

TRANSNATIONAL MIGRANTS AND DIASPORIC TERRITORIES

**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR MIGRATION & SOCIETY,
WITS UNIVERSITY A JOHANNESBURG
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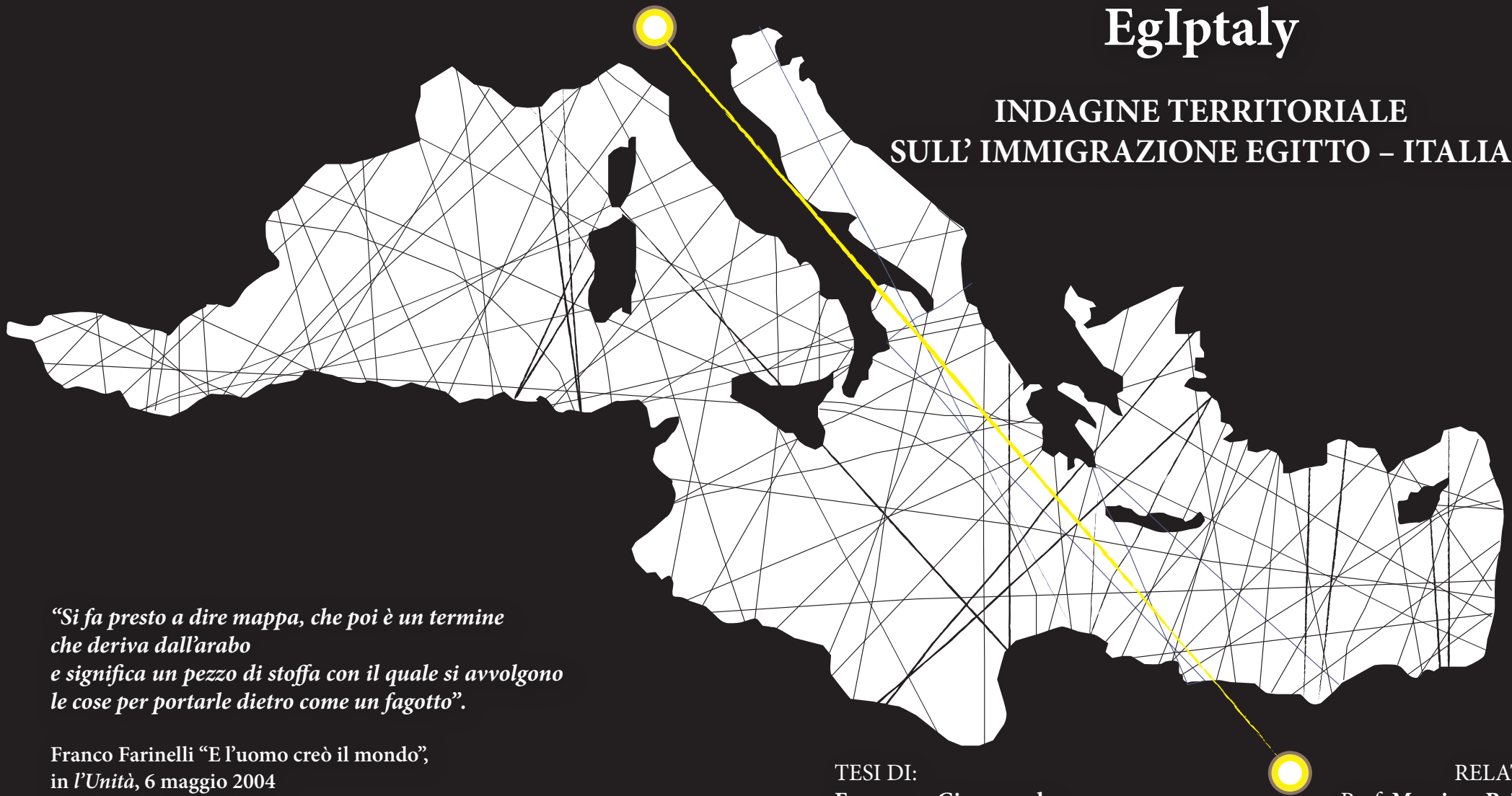




