



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

February 18<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Italy



The **Centre for African Studies (CSA)** has coordinated the Italian component of the International mobility programme “**New African Diasporas – Transnational Communities, Cultures and Economies**”. The programme is dedicated to American university students who participate in a course on economic integration of diasporas split between the United States, Senegal, Italy and China. The programme, based in Italy started on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, when students landed in Milan, and ended on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, when the students departed for their time in China. The group was composed of **17 students**, accompanied by two Faculty

members (prof. Souleye Diallo and prof. Mansa Bilal King) and a Fellow (dr. Crystal Powell). The Italian team was lead by the country coordinator of the programme and Director of the CSA, Federico Daneo. The CSA, in cooperation with CIPMO, selected **6 students from the University of Turin**, and offered them the opportunity to attend all of the activities linked with the “New African Diasporas” programme.

The Italian programme was scheduled as follows: during the first two weeks (February 20<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup>) students attended lectures and activities in **Turin**, where the CSA headquarters resides. There, they were hosted by locally based Senegalese families, selected and coordinated by the **Association of Senegalese in Turin (AST)**. Academic activities in Turin occurred within an office room provided by the CSA. Students were warmly greeted with refreshments. Many initiatives (guest lectures, community and team building activities and site visits) offered students the opportunity to experience the different venues and institutions of Turin, deepening their knowledge of the city itself alongside an introduction to its networks focused upon integration and cooperation.

During their first day in Turin, students participated in an orientation event, where we informed them about what their stay in Italy would entail, as well as a briefing on all security related matters, including potential risks, safety issues and acceptability of different behavior.

Then, they were presented with a welcome kit from CSA, with useful equipment for their stay in Turin, including: maps, city guides and a general schedule for their three weeks in Italy.

Furthermore, we included a detailed schedule for their first two weeks in Turin, notes on their host families, maps of hosting facilities and information regarding public transport, useful telephone contacts. To aid them in making their experiences run smoothly in the city, the student were provided with personal badges, weekly public transport tickets, vouchers for lunches, a prepaid SIM card, and lastly some pocket money. These initial meetings were hosted by the social firm “Sumisura”, which works within the multiethnic neighborhood of Barriera di Milano, in Turin.

Another welcoming event was organized the next day at the “**Bagni Pubblici**” in Barriera di Milano, which is an integration point for the Senegalese communities. Here, students met up with their **host families** in the presence of both the President of the Association of Senegalese, of Turin, and the homestay coordinator and CSA staff, who highlighted the homestay rules for the families. AST, one of the most important migrants’ association in Turin, has been a crucial partner in organizing the entire program. Following was a welcome meeting and complimentary cocktail organized in cooperation with AST, and this event was attended by the Consular and Regional authorities. In the evening, students split up among hosting families for their first homestay night.



The third week of the programme (March 6<sup>th</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>) students moved to **Lombardia**, where they visited different cities. On the first day, they were hosted in **Bergamo**. Afterwards, they stayed two days in **Brescia** and on the fourth day they visited the village of **Ponteviso**. The site visit in Ponteviso was particularly significant because the village hosts the biggest Murid community in Italy. The fourth week of the programme constituted the Mid Semester Break: students returned in Turin on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ensuing is a detailed report on the activities experiences by the students during their stay in Italy. The CSA, and its partners, have organized many different kinds of initiatives: instructional sessions in “Entrepreneurship and Migration”; guest lectures; Neighborhood Days; community and team building activities; documentaries and site visits.

## Entrepreneurship and Migration sessions

The CSA organized some instructional sessions focused on **Entrepreneurship and Migration** in cooperation with **CeSPI (Studies Centre of International Politics)**. CeSPI is a well-established thinktank, better known for its policy-oriented research in the field of international



cooperation, local development, and the role both Italy and Europe play in International Relations. The first lecture was given by professor Daniele Frigeri, Director of CeSPI (February 22nd); the second by Dr. Paola Abenante (February 27th) and the third by Dr. Petra Mezzetti (March 7th), whom collectively work as researchers at CeSPI.



