



Africa in movimento / Africa on the Move

Macerata 17 -20/09/2014

TITLE: LABOUR, MOBILITY AND THE STATE IN AFRICA

CONVENORS: **MENIN, UNIVERSITÀ DI MILANO-BICOCCA** (laura.menin@hotmail.it;)
MARCO GARDINI, UNIVERSITÀ DI MILANO-BICOCCA (marcogardini@libero.it)

ABSTRACT: Historically, labour and mobility represent essential factors for understanding the dynamics of social change and renegotiation of power structures in Africa. Since colonial times, modalities of control and management of labour force have played a crucial role in reconfiguring local economies in the face of changing political contexts, as well as in the process of state building. Thus, the relation between mobility and work provides a fruitful perspective to analyse the forms of sovereignty and power relations at the local level, as well as to capture the political and economic changes in a broader scale. This panel aims to open up an interdisciplinary debate on the continuity and discontinuity in the forms of labour control and in the processes of internal mobility within Africa and/or to Europe and the Middle East. In particular, it focuses on the complex relations connecting labour and mobility to the unequal access to resources between groups, genders and generations; to the construction and reconstruction of state authorities; and to new opportunities for upward social mobility or re-subservience that mark contemporary neoliberal scenarios.

CONVENOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Laura Menin, PhD in Anthropology of the Contemporary World, is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Shadows of Slavery in West Africa and Beyond, ERC-GRANT 313737). She was a DPhil visiting fellow at the University of Sussex (2008-2010) and a research fellow at the Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, (2012-2014). She works on transnational migration, intimate relationships, political violence and race in Morocco.

Marco Gardini earned his PhD in Contemporary Anthropology at the University of Milano-Bicocca and at the University of Bayreuth, working on land disputes, accusations of witchcraft, migration and exploitation of agricultural labour in Togo. He is currently a post-doctoral research fellow at University of Milano-Bicocca and carries out research on old and new forms of slavery in Madagascar.