

Creative gendered mobilities: migration, motorization and trade networks in colonial Ghana (1920-1957)

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Abstract

The history of migrations in Ghana is closely tied to the flows of male migrant laborers who, since the early decades of the twentieth century, moved from the north to work in the cocoa fields or gold mines in the south. These migrations were facilitated and supported by both the colonial state before independence and the post-colonial state after independence. However, many women also participated in these migrations, yet the literature and primary sources are notably reticent about them. The seminar aims to better contextualize the issue and propose some research perspectives to overcome this reticence. Specifically, during the seminar it will be examined how infrastructural changes in mobility between the north and south of the country, as well as urbanization, influenced the success and careers of female traders from the North. Additionally, it will suggest research paths to explore how the professional ethics and networks developed by these women, in turn, influenced mobilities and the commercial growth of the northern regions of Ghana.

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