

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) has the pleasure of inviting you to a migration seminar on:

‘Send More Money’
The Ambiguous Relations Between
African States and their Diasporas
Thursday, 18 March 2010, 14.00-16.00
Danish Institute for International Studies
Main Auditorium
Strandgade 71, ground floor, 1401 Copenhagen K

Background

Not many decades ago, citizens who left their motherland due to conflict, political disagreement or in search of a brighter future were considered traitors by their compatriots and the state. However, in recent years, this image seems to have changed as African states have increasingly focused on the development potential of what is increasingly called their diasporas. Rather than a liability, the diaspora is seen as being able to support the homeland in three crucial ways: by sending money and making investments, by applying the know-how that they have gained in their new country of residence to develop the homeland, and by acting as goodwill ambassadors wherever they are in the world. In this seminar, we explore this shift and the new interest that African states show in their citizens abroad.

But is the picture as glossy as sending states, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank paint it? The seminar addresses the various issues that are omitted in official discourse, and inquires into other sides of the story: What about the members of the diaspora who are not interested in supporting the state at ‘home’? What about those members of the diaspora who are not able to provide support because they do not have the means? And what is meant by the diaspora? Is it implicitly the well-educated elite in OECD countries – while the vast majority of African migrants are displaced within Africa?

This is the first seminar in the 2010 Migration Seminar Spring Series. For more information and seminar resource, see www.diis.dk/migrationseminars

Speakers

[Simon Turner](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS
[Ben Page](#), Reader, University College London

Programme

More details about the seminar are available on our [website](#).

Practical Information

The seminar will be held in English.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Please use our [online registration form](#) no later than Wednesday, 17 March 2010 at 12.00 noon.

Please await confirmation by e-mail from DIIS for participation.

Sincerely,

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