

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME  
**Mobile Africa Revisited**  
**Control and Navigation: People Searching to Reach their Goals**  
**in an Ever More (In)Flexible World**  
***Leiden, The Netherlands***  
***14 & 15 February 2013***

Venue: Poortgebouw, Rijnsburgerweg 10, Leiden, The Netherlands  
(right behind the Leiden Central railway station, see [map](#))

Conference aim: To present the outcome of the research programme 'Mobile Africa Revisited'

## **14 February 2013**

### Session I

- 9.00          Welcome, coffee/tea
- 9.30          Opening by Ton Dietz
- 9.45          Introduction to the programme 'Mobile Africa Revisited' by Mirjam de Bruijn, Francis Nyamnjoh and Inge Brinkman

#### + Book launch:

Mirjam de Bruijn, Inge Brinkman and Francis Nyamnjoh (eds), *Side@Ways. Mobile margins and the dynamics of communication in Africa* (Bamenda, Leiden: Langaa RPCIG, African Studies Centre, 2013)

- 10.45          Coffee/tea

- 11.15          Case studies from the Programme

#### **Debate I: Media in Conflict**

- Djimet Seli, 'L'héritage post-conflit et la téléphonie mobile dans la région du Guéra'
- Boukary Sangaré, 'Conflit et mobilité dans le Hayré: l'usage du téléphone portable en période de crises'
- Inge Brinkman, 'Communication in times of war and peace, southeast Angola'

Thomas Molony (UEdinburgh): Theses and discussion

Niels ten Oever (Free Press Unlimited): Theses and discussion

Chair: Guy Thomas

12.45 Lunch

With slide show:

- Mirjam de Bruijn and Lotte Pelckmans, 'Advertisements in Africa's communication landscape, about messages and anxieties' Slide show of ICT advertisements in Cameroon

14.00 **Debate II: ICT, the Companies and Local Economies**

- Naffet Keita, 'Les politiques publiques de télécommunications modernes au Mali : la téléphonie mobile en question'
- Walter Nkwi, 'Letter writers and letter technology in Kom, Cameroon, before 1960'
- Khalil Alio, 'The Hadjaraye women between war and the struggle for survival'

Olivier Nyirubugara (IICD): Theses and discussion

Annie Chéneau-Loquay (University of Bordeaux): Theses and discussion

Chair: Robert Ross

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee/tea

Session II, chaired by Mirjam de Bruijn

16.00 Film 'Ties through thin air' by Sjoerd Sijsma & Mirjam de Bruijn.  
Mobile telephony has changed the lifestyle of many African migrants, for example, now one can stay in daily contact with people 'back home'. In this film we follow the social ties of two transnational family networks, whose 'home' is Cameroon. The arrival of mobile telephony at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has transformed the social dynamics in these families in many respects.

17.30 Keynote address by Heather Horst, 'Mobile crossroads: Reflections on the mediation of mobility', followed by discussion  
Discussant: Francis Nyamnjoh

18.30 Drinks (for the general public)

19.30 Dinner (for invitees)

## **15 February 2013**

### Session III

9.00 Case studies from the Programme

#### **Debate III: Mobility, Politics and the Role of the State**

Tangie Fonchingong, 'Mobility, National Sovereignty and Changing Social Relations: The Nigerian Migrants in Anglophone Cameroon'

- Fatima Diallo, 'L'état-spontex : négociier l'autorité dans les marges territoriales. Le cas de Basse-Casamance (Sénégal)'
- Hisham Bilal, 'Mobile phone politics: the companies and relations with the state and civil society in Sudan'

Jasper Grosskurth: Theses and discussion

Chair: Benjamin Soares

10.30 Coffee/tea

11.00 Case studies from the Programme

#### **Debate IV: Transnationalism and the (non-)Border**

- Imke Gooskens, 'Young Angolans on Facebook: creating some space'
- Henrietta Nyamnjoh, 'From transcending transnational transaction and material accumulation to negotiating emotional transnationalism'

Koen Stroeken (UGent): Theses and discussion

Chair: Inge Brinkman

12.00 Lunch

### Session IV, chaired by Rijk van Dijk

13.00 Hans-Peter Hahn, 'The phone as an alien object. Public rumors about misuses of mobiles', followed by discussion

14.00 Charlotte Connelly, 'The many politics of displaying Cameroon's mobile culture', followed by discussion

15.00 Tea/coffee

15.30 Final discussion led by Herman Wasserman and Oka Obono: Theses and discussion. Chair: Mirjam de Bruijn

16.30 Closure

Throughout the conference there will be a Photo Exhibition based on the programme's case studies.

## Information about the speakers

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