

**INED—PARC/PSC Workshop on
“Aging in Sub-Saharan Africa: Research Opportunities
and Policy Challenges”
9-10 December 2013, INED, PARIS**

**Family structures and dynamics in rural Mali.
*(Slam project)***

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Projet Slam – Suivi longitudinal au Mali

Projet ANR-DyPE – Dynamiques de la parentalité et de l'enfance en milieu rural africain - (ANR-12-BSH1-0005-01)

- A key to approach and understand individual behaviors and demographic changes (or non-changes)
- « Families » in the observation system:
 - registration of residential unit and economic unit (domestic group, *zû*)
 - longitudinal approach of domestic groups
 - (+ data collection on domestic groups : segmentation process, economic resources)
 - genealogical collection
 - biographical survey : questions on family involvement (who, when) over individual events (marriage, migration...)
 - (+ additional information on larger family units : lineages)

➤ « Families » in our research projects:

- Entry into union: the weakening of family control over the marriage process, privatization of wedding, instability of marriage process as part of the family control over youth
- Adolescent migration: gender-specific patterns of family involvement in adolescent migration; absence of young people, consequences on population structure and intergenerational controls
- Trends and dynamics of domestic groups in a context of high demographic increase: family segmentation and emigration as regulating processes
- Methodology: omissions and double counts (who is missing or overdeclared among the household members), quality of census report on relationship with the Hhead, on the parental survival status...

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- *New research project on Childhood and Parenthood Dynamics in rural Africa – (DyPE project <http://slam.site.ined.fr/fr/DyPE/>, 2013-2015)*
- Family environment from the point of view of children: morphology, relationships, dynamics
 - Trends in the children's relational environment in a context of demographic transition
 - Influence of family environment on the attitudes and behaviors towards children: schooling, mobility, health, civil registration
 - Globalisation, coexistence and concurrence between various models of parenthood and attitudes towards children

Which family?

A multidimensional reality

- 1) Family structures (Cross-sectional approach)*
- 2) Family dynamics (Longitudinal approach)*

Data

« Enquête renouvelée » - Follow-up survey

Matching of census data (1976 to 2009)

