

La soutenance de mémoire de Master en sciences sociales  
- *pilier migration et citoyenneté* - de

## **Madame Federica Busco**

### Stepping into Hope

Young people's Experiences of Maritime Migration, Irregularity and Life  
on the Canary Islands

aura lieu le

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en ligne : <https://unine.webex.com/meet/christin.achermann>

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The Canary Islands have witnessed an intensification of people arriving by so called “pateras” from the West African coast during the last few years. Since 2020 and with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 23'000 people have arrived at the shores of the Canary Island through maritime migration. This work studies young Senegalese people's experiences of their maritime migration, their arrival and the period after their arrival on the island of Tenerife. It firstly engages with the question of why these people decide to migrate in the face of extreme dangers. It then focuses on the experiences of these young people upon their arrival on the Canary Islands and their early encounters with day-to-day realities. It analyses the question of how these young people establish a sense of home through different homing practices within a precarious administrative situation and in a place typically dismissed as “in-between”. It focuses on people who are more or less settled and happy to stay on Tenerife. By doing so, this work aims at contributing to the need in migration research to focus more on people who stay, rather than on people on the move and to better understand the importance of places for people on the move. Findings show how Tenerife may have multi-layered meanings for people at different points of their physical and life journeys and that the meanings are shaped and formed by different homing practices and by the social, emotional and economic relations the people engage with within their limited mobility on the island. This study calls for an understanding of the uniqueness of each person arriving and an understanding of their worthiness to be received in a dignified way. It closes by proposing a humane approach to immigration politics. A rights-based approach based on international human rights which shifts from concerns about state security towards concerns about people's security and wellbeing all over the globe and which encompasses compassion to political practices.