**Daniele Frigeri**, holds a degree in banking, insurance and financial studies. From 2014 he had held the job of the Director of CeSPI, (International Political Studies Centre), an Italian independent organisation founded in 1985 for policy-oriented studies, research, training and consultancy on international issues, with a specific focus on migration issues. Coordinator of the Economic Citizenship and Integration Policies Area, since 2010 he has managed the Italian Financial Inclusion Observatory on Migrants whilst being a member of the Italian Working Group on

Remittances (coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) since 2009. Prior to this he worked for a major European bank within its Institutional and Regulatory Strategic Advisory Office.

As an expert on financial inclusion and remittances, over the past few years he has edited and curated several publications and research studies and set up pilot and innovative projects in the field of financial inclusion, entrepreneurship support and enhancement of remittances of migrants in Italy and abroad.



**Dr. Paola Abenante** obtained PhD in Cultural Anthropology in 2010, from the University of Milano Bicocca (Italy), for which she carried out ethnographic fieldwork in Sudan, Egypt, Italy and Germany (2006-2009).

Since, she has been carrying out qualitative research on the topics of Islam, Middle Eastern Studies, migrations, gender dynamics and vulnerability. Her academic postgraduate career and collaborations are marked by an international scope, starting from her master in

Anthropology and Ethnology in Paris at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes and Sciences Sociales in 2005-2006.

After her PhD, Paola carried out a postdoctoral research on both gender dynamics within Islamic brotherhoods and existential vulnerability in migration at the University of Bergen in Norway (2010-2011); she has then been a research associate at the Columbia University in New York (USA), as an Alexander Bodini fellow on culture and religion (2012-2013), carrying out research on cultural dynamics in Egypt after 2011; she has been teaching as adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (USA) for a course on the anthropology of Islam in 2013-2014.

In 2015 she obtained a second masters degree in international politics and development cooperation with a thesis on quantitative and qualitative analysis in gender empowerment measurements.

Since, beside her academic research, she has been carrying out applied research at CeSPI, starting on a project of technical and logistical support for the implementation of the National Strategy for Equity and Gender Equality in Senegal, sponsored by UNWomen and Italian Cooperation. Since 2016 she started collaborating in another research project at CeSPI in the context of the National Observatory on the financial inclusion of migrants.

**Dr. Petra Mezzetti** is co-director of the 'International Migration and Development Studies' at CeSPI, Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale. She holds a PhD in European Urban Studies and an MA in Development Economics; she has extensive experience on policies and practices in international migration and mobility, intergovernmental dialogues, transnationalism, migrant communities originated from Sub Saharan Africa residing in Italy, territorial partnerships, and sustainable development. Previously she has worked for different international organizations such as for the example at the Human Development Report Office, UNDP in New York and at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

### **Sessions of the course**

**Session 1:** An intervention on the concept and practice named co-development, which sees migrants playing a key role as direct stakeholders, together with local partners in specific local context in both the countries of origin and the destination of migration. The direct experience of the association between Italy and Senegal for the past 20 years was run by Senegalese migrants and Italian members, helping them to understand co-development in practice. Focused on this topic a practical exercise, where participants were divided into working groups was offered here.

**Session 2:** A significant increase in international migrants coming to the EU-27 has occurred over the last few years. As a consequence, the inflows of migration have generated many socio-economic and spatial effects, in particular on labor markets.

In this class an overview of key issues on the links between international migration and entrepreneurship was presented and some key questions explored through empirical analysis were proposed to approach the phenomenon.

Addressed in the four key questions was the following:

- What kind of business' do migrants tend to set up and how related are they to the mainstream business promoted by natives?
- What are the trends of this phenomenon in Europe?
- What are the main similarities and differences among host countries in Europe?
- What mix of tailored and mainstream business-support policies do different European countries implement, at national and local level, to attract, promote and strengthen a migration and entrepreneurship nexus?