➤ *Follow-up of individuals (9200 indiv.)*

➤ *Follow-up of domestic groups*

Family structures

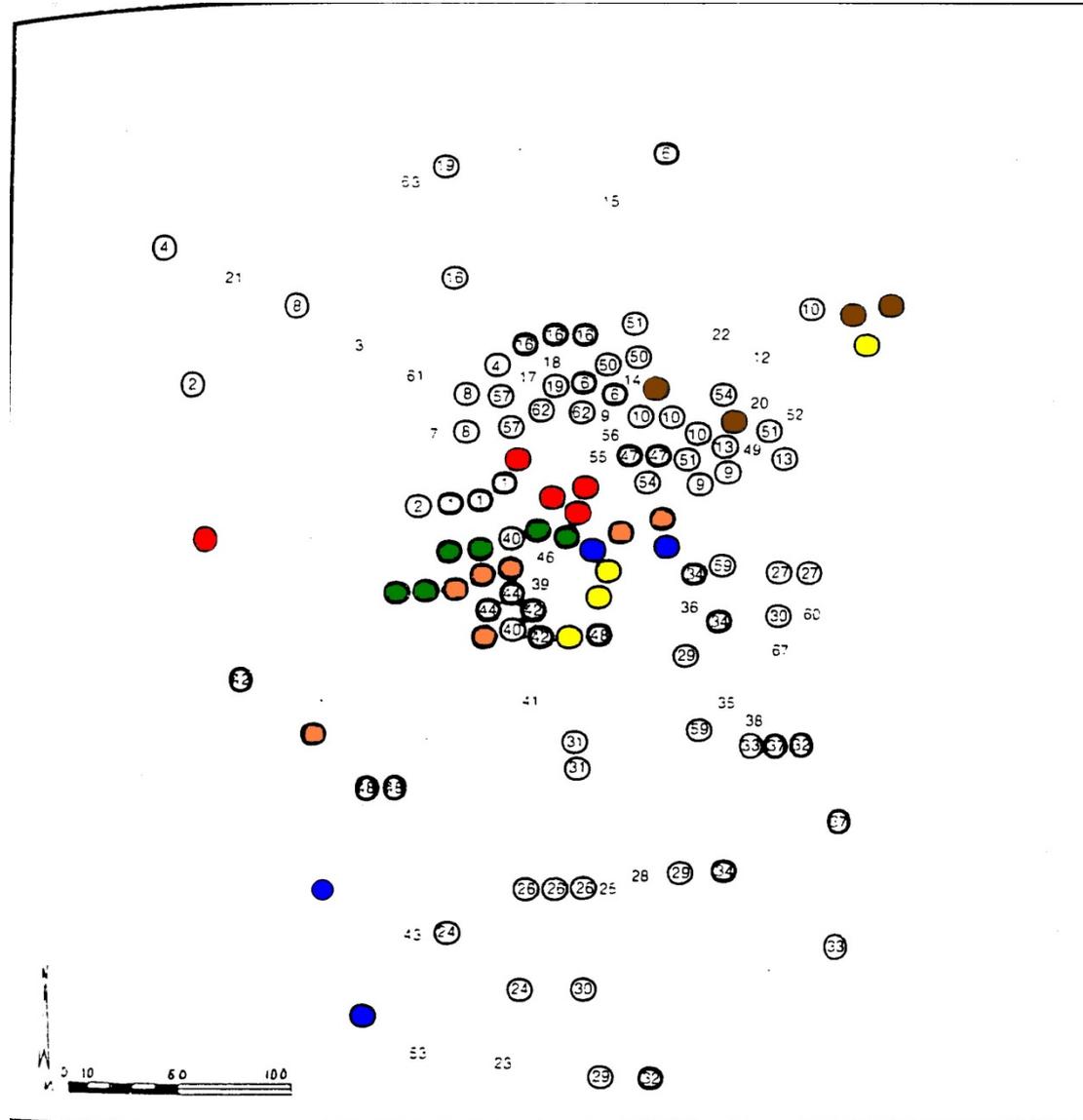
(Cross-sectional approach)

- Domestic group = Economic unit, people « who work and eat together »), **Zû**
- Head= zuso
 - Collective work in collective fields
 - Same grain loft
 - One food preparation (« tour » between women)
 - Meal taken together
 - (affiliated to the patrilineage, owner of the fields, socio-politic unit, exogamy, ancestor worship)

