

Call for Papers

Workshop

Transformations of the rural spaces in Mozambique

Maputo, 28-29 May 2018

Venue to be announced

Background

The last decades in Mozambique have been characterized by profound changes in the rural milieu. Despite the persistence of poverty, important investments aiming the economic development of the country have been directed to the rural areas. Some years ago, post-colonial projects for the construction of communal villages and socialization of the countryside through resettlement, coupled with a long war of 16 years and continued labour migration, have generated intense population movements, both between rural areas and urban centres, between neighbouring countries and subsequently of return to places of origin. More recently, the implementation of large-scale projects in rural areas, at the level of extractive industry or agribusiness, has not only been leading to the transformation of the rural areas but also generating a set of tensions and conflicts related to land tenure, population resettlement or livelihoods in general. The development of agribusiness, through large plantations or contract farming can have an impact on the emergence of middle and large producers and on situations of social differentiation, potentially generating social tensions. At the same time, the Mozambican rural landscape is dominated by smallholders, whose livelihood depend on farming and a mix of non-farming activities, and are often extremely vulnerable to shocks and to pressure over resources. The implantation of large-scale mineral related ventures not only transforms the physical landscape and often leads to displacements but also has impacts in the local economies, namely the labour market. In environmental terms, changes taking place in the countryside have implications on wildlife and forest resources and foster further concerns about climate change, about risks to agricultural production and food security. In this scenario of transformation, new civil society organizations – community radios, unions, producers' associations, local development initiatives – emerge, and often stumble in the interests of local political, administrative and economic powers, making tensions and social conflicts emerge.

In this context, researchers are invited to present papers on the following subjects:

- Poverty and inequality in rural Mozambique, recent data and historical perspective;
- Migratory movements in Mozambique, particularly in terms of motivations for rural exodus, migrant remittances and prospects for return to the countryside;
- Impacts of plantations, mining and other major projects on the rural areas, in terms of population resettlement, land and resource related conflicts, employability, new income and consumption opportunities;
- Development of agribusiness, emergence of middle and large producers and situations of social differentiation in the countryside;
- Extractive activities and their role in/impact on rural livelihoods, settlement and local economies;

- Characterization and effects generated by phenomena of climate change, deforestation and poaching;
- Emergence of social movements in the countryside, motivations, forms of action and reaction of political-economic powers;
- Gender relations and inequalities in rural contexts, with a special focus on the gendered effects of large-scale projects, agribusiness and pressure on resources;
- Food production, food markets , food security, with a special focus on the rural-urban links and on the relationship with international food markets;
- Mozambican agrarian policies and their implications for smallholders: e.g. ‘market integration’ policies, financial inclusion initiatives, localised investments such as corridors, etc.;
- Smallholder livelihoods, between farm and non-farm income: agrarian production, technology, labour
- Other issues related to social transformations in the countryside in Mozambique.

How to submit

Applicants are asked to submit a paper proposal of 500-1.000 words, detailing the data on which the paper is based and the used methodology, to cristina.udelsmann.rodrigues@nai.uu.se and cecilia.navarra@gmail.com **by January 30, 2018**. Authors will receive notice of the final decision of their submission by February 15, 2018. By accepting participation, authors commit themselves to submitting a final paper of 7.000-10.000 words before April 30, 2018. The costs for travel and accommodation for accepted participants will be covered by the participants.

Organising team

Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden

Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos, Mozambique

Observatório do Meio Rural, Mozambique

Departamento de Ciências Políticas e Administração Pública (UEM), Mozambique

Christian Michelsen Institute, Norway

University of Jyväskylä, Finland