The class was taught as a formal lecture, specific team-work focused on country-cases (and data) analysis and discussions. Italy, Germany, the UK and Sweden represent four European Welfare Regimes (respectively, the Family/Southern Europe, the Corporatist/Continental, the Liberal/Anglo-Saxon, and the Social Democratic/Scandinavian) proposed by Gosta Esping-Andersen and Ferrera, were the country-cases studied.

**Session 3:** Financial integration represents an important factor in supporting and expediting the migrants' integration and participation process. There are, in fact, significant connections not only between certain indicators of social stabilization and the opening of a bank account, but too, a strong positive correlation lies between socio-economic integration on the one side and a greater use of banking instruments and the use of more sophisticated financial services on the other.

Literature has demonstrated that remittance flow represents a crucial resource, while they largely exceed OADs, they reach populations living in both urban and rural areas. The remittances are utilized in a variety of applications.

It should be stressed that conceptually and functionally, remittances in the form of migrant savings or resources are aspects of financial support that could be utilized more efficiently for both the migrant and the recipient; such as the community or family of the migrant's origin. Instead other forms of aid or credit through more innovative financial processes could be used.

The course showed the main findings of the studies carried out by CeSPI in the field, from financial inclusion of migrants to management and valorization of remittances in regards to the Italian context.

## Guest Lectures

### *ILDA CURTI - “Pluralistic cities” (February 20<sup>th</sup> - CSA)*



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

Ilda Curti offered a guest lecture on pluralistic cities and their various expressions. Furthermore, she presented to the students her experiences within the field, thanks to her 10

years stint as a deputy Mayor.

### *ALESSANDRO GUSMAN - “Is religion a factor of socioeconomic integration? The example of African Pentecostal Churches” (February 21<sup>st</sup> - CSA)*



**Dr. Alessandro Gusman**, PhD, Social Anthropology (2008, Turin) is a Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Medical Anthropology at the University of Turin. Since 2005. He has been conducting research in Uganda studying the impact of Pentecostal churches on the Ugandan political and public sphere and, more recently, the presence of Congolese churches in Kampala.

Currently, he is involved in a research project on African diaspora churches in Turin.

Among his publications: *Pentecotistes à Kampala. SIDA, moralité, conflit générationnel*, (in press, Paris, Karthala); *Strings Attached. AIDS and the Rise of Transnational Connections in Africa* (Oxford University Press, 2014; co-edited with Nadine Beckmann and Catrine Shroff); “The Abstinence Campaign and the construction of the Balokole Identity in the Ugandan Pentecostal movement” (in *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 47, 2013); “HIV/AIDS, Pentecostal Churches, and the Raise of the ‘Joseph Generation’ in Uganda”, (in *Africa Today*, 56, 2009).

Based on a long-term research on African churches in Uganda and in the African diaspora, the lecture focused on the analysis of religious institutions (mainly, Christian churches) as “services suppliers” in contexts of crises (forced displacement; migration); similarly to other NGOs, Christian churches in these situations are able to give access to a number of material resources and services (food, clothes, housing, counseling, ...), especially in those contexts where assistance from the State and from international organizations is limited or absent. As religious actors, Churches provide material help as well as spiritual assistance, religious teaching (evangelization) and the opportunity

to have access to new social networks based on the common religious belonging. However, if on the one side Churches can be seen as actors of integration in the context of migration, on the other side this process of socialization takes place in narrow and ideologically charged religious settings. Through the case studies of several Pentecostal Churches in Uganda and in the African diaspora in Turin, the lecture showed that religious congregations are a communitarian space in which reference to an invented common “identity” is central to the creation of the sense of belonging.

