

## **Negotiating African Human Security Mechanisms: Mapping Out a Research Agenda on Migrants' Cash-Flows and African Food Markets**

Roseline Dr. Munwang'o Achieng'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Monash South Africa, Sociology, Johannesburg, South Africa

emeraldachieng2009@gmail.com

Food markets have long been a topical issue at various levels. The popularity of the issue might stem from the fact that food is the very basic of human needs. Food insecurity translates to insecurities at the social, economic and political levels. To conceptualise African human security, first and foremost, one has to analyse how livelihood security is negotiated. The current paper proposal is a compilation of research issues with the aim of mapping out a research agenda for the analysis of contemporary African food markets financed through migrants' monies sent back 'home'. The argument I propound is that because food markets lie at the intersection of the reproductive (household economies) and the productive (market economies), they are a powerful analytic focus into understanding how migrants' cash-flow sent back 'home' translate from only financing household's basic needs into contributing significantly to the national economy. Here in, markets (especially food markets) will be privileged. Moreover, African food markets are mainly dominated by young African women. In a continent undergoing a generational shift, it is pertinent that the economic activities of this social group, that unfortunately are still rendered invisible and marginalised, be accorded concerted analysis. This is further with the aim of informing social-economic policy, so that these policies can proceed with such groups in mind. Towards this end, the objective of the presentation is to map out this research area by soliciting issues, counter themes and new directions for research.

***Key words:***

Migration, remittances, food markets, reproductive and productive economies, human security mechanisms, social-economic policy, young African women