

## Call for papers 'Migration, land and contested claims of citizenship'

**Panel** at the Second Transmobilities & Development Conference: Friction in a mobile world, Radboud University, Nijmegen, 8-9 June, 2017

**Panel organizers:** Dr. Griet Steel (LANDac Utrecht University), [g.steel@uu.nl](mailto:g.steel@uu.nl) ; Dr. Mayke Kaag (African Studies Centre), [kaag@ascleiden.nl](mailto:kaag@ascleiden.nl) and Prof. Dr. Annelies Zoomers (Department Human Development and Planning and LANDac, Utrecht University) [e.b.zoomers@uu.nl](mailto:e.b.zoomers@uu.nl)

The link between migration and land is manifold. Land investments cannot be fully understood without taking the role of migrants into account and the other way round, migration patterns cannot be understood without considering the geography of land investments, creating new opportunities for some while causing displacement and forced evictions for others. In classic migration debates, the rural exodus has been ascribed to farmers being pushed away from their land due to drought, war, land fragmentation and large scale land grabbing activities in the agribusiness. Lack of land and appropriate inheritance systems has been one of the root causes for many youngsters moving to cities and small towns to make a livelihood outside agriculture. Out-migration is often the main trigger of land-use change in rural areas. At the same time, migrants are often main investors in home towns and countries, as reflected in the impressive migrant architecture. Migrants from all over the world send huge amounts of remittances back home to invest in land and real estate, be it in cities or in rural areas in their home countries. By putting mounting pressure on real estate prices, they make urban land markets much more competitive and speculative. The economic value of these type of investments and its meaning in terms of productivity have been widely discussed in the migration literature. Less attention has been paid however to the meaning of these investments for identity and citizenship construction and the way it influences processes of socio-economic inclusion and exclusion. This panel aims to further disentangle the diverse linkages between migration and land by focusing on how growing interconnectivity and the worldwide intensification of flows of people, money, ideas and goods shapes current land markets in cities and rural areas in the Global South. Particularly we welcome papers focusing on the role of migrants in contemporary land transformations by addressing the following questions:

- How do competing claims over land and the growing influence of transnational migrants in land commodification processes may create frictions and socio-spatial fragmentation between those who have access to migration spaces and those who have not?
- What are the negative as well as positive (productive) consequences of migrants' contested claims of owner- and citizenship, including strategies used by diverse claimants?

### Practicalities

If you are interested in participating, please send a title and 250-word abstract to Griet Steel ([g.steel@uu.nl](mailto:g.steel@uu.nl)) and Mayke Kaag ([kaag@ascleiden.nl](mailto:kaag@ascleiden.nl)) by the **7th of April 2017**.

Please note that participants have to cover their own expenses.