Politecnico di Milano
Facoltà di Architettura e Società
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EgItaly

INDAGINE TERRITORIALE SULL' IMMIGRAZIONE EGITTO - ITALIA



*“Si fa presto a dire mappa, che poi è un termine
che deriva dall'arabo
e significa un pezzo di stoffa con il quale si avvolgono
le cose per portarle dietro come un fagotto”.*

Franco Farinelli “E l'uomo creò il mondo”,
in *l'Unità*, 6 maggio 2004

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A.A. 2012-2013

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

HYPOTHESIS:

phenomenon of migratory flows as preferred tool to analyze the processes of building links between territories which characterizes the new urban season

OBSERVATION FIELD:

TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATIONS BETWEEN MILAN AND THE EGYPTIAN VILLAGE TATTOUN

OBJECT OF OBSERVATION:

comparison with the population from Tattoun migrated to Milan and field research in Tattoun in order to investigate the socio-spatial transformations produced by migrants on the territory of origin

THESIS:

MIGRANTS AS HIGH-POTENTIAL ACTORS OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN TRANS-NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIES AND DIASPORIC TERRITORIES

THEORETICAL POSITIONING

CONCEPTS FOR THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*“The **migration routes** can be redrawn by following the scenarios of the labor market”*

Gabriele Del Grande

*“Nourished by the social ties they mobilize, the activities (...) of transmigrants entrepreneurs do not aim at anything but to feed in their turn **social worlds** from which they emerge”*

Michel Peraldi

DIASPORIC TERRITORIES

*“territories **produced by migrants** (...) as dispersed and overlapping, causing topological deformations to the actual lived space” that can be mapped “for investigating the fluctuations and **flows** of the contemporary city”.*

Nishat Awan, Phil Langley

TRANSNATIONALISM

*“We define “transnationalism” as the **processes** by which immigrants forge and sustain **multi-stranded social relations** that link together their societies of origin and settlement. We call these processes transnationalism to emphasize that many immigrants today build social fields that **cross geographic, cultural and political borders.**”*

Basch L., Glick Schiller N. e Blanc-Szanton C.

NETWORK ANALYSIS

Meso-social and network analysis theories re-evaluate the individual projects and **practices** of the migrant that leverage all possible forms of resource systems, from the **economic and financial capital**, to the **cultural, human and social one**.

THEORETICAL POSITIONING

● MIGRATION AS SPATIAL ANALYZER

Opportunity to disciplinary trespassing as a way for a thorough examination of issues and not of subjects, seeking fertile exchanges with other forms of knowledge towards the practice of interdisciplinarity, as a way to a possible and necessary innovation.

Need to go over the difficulty of planning to deal with the non-permanence.

● INTEREST TO MIGRANTS MOVING IN THE “TERRITOIRES CIRCULATOIRES” (TARRIUS, 1993)

Transnational dimension to be explored, “in the belief that to describe migration is rather to describe and identify transnational space/time, unlikely places that globalization puts as aporias within national sovereignty” (Peraldi & Rahmi, 2008).

Border-crossers migrants as “ants of globalization” (M. Ambrosini)

● “THE HERE IN THE ENVIRONMENT IS ALWAYS ALSO AN ELSEWHERE” (SÖDESTRÖM, 2013)

to understand both we ought to move within a RELATIONAL LEVEL.

METHOD

A “JOURNEY-RESEARCH”

*“The art of fieldwork can not be learned from books. When we are **immersed in a culture** that is different from ours, it **informs us and shape us** much more than we do believe by our conscious and organized memory. It **thinks in us** much more than we reason about it. “*

M. Augé, J-P. Colleyn

MULTI-LOCATED APPROACH

*“In the micro - meso dimension [lies] the most fertile and suitable ground for conducting **multi - located researches**, able to deepen the **links between development and migration**, infighting and change, and it often better matches **qualitative methodologies** - more suitable to recognize phenomena and features that hardly emerge with quantitative tools.”*

E. Castagnone, A. Ferro, P. Mezzetti



**comparative investigation
on the 2 fronts,
in Milano and in Tattoun**

METHOD

DATA COLLECTION

IN MILAN

research, statistical reports, online press review

Recent data processing (2009 - 2012) on the Egyptian employment sectors in Milan

IN TATTOUN

historical and statistical data and websites (technical support from Fayoum University)

direct collection of supporting information (maps, sketches, photos etc.).