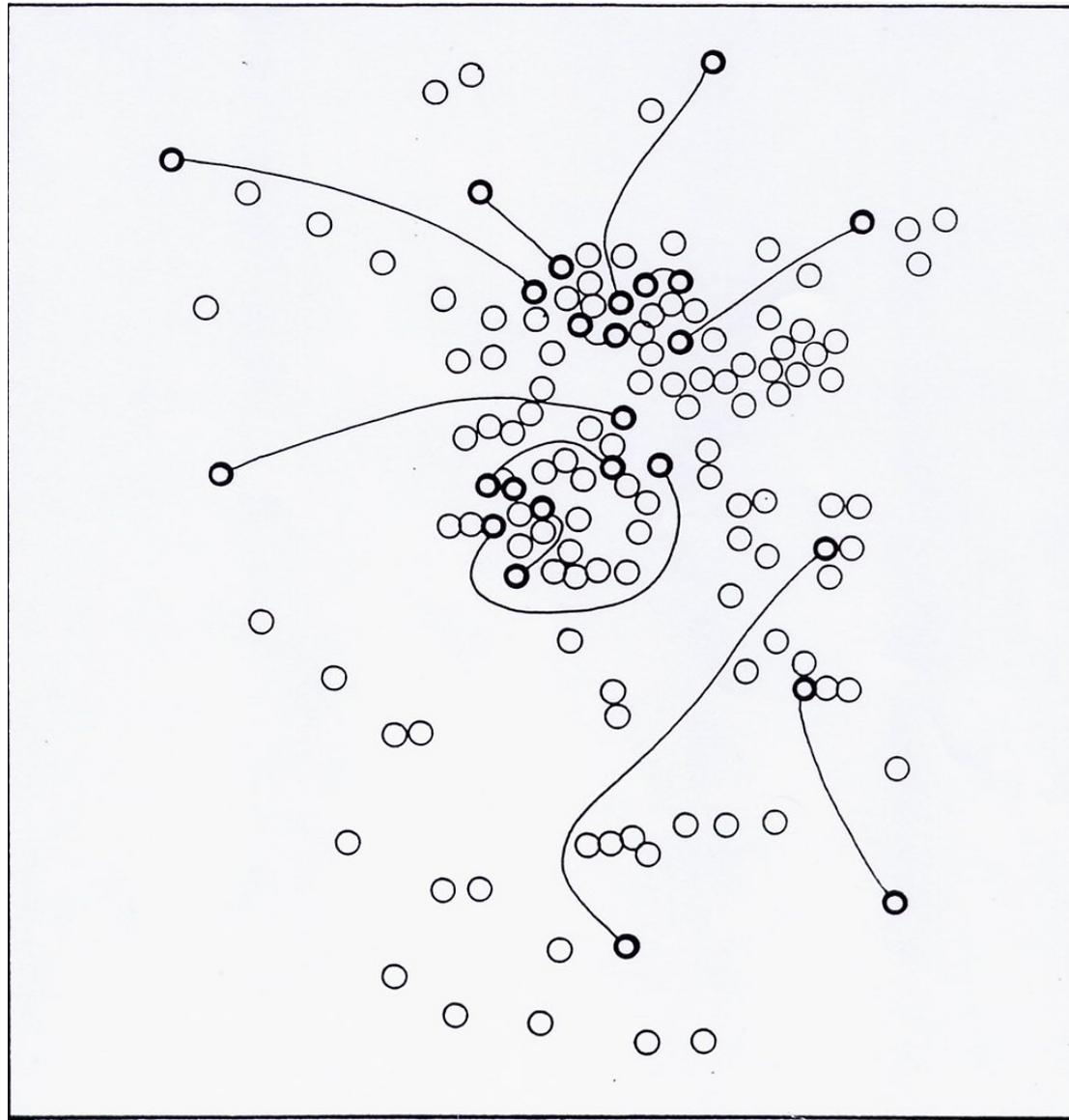
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- Residential unit (dwelling) = people who sleep together
- compounds are rare
 - 2.6 dwellings on average per domestic group (often distant)

Example : geographical dissemination of domestic groups

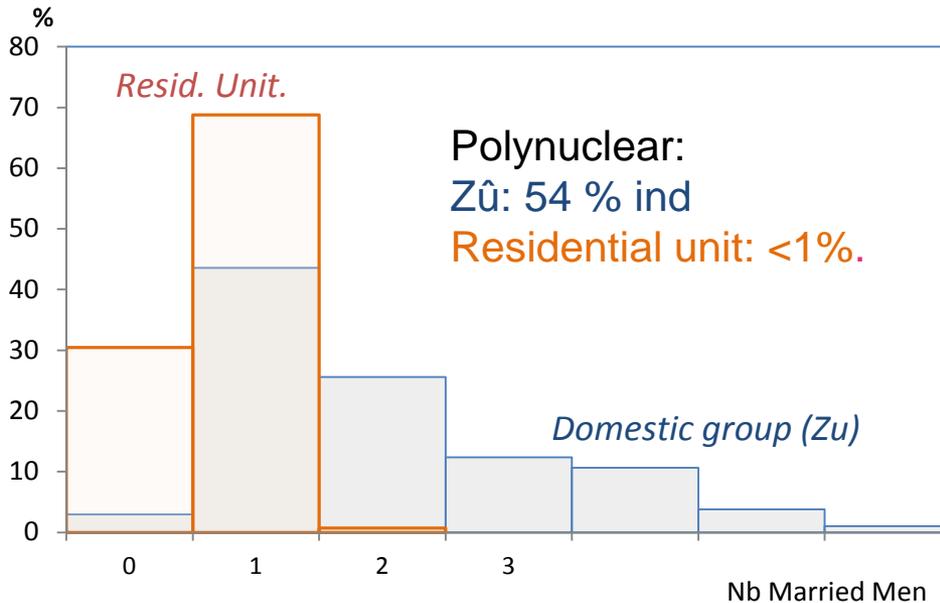


Localisation des épouses de polygames



Very different pictures, depending the family unit (2)

