

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN WOMEN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA: WORK, MONEY AND CHANGING GENDER ROLES

Patricia Wawira Njuki

BA Communication and Community Development - Daystar University, Kenya
MA in Population and Human Resources – University of Adelaide

Discipline of Geography, Environment and Population

School of Social Sciences

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The University of Adelaide

Submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

October 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	i
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x
DECLARATION.....	xii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xiii
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	xv
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Background to the study	3
1.2.1 Gender and migration	3
1.2.2 Problem Statement	5
1.3 Research Objectives	8
1.4 Australia’s migration system	10
1.4.1 Selection of skilled migrants to Australia.....	11
1.4.2 Humanitarian Program	13
1.4.3 Family migration.....	16
1.4.4 Other migration programs.....	16
1.5 South Australia as a study area of Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia	17
1.6 Overview of the Thesis.....	19
CHAPTER 2: AFRICANS IN AUSTRALIA.....	20
2.1 Introduction.....	20
2.2 Defining humanitarian and skilled migrants.....	20
2.3 The Sub-Saharan Africans	21
2.4 Waves of migration from Sub –Saharan Africa to Australia	21
2.5 Data considerations	22
2.6 Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia at the 2006 Census.....	23
2.7 Migration flows: settler arrivals	25

2.8	Migration flows: long-term arrivals	26
2.9	Migrants Characteristics: Sub-Saharan Africans by visa entry	30
2.10	Sub-Saharan African Migration by Sex.....	31
2.11	Educational Characteristics of Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia.....	34
2.12	Occupational characteristics of Sub-Saharan Africans to Australia	36
CHAPTER 3: LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK		39
3.1	Introduction.....	39
3.2	Reviewing Gender and Migration Theories.....	40
3.3	The Conceptual Framework.....	46
3.3.1	Meso–Societal factors.....	52
3.3.2	Migrant women and work in Australia.....	56
3.3.3	Micro Factors	62
3.3.4	Transnational practices	65
3.4	Conclusion	74
CHAPTER 4: METHODOLOGY.....		75
4.1	Introduction.....	75
4.2	Mixed Methods Research	75
4.3	A pragmatic study	77
4.3.1	Rationale for a Mixed Methods study	78
4.4	The Research Design.....	79
4.5	Data Collection approaches	81
4.5.1	Surveys	81
4.5.2	Qualitative Research.....	88
4.5.3	Time Use Diary	90
4.5.4	In–depth interviews	92
4.5.5	Participant Observation	95
4.6	Data Analysis	97
4.6.1	Data analysis for the quantitative data.....	97
4.6.2	Data analysis for the time diaries	97

4.6.3	Analysing the in-depth interviews and participant observation field notes	98
4.7	Limitations of the Study	98
4.7.1	Ethical dilemmas	98
4.7.2	Limitations of sampling	100
4.8	Conclusion	101
CHAPTER 5: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN WOMEN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA		102
5.1	Introduction.....	102
5.1.1	Defining work status.....	102
5.2	Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia Labour Force Outcomes ..	103
5.2.1	Occupational Concentration.....	104
5.2.2	Migrant SSA women and employment	107
5.3	SSA African women jobs versus skills.....	111
5.3.1	Education and Qualifications	111
5.3.2	Pre-migration employment experiences of SSA African women	113
5.3.3	Recognition of Qualifications	117
5.3.4	Attainment of qualifications in Australia	119
5.4	Unemployed Sub-Saharan African Women in South Australia.....	122
5.4.1	Language.....	123
5.4.2	Childcare.....	127
5.4.3	Racism and Discrimination.....	131
5.5	Conclusion	132
CHAPTER 6: REMITTANCES.....		135
6.1	Introduction.....	135
6.2	The determinants of remittances	136
6.3	Remittance sending among Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia	138
6.4	Characteristics of remittance senders among Sub-Saharan African women	140
6.4.1	Education	140
6.4.2	Length of Stay in Australia	141
6.4.3	Amount of remittances	143

