



## New African Diasporas Transnational Communities, Cultures, and Economies

February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>  
Italy

March 20<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>  
France

The **Centre for African Studies (CSA)** has coordinated the Italian component of the International mobility program **“New African Diasporas – Transnational Communities, Cultures and Economies”**. The program is dedicated to American universities’ students who experience a study course split among the United States, Senegal, Italy and France. The European time of the program started on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, when students landed in Milan, and ended on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, after their departure towards Senegal from Toulouse, France. The group was composed by **12 students**, accompanied dr. Crystal Powell. The Italian team was lead by the country coordinator of the program and Director of the CSA, Federico Daneo. The CSA has selected **4 students of the University of Study of Turin**, offering them to attend all activities linked with the “New African Diasporas” program in Turin.

The European program was scheduled as follows: during the first days in Italy (February 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>) students attended lectures and activities in **Brescia**. There, they were hosted by the local University and by the Murid Senegalese community in Pontevico, in Brescia’s countryside. On their first day in Brescia, students were greeted with a first **orientation meeting** on their stay in Italy and a **security briefing**, aimed at offering an overview on risks and behaviors. Then, they were presented with a welcome kit from CSA, with useful gear for their stay in Italy, including: maps, city guide, general schedule of three weeks in Italy, useful telephone contacts, public transport weekly ticket, vouchers for students’ lunches, prepaid SIM card.

On their first day of activities, the students attended a meeting with **Federico Faloppa**, professor at the University of Reading, who briefed them about the issue of racism in Italy. This briefing was scheduled in order to answer to two different sets of problems. Firstly, the necessity of a stronger debate on racism emerged from previous editions of the NAD program. The CSA duly operated to put the students at ease with a sensitive issue, preparing them to their stay in Italy by facing the differences among racist trends in Europe and in the US. Secondly, this meeting was highly needed considering the Italian electoral campaign that at that point in time was at its peak (general elections have taken place on March 4<sup>th</sup>), with a pervasive presence of populist and, sometimes, racist debates in the political frame. For this reason, the students were provided with some information on today’s

politics in Italy, during this racism briefing and other lectures (especially with researchers from the CSA).

Once arrived in Turin, where they stayed until March 20<sup>th</sup>, students were hosted in Senegalese families, individuated and coordinated by the **Association of Senegalese in Turin (AST)**. Academic activities in Turin took place in a room provided by the CSA at its offices: students were greeted with a catering service and a coffee corner. Some initiatives (guest lectures, community and team building, site visits) offered the opportunity to pay visit to different venues and institutions in Turin, deepening the group's knowledge of the city and its integration and cooperation networks.

The fourth week of the program (March 19<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>) students moved to **Toulouse**, in France, where they were hosted by the Toulouse Business School for their daily activities. The group had the chance to meet with the local Murid community and to attend the last lectures of their European experience.

Here follows a detailed report on the activities proposed to students during their stay in Italy and France. The CSA organized different kind of initiatives: courses in "**Entrepreneurship and Migration**" and "**Africana Muslims**"; guest lectures; **Wolof lectures**; Neighborhood Day; community and team building activities; documentaries; site visits. The remaining academic course in "Frameworks and Fieldwork" was given and scheduled by dr. Crystal Powell.

## **Entrepreneurship and Migration**

The CSA organized the European portion of the course in **Entrepreneurship and Migration**. The first lecture was given by prof. **Stefano Degli Uberti** (February 27<sup>th</sup>), while the third was provided by dr. **Ester Salis** (March 13<sup>th</sup>). The other lectures have been given by dr. **Luca Barana** (March 5<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>), a researcher at the CSA.

### **Lecture 1 - The role of the Muridiyya in the Senegalese migration to Italy**

**Stefano degli Uberti** holds a BA in Literature (UniVe), an MA in Anthropology of Development and Social Transformation (University of Sussex) and PhD in Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity (UniBg). He is currently researcher at CNR-IRPPS. He lectured Cultural Anthropology and Anthropology of Migration at the University of Bologna and taught as guest lecturer at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. Before joining CNR he was Visiting researcher at UNU Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS, Belgium). He also served as Project officer for humanitarian associations, national institutions and international organizations, including the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (IT) and ICMPD (Austria). More recently he worked as vice-coordinator of a Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Bozen (IT, 2015-2016).