Distribution (%) of population according the structure mononuclear or polynuclear of the domestic group and the residential unit. Local Census 2009



Distribution (%) of population according the sex of the head (2009)

	Zû	Household
Female Head	1%	49%
Male Head	99%	51%

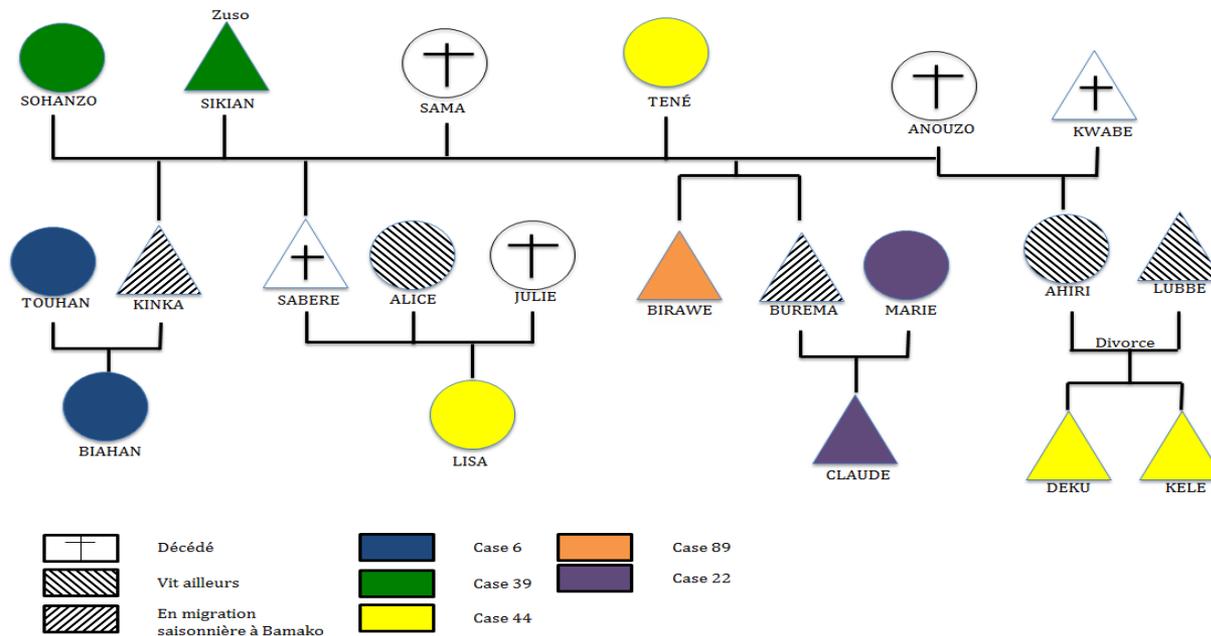
% of the 60+ old living alone or in small families (2009)

	Zû	Household
Living alone	<1%	32%
Living with:		
-- max 2 others	4%	67%
-- min 3 others	96%	33%

Typology?

Mononuclear domestic group :

- 45% of the population (Def=1 married man)
- But only 17% in zû with husband-wives-children only