***CRISTINA LEONETTI – “Introduction to the International Training Centre” (February 24th – ITC - ILO)***

**Cristina Leonetti** graduated in 1998 from the University of Turin with a Masters in Political Science. After 5 years as Office Manager at the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI), she joined the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO) in 2003 as course assistant for the Master in Cultural Projects for Development. In 2010, she was appointed Programme Assistant of the Turin School of Development, the ITCILO Programme created in 2009 in collaboration with the University of Turin and the Polytechnic of Turin, offering Masters in disciplines related to the core mandate of key UN agencies, designed for the benefit of an international audience of future experts and leaders. Ms Leonetti assists the Director of the School in managing and coordinating the 10 Masters included in the TSD portfolio; she also supports the Director in fund-raising and relations with local institutions.

***MIRIAM BOUDRAA – “A dissertation of migration as a global phenomenon” (February 24th – ITC - ILO)***

**Miriam Boudraa** is responsible for the labour migration component at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, Italy. With an academic background in law and political science, focusing on international relations and European business law. Furthermore she has an interest in European Union law and policy on immigration and asylum seeking. Miriam Boudraa has worked with the Ministry of Justice in France and the European Commission first in Brussels then in Burkina Faso and Algeria; where she was mainly working on Development and Cooperation programmes. Since 2006, she has been working for the ITC-ILO, where she set up the labour migration component of the Centre which she continues to manage. Moreover, Miriam has developed the annual-based Labour Migration Academy which is the flagship training activity of the ILO on labour migration which gathers more than 100 participants from more than 50 countries every year.

***ESTER SALIS, LUCA BARANA - “Understanding the EU policy framework on Migration and Asylum and its limitations: the internal and external dimensions.” (February 24th – ITC - ILO)***

**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, migrant labour market integration 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.

**Luca Barana** is a researcher at the Centre for African Studies. Alongside activities on project drafting and events organization, he has started a research project at the European Centre on Foreign Relations, London, on the European migration policy, and in particular on the EU Emergency for African Trust Fund and on the role of regional integration on migrations. With a degree in European Studies, he is a founding member and deputy



director of Europae – Review of European Affairs, that, established in 2013, proposes an independent perspective on European policies and politics.



The construction of the European Union has been accompanied by a gradual harmonization of migration and asylum policies across the Member States (MSs). The effective management of migration from third world countries is indeed a key precondition for healthy functioning of the EU single market and it has acquired an increasing relevance over the past decades. The 1997 Amsterdam Treaty has given a strong movement to this process, paving the way for the establishment of common standards and rules in the field of asylum policies, legal migration and mobility, visa policy and migrants' rights. Beside its internal dimension, EU policies on migration and asylum have unfolded over an external dimension, i.e. policies related to externalization of border controls or cooperation with third countries of origin or transit. After the La Valletta Summit of November 2015, the EU has launched new policy tools in order to implement this dimension of migration policy: the European Union Emergency for Africa Trust Fund supports projects aimed at eradicating the root causes of migrations in Africa. However, the goal of a common migration policy is far from being fully achieved and the recent refugee crisis has showed the fragility of the EU policy framework on migration.

In this guest lecture Dr. Salis and Dr. Barana presented an overview of the origins and recent developments of EU policies in the field of Migration and Asylum. In particular, Dr. Salis focused on the historical roots and the evolution of the EU framework in this policy field, with specific attention to the internal dimension of EU migration and asylum policies. Subsequently, Dr. Barana introduced the most recent changes in external policies related to the management of migration, with a specific focus on Euro-African cooperation, the new Migration Partnership Framework and the distribution of economic resources allocated by the EU Trust Fund.

***ALAJIE JINKANG - "The Exploitation of Migrants in the Agricultural Fields in Italy"***  
***(February 24th – International University College of Turin)***

**Alagie Jinkang** presented his PhD project; *"The Exploitation of Migrants in the Agricultural Fields in Italy"*. He explained the institutionalised exploitation of these migrants as a *"means to an end"*- his talk looked at the inhumane conditions under which these people try to make ends meet while supporting the local economies they live in. How their human rights are under continuous violations and why very little is still done about it. What are the consequences and the way forward to meeting a standard in improving the welfare of these victims? What is responsible for this and many other things will be discussed from his own personal experience and research.