ETHNOGRAPHY AND PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

a month of discussions with migrants from Tattoun in Maciachini - Dergano - Bausan square

15 days of interviews with return migrants in Tattoun and other villagers (women, non migrating locals, etc.)

Semi - structured interviews

“random” + “snowball” sampling, only of male individuals

“snowball” sampling, both of men and women

Interpretation of a territory in transformation

by “spots” and sites associated with housing and associations practices of Tattounian migrants

Milanese (and Italian) contaminations examined through the interpretative tool called ‘bodies - architecture - public spaces’

EGYPTIANS IN MILAN

71% (80,000) Egyptians in Italy residing in Lombardy

11% of Egyptians on foreigners residing in Province of Milan (2011, Istat)

Milan welcomes nearly 1 Egyptian out of 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF EGYPTIAN “NON-COMMUNITY”

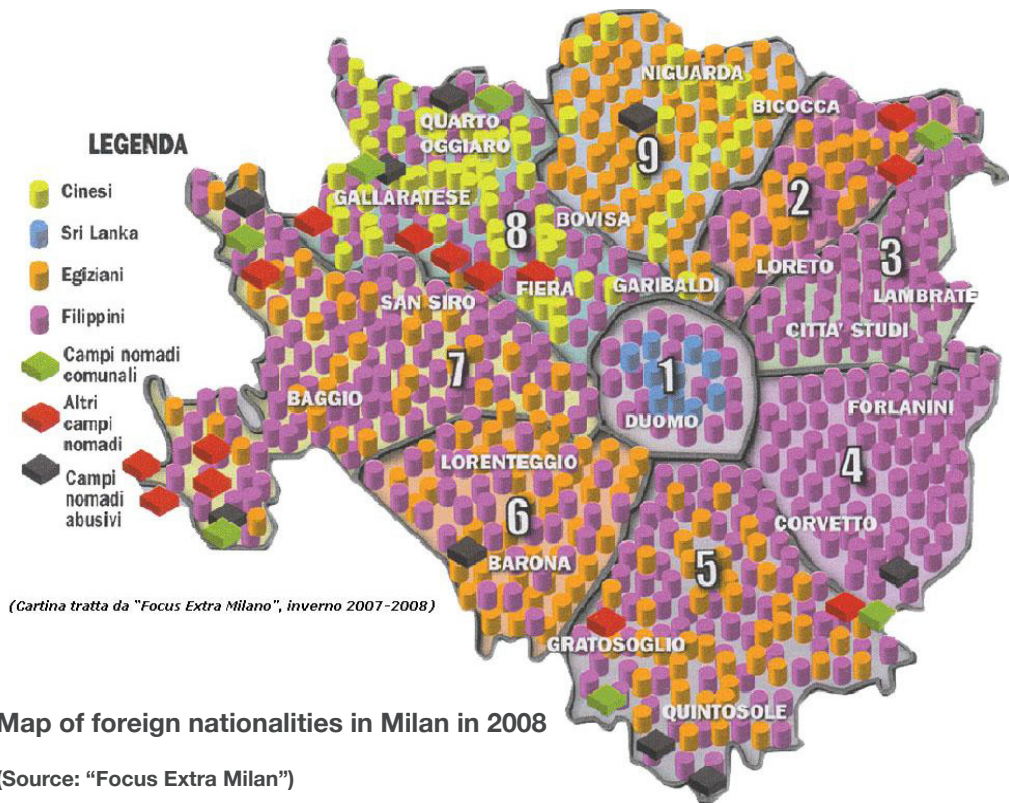
Barely visible, territorially dispersed

Do not organized on an ethnic basis

Sub - groups based on the same areas or villages of origin stronger than the national identity