### **Lecture 2 – Africa, Europe, Italy: a so-called migration crisis**

### **Lecture 4 – Different patterns of migration in Europe: why history and geography matter**

**Luca Barana** is a researcher and project manager at the Centre for African Studies. He has been Junior Fellow at the European Centre on Foreign Relations, where he started a research on the European migration policy, and in particular on the EU Emergency for Africa Trust Fund and on the role of regional integration on migrations. With a degree in European Studies, he is a founder member and deputy director of Europae – Review of European Affairs, that, established in 2013, proposes an independent perspective on European policies and politics.

### **Lecture 3 – Safe and jobless? Understanding patterns of socio-economic inclusion of recently arrived African migrants to Italy**

Ester Salis, PhD, works as researcher at the Turin-based FIERI research centre since 2010. Her main fields of interests are in labour migration governance, labour market integration of immigrants in Italy, care work and welfare policies. More recently, she has been researching features of mixed flows from Africa to Europe in the Refugee crisis and the political responses in Italy and Europe.

## **Africana Muslim**

The CSA has been responsible for the organization of the lectures in **Africana Muslim** during the students' European stay. The first lecture was given by prof. **Vanessa Maher** (March 2<sup>nd</sup>), the second by prof. **Vincenzo Pace** (March 6<sup>th</sup>), the third by dr. **Guido Zingari** (March 12<sup>th</sup>), while the last one, hosted in France, was dedicated to a documentary on the Murid community in Touba.: the short film is entitled "**The Gates to Heaven**" and is authored by dr. Zingari.

### **Lecture 1 - Polygyny and Family Dynamics**

**Vanessa Maher** is Honorary Professor in Cultural Anthropology at University of Verona, Italy, has taught in several Italian universities, including Turin. Ethnographic research in Morocco, Italy, UK and on Africa, gender, social and colonial history, migration. Cofounder and member of Intercultural Centres of Women in Turin and Verona, and previously member of migrant associations Harambe and Sanabil in Turin, was part of team of Italian and migrant researchers in 1989-1991 on *The networks, cultural worlds and work of migrants to Turin* (published 1992 IRES Piemonte), when she supervised Donald Carter's Ph.D research on Senegalese Murid in Turin (for University of Chicago). Has researched and coordinated research projects on cultural mediation, migrant parents, the "second" generation, human rights, metaphors and social action. Among her publications in English and Italian *Women and Property in Morocco*, Cambridge, *Il potere della complicità*, Turin, (ed.) *The Anthropology of Breastfeeding: Natural Law or Social Construct*, Oxford, (ed.) *Questioni di etnicità* (ed.) *Genitori Migranti* Turin and the life story of a Nigerian woman living in Italy, published 2017 in English under our two pseudonyms.

### **Lecture 2 - The Spread of Africana Muslims Beyond Arabia**

**Vincenzo Pace** is professor of sociology of religion at Padua University. Directeur d'Études (invité) all'EHESS Paris-Sorbonne, he served as General Secretary and President of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR). Co-editor of the *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion* (Leiden, Brill), and of the *International Journal of the Latin American Religions* (Springer, New York). He received the Hoffmann Award for the Intercultural Competence 2014 (University of Vechta, Germany). He is member of the Council on relations with Islam at the Italian Ministry of the Interior. Latest publications: The *Changing Soul of the Europe*, London: Routledge, 2014 (co-author with I. Furseth, P. Pettersson, H. Vilaça). *Il carisma nelle religioni del Libro*, in P. Rossi (ed.), *Ripensare Weber*, Roma: Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, 2014. I. Testoni, G. Bormolini, E. Pace, L.V. Tarca (eds.), *Vedere oltre. Le spiritualità dinanzi al morire nelle diverse religioni*, Torino: Lindau, 2015; *Religiosità senza religioni*, Napoli: Guida 2015. *Sociologia delle religioni*, Bologna, Edizioni Dehoniane, 2016. *Fundamentalismos religiosos, violência e sociedade*, São Paulo: Fonte editora e Edições Tercera Via (eds. with I. Dias de Oliveira, M. Aubrée), 2017. *The Progressive Role of Religions in Advancing Human Rights Paradigm: a Sociological Perspective*, in "Religioni e Società", 2017, n. 87, 32-40. *La sociologia e l'islam*, in S. Allievi, R. Guolo, K. Rhazzali (eds.), *I*

*musulmani nella società europea*, Milano, Guerini e Associati, 2017. *Cristianesimo extra-large*, Bologna: Dehoniane, 2018. *Tra parola viva e lettera morta. Le ambivalenze dei fondamentalismi contemporanei*, in G.L. Potestà, M. Rainini (a cura di), *Scritture sacre. Testi, storia, interpretazioni*, Milano, Vita e Pensiero, 99-114. *Riforma, Riforme. Leggere il cambiamento socio-religioso nella lunga durata*, in “Religioni e società”, n. 89, 15-28. *Cristianesimo extra-large*, Bologna: Dehoniane, 2018.

