



## **Public Lecture Series Spring 2016**

### **Transnational Perspectives and Future Prospects of Migration and Mobility**

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**Wednesday, 2 March 2016**

**The Wellbeing of Migrant Families Between Africa and Europe:  
Transnational Effects of National Policies**

**Prof. Valentina Mazzucato**

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**Discussant: Prof. Janine Dahinden, University of Neuchatel and  
nccr – on the move**

18:15–19:45 h, University of Neuchatel, Rue Abraham Louis Breguet 1, Lecture Hall 301

#### **Abstract**

Studies on transnational families where children “stay behind” and parents migrate indicate that parents and children suffer emotionally from their separation. Most studies are small-scale and based on data from Latin America or Asia. Yet two large-scale, mixed-methods and multi-sited projects focusing on African families come to different conclusions (Transnational Child Raising Arrangements projects TCRA and TCRAf-Eu, [www.tcra.nl](http://www.tcra.nl)). We studied children’s and parents’ emotional wellbeing in three African countries: Ghana, Angola, and Nigeria and three European countries: The Netherlands, Portugal and Ireland. What emerged is that transnational families can have different characteristics, and it is these characteristics that determine whether children and parents fare well

or not, rather than their separation alone. This presentation will explain what transnational family characteristics impinge upon the wellbeing of family members, and how contextual factors such as child raising norms and post-conflict settings in migrant origin countries and employment and migration policies in migrant receiving countries affect how families are able to operate transnationally.

### Curriculum Vitae

Valentina Mazzucato is Professor of Globalization and Development at Maastricht University, The Netherlands. She heads several international research projects on transnational families financed by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) and NORFACE and is co-PI on a European Commission 7th Framework project on transnational migration between Africa and Europe. In addition to the selection below, her articles are published in *International Migration Review* (2014), *Population Space and Place* (2015; 2004), *Global Networks* (2009), *World Development* (2014), *International Migration* (2007), *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (2014; 2007), *Development and Change* (2006; 2000), *Global Migration Perspectives* (2005), *Economic Geography* (2002), and *Environment* (2002), as well as book chapters in *Migration and Development within and across Borders* (IOM, 2009) and *Globalization and Development: Themes and Concepts in Current Research* (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2004). Valentina Mazzucato is regularly invited to speak in public fora on the effects of transnational lives for development in Africa and migrant integration in Europe. She has lived in and conducted research on numerous African countries in the past 20 years.

### Selected Publications

- Dankyi, E., V. Mazzucato and T. Manuh (2016): Global social protection as a reciprocal process: The work of caregivers in providing care for migrants' children. *Oxford Development Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/13600818.2015.1124078.
- Gladkova, N. and V. Mazzucato (2016): Theorizing chance: Capturing the role of ad hoc social interactions in migrants' trajectories. *Population, Space and Place*, DOI: 10.1002/psp.1988.
- Haagsman, K., V. Mazzucato, and B. Dito (2015): Transnational families and the subjective well-being of migrant parents: Angolan and Nigerian parents in The Netherlands. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38(15), 1–20.
- Mazzucato, V., V. Cebotari, A. Veale, A. White, M. Grassi, J. Vivet (2015): International parental migration and the psychological well-being of children in Ghana, Nigeria, and Angola. *Social Science and Medicine* 132, 215–224.
- Poeze, M. and V. Mazzucato (2013): Ghanaian children in transnational families: Understanding the experiences of left-behind children through local parenting norms. In L. Baldassar and L. Merla (eds) *Transnational Families, Migration and the Circulation of Care*, p. 149–169. London: Routledge.
- Mazzucato, V. (2013): Transnational families. In Ness, I. (ed) *The Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Mazzucato, V. and D. Schans (2011): Transnational families and the well-being of children: Conceptual and methodological challenges. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 73(4): 704–712.
- Mazzucato, V. (2011): Reverse remittances in the migration – development nexus: Two-way flows between Ghana and the Netherlands. *Population Space and Place* 17(5): 454–468. First published online October 2010, DOI: 10.1002/psp.646.
- Mazzucato, V. (2009): Informal insurance arrangements in Ghanaian migrants' transnational networks: The role of reverse remittances and geographic proximity. *World Development* 37(6): 1105–15.
- Mazzucato, V. (2009): Bridging boundaries with a transnational research approach: A simultaneous matched sample methodology. In M. A. Falzon (ed) *Multi-Sited Ethnography: Theory, Praxis and Locality in Contemporary Social Research*, Chapter 12. Hampshire: Ashgate.