



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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TITLE: CITIES AND VILLAGES IN MOVEMENT:

TRANSFORMATIONS OF SETTLEMENT SPACES IN POST-COLONIAL AFRICA

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ABSTRACT: Even if it was already present in pre-colonial Africa under specific forms (for example the shifting capitals in the Great Lakes Region), urbanization acquires relevant dimensions only under colonialism. The colonial city developed from commercial, administrative, and military centers or around the slums inhabited by workers and miners. This process has been largely studied since World War II, when anthropologists began to carry out ethnographic researches on migration and emerging urban environments. Urbanization is a phenomenon that is growing exponentially in Africa, a continent where cities grow and transform themselves continually, redefining their relationship with rural populations. Using both an historical and synchronic approach, the papers of this panel will focus on the transformation of the social organization of space in post-colonial Africa, starting from the assumption that space settlement, in urban and rural areas, reflects broader social transformations. The social transformation of space produces new forms of subjectivity and new social relations, in a game in which social actors themselves are engaged in continuous processes of place-making.

CONVENORS ACADEMIC PROFILE:

.Luca Jourdan (PhD) is researcher and lecturer of Cultural Anthropology and Political Anthropology at the University of Bologna. He has a long experience with NGO (Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Vietnam). Since 2001 he has carried out field research on youth and war, childhood crisis, informal economies and the frontier in North Kivu (Democratic Republic of Congo). From 2004 to 2005 he was country coordinator in east-DRC for a research project ("Re-imagining peace after massacres") carried out by CERI (Paris) and financed by the Ford Foundation (USA). He is member of the Italian Ethnological Mission in Equatorial Africa and he is currently carrying out a research in Uganda, financed by the Corus (France) on the impact of environmental crisis among islanders in the lake Victoria.

Cecilia Pennacini teaches Ethnology and Visual Anthropology at the University of Torino, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society. Since 1988 she has carried out research in the Great Lakes region of Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda) as a member of the Italian Ethnological Mission In Equatorial Africa (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), taking the direction of the Mission in 2005. She has published extensively on Traditional Religion, Spirit Possession and Cultural Heritage in the Great Lakes region, and realized several ethnographic films (the last one: *Kampala Babel*, 54', 2008, Archivio Nazionale Cinematografico della Resistenza with the support of Piemonte Doc Film Fund). Among her major publications, "*Kubandwa. La possessione spiritica nell'Africa dei Grandi laghi*" (Torino, Il Segnalibro, 1998),



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"Filmare le culture. Un'introduzione all'antropologia visiva" (Carocci, 2005),
"Antropologia, Genere, Riproduzione. La costruzione culturale della femminilità"
(Carocci, 2006).