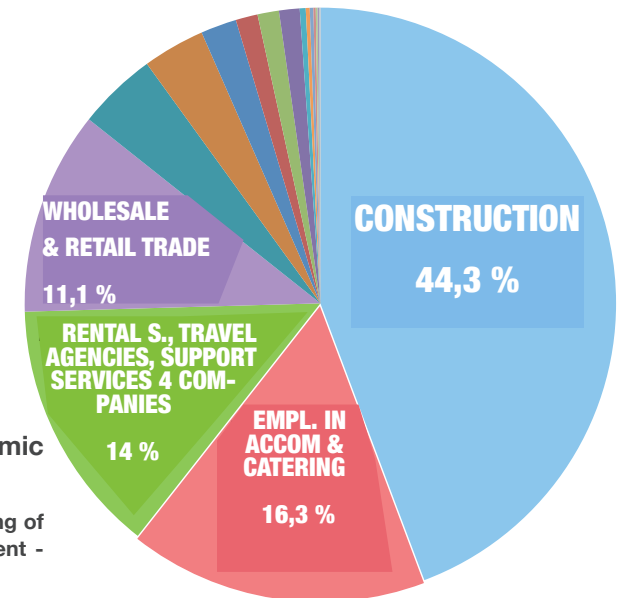
Informal networks predominantly based on kinship

44,3% OF THE EGYPTIAN HOLDERS OF AUTONOMOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF MILAN WORKS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



Map of foreign nationalities in Milan in 2008

(Source: "Focus Extra Milan")



Working Egyptians by economic sector in Milan in 2012

(Source: Based on personal processing of Infocamere data, Research Department - Chamber of Commerce of Milan.)

THE TATTOUNIAN COMMUNITY IN MILAN

A DIRECT LINE BETWEEN MILAN AND TATTOUN

THE FIRST MIIGRANTS FROM TATTOUN COME TO MILAN BY CHANGE

(in the '80s by a Lybian employment agency and in the '90s through the World Cup in Italy)

1997: WAVE OF MIGRATION FROM RURAL CONTEXTS AS TATTOUN

because of the harmful effects of agrarian reform by Mubarak

COMMUNITY INSIDE THE EGYPTIAN-MILANESE "NON-COMMUNITY" :

they tend to concentrate in certain areas (Viale Monza and V. Padova, Maciachini, Dergano and P.za Bausan)

SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS AND ENTREPRENEURS

VERY ACTIVE IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
(orders for large companies, i.e. Autostrade SpA, Milan Airports, Niguarda Hospital, etc.)

Fortress Europe

Il blog di Gabriele Del Grande. Sei anni di viaggi nel Mediterraneo lungo i confini dell'Europa. A fanno la storia. La storia che studieranno i nostri figli, quando nei testi di scuola si leggerà che migliaia nei mari d'Italia e a migliaia vennero arrestati e deportati dalle nostre città. Mentre tutti

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02 MARCH 2009

Tatun: in Egitto l'ultimo quartiere di Milano



CAIRO – Esiste un quartiere di Milano non ancora collegato dalla metro. Si chiama Tatun. E si trova in Egitto, nelle campagne irrorate dal Nilo, 150 km a sud del Cairo. Conta solo 80.000 abitanti, ma qui vivono le famiglie di migliaia degli oltre 47.000 emigrati egiziani residenti nel capoluogo lombardo. A unire Milano a questa sua estrema periferia pensano speciali agenzie di viaggio libiche, che si affidano ai vecchi pescherecci rotti, intercettati ogni settimana al largo di Lampedusa. È iniziato tutto negli anni



THE TATTOUNIAN COMMUNITY IN MILAN

THE PROTAGONISTS OF THE SURVEY IN MILAN

10 male interviewed

6 employees

18 - 42 years old

2 self-employed

1 unemployed

1 student
(reunited family)

“TREAD” ACTION OF THE SYSTEM OF INFORMAL KINSHIP / FRIENDSHIP NETWORKS,
precious at the arrival in Milan for the search
for work and home

**MIGRATION EXPERIENCE THROUGH
“LEARNING AND LOSSES”**

THE DISREGARDMENT:

crumbling values of the rural community

disenchantment of the “Milan paradise”

