

Master thesis presentation – *Migration and Citizenship Studies*

**Alexa Mekonen**

Supervisor : Olivier Graefe

Expert : Etienne Piguet

## **Migration and its impact on rural household dynamics Case study of Ohangwena region, Namibia**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this master thesis is to understand migration-induced impacts on rural household dynamics in Ohangwena region of Northern Namibia.

Migration patterns, partly caused by the contract labour system introduced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, contributed to shape and transform a rural based society into a partly urbanized society, thus exacerbating social differentiation.

On a theoretical basis, migration flows theories were analysed and brought into context. Further, Bourdieu's theory of *habitus* and *field*, associated with the different forms of capitals, were synthesized to extend the scope of constraints faced by agricultural communities in a specific social context. During 14 in-depth interviews with rural peasants and urban migrants, qualitative data on agricultural practices, linkages and forms of exchange between rural and urban households was collected.

Findings presented in this thesis provide empirical evidence that out-migration goes along with a depeasantization process in rural areas. However, households tend to have at the same time a rural and an urban foothold. Many rural-urban interdependencies have been observed and seem to be essential to sustain a livelihood in Namibia.