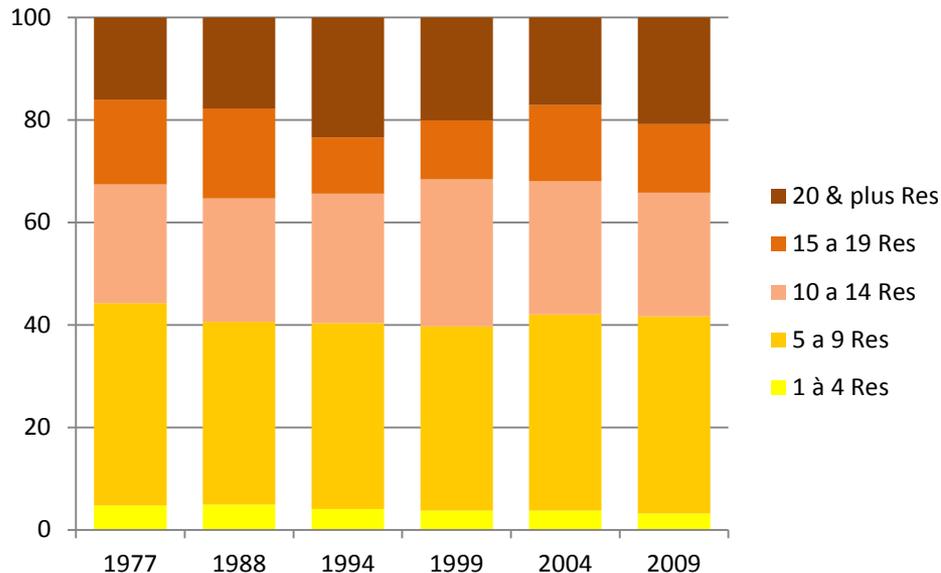


Family Dynamics

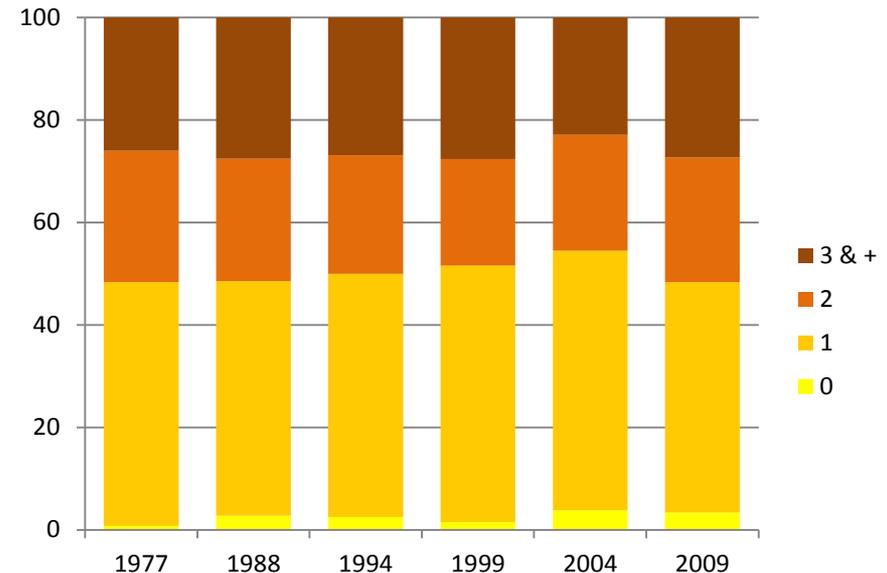
(Longitudinal approach)

- Focus on the Domestic group from the children's point of view
- **Domestics group structures: no main changes**

