Public Lecture Series Spring 2016
Transnational Perspectives and Future Prospects of Migration and Mobility

Wednesday, 2 March 2016
The Wellbeing of Migrant Families Between Africa and Europe: Transnational Effects of National Policies
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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). 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 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**


**Selected Publications**