



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: MIGRATION BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND POLICIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA:
RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES FOR NEW PROCESSES OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

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ABSTRACT: Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa today show a strong acceleration resulting from environmental crises. This makes it necessary to reflect on the methodological approaches able to envisage joint actions for the implementation of conservation policies and management of migration flows, through processes of local governance involving local people and migrants.

In this context, protected areas are of particular importance as, in their many forms (National Parks, Regional Parks, Transboundary Biosphere Reserves, and so on), they are the core for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage of the sub-Saharan space, but they also attract migrants going from northern to southern regions in search of new lands and livelihoods. They may be seasonal workers who are temporarily away from their villages, as well as farmers abandoning their territories forever: both contribute to the redistribution of the population, induce new territorial configurations where they arrive and establish short-and long-term relationships with local populations based on modern and traditional territorial structures.

Moreover, according to a “community conservation” that considers nature and man as part of a whole (the park and its peripheral areas), eco-systems become experimental laboratories for research methodologies aiming at monitoring territorial impact of migration as well as their transnational connections, but also at orienting policy conservation through the involvement of local actors and immigrants. These eco-systems, therefore, can become places in which to activate the processes of local governance with the involvement of multiple stakeholders.

The panel will reflect on the links between migration and conservation in Sub-Saharan Africa, trying to answer the following questions: what connections exist between migration policies and conservation policies in the region? Which research methods are able to identify local actors and immigrants in the peripheries of protected sub-Saharan areas, reconstructing their spatial dynamics? Are there research methodologies for the activation of processes of governance involving local stakeholders and immigrants? Conservative policies may affect migration and contribute to strengthen connections between areas of origin, transit and arrival in Sub-Saharan Africa?

CONVENOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Alessandra Ghisalberti is senior lecturer in Geography at the Department of Languages, Foreign Literatures and Communication and member of the CST-*Diathesis* Lab.at the University of Bergamo (www.unibg.it/diathesis). She has been studying spatial dynamics induced by migration in African rural and European urban contexts. Among her publications: *Le migrazioni in Africa Occidentale tra ambiente e politica. La periferia del Parco Transfrontaliero W* (L'Harmattan Italia, 2010).