**Distribution (%) of children (0-11)
by domestic group size**



**Distribution (%) of children (0-11) ,
by number of married men in their
domestic groups**



Domestic group change from the child's point of view

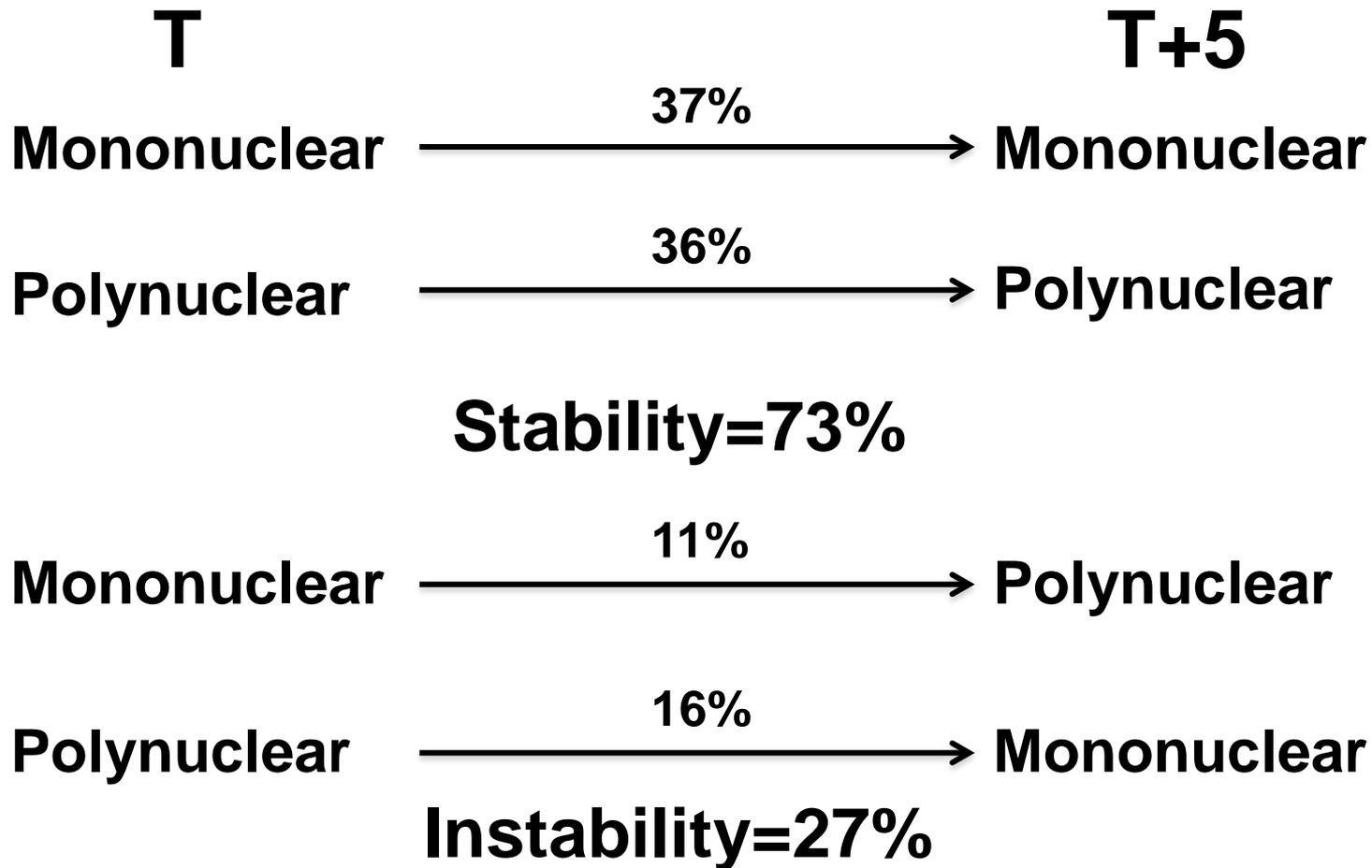
➤ Two approaches

- First: Probability for a child to experience a variation in the **structure** of his domestic group
- Second: Probability for a child to experience change in the **composition** of his domestic group

➤ Data set:

- Selection of the children who are present in two censuses (t , $t+5$), aged 0-6 years at the first one (t)
- On average, this situation corresponds to 81% of children in the survey

Probability for a child to live in a different configuration of his domestic group