***ANDREA MICCONI - “The NGOs and the new Sustainable Development Goals” (February 24th – International University College of Turin)***

Coordinator of COP, the Consortium of NGOs based in the Piedmont Region Desk. Officer within the Head Neighbourhoods of the NGO LVIA (Lay Volunteer International Association) and Consultant for the Piedmont Region’s Decentralised Cooperation Programme for Food Security in the Sahel Region. He has been engaged in monitoring and evaluating international co-operation projects carried out by Italian organisations in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal; consulting and giving technical assistance to Italian and Sahelian institutions; promoting cooperation between small and medium enterprises from Italy and Burkina Faso; organising several Courses of Decentralised Co-operation for public officers. Mr Micconi shared its experience in this fields with students.

***MATTEO CORTESE – “An introduction to Foundation 4 Africa” (February 24th – International University College of Turin)***

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.

***EMILIANO IANNONE – “The role of the Chamber of Commerce of Turin” (February 27th – Chamber of Commerce of Turin)***

Emiliano Iannone is employed at Turin Chamber of commerce working as new business advisor providing information, support and training to new entrepreneurs. He has a long experience in managing european and international cooperation project in Europe and in sub-saharian African countries. He graduated in Political Science and achieved a Master in Business Administration at University of Turin. Dr Iannone introduced the activities of the Chamber of Commerce, with particular attention to data and initiatives linked with migrants’ entrepreneurship.



***CORRADO FERRETTI - “PerMicro and microcredit” (February 27th – Chamber of Commerce of Turin)***

President - PerMicro (Italy)

**Corrado Ferretti** has a Master's degree in Economics and is a registered certified accountant. He is the founder of GFItalia, a consumer credit company, sold to Cofinoga - Galeries Lafayette in 1996. Previous positions include President of Aosta Valley Bank and of the International School of Turin. Corrado speaks fluent English and French and is an expert in MFI sustainable business

models.

**ROBERTA RICUCCI - “Reframing the Migration Discourse in Italy between first- and second- generations in these hard times” (March 2nd – CSA)**



**Roberta Ricucci** is Associate Professor at the University of Turin, dept. of Culture, Politics and Society, where she teaches Sociology of Inter-ethnic Relations and Sociology of Islam. She has wide and varied experience of research on immigration issues, both at national and international levels, also as visiting research fellow at the University of Princeton (NJ, US), Melbourne (Australia), Notre Dame (IN, US). Her recent research has generally been focussed on migration phenomena, immigrant children and second generations, investigating, especially among Muslims, their identity-building process and religiousness.

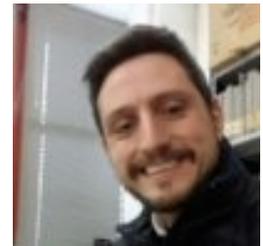
The lecture was focused on how the difficulties of these years (not only socio-economic but also in terms of negative attitudes toward immigrants) affect the life-paths of second generations.

**LAURA VIGANO', DAVIDE CASTELLANI**

Professor of banking at the University of Bergamo, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business administration from 2007 to 2012. Specialized in microfinance and rural finance, she launched the first international Master in Microfinance in 2001; she currently coordinates the FinDev-Finance and Development research group and is editor of the Journal “Savings and Development”. From 1995 to 2005 she was consultant and scientific director of Giordano Dell’Amore Foundation (Finafrica – Milan). She worked for research institutes and international development agencies. Her experience is mainly in Africa and in the Middle East; she is now conducting research project in Ethiopia on farmer vulnerability to (climatic) risks.



Davide Castellani is tenure-track researcher in financial markets and intermediaries at the University of Bergamo (Italy). He is an academic and practitioner with more than 8 years of experience in microfinance and rural finance. He has been consultant for international organizations with field experience in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Southern Asia. He has a PhD in financial markets and intermediaries from the Catholic University of Milan. In 2009, he was visiting scholar at the Ohio State University.



