

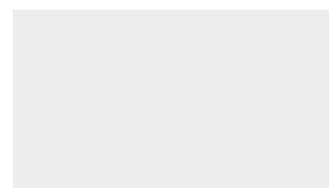
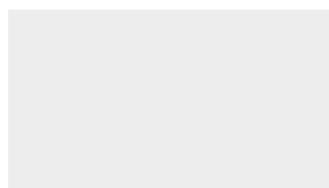
**IDS Youth Employment and Politics Webinar Series**

# **Youth mobility, security and livelihoods in West Africa and the Horn**

---

**Accompanying resources**

**February 2021**



The Youth Employment and Politics webinar series is linked to IDS' strategic research initiative: 'Ensuring decent work and political inclusion for young people', which is part of the 2020-25 IDS Strategy.

IDS research undertaken within this strategic initiative contributes to new thinking on youth engagement and the links between youth employment and citizenship, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The webinar series will focus the themes of youth mobility, employment, rural livelihoods, politics, peace and security, and youth in humanitarian settings. The speakers will address both the 'histories' and 'futures' of youth by speaking to dynamics before and during the pandemic and making observations on its implication.

Presentations will primarily focus on sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In line with our values on inclusiveness of voices and co-construction of knowledge, the webinar series will capture diverse perspectives. Speakers and discussants represent academia, civil society, governments and UN agencies. Researchers involved in the IDS Europe Engagement Initiative will also share insights. Together we aim to strengthen development thinking and practice for more effective interventions for 'the Covid generation' to tackle what is a universal development challenge.

We invite researchers, policy actors and civil society representatives that study, fund and implement youth policies and programmes to sign up for our webinars and join the debate

## Speaker Bios

### Dr. Jesper Bjarnesen



Jesper Bjarnesen is a cultural anthropologist and senior researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute, specialising in regional migration and mobility in war and peace with a particular empirical focus on Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. Within this framework, he has studied the dynamics of return; urban integration; youth politics; cross-border combatant recruitment; and diaspora mobilisation. He is an active commentator on the Mediterranean migration crisis and has advocated a more migrant-centred approach to European and global migration policies.

### Relevant publications

(2020) 'Shifting the Narrative on African Migration'. NAI Policy Notes 2020:1. <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1392484/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

(2019) 'A mobile life story: tracing hopefulness in the life and dreams of a young Ivorian Migrant', in Reader in Qualitative Methods in Migration Research, Edited by Ibrahim Sirkeci, Theodoros Iosifides, Carla DeTona. London: Transnational Press

(2018) 'The Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion in Urban Burkina Faso' in *What Politics? Youth and Political engagement in Africa*. Elina Oinas, Henri Onodera and Leena Suurpää (eds.). Leiden: Brill, pp.123-40. <http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/books/b9789004356368s009>

(2017) 'Zouglou Music and Youth in Urban Burkina Faso. Displacement and the Social Performance of Hope' in *Hope and Uncertainty in Contemporary African Migration*, Nauja Kleist & Dorte Thorsen (eds.). London: Routledge, pp. 58-75.

### Dr Dorte Thorsen



Dorte Thorsen has done research with adolescent and youth migrants since 2005, primarily in West Africa. Over four years she did multi-sited fieldwork following fifteen migrants between village, capital and neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, becoming familiar with the normality of West African mobilities and the social relations at work in the urban informal economy. Her main focus now is on how social change, gender and generational dynamics and mobility are entwined. Policy-wise her work speaks to discourses around young migrants and their work, criticising simplified notions of trafficking and child labour – important in this year designated by the UN to focus on the elimination of child labour – and to

discourses around youth and decent work, trying to highlight ongoing social change as an important element of understanding how gender norms and values affect young people's lives.

### Relevant publications

Thorsen, D. (2013). Weaving in and out of employment and self-employment: young rural migrants in the informal economy of Ouagadougou. *International Development Planning Review*, 35(2), 203-218. doi:10.3828/idpr.2013.13

Thorsen, D. (2014). Jeans, bicycles and mobile phones. Adolescent migrants' material consumption in Burkina Faso. In A. Veale & G. Donà (Eds.), *Child and youth migration. Mobility-in-migration in an era of globalization* (pp. 67-90). Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.

Thorsen, D. (2020). Independent child migration. In T. Bastia & R. Skeldon (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Migration and Development* (pp. 8). London and New York: Routledge

### Dr. Adamnesh A. Bogale



Adamnesh A. Bogale is an Assistant Professor at the Addis Ababa University where she has been faculty since 2009. Her educational credentials include LLB in 2003, Masters in regional and local development studies in 2006, and a PhD in Social Work and Social Development in 2014. Her research interests lie in the areas of internal (particularly youth rural to urban migration dynamics and poverty), international migration (with particular focus on return migration), Law and legal/policy analysis development, women and children, youth, and social protection, etc. She has collaborated actively with researchers in other disciplines of Law, Sociology, Social Anthropology on areas of migration, youth, and gender. Her recent research looked at 'Gender and Generation: Understanding the Dynamics of Migrant Households', particularly exploring gender and youth through the lens of migration. She involves in editorial roles for Journal of International Migration Research papers, policy briefs, working paper contributions, and presentations in workshops and seminars. She has been working with the Migration out of poverty project, University of Sussex for several years now, producing research and working papers

#### Relevant publications

Adamnesh, A. & Adamek, M. (2015). 'No place like home: Experiences of an Ethiopian migrant in the host country and as a returnee to the homeland'. *African and black Diaspora: An international journal*;

Adamnesh, A. & Adamek, M. (2015). 'The return migration experience of Ethiopian women trafficked to Bahrain: '...For richer or poorer, let me be on the hands of my people...'. *African and black Diaspora: An international journal*;

Adamnesh, A., Oucho, L., Zeitlyn, B. (2014). 'Poverty, youth and rural-urban migration in Ethiopia. Migrating out of poverty': Research program consortium, working paper 17. July 2014. University of Sussex. UK;

Marie-Jose Tayah and Adamnesh Atnafu (2016) 'Promoting and protecting the rights of migrant domestic workers in transit: The case of Ethiopian women migrants'. Research series. ILO. Geneva, Switzerland.

## Discussants



### Dr Roy Huijsmans

Roy Huijsmans is associate professor Childhood and Youth Studies at the International Institute of Social Studies (The Hague) of Erasmus University, The Netherlands. His research includes work on young people and migration in the Southeast Asian context and he is currently conducting an ethnographic study on the interplay between migration and platform-mediated work in the context of the Netherlands.

### Relevant publications

A Special Issue of the *European Journal of Development Research* (2021) on 'Development, Young People and the Social Production of Aspirations' (with Nicola Ansell and Peggy Froerer):  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41287-020-00337-1>

Huijsmans, R. (ed) 2016. *Generationing Development: A relational approach to children, youth and development*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

### Dr Raffaele Bertini





Delivering world-class research, learning and teaching that transforms the knowledge, action and leadership needed for more equitable and sustainable development globally.

Institute of Development Studies  
Library Road  
Brighton, BN1 9RE  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0)1273 606261  
[ids.ac.uk](http://ids.ac.uk)

Charity Registration Number 306371  
Charitable Company Number 877338  
© Institute of Development Studies 2020