

Alexander Cobbinah
SOAS, London (Crossroads Project)

Rural multilingualism and social networks in Southern Senegal (Casamance)

The research project I am part of as postdoctoral researcher aims to come to an understanding of a complex multilingual situation in a rural environment in Southern Senegal (Lower Casamance) incorporating the concepts and methodology of social network analysis. I will introduce our approach to the issue and present preliminary data from the first field trip. Our focus is on how features that can be attributed to language contact spread within these networks. The languages involved are Bainounk Gubeeher and several Joola languages and also the national lingua francas Wolof and French. Targeted features include the realization or not of ATR vowel harmony, phrase intonation as well as noun class assignment and possibly in a further stage other grammatical features such as object ellipsis and verbal derivational affixes.