



Film Screening and Discussion

Outsourcing Borders: The Politics of Deportation in Europe–Africa Relations

Thursday, 27 November 2025

17:30 - 19:00

University of Neuchâtel

The event will take place at the University of Neuchâtel, [Av. du Premier-Mars 26](#), 2nd Floor, Room D63 as well as online on WEBEX ([link](#)).

Description

This event aims to shed light on the dynamics of the deportation of African migrants from Europe, while highlighting the critical perspectives of African political institutions and of migrants themselves, which are often overlooked in European public discourses on deportations. The objective of this event is to provide information and testimonies on how these deportations operate in practice. This is done through careful examination of the interplay of institutional interests, including those of the European Union (EU), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and the Gambian State government at both national and local levels. We will do this on three different levels: beginning with the presentation of an academic paper by Dr. Omar Cham titled “Justifying opposition and support to EU-Africa cooperation on deportation in West Africa”; secondly through the screening of Babucarr Manka’s award winning documentary [Home Again](#) (2022), and finally through a moderated discussion and audience Q&A with both Dr. Cham and Mr. Manka.

Dr. Cham will present in Neuchâtel, while Mr. Manka, based in The Gambia, will join us online. The event will thus be in a hybrid format and open to the general public in person or online. The proposed event fits well into the broader themes of the nccr – on the move and, more specifically, that of its [Module I](#) as it cuts across the narratives of migration crisis ([IP40](#)) in the EU, as well as the politics of emigration ([IP41](#)) in The Gambia, and the role of international organisations ([IP39](#)) in these deportations.

Cham, O. N., & Adam, I. (2025). *Justifying opposition and support to EU-Africa cooperation on deportation in West Africa*. *Governance*, e12846. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12846>

The Speakers

Dr. Omar N. Cham is a Postdoctoral Researcher and co-director at the Centre for Migration, Diversity, and Justice, as well as BIRMM, at the Brussels School of Governance, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). His work focuses on the external dimension of EU migration policies, particularly EU-Africa relations on migration. His PhD dissertation examined the narratives of both government officials and ordinary Gambian citizens toward EU migration control policies. Omar has also worked on the BRIDGES project, which focused on the production and impact of migration narratives in Europe and beyond. Omar’s research focus on the politics and governance of migration in The Gambia in the context of EU migration externalisation policies.

His above paper, co-authored with Prof. Ilke Adam, was published in the journal *Governance* earlier this year. It investigates the controversial and unpopular nature of EU-Africa cooperation on the deportation of undocumented emigrants in West African political discourses. In this paper, they set out a typology of justification frames for studying how political actors in West Africa might frame their support or opposition to cooperation on deportation.

Babucarr Manka is a Gambian documentary filmmaker, screenwriter, and creative director known for his emotionally powerful and socially engaged storytelling. With over 15 years of experience in the film and media industry, he has made a series of award-winning films exploring the themes of migration, identity, and justice. As the creative lead of State of Mic Multimedia, Manka has collaborated with broadcasters, NGOs, and international partners to produce impactful documentaries and advocacy content. He is a Global Media Makers Fellow (2024), an American Film Showcase Fellow (2024), and a Durban Talents alumnus (2023).

In 2022, he released his first international documentary titled [Home Again](#), which premiered at [DOK.fest Munich](#). The film explores the migration crisis and illustrates the circumstances that have compelled Africans to migrate to European countries in search of better career opportunities and improved living standards. It also discloses how the IOM organises the repatriation process of African immigrants—who all arrived in major European nations as refugees—to send them back to their home countries.

Program

17:30 - 18:00	Welcome and presentation by Dr. Omar Cham
18:00 - 18:30	Film screening <i>Home Again</i>
18:30 - 19:00	Q&A moderated by Carol Pierre and Great Udochi

Organised by

Carol Pierre and Great Udochi, nccr – on the move

For questions please contact great.udochi@unine.ch.