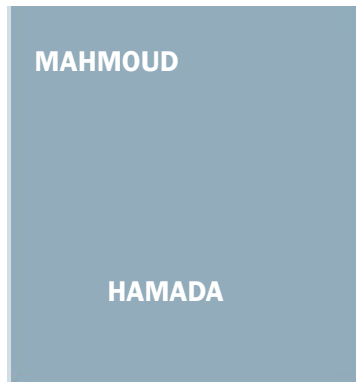
uncertainty and insecurity in the return visions



MUSTAFÀ

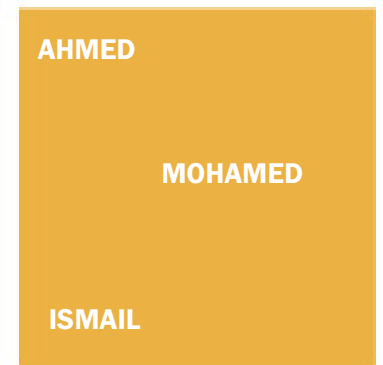
IBRAHIM

AHMED



MAHMOUD

HAMADA



AHMED

MOHAMED

ISMAIL



MOHAMED

ISHAR



TATTOUN. TERRITORIAL CONTEXT



FAYYUM GOVERNORATE, ONE OF THE POOREST OF THE 27 ONES OF EGYPT

2,882,000 INHABITANTS (2012)

AGRICULTURE IS THE FIRST EMPLOYMENT SOURCE:

336 km² cultivated over an area of 1,827 km²

Name of the fertile oasis of greenery, wet Bahr Yussef canal and by Birket Qarun brackish lake.

25 “QUARYA” OR “EZBET” (VILLAGES)

TATTOUN IS 18 KM ON THE SOUTH OF FAYYOUM CITY

(150 km from Cairo)

35,000 INHABITANTS (2006, CAMPAS datum)

1 TATTOUNIAN ON 2 EMIGRATED TO ITALY

TATTOUN. URBAN SETTING

LEGEND

- VITAL PLACES FOR GATHERING
- NEW BUSINESSES OPENED BY MIGRANTS
- PHARMACY
- ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL (11-13 years)
- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (6-10 years)
- NURSERY SCHOOL
- MUNICIPAL HOUSE
- MOSQUE
- HOSPITAL
- CEMETERY
- AREA FOR THE WEEKLY SUQ
- CREEKS
- MAIN ROADS (>8 mt)
- SECONDARY ROADS (<8 mt)
- TOK TOK PARKING
- MINIBUS STOP



NEW ACTIVITIES



NEW ACTIVITIES



PERSISTENCE OF TRADITIONAL PRACTICES



“HISTORICAL CENTRE”



EXTRAURBAN EXPANSION



TATTOUN. HOUSES OF “SUCCESSFUL MIGRANTS”



