et problématiques locales (mettant potentiellement au défi la langue française) et enfin de dialogue avec des héritages discursifs ivoiriens (notamment l'usage privilégié du conte oral dans la transmission aux plus jeunes) ?

Pour en juger, mon étude soumet un corpus de quelque **35 titres** à une analyse abord littéraire, mais qui intègre nécessairement une **interrogation interdisciplinaire** sur le cadre discursif où s'inscrit ce corpus, dans un dialogue avec l'histoire politique et éditoriale, l'économie du livre, la sociologie et l'anthropologie.



Photographie de l'écrivaine Michelle Tanon-Lora en pleine action de conte face aux plus jeunes, le 29 août 2014 à Abidjan-Angré.



Reproduction de la couverture d'un ouvrage pour enfants de Michelle Tanon-Lora.

## Dépenser l'étude des relations entre littérature et enjeux environnementaux

Ce projet entend par ailleurs s'articuler aux courants critiques récents – géopoétique, ecocriticism, zoopoétique, etc. – qui interrogent à nouveaux frais et sous un angle souvent militant les relations entre monde

vivant et littérature, sur fond de crise environnementale. Paradoxalement, ces approches n'ont en effet guère été mises à l'épreuve des écrits pour la jeunesse issus de régions où, comme la Côte d'Ivoire, une

crise écologique telle que la déforestation se fait aiguë et transforme radicalement les conditions de vie et les symboliques culturelles. C'est donc aussi cette confrontation qu'on entend réaliser.

## Principaux questionnements

- Comment l'écriture littéraire pour la jeunesse interroge-t-elle notre rapport individuel ou collectif à la nature ?
- Quelle place cet enjeu a-t-il eu, en diachronie, dans la production des auteurs ivoiriens, et avec quelles déclinaisons spécifiques ?
- Comment articuler ici analyses littéraires et approches issues des sciences du vivant, de l'économie et de l'histoire du livre, ou encore de l'étude des politiques institutionnelles de communication environnementale ?



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