6.4.4	Family characteristics	144
6.4.5	Marital Status	144
6.4.6	Presence of children	145
6.5	Characteristics of non-remitters.	146
6.6	Utilisation of remittances	147
6.7	Who receives the remittances?.....	150
6.8	The impact on remitters	153
6.9	Remittance sending among African women and the migrants financial position 155	
6.9.1	Income	155
6.9.2	Remitters financial situation	157
6.9.3	Remittance sending and household expenditure among Sub-Saharan African Women in South Australia.....	159
6.10	Social impacts of sending remittances for Sub-Saharan African Women in South Australia.....	161
6.11	Conclusion	164
CHAPTER 7: CHANGING GENDER ROLES AND GENDER RELATIONS		166
7.1	Introduction.....	166
7.2	Gender roles in migration	167
7.3	Feminised Marriage migration.....	171
7.4	Female breadwinners	176
7.5	Returning men.....	181
7.6	Female-headed immigrant households at risk.....	187
7.7	Parenting	188
7.8	Domestic work	190
7.9	Conclusion	194
CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS		197
8.1	INTRODUCTION.....	197
8.2	Major findings.....	197

8.3	Policy Implications	207
8.3.1	Policy implications: women and work	208
8.3.2	Policy implications: remittances	212
8.3.3	Policy implications: Changing gender roles	214
8.4	Implications of this study for gender and migration theory.....	216
8.5	Implications for Future research	217
8.6	Conclusion	219
	APPENDIX.....	220
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	232

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1 Diagrammatic representation of Australia's migration program, 2010-2011..	10
Table 1.2 Refugee resettlement numbers: Australia and Global Figures	14
Table 1.3 Australia's Humanitarian Migrant Intake: 2000-2011	15
Table 1.4 Sub-Saharan African Community in South Australia comparative to Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia.	18
Table 2.1 Census Statistics: Sub-Saharan Africans to Australia from 1991-2006, Estimated Population 2010	24
Table 2.2 Sub-Saharan African countries offshore student visa grants, 2002-2011	29
Table 2.3 Sex Ratios for Sub-Saharan African Settler Arrivals, 1991-2011	32
Table 2.4 Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia: Education highest year of school completed by sex	35
Table 2.5 Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia, post school qualifications	35
Table 2.6 Sub-Saharan Africans and Australian Total Population: Employment Status by sex, 2006 Census	36
Table 2.7 Occupational Concentration of Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia, 2006.....	37
Table 3.1 Differences between transnationalist practices in the 20th Century and Contemporary Transnationalism	66
Table 3.2 Remittances and other resource flows to Africa (\$ Billions)	70
Table 4.1 Sub-Saharan Africans humanitarian migrant household, South Australia MRCSA clients, September 2005 – January 2009	84
Table 5.1 Sub-Saharan African women in South Australian: Labour force status by visa type	103
Table 5.2 Percentage Occupational Categories Sub-Saharan African Women migrants in South Australia	104
Table 5.3 Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia: Current Occupation by Visa of Arrival.....	106
Table 5.4 Modes used by Sub-Saharan African migrants to find current job.....	109
Table 5.5 Mode used by Sub-Saharan African women to find job by major industries	110
Table 5.6 Percentage Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia: Highest Educational qualifications by work status	112

Table 5.7 Percentage Sub-Saharan African humanitarian women pre migration employment by work status	113
Table 5.8 Percentage Skilled Migrants Pre - Migration Employment Status specific jobs	114
Table 5.9 Skilled migrants: Pre-migration employment status by employment status in Australia.....	117
Table 5.10 Recognition of Overseas Qualifications and Jobs in Australia	118
Table 5.11 Sub-Saharan African women course undertaken by visa of migration.....	119
Table 5.12 Selected Course undertaken in Australia and work	121
Table 5.13 Reasons given by Sub-Saharan African women for not being in the workforce by visa of migration	123
Table 5.14 Percentage Humanitarian Migrants who attended ESL and work status	125
Table 5.15 Childcare arrangements by women's workforce status	129
Table 6.1 Gender variables that determine the amount and characteristics of remittances	137
Table 6.2 Percentage of women sending money regularly to Sub-Saharan Africa employment status and visa of arrival	139
Table 6.3 Educational characteristics of remittance senders among Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia by visa type	140
Table 6.4 Remittance sending based on length of stay in Australia by visa type	142
Table 6.5 Sub-Saharan African women remittance senders based on household income by visa type	143
Table 6.6 Remittance senders based on marital status by visa type	144
Table 6.7 Percentage of remittance senders based on Children by visa type	145
Table 6.8 Characteristics of Non Remitters by visa type	146
Table 6.9 Use of remittance money sent by Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia by visa type (percent)	149
Table 6.10 Percentage of remittance receivers as sent by Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia by visa of arrival.....	150
Table 6.11 Source of income and levels of remittance among senders among Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia by visa type	156
Table 6.12 Self-reported financial commitment of Sub-Saharan African women who visit by visa type.....	157