INTERIORS

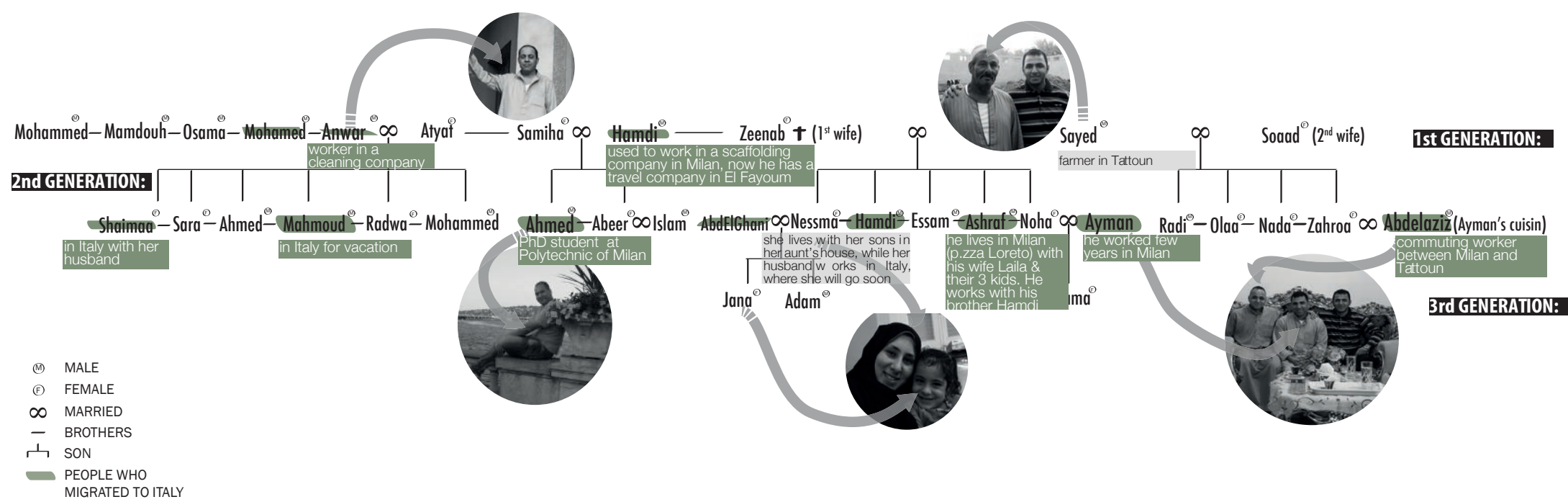


FACADES



TATTOUN. A FAMILY OF “SUCCESSFUL MIGRANTS”

AHMED’S FAMILY



TATTOUN. SOCIAL AND HOUSING CAREERS

BODIES

HOUSES



'80s
1st GENERATION OF
MIGRANTS

1984
first departures
from Tattoun



FROM THE TRADITIONAL HOUSE



'90s
2nd GENERATION OF
MIGRANTS

1996
departures
boom from
Tattoun



TO THE OUTFITS OF THE FIRST 'INVESTMENTS'



