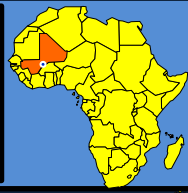


Children's Family Network Dynamics in a Rural Sub-Saharan Population: Insights from a Genealogical Analysis

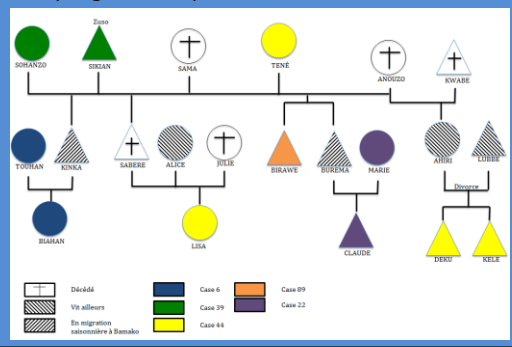
Context:
 Localisation: South East Mali
 Subsistence farming/ Family production system
 No fertility transition: TFR=8; child mortality=140‰ before 5
 Schooling rate is increasing since the 1990's: today: 50%
 No migration toward Europe



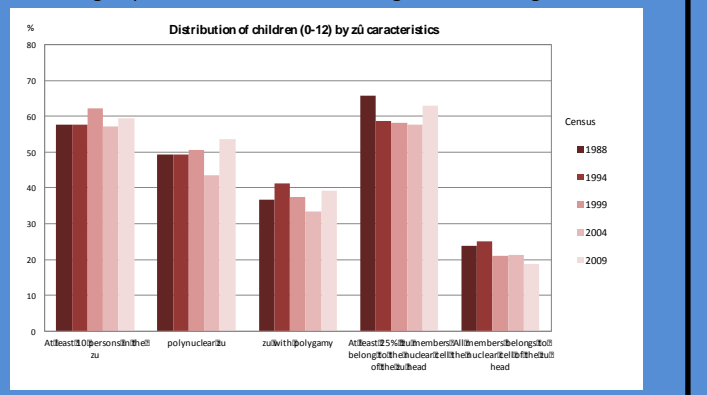
Data: SLAM project (*Suivi Longitudinal Au Mali*)
 An extensive follow up survey in 7 villages (N=4300 in 2009)
 A new round every 5 years from 1988 to 2009
 - a new census linked with the previous ones
 - genealogical data base
 => A follow up of individuals and domestic groups over 25 years

Research question:
 In sub-Saharan Africa, children are bound up in dense and complex family networks. This family environment is poorly addressed by standardised demographic data. In a longitudinal perspective, we aim to provide new insights about the flexibility and the dynamics of children's family environment.

1-Focus on the Domestic group (Zù)
 An economic unit/zù where people « who work and eat together »
 Usually large and complex units



2-Domestics group/zù structures: no main changes over the long run



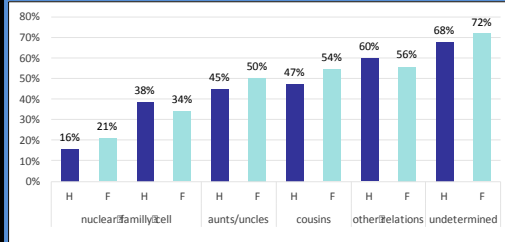
3-But from the child's perspective, the family structure is continuously changing
 Distribution (%) of children (0-12) according to the structure of the zù at census t and census t+5

t	t +5	
	Mononuclear	Polynuclear
Mononuclear	37%	11%
Polynuclear	17%	36%

4-The family size remains quite stable but its composition is continuously renewed
 Size and recomposition of the children's zù

Presents à t		Presents à t+5	
14,1 persons		13,6 persons	
Exit à t+5		Entry à t+5	
Death: 0,6		New born: 3,1	
Emigration: 2,7		Immigration: 1,5	
Domestic group switch: 2,3		Domestic group switch: 0,6	
- 5,6 persons		+ 5,2 persons	

5-Distant relatives are numerous but more volatile
 Instability (%) for different categories of relatives between census t and t+5



- Children grow up in complex family environment. While family structures are stable according to long term statistics, the personal experience of children is quite different. Their family network is under continuous recomposition.
 - The socialisation framework involves a diversity of relatives over time.
 - Children experience family instability throughout their childhood.
- Longitudinal data are essential to analyse family dynamics in children's network and their impact on their well-being and future life.