### **Lecture 3 - From Islamic Republics to Global Religion: profiles and prophets**

### **Lecture 4 - “The gates to Heaven” a documentary on the Mourid community in Touba**

**Guido Zingari** studied Literature, Philosophy, Art History and Cultural Anthropology between Lyon, Rome and Turin. He carried out numerous ethnographic fieldworks between Senegal and Togo, respectively working on Sufi brotherhoods and Vodoo cults, including in the framework of a PhD at the University of Turin (2017). Since 2012 he has collaborated with the collective of the Piccolo Cinema (Turin), a mutual aid film society. *The Sea* (2014), winner of the Special Jury Prize at 32<sup>nd</sup> Torino Film Festival, is his first short film. From 2014 to 2015 he worked as assistant director in the film *River Memories* of Gianluca and Massimiliano De Serio, produced by La Sarraz Pictures, presented at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Venice Film Festival and in the official competition of Visions du Réel (2016). *The Gates to Heaven*, released in 2016, is his first feature film. From 2016 he is a contract professor of Visual Anthropology at the University of Turin, where he conducts the Video Ethnographic Laboratory.

## **Guest Lectures, side activities and site visits**

### ***Documentary in Brescia: “Demal Te Niew” of Marcella Pasotti (February 27<sup>th</sup>)***

Students viewed the documentary “Demal Te Niew” in Brescia. The documentary recalls a research on the return of migrants in their country of origin. The short film was introduced by the author, Marcella Pasotti, from Brescia. The meeting was possible thanks to the cooperation with the social firm “La Rete”, CSA partner in Brescia.

### ***Site visit to Pontevico (February 28<sup>th</sup>)***

Students passed an entire day at the Senegalese Association of Pontevico. They had been received, in the morning, by the President of the Senegalese Community of Brescia. The students met the some representatives of the Women' Senegalese Association. Students also had the pleasure to visit the structure and take part to prayers in the Mosque. The lunch break was offered by the community and obviously they cooked senegalese food. In this place there were a Coran School for childrens, a kitchen, the Mosque and a special room dedicated to Ahmadou Bamba, the founder of the larger Mourid brotherhood in Italy.

### ***ILDA CURTI - “Pluralistic cities” (March 6<sup>th</sup>)***

**Ilda Curti** is a former Deputy Mayor for Integration, Urban Regeneration and Quality of Life. She worked in different fields: Europe, International Relations, cities, cultural policies, Intercultural Relations and local development. Today, she coordinates the Italian network “Intercultural Cities” of the Council of Europe.

### ***ALAJIE JINKANG - “The Exploitation of Migrants in the Agricultural Fields in Italy” (March 8<sup>th</sup>)***

**Alagie Jinkang** joined the International University College in 2014, to pursue the LL.M. CLEF, and progressed to the M.Sc., defending his dissertation on the commons. He is a native of The Gambia with a strong background in Political Science and International Relations, he work as a qualified teacher and a professional journalist. Currently, he also acts as the Italian correspondent for The Point Newspaper, The Monitor and The Standard Newspaper extensively reporting on migration and other topical Gambian issues defending human rights. Alagie Jinkang is a Ph.D candidate at the faculty of law, university of Palermo, currently researching on “The New Slave Market”. His Ph.D research is devoted to the “Exploitation of Migrants in the Agricultural Sector in Italy”. He is an activist and human rights advocate belonging to several think tanks and civil society movements in Africa and in Europe. Mr. Jinkang also relentlessly works with the IUC Legal Clinic to support migrants in Italy. He also collaborates with the Centre for African Studies, Turin.

### ***Lectures in Wolof***

During their time in Italy, the students received some additional lectures in Wolof language. The CSA scheduled 3 meetings with professionals indicated by the Association of the Senegalese in Turin (AST): during this lectures, the students were provided with some basic information and notion, that could be prove useful once they returned to Senegal.

### ***Italian Food Culture Workshop (Pasta and Pizza laboratory) with refugees (March 9<sup>th</sup>)***

The CSA, in cooperation with the school project “NOSFAP”, organized a workshop in Italian food culture, ending in a lunch together, hosted by a training facility in San Benigno, in the countryside near Turin. It was a chance to enjoy a team and community building activity with some refugees trained by local associations and NGOs. Students cooperated in the preparation and cooking of pizza and fresh pasta.