2000
3rd GENERATION OF
MIGRANTS



TO THE LEGACY FOR THE THIRD GENERATION



3
millions E.P.
for the land

CULTURAL CONTAMINA-
TIONS EXTENDS FROM
THE *DRESS CODE* TO
THE HOUSES

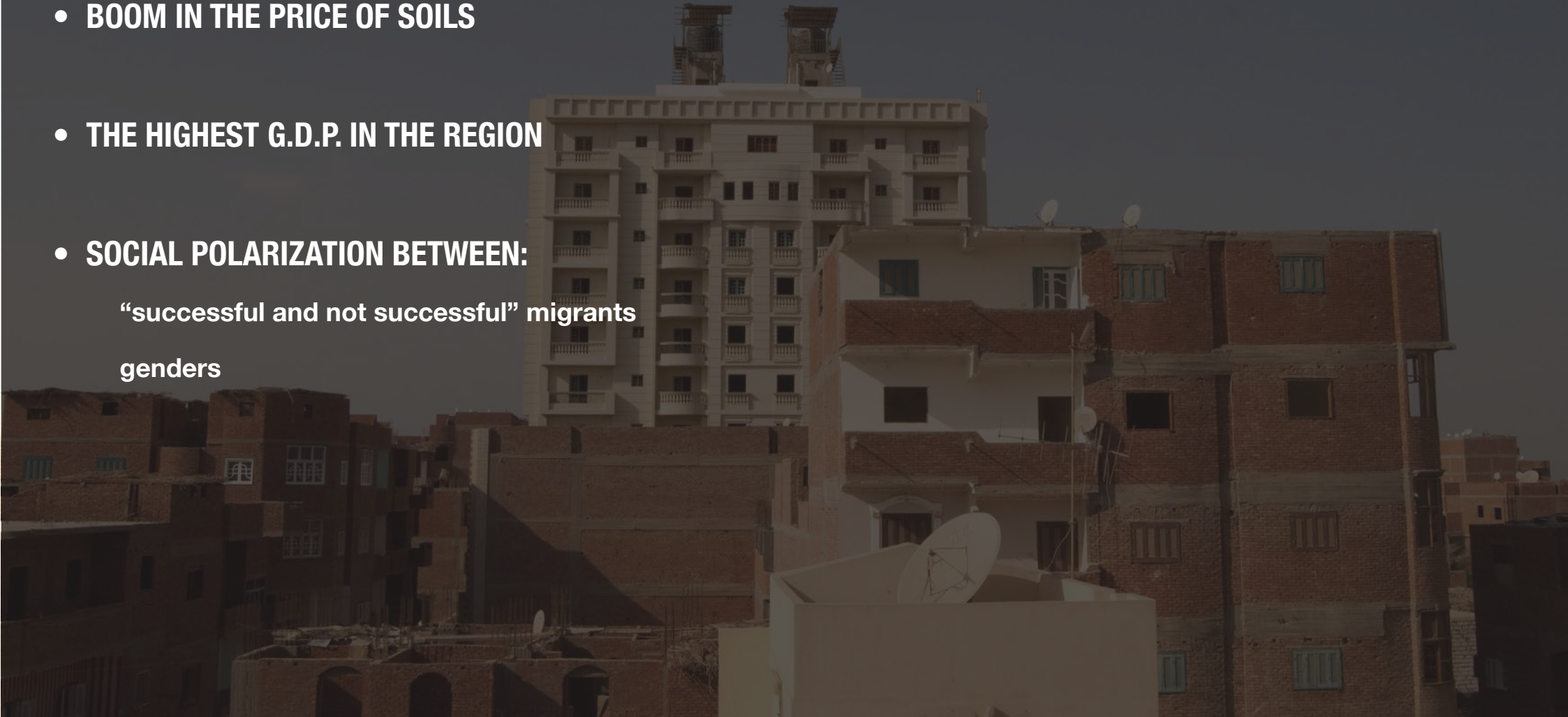
2011
with the crisis,
first definitive

TATTOUN. SOCIO-SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION



TATTOUN. SOCIO-SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION

- **UNCONTROLLED EXPANSION AND EDIFICATION IN BREACH OF PLANNING CONTROL**
also outcome of the “cultural shock” (K. Oberg)
- **BOOM IN THE PRICE OF SOILS**
- **THE HIGHEST G.D.P. IN THE REGION**
- **SOCIAL POLARIZATION BETWEEN:**
“successful and not successful” migrants
genders



TATTOUN. CRITICAL VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES



TATTOUN. CRITICAL VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES

- EMPLOYERS WITHOUT 'VISION' AND CAPACITY OF INVESTMENT
- LACKING NETWORKING BETWEEN EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES
- MISSED ABILITY TO MARRY THE "BEST" ELEMENTS OF THE TWO CULTURES
- LOSS OF TRADITIONAL VALUES AND DIFFUSION OF MATERIALISM AND INDIVIDUALISM
- GROWTH WITHOUT DEVELOPMENT



TATTOUN BETWEEN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



TATTOUN BETWEEN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- **BLIGHT CLASHING WITH THE “FORTUNE” THAT HAS BEEN ACCUMULATED IN TATUN:**

remittances are bound by a welfare mentality, used only to provide for the shortcomings of the public system in a private manner (private education and health care, domestic tanks and devices)

- **POOR FACILITIES:**

(roads, electricity grids, hospital in poor condition)

- **POLLUTION AND TRAFFIC ON THE RISE:**

(mass of waste picked up with a scraper, open air garbage dumps, extremely precarious water supply and sewerage system)

- **STRONGLY CENTRALIZED AND HIERARCHICAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, POOR MANAGEMENT OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC RESOURCES :**

immobility and lack of management by the local administration

MIGRANT AS 'ACTOR OF DEVELOPMENT'



MIGRANT AS 'ACTOR OF DEVELOPMENT'

- FROM THE "ATOPOS" (P. BOURDIEU) MIGRANT TO THE 'DOUBLY PRESENT' MIGRANT



- FROM MIGRANTS AS 'TERRITORY MAKERS' TO MIGRANTS 'AS ACTORS OF DEVELOPMENT':

they return to the territory more than they take through remittances and their direct knowledge of the context of origin and of arrival equips them with the tools to trigger multiple mechanisms of virtuous transformation on both fronts, improving human development for the communities of arrival and for those of departure.

- REVERSE THE PARADIGM:
FROM "MORE DEVELOPMENT FOR LESS MIGRATION" TO "BETTER MIGRATION FOR MORE DEVELOPMENT"

... VALORIZZANDO LE RISORSE LOCALI QUI E LÌ ...