Table 7.1 Sub-Saharan African men in South Australia as partners to survey
respondents– Occupations 177

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Settler Arrivals: Sub-Saharan Africans by Country, 1991-2011.....	25
Figure 2.2 Long-Term Arrivals, Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia, 1993-2011.....	26
Figure 2.3 Sub-Saharan African long-term and settler arrivals, 1991-2011.....	27
Figure 2.4 Australia: Percentage of Sub-Saharan Africans humanitarian resettlement intake, 2000-2010.....	28
Figure 2.5 Visa Type at Time of Arrival, selected Sub-Saharan African countries.....	30
Figure 2.6 Age-Sex Pyramid Settler Arrivals, Sub-Saharan Africans, 1991-2011.....	33
Figure 2.7 Age Sex Structure: Percentage Sub-Saharan Africans and the Australian Born at 2006 Census	34
Figure 3.1 Conceptual Framework used in the study of settlement of Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia	48
Figure 3.2 Short term residents departure and returns from Australia to Sub-Saharan Africa, 1993-2011.....	67
Figure 4.1: A visual representation of the sequential explanatory design of the study of Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia	80
Figure 4.2 Sample of the Time Use Diary	91
Figure 6.1 Household expenditure for humanitarian and skilled migrants – Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia	159
Figure 7.1 Family Migrants: Sub-Saharan African Born by Age and Sex, 2005-2011	172
Figure 7.2 Departure of South Australian Sub-Saharan Africans Permanent Resident by sex, 1993-2011	182
Figure 7.3 Australia to Sub-Saharan Africa. Resident permanent, 1993-2011.....	183

ABSTRACT

This study provides a gendered perspective on the social and economic consequences of Sub-Saharan African migration to Australia. This mixed methods study draws on a Survey as well as in-depth interviews and participant observation of the Sub-Saharan African women in South Australia, as well as analyses of secondary data from the Department of Immigration Movements and Settlement Database and the Australian Census of Population and Housing 2006. It examines three interconnected thematic areas in the migrant women's lives. First, African women's labour force patterns based on visa of entry to Australia, show that African migrant skilled women in Australia are able to compete favourably in the labour market and are able to get jobs commensurate to their skills. However the study shows women who enter Australia on humanitarian visas, many of whom have very low human capital endowments, find themselves completely shut out of the Australian workforce.

The second theme provides a gendered perspective on remittance sending practices of Sub-Saharan African women and how these affect settlement outcomes. The study shows that remittance sending does have an impact on settlement of humanitarian migrants with implications for an individual migrants' poverty and raises interesting arguments for host countries, especially in the area of retirement planning of migrants.

The third thematic area examines gender role changes of Sub-Saharan African migrant women as a result of their migration to Australia. It takes into consideration the increasing "Feminisation of Migration" as many Sub-Saharan African women are the principal applicants leading their family's migration, and in many cases were the primary breadwinners when their partners were unable to find work. The study also

examines division of labour within the household, especially in regards to domestic work as well as parenting.

The study concludes with implications for migration theory and policy. The study urges that there is need to integrate what is known about migration settlement from different migration theories and perspectives. It draws from a conceptual framework that examines the settlement of Sub-Saharan migrants from a systems structure that looks at the Macro, Meso and Micro factors, as well as transnational factors that affect the settlement of Sub-Saharan Africans in Australia. It urges the importance of recognising skilled women migrants in the discourse on women and work since skilled migration flows of women have largely been ignored in theorising about women in migration. There are important policy implications for developed countries such as Australia. Those unskilled find themselves excluded from the modern industrialised labour market. The questions raised in the section on remittances have important implications for developed countries in regards to their understanding of migrant poverty and policy issues such as migrant retirement planning. While the section on gender roles and gender relations in migration, contributes to gender and migration theory by calling for a change in focus in how gender roles are examined. The study explains that most of what is understood about gender roles has been influenced by western feminist ideology, and urges an understanding of migrant gender roles from a structural perspective taking into account modern migration flows such as the ‘feminisation of migration’. As women become more likely to lead migration flows from developing to developed countries, women are no longer ‘tied migrants’ but rather principal breadwinners for their families and this has enormous implications for theories on gender roles and the wider study of gender and migration.

