

# SECURITY CRISIS IN SAHEL AND ADAPTATIONS OF MOBILE PASTORALISM

*Second part of Symposium Access to  
Social Services: Cases from  
Slovenia and African Countries*



**24 MAY 2024**



**WITH ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME**

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Organisation:

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology  
and Department of English and American Studies,  
Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

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— *2nd part of Symposium,*

*24.5.2024*

- **At Faculty of Arts, Aškerčeva 2, in classroom 31/32 (ground floor, right),**
- **Simultaneous professional translation from French to English**

**9.00 - 9.10** introductory addresses: Mojca Schlamberger Brezar, Dean of Faculty of Arts & Sarah Lunaček, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts

# Security Crisis in Sahel

**9.10 - 9.40** Moussa Zangaou (University of Niamey, IRSH):  
Questions de sécurité au Sahel : contextes sociaux/Questions of Security in Sahel: Social Contexts

**9.40 - 10.10** Oumarou Hamani (University of Niamey, LASDEL):  
L'accès des populations déplacées aux services sociaux de base à L'Ouest du Niger/Access to Basic Social Services of Displaced Populations In the West of Niger

**10.10 - 10.40** Coffee break

# Mobile Pastoralism Adaptations

**10.40 – 11.10** Abdoukader Afane (University of Niamey): Effects de la crise sécuritaire sur la Transhumance et stratégies d'adaptation des pasteurs Transhumant Kel Gress du Groupement nomade de Tajaé, Region de Tahua au Niger/ Effects of the Security Crisis on Transhumance and Coping Strategies of kel Gress Herders in the Tajaé Nomadic Group, Tahua Region in Niger

**11.10 -11.40** Jaka Repič (University of Ljubljana): Pastoralism, cheese, and the production of heritage in two Alpine locations in Slovenia

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## — *Guest Lectures*

At the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology,  
Zavetiška 5, Ljubljana

Lectures will be translated in consecutive way (non-professional)

28.5. Tuesday, 11.20 – 12.55. in P3

Abdoulkader Afane

**Le crise de pastoralisme au Niger: Quel Future pour les communautés Pastoral/The Pastoral Crisis in Niger: What future for Pastoral Communities**

29.5. Wednesday, 11.20-12.55. in P4

Hamani Oumarou

**L'anthropologue et son terrain en context de insecurité/  
Anthropologist and His/Her Fieldwork in the Context of  
Insecurity**

29.5. Wednesday, 14.40-16.20 in P3

Moussa Zangaou

**L'esclavage au Sahel, le cas du Niger/ Slavery in Sahel, the  
Case of Niger**

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## — *Abstracts*

### **Sahel, the space of crisis and armed conflicts**

*Moussa Zangaou, University Abdou Moumouni, and IRSH, Niamey*

The space of Sahel has known and still faces different kinds of crisis and armed conflicts. These conflictual situations are related to several factors. The determinants vary regarding the isolated or collective actors. Data analysis shows that carriers of those crisis are constituted by armed bandits, different militias, and armed rebellions, which appeared in 1990 in the country and, from 2012 onwards, terrorist attacks, which were developed in certain Sahelian spaces, like Mali. Sahel – Saharan zone, which extends over a large part of the continent, had a rather bitter experience of insecurity supported by international networks that affect the whole world. Terrorist groups, for example, strike in Africa, as well as in Asia, Europe, and America. The great powers have not been spared either.

The consequences of those violent acts are enormous with forced movements of people from fragile countries, such as those in Sahel. Refugees, internally and internationally displaced people and returnees are on a rise. The resulting humanitarian situation and related media representations can often become a source of profitable business for certain non-state actors. Several strategies and programmes have been initiated by the local and national authorities, and their international partners to ensure peace and safety in this area.

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## **Access of Displaced Populations To Basic Social Services In the Nigerien Liptako-Gourma Region**

*HAMANI Oumarou, University of Abdou Moumouni, and LASDEL, Niamey*

Since 2018, the Tillabéri Region (in the west of Niger) has been subject to deadly attacks in terrorist actions by non-state armed groups (NSAGs). Major consequences of these attacks certainly include assassinations that have been put in the spotlight and received excessive media coverage, but also massive displacements of populations to the urban centres. The number of internally displaced people in the Tillabéri Region has risen from 540 in January 2018, to the estimated 150,084 persons on 30th June 2023. Over the years and as they have become more established in rural localities, the targets of the NSAGs' attacks have expanded to include "ordinary citizens". This expansion of targets increases displacements towards cities that are considered safer and offer a minimum of basic social services.

The continuous influx of populations of internally displaced people (IDP) and their virtually definitive settlement in the host cities pose a real challenge to the local authorities in terms of reception, accommodation, and the provision of basic social services following principles of equality.

This presentation aims to analyse how internally displaced populations access basic social services in the cities of arrival. What analysis is possible with regards to inequalities/equalities of access to public services? Which services are most in demand by IDPs et how satisfied are they with the provided services?

While we do have relatively precise knowledge of conditions of reception and settlement of IDPs, the question of access to basic social services remains less studied. The corpus of data on which our analysis is based is made up of semi-structured interviews and observations conducted according to the requirements of the socio-anthropological approach.

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# **Effects of security crisis on the transhumance and adaptation strategies of transhumant pastoralists Kel Gress of nomadic group Tajaé, Tahoua region, in Niger**

*Abdoulkader Afane, University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey*

Situated in a Sahelo-Saharan zone, Niger has a vast territory of 1.267.000 Km<sup>2</sup> occupied by 22,7 million inhabitants. The economy is based on agriculture and livestock breeding, practiced primarily in rural environment. Livestock breeding represents the second most important economic activity in the country, after mining resources. It is practiced by 87% of population either as primary or as secondary activity, in letter case next to agriculture. The greatest part of livestock is concentrated in the North and in the South of the country.

Natural pastures and crop residues are used to maintain these large herds. Generally speaking, the land used for grazing, made up of pastureland in Pastoral Zone in the north and fallow land in agricultural areas, is decreasing from year to year, due to agricultural pressure in pastoral enclaves as a result of population growth. Furthermore, this activity is dependent on a semi-arid climate, which is characterised by great variability and uneven spatio-temporal distribution of rainfall. Next to climate uncertainties and demographic pressure, livestock breeding in form of mobile pastoralism is facing a regional security crisis, that threatens its very existence.

This presentation is focusing on Kel Gress Tuareg. Their case illustrates very well the vulnerability and current difficulties transhumant pastoralists communities face in practising mobile pastoralism. Using this example, we will see how the Kel Gress Tuareg transhumant herders manage to deal with pastoral and security issues in order to maintain their pastoral mobility.

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# **Pastoralism, cheese, and the production of heritage in two Alpine locations in Slovenia**

*Jaka Repič, University of Ljubljana*

The presentation will describe and compare the production of heritage related to pastoralism and cheese making in two Alpine locations in Slovenia, namely Bohinj and Solčava. Both places and communities have traditionally relied on pastoralism, albeit in very different forms of farming, pastoral and grazing practises and tending of the environment. In Solčava, the settlement is very scattered and large farms comprising private pasturelands predominate, whereas in Bohinj people mostly live in villages and traditionally practiced pastoralism on communal pastures. In both places tourism is a very important part of livelihood and presents a strong impetus for the remaking of local practises.

The presentation will focus on the practises and notions of (transhumant) pastoralism, dairy farming and cheese making, which imbue ideas of heritage, locality and ingenuity of local knowledge and skills. The development of cheese making is seen as an expression of local incentives and (traditional) knowledge as well as impacted by general economic strategies that depend on socio-political contexts, especially tourism and support and constraints of agricultural policies. Local and traditional knowledge and practises are seen as a source of adaptation to the ever-changing world and as a means of sustainable farming and living, with transhumant pastoralism as again an increasingly important practice. In this sense, the heritage of pastoralism and cheese production, reinvented in contemporary contexts, offers an insight into some of the ways economic and social sustainability is conceived in these Alpine localities.

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