



## Public Photo Exhibition

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**Thursday and Friday, 12 - 13 September 2019**  
**“Tanakra, the Mobility of People in Niger”**

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**Photos by Francesco Bellina, supported by Giacomo Zandonini**

09:00 – 17:00 h

Location: University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis-Breguet 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, East Hallway

Open to the public. No entrance fee

This photo exhibition is organized by the nccr – on the move as a public side event to the Neuchâtel Graduate Conference of Mobility and Migration Studies 2019.

### **About the Exhibition**

For decades, hundreds of women have been working in Agadez' huge migration business, lodging and feeding millions of migrants in transit. They were often wives or sisters of drivers or "ghetto" managers. After an EU-sponsored migration crackdown, launched in 2016, their lives changed completely. From a relative wealth, they were plunged back into poverty. Husbands left them in search of fortune, and a compensation scheme from the government didn't touch them. As a reaction, dozens of them created mutual support groups, to share their suffering and start small-scale economic activities. A crossroad for people and goods travelling from Western Africa to Libya and Algeria, Agadez is undergoing a new challenge. The EU is pouring funds in this desertic region, the size of France, to reduce the impact of anti-migration measures. But people are frustrated. A good opportunity for drug and weapons trafficking networks, that have links to jihadist groups active in Libya and Nigeria. Still, community links and traditional values are strong. Tanakra means "rise up" in Tamasheq. It's the name of one of the women's mutual help groups.

Bellina's website: <https://francescobellina.photoshelter.com/portfolio/G0000TG0hLo.BJaQ>