### ***ELEONORA CASTAGNONE - Migration from Africa: keys, concepts and main trends (March 13<sup>th</sup>)***

**Eleonora Castagnone**, PhD in Sociology, senior international expert on migration; FIERI associate researcher. Beside a longstanding research experience in Europe, she has a specific expertise on the North African and Sub-Saharan contexts, with a focus on migration mobility patterns from and within Africa; mixed migration flows; migration and development, labour migration. She worked with international organisations (FAO, IOM, ILO, ICMPD, WB, UNESCO), universities (University of Turin and University of Milan) and research institutions (FIERI, CeSPI, INED).

### ***MATTEO CORTESE – “An introduction to Foundation 4 Africa” (March 15<sup>th</sup>)***

**Matteo Cortese** is project manager at Foundation 4 Africa, an initiative promoted in Senegal and Northern Uganda by some Italian banking foundations (Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione Cariparma, Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena). During its activities, the project worked with NGOs, institutions, public agencies and Italian-base migrants associations. The entire program was concentrated on the central role of diaspora associations in Italy and Senegal, considered like real partners with full responsibility, participating from planning and development to monitoring activities.

### ***Neighborhood Day presentations (March 15<sup>th</sup>)***

After the Neighborhood Day, students had the opportunity to talk about this great experience and take a look at it together. First of all, they focused on different aspects of the same block, and,

secondly, they shared the information with the other teams engaged in different neighborhoods . In this way, they developed an evaluation of their point of view of those multicultural neighborhood. The outcome of this process was shared with their colleagues with a Powerpoint presentation.

### ***Meeting with the Murid community in Toulouse (March 20<sup>th</sup>)***

Students met with the Murid community in Toulouse, experiencing their history of entrepreneurship and integration in Italy. During the meeting, the students have been told that, despite the Toulouse's community is not the most significant in France, it is engaging more and more with the local civil society and it is trying to acquire a space to have prayers and community activities, following the model of the Pontevico's association.

### **Neighborhood Day in Turin (March 7<sup>th</sup>)**

Belonging to a place characterizes personal and community building, through the creation of memories and collective identities of the location that marks neighborhood, sometimes including stereotypes. The urban context influences the type of relation produced and it can contrast cooperation programs, generating a variety of interim situations. Based on the group or on the social actors involved, there may be express procedures of appropriation and different use of this urban space.

With a view to deepening this perspective, the students had the opportunity to submerge on daily life of Turinese people. They analysed the integration phenomenon, through the related observation, made by both group of students: Italians and Americans.

#### **Search mode**

The students involved in the “New African Diasporas” program were divided in two groups, in order to make the research tangible. In every team there were Italian students from the University of Studies of Turin, in order to assist American students during their movements-

Every research team went in specific neighborhoods all day long, observing its transformation in different moments of the day and picking up all the necessary information for the revision of the project. Three types of themes have been identified: experiences, meeting places and non-places.

o **Experiences:** during the day, the students were welcomed by some representatives of the communities in Turin in significant places for their personal activity and for the neighborhood. Meetings were scheduled in predetermined moments during the day.

o **Meetings places:** students met certain people with whom they had a talk. It was all about commercial activities, where it was possible to interact both with the entrepreneur and the clients.

o **Non-places:** students were let free of moving around the neighborhood. They explored and interacted with places typically characterized by the transitory and informality: aggregation points, citizens market and parks.

The two neighborhoods were:

#### **San Salvario**

This neighborhood is a unique example of cohabitation between nationalities and religions. Both teams were welcomed by individuals symbol of active citizenship and good integration. Meetings on the morning took place in the the Mosque in Via Saluzzo and La Casa Valdese. They had lunch

at the Casa del Quaritere, one of the integratoin focal point in the neigborhood. In the afternoon, they met some social workers for a catholic organization. Between the non-places, some specific areas were notified for helping them to move in the district, like the market in Via Madama Cristina, social places, religious aggregations and commercial activities.

### **Porta Palazzo**

This neigboorood represents a complex urban, social and economic mix, which present two important aspect: vitality and contradictions. This block is one of the most historical symbol of the city, where we can also find the urban form, the History and the major commercial activity: the market. This one is the biggest covered market in Europe and constitutes an important phenomenon of city life. The research in this district provided experiences of the city life in the neigboorhood and of migrants entrepreneurs who are perfectly integrated. The meetings took place in commercial areas. Students were free to roam and had the opportunity to move around the area and have a talk with some stakeholders in migration services and cooperaiton. In the afternoon, they met some entrepreneurs with different backgrounds and jobs (retailers, restaurants). Another interesting moment was constituted by lunch, when students ate in a Moroccan restaurants in the neigboorhood.