



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

MACERATA 17 -20/09/2014

TITLE: AFRICAN CHRISTIANITY: SOCIAL AND SPATIAL MOBILITY THROUGH CONVERSION AND RE-BIRTH

CONVENORS: EMANUELE FANTINI, UNIVERSITÀ DI TORINO (emanuele.fantini@gmail.com)

SILVIA CRISTOFORI, FONDAZIONE PER LE SCIENZE RELIGIOSE, BOLOGNA (silvia.cristofori7@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT: In the last thirty years Pentecostalism has been pervading the African continent, affirming itself as a religion conducive to social and spatial mobility: the vast literature on the issue highlights how the Pentecostal born again experience represents a ritual and narrative dispositive that contributes to the formation of moral and political subjects particularly inclined to face and assume the risks of change.

The goal of the panel is to analyse the relationship between Pentecostalism and social and spatial mobility in Africa from two perspectives. The first perspective aims at investigating the itineraries of transformation and upward mobility within transnational Pentecostal networks among the countries of the so called “emerging Africa” or “African lions” and the contexts of diasporas and migration. The second perspective aims at retracing, through archives and oral sources, the historical relations between Christian movements and African agency in the context of power relations within colonial and post-colonial situations.

Thus, the panel aims at contributing, on the one side, to analyse the relation between social and spatial mobility and Christian effervescence in Africa and, on the other side, to explore historical continuities and ruptures within this relation.

CONVENOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Silvia Cristofori is researcher at the *Fondazione per le scienze religiose* in Bologna. She researched on the Pentecostal movement in Rwanda, and she is currently conducting a research in missionary's archives on Christian movements during the scramble for Africa in the Great Lakes region. Among her publications on the issue: *Il movimento pentecostale nel post-genocidio rwandese. Balokole/i salvati*, L'Harmattan, 2011. (The Pentecostal movement in post-genocide Rwanda. Balokole/the saved)

Emanuele Fantini is research fellow at the University of Turin, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society. Its research interests include the social, political and economic dimensions of the Pentecostal Movement in Ethiopia, where he has been doing research and working as consultant for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2003. Together with Jorg Haustein he has co-edited the special issue of the journal *Pentecostudies* on “The Ethiopian Pentecostal Movement: History, Identity and Current Socio-Political Dynamics” (2013).