...MIGRANT AS 'ACTOR OF DEVELOPMENT'

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF MIGRANTS IN CO-DEVELOPMENT AND OF MORE SEDENTARY POPULATION,

so that what was once a rural community held together by strong values, rather brittle today, find a way to live and time to develop housing, manufacture and new collective practices....

HOW?

STARTING FROM MIGRANT NETWORKS USING LOCAL RESOURCES AND THE MULTIPLE FORMS OF CAPITAL (social, human, economic) DEVELOPED AT THE POLES OF TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION TO RESTORE VIRTUOUS RELATIONS WITH THE DIASPORIC TERRITORIES

FLYING TO JOZI...



?

HOW TO CONTINUE THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH UNDER TAKEN IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CONTEXT?

MY RESEARCH IN JOHANNESBURG

... is about YOUNG MOZAMBIKAN CROSS-BORDER WOMEN AND THEIR INFORMAL ACTIVITIES in order to understand NEW KIND OF GEOGRAPHIES THEY'RE DEVELOPING CROSSING PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL BORDERS AND THEIR PRACTICES OF RESISTANCE TO ACCESS THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN POST-APARTHEID JO'BURG.

FOCUS ON:

- _ WOMEN PLACEMAKING IN JOZI: places where the trajectories of transnational migrants clot in the urban body, producing representations of how the two elements combine**
- _ PATH OF EMANCIPATION REALIZED THROUGH THE MIGRATORY STRATEGIES**
- _ DIASPORIC TERRITORIES BETWEEN JOZI and MAPUTO**

MY RESEARCH IN JOHANNESBURG

WHY A NATIONAL GROUP:

interest about transnational migrants-->
SOUTH AFRICA-MOZAMBIQUE: a “historical transnational space” (Vidal, 2010)

WHY MOZAMBICANS:

AMONG THE LARGEST GROUP IN THE CITY, less studied than Zimbabweans

MOZAMBICAN ECONOMY STRICTLY DEPENDENT ON SA'S ECONOMY:
Many family still rely on migrants' remittances and cross-border trading for their livelihood

WHY WOMEN:

PHENOMENON OF “FEMIGRATION” (Faith D. Nkomo, 2011)

WOMEN, ENTREPRENEURS AND SECOND GENERATIONS the most relevant social figures in contemporary migrations (Palidda, 2007)

WHY YOUNG WOMEN:

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON MIGRATION
(MAYBE) FEW KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUNG AND SECOND GENERATIONS.
(‘THRESHOLD PEOPLE’,)
It opens new and many questions: I.E.CAPABILITY OF ASPIRATION.
How and where does a today young transnational migrant imagine her future?

SOME REFERENCES AND RESEARCHES ON THE TOPIC

C. KIHATO, “Migrant women of Johannesburg. Life in an in-between city”, Wits University Press, 2013

E. OSTANEL, “Practice of Citizenship: Mozambican Immigration within the City of Johannesburg”, Journal of Intercultural Studies, Taylor & Francis, 2012

D. VIDAL, “Living in, out of, and Between Two Cities: Migrants from Maputo in Johannesburg”, Springer, (Published online), 2010

DRAFT PROGRAMME

THE AIM IS THAT OF MAPPING THE **PLACES AND THE ROUTES OF THESE WOMEN** AND COLLECTING THEIR **LIFE STORIES**.

METHOD: INTERVIEWS, PARTECIPANT OBSERVATION AND USE OF **VISUAL TOOLS**,
with the fundamental collaboration of **Reymond Mapakata**.

Volume 44 as a reference for the method

FIRST STEPS



FIRST STEPS



FIRST STEPS



SUZAN, 29 YEARS OLD

SHE COMES FROM MAPUTO, WHERE HER FAMILY AND HER TWO CHILDREN LIVE

SHE LIVES IN ROSETTENVILLE AND WORKS IN THE INNER CITY AS HAIRDRESSER

SHE IS GOING BACK HOME TO BRING MONEY TO AND VISIT HER FAMILY BY JULY



SHE SAID: “I believe you because you told me that you would call and you did. Our life is is tough but we need to tell it .“

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