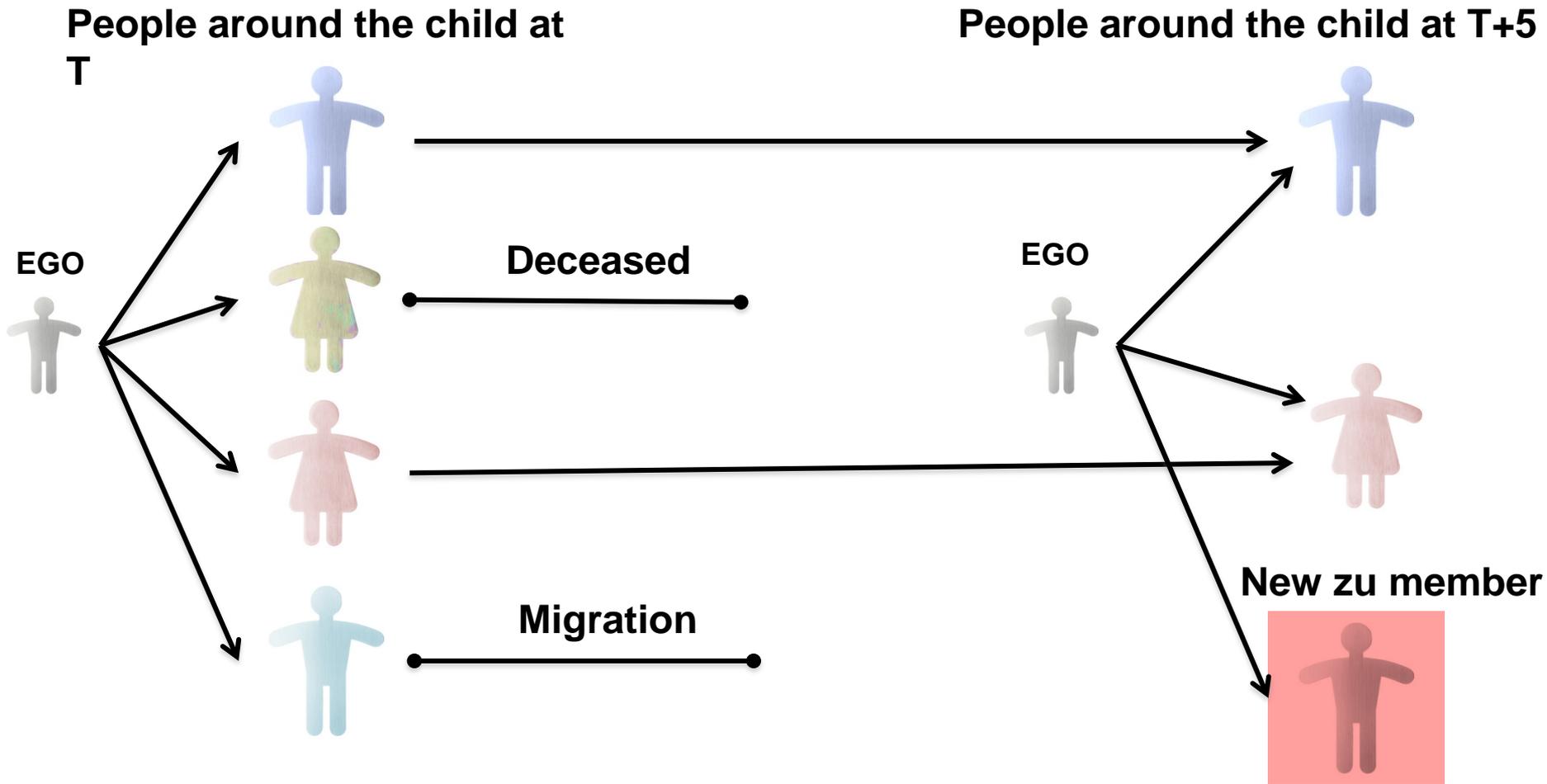


Probability for a child to live in a different size of Zu between T and T+5

		T+5				Total
		Zu size	1-4	5-9	10-14	
T	1-4	19%	66%	9%	6%	100%
	5-9	5%	71%	22%	3%	100%
	10-14	1%	26%	49%	24%	100%
	15+	1%	15%	14%	70%	100%

37% of children live in a zu with a different size between T and T+5

Measuring child environment stability



50% of the people who belong with this child at T do not belong with him 5 years later

Measuring the stability of child environment

- On average, for children presents at t and $t+5$, **35%** of the members of their zu at t do not belong to their zu 5 years later
- At least 50% of the members of the zu at t are not members of the zu at $(T+5)$ → **20%** of children
- At least $1/3$ of the members of the zu at t are not members of the zu at $(T+5)$ → **52%** of children

- If we consider the stability of the child environment by comparing the persons present or not at the two dates:
 - 74% of the children know at least three member changes in their zu (out or/and in)
 - Only 6% of them leave with exactly the same people between two surveys

Family structure is a problematic question in sub-Saharan Africa

We can not limit analysis to the household

Complexibility and flexibility of family environment

- Coexistence of different types of family units
 - Need of survey design to record them
 - Show very different picture of family environment
- Change over time
 - Need of longitudinal data to analyze the influence of family structure on individual's behaviors
 - Family structure at the time of the survey is not a proxy of the structure at previous times (and difficult to have accurate retrospective data on family structure)
- Instability = a component of the organization of family, a brake to privatization of relationships.
- Our choice: take into account various approaches of the family environment, in terms of family units and relational network

***Thank you
Merci !***



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