From Craving Money to Looking Ahead

A Study of Young Youth Migrants from Rural Burkina Faso

Dorte Thorsen

Focus
- Young youth migrants
- Social fields

Aim
- How does integration into social networks shape young youth’s decision-making?
Methodology

• 15 detailed case studies build up over 3 years

• Interviews
  • 60 young youth in Ouaga
  • 60 young youth in Abidjan
  • 40 rural parents

• Rationale of methodology

From Individual Migrants to Individuals in Migrant Networks

Problematic categorising

• Separation of children and youth as social categories

• Distinguishing between independent child migrants and other migrants
### Young Youth’s Migrant Trajectories

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
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### Young Youth’s Migrant Trajectories

- From insecure, low-paid work towards
  - Consolidating vocational skills
  - Avoiding cheat by self-employment
  - Labour markets with higher wages
- Young youth’s social fields
  - family migrant networks
  - peer migrant networks
Family Migrant Networks

- Not a break with family, even when running away
- Kin & residence
  - Wider network of migrants from home region
  - Making choices
- Marginal position in networks

Peer Migrant Networks

- Scope of network depends on work
  - Street-workers
  - Employees in food places
- Bonding through shared experiences
  - Working conditions (Ouaga)
  - Living conditions (Abidjan)
Conclusion

Young youth’s strategic decisions & tactical choices

• Choice of when to rely on kin and on whom to depend
• Minor distinction between adult and youth social networks
• Migrant moralities according to destination and income-level rather than to age