



Développement et Sociétés

**Séminaire  
DEVELOPPEMENT ET SOCIETES**

## **The dynamics of villages, towns and cities in sub-Saharan Africa: The case of Mali**

**Gilles Spielvogel,  
Univ. Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne / IEDES, UMR D&S**

Présentation de l'article co-écrit avec Brian Blankespoor, Sandrine Mesplé-Soms et Harris Selod).

We analyze the urbanization process over time in a land-locked sub-Saharan African country -- Mali -- using census microdata on the population distribution over a 30-year time span. More specifically, we estimate the role of changes in local access to markets on the dynamics of local population growth and employment throughout the system of urban and rural localities. First, we find that local access to markets does indeed have a significant positive impact on local population growth. Second, isolating the contributions of population changes and transport network improvements to changes in market accessibility, we also investigate how these two dimensions affect the urbanization process. We find that most of the relationship is due to the effect of improved transport network on the development of small rural localities. We also find that changes in market access have a positive impact on sectoral employment, especially for services.

**Jeudi 10 novembre 2016 de 12h15 à 13h45**

**IEDES, campus du Jardin d'agronomie tropicale de Paris  
45 bis avenue de la Belle Gabrielle,  
94130 Nogent-sur-Marne**

**Bâtiment 13 (bâtiment blanc) - Salle 1**