## Neighborhood Day

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 conflict with 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 six different groups, in order to make the research tangible. In every team there was an Italian students from the University of Studies of Turin, in order to assist American students during the movements and to have a talk with the locals.

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. Two teams worked in the same district, taking parallel and complementary roads. 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 three 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 “Casa del Quartiere”, the Mosque in Via Saluzzo and La Casa Valdese. In the afternoon students were received by minors hosts of the salesian community of San Luigi in Via Ormea and Parco del Valentino. 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. Finally the lunch break represented an important moment in which both groups shared information: it took place at the “Casa del Quartiere”.

## Porta Palazzo

This neighborhood 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 neighborhood and of migrants entrepreneurs who are

perfectly integrated. The meetings took place in commercial areas. Students were free to explore and had the opportunity to move around the area. Another interesting moment was constituted by lunch, when students ate in a Moroccan restaurants in the neighborhood.

### **Barriera di Milano**

This neighborhood is developed along the axis of Corso Giulio Cesare in the north of Turin. Barriera di Milano clearly represents phenomenons of immigration and multiculturalism. Students had the possibility to meet some member of the communities whom have a principal role in the social and economics integration of these areas. Students moved in the market, in commercial activities, aggregation points and places of worship. Another stop in ther tour was a meeting at Intercultural Centre of the City of Turin, where they were briefed about its integration activities. Finally, lunch was offered in the “Casa del Quartiere” managed by the Senegalise community of Turin.

## **Community and team building activities**

### ***Hunting game with Italian students (February 22nd)***

The Italian students accompanying the course engaged their American counterparts in an hunting game around the neighborhood in Central Turin. It was the first community building activity gathering together Italian and American students and it was fully organized by the group of students. Participants had the opportunity to see some of the most famous monuments in Turin, such as the “Mole Antonelliana”, the “Gran Madre” church and “Piazza Vittorio Veneto”.



### ***Italian Food Culture Workshop (Pasta and Pizza laboratory) with refugees (February 22nd)***

The CSA, in cooperation with “SuMisura” and the school project “NOSFAP”, organized a workshop in Italian food culture, ending in a dinner together, 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.

### ***Lunch at MOI, area occupied by 1300 refugees in Turin’s former Olympic village (February 24<sup>th</sup>)***

Students were accompanied by members of the association “ConMOI” inside the biggest area occupied by refugees in Europe. This is the former MOI, a space reknown for having hosted the 2006 Olympic athletes: this space was Turin’s Olympic village. After the Games ended, the area was soon abandoned and then occupied by a growing number of refugees. Today, four buildings are occupied. In this occasion, students not only had the chance to experience a site visit to a place so important, but were given a lunch specifically prepared for them by the occupants. They had the chance to meet some refugees and hear their personal stories.



***Afropolitan LAB with Andrea Ciommiento (optional) (March 2<sup>nd</sup>)***

Some of the students chose to experience a theatrical workshop, Afropolitan LAB, at CSA. The workshop is managed by Andrea Ciommiento, who cooperates with the CSA. Afropolitan LAB is a theatrical itinerant project, which aims at promoting and redefining African cultural trends. This activity gave American students the opportunity to share some time with Italian young students who introduced them to the activities of the

project. The workshop requested strong interaction among participants and the creation of a shared atmosphere.

***Community building with Bergamo's students (March 6<sup>th</sup>)***

Participants were greeted in Bergamo by a group of University and high school students who accompanied them during the day. Our hosts engaged the students in a community building activity, presenting to them some aspects of the historical city of Bergamo. The activity was organized thanks to the cooperation by the association "AEGEE Bergamo", the local branch of a European network who participate to International mobility programmes at European level.



***Neighborhood Day presentations (March 8<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 offered during their stay in Brescia.

### ***Dinner with Senegalese community (March 8<sup>th</sup>)***

The Association of Senegalese in Brescia (ASB) kindly organized a dinner for the American and Italian students, inviting them to share with the community an evening together, accompanied by Senegalese food and music.

