



Guest Lecture

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Friday, 25 October 2019

Moving Through Affective Circuits: African Mobility, Social Connections and Control in Europe

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Dr. Joris Schapendonk, Assistant Professor in Geography, Planning and Environment, Radboud University

12:15 – 14:15 h

Location: University of Neuchâtel, Tilo Frey 1, Room R.O.14

This guest lecture is co-organised by the Laboratory of the Analysis of Social Processes (LAPS / MAPS) and the nccr – on the move.

Abstract

Many mobility and migration studies start from the social network terminology to understand how mobility is facilitated. On the basis of a trajectory ethnography that follows the twists and turns of African im/mobility in Europe, this presentation paints a more dynamic picture of connectivity. In so doing, it builds on the concept of affective circuits (Cole and Groes 2016). It argues that social connectivity is not a stable mesostructure that simply helps people to get ahead with their trajectories, but rather an uncertain terrain that requires careful navigation (Vigh 2009) by the African movers in this study. With their mobility across borders social connections tend to shift over time. Moreover, mobility regimes often enter affective relations in such a way that solidarities and bonding are not free from mistrust and surveillance. With this presentation, I unpack how my interlocutors negotiate their relations, create new friendships along the way, break with hindering social connections and are confronted with migration control and social surveillance in these relations.

Curriculum Vitae

Joris Schapendonk's work concentrates on im/mobility in the context of African migration and the role of migration industry actors in shaping people's mobility trajectories. With his method of following trajectories, he constructs a process geographical approach that destabilizes the linearity of migratory processes. His work allows us to reflect on the different ways the politics of mobility unfold, including bordering processes and guest-host relations. For his trajectory research, he received a personal research grant from the Innovation Research Scheme of the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (VENI, grant number: 451-14-011). Next to this trajectory research, he is attached to the Helping Hands Research Network that investigates everyday border work of European citizens in different European countries (funded by the Danish Research Council 2017-2019) and he became part of a HERA consortium (2019-2022) that investigates the role of mobile merchants in the production of marketplaces as inclusive public spaces.

Selected Publications

- Schapendonk, J. (2020). *Finding Ways Through Eurospace. West African 'Movers' Re-Viewing Europe from the Inside*. Berghahn Books: Oxford.
- Schapendonk, J. I. Van Liempt, I. Schwartz and G. Steel (2018). Re-Routing Migration Geographies: Migrants, Trajectories and Mobility Regimes (Introduction Special Issue), *Geoforum*.
- Aparna, K. and J. Schapendonk (2018). Shifting Itineraries of Asylum Hospitality: Towards a Process Geographical Approach of Guest-Host Relations, *Geoforum*.
- Cranston, S., J. Schapendonk, and E. Spaan (2018). New Directions in Exploring the Migration Industries: Introduction to Special Issue, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 44 (4), 543-557.
- Schapendonk, J. (2018) Navigating the Migration Industry: Migrants Moving Through an African-European Web of Facilitation/Control, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 44 (4), 663-679.
- Schapendonk, J. (2017). Afrostars and Eurospaces: West African Movers Re-Viewing 'Destination Europe' from the Inside, *ERQ*, 10 (3), 393-414.
- Schapendonk, J. (2015). What if Networks Move? Dynamic Social Networking in the Context of African Migration to Europe, *Population, Space and Place*, 21 (8), 809-819.
- Schapendonk, J and G. Steel (2014). Following Migrant Trajectories: The Im/Mobility of Sub-Saharan Africans en Route to the European Union, *Annals of Association of American Geographers*.