



## AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: SOCIAL WORLDS AND VOCABULARIES OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRATION IN THE TADLA, CENTRAL MOROCCO.**

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### ABSTRACT: T

This paper explores the social worlds and vocabularies of undocumented migration in the Tadla, a rural region in Central Morocco with tight transnational connections to Italy and Spain. In this rural region, 'burning the borders' (*l-hrag*) is a risky adventure (*mughamara*) that many Moroccan young men undertake to pursue their aspiration "to build their future", as they put it. While considering carefully the implications of the emergence of EurAfrican border regimes, this paper aspires to capture the existential and material anxieties that pervade the youth's everyday lives in rural Morocco vis-à-vis the increased illegalisation of migration and economic insecurity. To do so, I trace the vicissitudes of Kamel, a young man who crossed the Strait of Gibraltar hidden under a coach, by focusing on the subjectivities and emotions connected with the experience of "burning the borders". In order to grasp the ways Kamel deals with the unpredictability of clandestine migration, I draw attention to how ideas of 'risk', 'fear', 'gamble' and 'chance' became integral to social modalities of masculinity that are cultivated and performed at the margin of trajectories of adulthood from which Moroccan youths like Kamel feel they are excluded.

### AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

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