### ***Meeting with entrepreneurs in Pontevico (March 9<sup>th</sup>)***

Students met with some Murid entrepreneurs in Pontevico, experiencing their history of entrepreneurship and integration in Italy. The meeting was particularly significant following encounters made by students with entrepreneur in Senegal: it was the opportunity to compare different roads to integration in two different countries. The meeting was organized by the local Senegalese association.

### ***Women's Day Celebration (optional) (March 11<sup>th</sup>)***

The Association of Senegalese in Turin organized, with the support of the City of Turin and Regione Piemonte, in cooperation with the CSA and the Intercultural Centre of the City of Turin, a celebration of Africa's Women, entitled "Jiggeni Afrik". Students were warmly invited to attend. This party constituted the opportunity to celebrate the role of African women, particularly of Senegalese women, in a multiethnic society, in order to foster dialogue and cultural interaction. Students attended to a celebration of music and Senegalese dresses, with dissertations on the growing importance and success of women in Africa.



## **Documentaries**

### ***"The Gates to Heaven" (optional). Meeting with the Director Nicolas Zingari. (February 21<sup>st</sup>)***

Students were granted the opportunity to visit the Bibliomediateca "Mario Gromo", (a venue kindly offered by the National Museum on Cinema of Turin, one of the most important institution in Italy in this field) in order to view the short film "The gates to heaven", subtitled in English, accompanied by a meeting with the author, Guido Zingari.

### ***"Maisha: a new life outside mines" (Optional). Meeting with Federica Vairo, CSA (February 28<sup>th</sup>)***

In the same venue, at the Bibliomediateca "Mario Gromo", students were offered the documentary "Maisha: a new life outside mines", introduced by Federica Vairo, researcher at CSA, that presented the issue of conflicts in the Eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo with particular attention to the mining of coltan.



### ***“Documentary in Brescia: “Demal Te Niew” of Marcella Pasotti (optional)***

Students viewed the documentary “Demal Te Niew” in Brescia, about 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 visits**



### ***Regione Piemonte – Introduction to the project B.A.S.E. on “entrepreneurship of return” with the Director of Senegalese abroad (February 23<sup>rd</sup>)***

Students visited Regione Piemonte’s headquarters in order to meet Sory Kaba (Director General for Senegalese diaspora), who introduced the initiative “Return to Senegal” (B.A.S.E.), aimed at facilitating the use of remittances as a tool of investment in their home country for many migrants in Italy and beyond. Prof. Souleye Diallo had the chance to speak to

the public and introduce “New African Diasporas” in the context of the Senegalese diaspora in the world.

### ***International Training Centre of **International Labour Organizations** (February 24<sup>th</sup>)***

Students visited the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization: this is a prestigious facility for ILO, where students from around the world have the chance to attend training courses on different topics, from Economics for Development, to Public Procurement or International Trade Law. Participants visited the Campus and some of its hosting structures.



### ***Keur Serigne Touba (optional) (February 26<sup>th</sup>)***

Participants were invited to join the Murid community during a celebration at the Keur Serigne Touba, in via Cuornè, a meeting place of this community in Turin.

### ***Jumma at the Peace Mosque and Mosque in San Salvario (optional) (March 3<sup>rd</sup>)***

Students moved to Corso Giulio Cesare to visit the “Peace Mosque” during Jumma, thanks to the cooperation with the Association of Senegalese in Turin (AST). Some students chose, alongside prof. Diallo and prof. Bilal, to visit a second hall of prayer, in San Salvario, where they were greeted by the local imam.

### ***“Carmine” neighborhood, Brescia (March 7<sup>th</sup>)***

Students were accompanied across the “Carmines” neighborhood, a multiethnic area in central Brescia. The visit was possible thanks to the cooperation with the social firm “La Rete”.

***Pontevico (March 9<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 and some entrepreneurs. In the afternoon, the students met the President of the Women' Senegalese Association, the Vicepresident and other members. Students also had the pleasure to visit the structure and take part to prayers in the Mosque. The lunch break and the dinner were 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.