DECLARATION

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being made available for loan and photocopying, subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

I also give permission for the digital version of my thesis to be made available on the web, via the University's digital research repository, the Library Search and also through web search engines, unless permission has been granted by the University to restrict access for a period of time.

.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All Glory for this work is to Almighty God - because without Jesus and His unfailing Grace I would never have made it this far.

I would like to thank Professor Graeme Hugo and Dr Dianne Rudd for their guidance and constant support throughout this study. I would like to thank them for helping me in securing IPRS funding for this PhD from the University of Adelaide. Apart from being great supervisors, they were there in very difficult personal circumstances and went beyond their role as teachers and mentors and always offered their personal support and that kindness will never be forgotten. The staff of the Geography department have also been extremely helpful especially Margaret Young and Janet Wall for their assistance with data as well as Christine Crothers for assistance in preparing maps for this study.

I would also like to thank the staff at the Migrant Resource Center of South Australia (MRCSA) for their work in helping me collect data for this study, especially Eugenia Tsoulis and Regina Betts for their assistance and useful insights. I would also like to thank Catherine Cole from African Women Federation of South Australia for her role at the data collection stage and Athina Duot, for her assistance in translating and assisting in the collection of data. My fellow colleagues I could always count on your friendship and support and it meant the world to me. Thanks Judith, Balambigai, Pam, Marcia, Charlotte, George, Raj, Lim, Justin, Christopher, Romy and Michael and everyone else in the department who touched my life in so many ways. Romy thank you especially for reading this study and assisting with editing – you were a true friend. The support and love within the department was indeed special, I will for always remember that all GEP students and staff arranged my son's first birthday party – it's a day I will never forget and Raphael and I will cherish it always, because it was more

than a birthday it was the care and concern that epitomises how much studying in this department was special in many ways.

My research participants, they opened their hearts and their homes and told me their stories of migration and I will always be very grateful. I will always treasure all their stories in my heart, they showed me true resilience and determination to succeed – the true ‘African Women’. I would especially like to remember Constance (R.I.P) who inculcated in me the responsibility of this work. Her words I will never forget her gratitude for being accepted as a migrant and the changes it made to her life and what she hoped for this project will always be remembered. My other friends in Australia and abroad especially Esther and her family, all I can say is God Bless You as words would not be enough to express the gratitude required. Rosemary, Kui, Viola, Gillian, Jane, Kofi, Victor, Luke, John, Samuel and his family, thanks for being there. To Gilbert, Sandra and Rachael for the part you played in my life.

My family, for the constant love, prayers and support, there are no words that can express how much this thesis has come about because of you. Mum, Dad – you took in my infant son to care for -so that this thesis could be complete and you have done such an amazing job with him. I will be eternally grateful to you and Mary for the good work. To Njiru, Roselyne and Winnie, thank you for being my siblings, knowing that I could always get support and love from you in all things material, spiritual and emotional made this process so much easier. To my whole extended family you are all too many to name here but you always sent your love and support and I know of the constant prayers – I am glad to be your ‘daughter’. To my Raphael, my love, you just filled my life with so much joy and laughter and I thank God for you every single day. You are probably the first baby to have journal articles read out to you as bed time stories but you were such a good baby. Love you.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASIB	Australian Social Inclusion Board
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
ESL	English as a Second Language
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IOM	International Organisation of Migration
IHSS	Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Services
LSIA	Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia
LSIA1	Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (first cohort)
LSIA2	Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (second cohort)
MRCSA	Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia
NESB	None English Speaking Background
NGO	Non- Government Organisation
RCOA	Refugee Council of Australia
SDB	Settlement Data Base
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees