



Circulations in the global South: Ethnographic explorations of globalized exchanges

APAD Conference

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The conference is structured around the following axes:

Paths, places and actors of circulations

What are the paths, circuits or routes of globalized circulations? Which transnational networks support them? What are the connection points, which play the role of hubs, nodes of confluence and distribution of flows of goods, technological knowledge, entrepreneurial visions, development models, representations, or norms? To what extent do these connection points also become new places of power? Who are the actors of these large-scale circulations; organizing, feeding, controlling, regulating or opposing them? What intertwining of personal or collective histories is created throughout transnational circulations? What are the places, social groups, or even tangible or intangible goods that have remained or are kept away from circulation? What geopolitical, economic, social or historical factors determine these exclusions?

Regulations and (geo)political reshaping

What are the effects of the acceleration of the circulation of globalized goods, ideas and norms on local and national political (im)balances? To what extent and through what processes does inclusion in global connections transform the political influence of actors? Do the new transnational actors have a different relationship with the State and politics than the local economic elites they compete with? Finally, what is at stake in the current strengthening of partnerships, official and/or private, between countries of the Global South?

What happens to things in circulation?

This axe will focus on the complex processes of transformation, adaptation and even transfiguration that occur during the circulation of "things". What new meanings or values do they acquire according to the uses assigned to them during their journey? While the countries of the South are confronted with a massive influx of mass-consumption products and universal

models, what are the social mechanisms that determine their appropriation, domestication, vernacularization or, on the contrary, rejection?

The local consequences of global circulations

What impacts have the intensification of connections and large-scale exchanges on the daily lives of the social groups and territories which are implicated? What are the local effects of the arrival on African markets of a wide range of accessible manufactured products from Asia? What are the implications for local production and consumption systems? What are the visions and social practices associated with the entry of large segments of urban populations into the era of mass consumption? What are the political and economic practices and imaginaries of the actors linked to transnational circulations? Are there forms of mobilization expressing resistance, contestation, criticism, or concern about the new inequalities created by globalized capitalism?

The fieldwork of circulations

Fieldwork in transnational settings raises questions about its epistemological and methodological implications of relevance to all potential panels. In addition to debates about multi-scalar studies, the multi-sited ethnography of global phenomena asks for a critical rethinking of the place of cultural areas, and forms of comparison, and the need for scholarship and specialization that is closely associated with it. The fragmentation of fieldwork specific to an ethnography of circulation inevitably leads researchers to question their own viewpoint – to ask oneself where does it come from? - and the modes of analysis and presentation of research.